NARRATIVE BUDGET 2020: STRONG BRANCHES AND DEEP ROOTS

As we move through the year and beyond, these five lines of effort will be assessed and evaluated by the Bishop and Diocesan Council to see how we are meeting our goal of helping congregations prosper. The 2020 Budget reflects a commitment to the identified priorities, and while still living within our means, our shared vision is to be bold and to create a healthier Diocese, one with deep roots and strong branches. One that can offer sanctuary and shelter to “the least of these.” We have worked collaboratively since January to put it all together. This is just the start. But we have revised, combined, and recalibrated our resources so that we can better care for the tree. There are parts of the budget that will look different and some that will look the same. However, it is our hope that you will look the budget over carefully and give us feedback about what you see. The Holy Spirit is guiding us as we do “Diocese differently.”

With this budget we are doing four bold new things: First, we are shifting the focus of our Diocesan staff across the board – asking them to travel more in support of our congregations. Second, we are proposing a full-time youth and young adult missioner to improve our Diocesan youth events and help congregations with local formation ministry. Third, we have proposed a new Pilot Project to help small rural churches thrive by having a curate whose focus will be caring for three or four small churches under the guidance of an experienced priest. We propose starting with a three-year commitment in the Big Bend area if this model works there, we are confident it will work in other parts of the Diocese. Fourth, this budget changes how we, as a Diocese, fund local outreach ministry. Instead of funneling money through the Poverty and Outreach Board, this budget will use the Diocesan staff to help each congregation focus on its own health and vitality. Thriving congregations are able to discern and fund their outreach ministries without POB grants. However, they may need help accessing grants from other agencies within the Episcopal Church or beyond. Diocesan staff can offer tangible help. One message we heard clearly in the Budget Roadshows was a nearly unanimous frustration with the way we’ve been using the Diocesan budget to offer POB grants to local congregations.

Our Resources:
As noted, we face a ten percent decrease in our resources, because of the depletion of the St. Clement Settlement Fund. The last payment out of the fund was used in the 2019 budget. Therefore, it is important that we work hard to leverage and recast our resources so that we can support the identified priorities and all of the congregations in the DRG.

Fair Share
Eighty-one percent of projected Diocesan income in 2020 will come from our parishes’ Fair Share contributions. The current Diocesan endowments exemplify the covenant that we, as Diocesan members, make to our life as a Diocesan family. Just as an individual family in a parish church decides its budget and discerns through prayer and conversation what to give to that church, we, as a Diocese, have had to pray and discern through the lens of our shared vision and the priorities we have identified. These priorities include the central administration needed for linking parishes to TEC resources for Christian formation as well as support for a variety of important mission diocesan activities, such as helping aided parishes, youth and young adult ministries, congregational vitality and development, and support for Borderland, Navajoland, indigenous, and Hispanic/Latino ministries. No longer having extensive Diocesan endowments, the Diocese of the Rio Grande depends heavily on congregational Fair Share contributions for its operational operations. We have budgeted no increase in fair share for this year. Instead, we have worked hard to leverage our resources by creating bold new initiatives that will leverage our more limited resources for 2020 to best serve our needs.

Endowment Funds
Wellspring Fund: Established by Bishop Terence Kelsh in the 1980s to provide funds for diocesan ministries. The fund provides support for both the operational budget for mission and ministry. The draw from the Wellspring Fund is currently limited to five percent of the year-end value of the fund. For 2020, the Wellspring contribution to the budget was just over $55,050.

Endowment Fund: Made up of a portion of the investments held by the Diocese and managed through Morgan Stanley. This Fund was established in 1900 to support the Bishop and the Bishop’s staff. Income from the fund must be reinvested, and use of the funds is governed by the Investment Board of the DRG. The draw from the Endowment Fund is limited to four percent of the year-end value over a three-year rolling average. The draw for 2020 will be $50,000.

Adventures Fund: Established for nine Diocesan congregations and the interest from these loans totals $20,000.

Transfer from Savings (Deferred Expenses): $10,000 for the Lambeth Conference.

Leveraging Our Resources for Stronger Branches and Deeper Roots:
The Diocesan Leadership has heard during the listening sessions that there is a need for a bold new plan to support local congregations in spreading the word of God, teaching children and youth, and reaching
Bishop Hunn names next Canon to the Ordinary

Do you remember the first time that you went roller skating on the sidewalk? I had some of those skates that fitted over your shoes, and you tightened them down with a key, just like that they would stay on as I raced down the driveway and hit that bump at the edge of the street. Oh, yeah, then there was that layer of gravel that had washed down in the gutter from the neighbor’s driveway. It’s a wonder that my knees weren’t skinned blue from those skates. But I can remember those days so clearly. The first time I went roller skating at a roller rink was when I was about nine or ten years old. Wow! Things were really different now! The skates laced up, so I didn’t have to worry about the fasteners coming off. The floor was very smooth and flat, so I could go really fast. And if I’d happened to fall, the wood or the polyurethane surface provided a much more comfortable landing than concrete. And they played music and had a light show. And if I did happen to fall, the wood or the polyurethane surface provided a much more comfortable landing than concrete. And they played music and had a light show. And if I did happen to fall, the wood or the polyurethane surface provided a much more comfortable landing than concrete. And they played music and had a light show.

Continued on page 13

Deacons are about the Church serving the World

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Continued on page 13
Fortune Names Teen as 6th Greatest World Leader

In the May 2019 issue of Fortune Magazine, the editors highlighted the 50 World’s Greatest Leaders article with this paragraph: “These thinkers, speakers, and doers in business, education, government, sports, the arts, and beyond, make bold choices and take big risks - and move others to do the same. Call this year’s list the Home of the Brave.”

The first three are well known: 1) Bill and Melinda Gates, 2) Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and 3) Robert Mueller. The next three are not household words yet, but will be soon: 5) Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft, 6) Greta Thunberg, from Sweden, and 7) Margrethe Vestager, the Commissioner for Competition for the European Union.

Greta Thunberg is a 15-year-old who has captured the world’s attention as a Climate Activist. She spoke at the World Economic Forum this year. “I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And I want you to act.”

Last September she began a climate strike by not attending school on Fridays to protest inaction by her government, by standing in front of the Parliament in Stockholm. Her protest turned into 1,700 “climate strikes” on March 15 under the “Fridays for the Future” banner she championed.

The mass protests were supported from New Zealand’s Prime Minister to the mayor of Paris. Greta Thunberg was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Norwegian lawmaker Freddy André Ostvold, who cited that if climate change is not addressed, it will result in wars, conflicts and a refugee crisis, and her movement is “a major contribution to peace.”

In August 2018, outside the Swedish parliament building, Greta Thunberg started a school strike for the climate. Her sign reads, “Skolstrejk för klimatet,” meaning, “school strike for climate.”

Solid Advice from American Greatest Leaders

By Madeleine Faenzhen

I have been studying the advice of some of America’s greatest leaders. Who decided they were the greatest? Well, evidently my school curriculum did. But I must say this one is good! Lee Iacocca was once the Chrysler Corporation CEO in the 1980’s and had a long history in the car industry. After reading an excerpt from his book, “Where Have All the Leaders Gone?” I found the following pieces of advice – they are in no particular order. This is how I listed them from my notes and I took from the lesson:

1. Find a mentor.
2. Motivate those who work for you or with you, do not berate or intimidate. Treat everyone respectfully and do not talk down to anyone.
3. Its OK to make mistakes, as long as you are honest about them.
4. Give credit where credit is due.
5. Back up ideas with facts.
6. Common sense is as important as education.
7. Be optimistic.
8. Be disciplined - have self discipline.
9. Show love every day of your life.
10. Have courage – don’t be a hand wringer, be a doer.

Now that I have finished my lesson on Lee Iacocca, I think I would like to read the rest of the book. These particular words of advice are timeless. They can be applied to anyone, anything, any time. Good advice should be timeless.

Let me walk through these standards with you: a little bit. Generally a person doesn’t knowingly shop for a mentor. Lee Iacocca mentioned that in the old days, all babies in his neighborhood had godparents, who looked out for them and took their role seriously to impart knowledge and guidance on the children. Lee Iacocca thought when he wrote the book that as of that day in 2007, parents had lost that dedication to raising their kids – picking out godparents who would mentor their kids. He may be right. Today we look up to sports figures and celebrities that are “trending” and forgotten by the time we are grown up.

Motivate, don’t intimidate or berate – that’s easy – it’s Golden Rule.

Own up to your mistakes – practically no one does this anymore, even the President. People cover up or make excuses, or lie about what they have done or said. This is so SAD – it doesn’t go over well at my house! People respect you when you apologize genuinely, and also when you admit you are wrong, or wish to change your policy based on what was a poor judgment on your part. Be honest about what you said and do, and if you mess up, own it!

Give credit where credit is due – don’t take credit for something you didn’t do! Lee Iacocca said give the credit to the person who came up with it, celebrate that person’s accomplishment and put it in writing. Back up ideas with facts and document them. It is good to have a vision, but it must be grounded in reality.

Common sense alone will get you only so far. An education is valuable to anyone, and hopefully available to everyone, but an education combined with common sense will get you further. You have to have the common sense to use your education in the right way. Also, in some cases, an education with no common sense can be dangerous.

Be optimistic – no one likes a Debbie Downer – period. It’s easy to be pessimistic, but without adversity you cannot tell what a blessing in every-day life is. Choose to see and work toward the good in everything – looking to benefit everyone, not just yourself.

Be self disciplined – if you can’t motivate yourself to keep a schedule, keep a promise, or finish a job on time or on budget – how can you expect others to do it? Lead by example.

Show love everyday of your life, is also simple! Surely I don’t need to explain that – be kind.

Have courage – when bad things happen, don’t just sit and stew, take a pro-active step toward healing the situation. After watching his wife die of an awful illness, Iacocca said she died with such dignity, grace and kindness, he hoped he would be able to behave in the same manner when the end of his life came.

Much of Lee Iacocca’s advice is basic moral values – those taught in the Bible. Today, people say that the moral teachings of the Bible are not timely and don’t apply to us. As Christians, we cannot possibly believe that is true. Lee Iacocca believed that the moral teachings impressed upon the children of his generation, who had mentoring godparents, were important in building a society with a positive, moral structure. He was right. He believed it in the 1980’s, and he believed it when he wrote his book in 2007. I agree with him. I have a godmother who has been through cancer multiple times, lost a leg to it and still through it all, has a positive outlook, and lives by the same moral code she has lived with her entire life. She will tell you the teachings of God in the Bible are what get her through all the hard times in life, and help her celebrate the good times to the fullest, and make her fearless. These standards Lee Iacocca lived by, and offered to us in the form of advice, are lived out every day by people like my godmother, and I hope to follow in her footsteps.

My parents chose my godparents wisely, not out of social obligation to their friends, but out of moral obligation to me. I am blessed for that. So, if in the future you are asked to be a godparent, be a good one – set a good example. And if you are ever in the position to choose one for yourself, choose wisely. Don’t make your choice based on social stature, or worldly gain, choose one who will be helping with Vacation Bible School, please join us Sunday, July 21 at 2:30 AT St. Chad’s, 7171 Tennyson NE, Albuquerque, for “Safe Church” training. Training should take 2-3 hours.

In this day and age where abuse is being highlighted, let’s be proactive in preventing abuse in our church communities. For more information or to RSVP by phone/email, contact Leslea Lehoucq at 505-259-7840 or llehoucq@stchadsbsq.org. Please RSVP so we have enough materials available for participants.

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[Image 253x715 to 468x995]
St. James’ Youth Outreach Mission, “Common Grounds” received a $10,500 grant from the Taos Community Foundation!!! We’ve been invited to apply to another foundation, too! This money will go toward the needed building renovations: ADA doors, ramps, bathrooms, and electric upgrades on the building which was donated to us for this project. It had not been used in over 8 years, so we are having to upgrade code compliance issues as well, which will cost more than initially expected.

We will need nearly $80K and at this point we have $15K toward these construction issues. If you’d like to support the cause, you can find information on our website. You can also find a bigger description of the project and various outreach activities the teens have been involved in. Visit us at www.taoscommongrounds.org.

We had a community rummage sale on Saturday, June 29, at 123 Cruz Alta. All proceeds went into our renovation fund. To get involved, contact Jill or the teens at

Episcopalian Raise Funds to Help Vulnerable Youth

On Saturday, June 1, members of Holy Mount in Ruidoso and St. John’s in Alamogordo held the 3rd Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cook Off to raise funds to help vulnerable youth in Ruidoso. Episcopalians rolled up their sleeves and provided leadership for the multi-faceted event, donated Silent Auction items, helped set up booths, worked the ticket tent and other booths, cleaned up, and moved items to storage. The event is a major fundraiser for High Mountain Youth Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, started by Deacon Laurie Benavides and long supported by the Episcopal Church in Lincoln County for the purpose of involving the surrounding communities in providing a comprehensive safety net for students experiencing homelessness. The organization operates an Evening Drop-in Center in Ruidoso to help youth access vital resources to help them stay in school and graduate. Several Episcopalians also volunteer at the Drop-in Center and serve on various committees.
**Blessed To Be a Blessing: Women’s Summer Events**

By Ms. Cindy Davis
Women’s Ministry Coordinator

“Blessed to be a Blessing” are the one-day summer events sponsored by the Women’s Ministry of the Diocese. By looking at the ways our faith foremothers provided spiritual guidance, and considering new visions across the women in our lives, we will explore ways to reach out in love to other women and girls in our parishes, communities, and beyond. Blessed to be a Blessing will help us discover ways we are qualified to empower and mentor one another, simply because we are women. Each event will present the same information, and encourage each other. The last summer event will be August 10 at St. John’s in Alamogordo. Members of the Women’s Ministry Council, and each parish, will be a part of the discussion. Each event will be from 9-3 and include worship, stories, discussion, lunch, and learning. The cost is $20 to cover lunch and supplies. Full information and registration is available online at www.VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com, or you can download a form to mail in.

If you are within a two-hour driving radius of any of these locations, you are cordially invited to attend and bring a friend. Women of all ages, lay and ordained, are invited. Friends from other denominations are welcome. If you live a little further away, make it a girl’s weekend, and take time to see a new part of the diocese and state. There are interesting things to see and do in each place, as well as lovely scenery en route. All events are open to everyone. The cost is $20 to cover lunch and supplies.

This fall we will have our 7th Annual Bosque Center Weekend, November 15-16, to consider how we Entertain Angels Unaware. We will continue building on the conversations started at the BOLDly Forward event in August last year, and the discussions from our summer events. Together, we will brainstorm what we may want to do to more actively empower women inside and outside of our church walls. In our work as Women of the DRG we connect and support all women in their diverse ministries, by offering opportunities to gather for studying, re-creating, and celebrating who we are as women of Faith, Hope and Love. We follow the Vision of Episcopal Church Women which states, “As the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ in the world, we will persist in the work of healing, justice, and peace.” Start thinking about ways that Women of the DRG can individually, and as a community, live these visions.

Information about all events is on the Women’s Ministry website. Sign up from the website to get regular e-news. Follow us on Facebook (Women’s Ministry of DRG) to be sure and keep up with news. Contact Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries (cynthiadavisauthor@gmail.com).

**Kathryn “Kai” Ryan Consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Diocese of Texas**

Kai Ryan beams with her family.

Kathryn “Kai” McCrossen Ryan, former canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Texas, was consecrated Bishop Suffragan on June 26 in Westminster Hills Church of Christ in Austin. She was elected at the 170th Diocesan Council on February 22.

Ryan will have oversight of congregations in the western region of the diocese, with an office in Austin. A bishop suffragan is an assisting bishop and serves under the direction of the diocesan bishop, in this case, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, bishop of Texas. In addition to her Episcopalian visitsations and confirmations, Ryan also will serve as the chair of these Austin-area institutions: Seminary of the Southwest, St. Stephen’s Episcopal School and El Buen Samaritano.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church was the chief consecrator, joined by Doyle, Bishop Suffragan, Jeff W. Fisher, Bishop Assistant Hector Monterroso and other bishops across the country. Doyle was the preacher during the service.

“Kai, you are meant to sing to those who are far off and those who are near, to those who have found their way within God’s garden walls and those who do not yet know the gospel. All people need to be reminded of God’s song,” said Don during his sermon. Ryan, a native of Raton, graduated from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and received her Master of Divinity from Seminary of the Southwest in 1992 where she currently serves on the Board of Trustees. She served at All Saints, Austin, and in Mobile, Alabama, before moving to Dallas, where she was called as rector of Ascension, Dallas, in 1989. She is married to Timothy Ryan, an attorney, and they have twin children. Neil, a freshman at Goucher College in Baltimore, and Eleanor, 17.

Ryan’s breadth of experience in four dioceses, Provincial Synod and General Convention, her participation in the national Gathering of Leaders for young clergy, and nearly 15 years in a culturally diverse parish as rector, stand her in good stead for the ministry of bishop suffragan. She has a history of cross-cultural ministry with which she hopes to enhance the diversity within the clergy of the Diocese of Texas.

**“Rooted in God’s Love” - Daughters of the King Province VII Assembly**

The Daughters of the King Province VII Assembly was held Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas. The retreat speaker was Rev. Dr. Joanna Seibert. She is a writer, an Episcopal deacon, physician, harpist, wife, mother, and grandmother. Her topic was Myrrh Bearers, the women who brought spices to the tomb of Jesus on that early Easter morning, bringing their most precious possessions to honor the one who had cared for many of the women who are called to our Order.

During the Assembly, Johanna Binneweg, St. James’ chapter of Daughters in Las Cruces, was honored for completing the “Daughters Going Deeper” study, along with other members of the graduation class. Deborah Tischler, Chairperson of “Daughters Going Deeper” serves on the Province VII board and is a member of the Daughters’ chapter at Hopes-in-the-Desert Church, Albuquerque.

**Diocesan DOK Assembly Will Feature Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn**

Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn, Speaker: “Re-Create: Playful Prayer and Prayerful Play”

Daughters of the King Annual Assembly, Bosque Center, Albuquerque Friday and Saturday, August 16-17, 2019

The Daughters of the King are pleased to announce the Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn, wife of our new Bishop, will be the featured speaker at our August Assembly this year. A thoughtful retreat is planned as we hear Rev. Meg speak on “Re-Create. Playful Prayer and Prayerful Play.”

“Become like a child, Jesus said, if you want to enter the kingdom of heaven.” Be as sure of it as you are that God’s song amounts to as little as a bean when compared. But the joy of them all together is such that all the joy in this world can’t be compared. The joy of the whole world, the least bit of good will, the earth rejoice, and together with the angels their joy is such that all the joy in this world can’t be compared. But the joy of all together amounts to as little as a bean when compared to the joy of God over good deeds. For truly, God laughs and plays.” – Meister Eckhart

In addition to being wife and mother, Rev. Meg worked as assistant rector at Christ Church in Raleigh, NC, from 2010 to 2018. She also served as the assistant rector at St. Alban’s Church in Davidson, NC, and campus minister at Davidson College.

“Truly! Truly! By God! Be as sure of it as you are that God lives, the least deed done here in this world, the least bit of good will, the least good desire, all the saints in heaven and on earth rejoice, and together with the angels their joy is such that all the joy in this world can’t be compared. But the joy of all together amounts to as little as a bean when compared to the joy of God over good deeds. For truly, God laughs and plays.” – Meister Eckhart

Please plan to join us for this event as we welcome Rev. Meg and become acquainted with her. Check with your chapter’s president as registration packets will be available soon.
On May 24 the Diocesan Staff welcomed nearly 100 of the honored Matriarchs and Patriarchs of the Episcopal Church to luncheon and song fest at the Bosque Center. The tradition begun by Bishop Michael Vono continues with Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn. The First Lady of the Diocese the Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn and First Daughter Dosie hosted the Senior Spring gathering. Following a special luncheon prepared by Chef Jerry Gallegos, Seniors gathered in the conference room for a song fest hosted by Meg and Dosie and led by Canon for Music Mark Childers. A great time was had by all.
The Proposed Draft Budgets will be presented at the Deanery meetings:

Northwest Deanery – 10 a.m. Saturday, July 13
St. Thomas of Canterbury, 425 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque.

Northeast Deanery – 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20
Trinity on the Hill, 3900 Trinity Drive, Las Alamos.

Southeast Deanery – 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27
St. Andrew’s, 505 North Pennsylvania Ave., Roswell.

Southwest Deanery – 10 a.m. Saturday, July 26
Church of the Ascension, 60 Chipmunk Ave., Cloudcroft.

If you are unable to attend, you may send remarks to the Area Deans or Vice Deans.

Line 20

2018 Actual 2018 Budget 2019 Budget 2020 Budget 2020 Budget Option 1 2020 Budget Option 2

001 Fair Share Contributions 1,342,249 1,313,398 1,313,398 1,346,000 1,360,000

002 Bishop’s Apparel - - 20,000 - -

003 Investment Income - - - - -

004 Advance Fund 50,000 50,000 50,000 50,000 50,000

005 Wellspring Fund - - - - -

006 Contribution to Fair Share 18,319 20,660 18,346 18,330 18,320

007 Contribution to Outreach Ministry 18,319 21,019 18,346 18,330 18,320

008 Contribution to Mission Churches 18,319 19,949 18,346 18,330 18,320

009 Total W看点 adding Fund 58,455 59,240 59,240 59,240 59,240

010 St. Clements Settlement Fund 144,000 144,000 132,000 - -

011 Rental & LLC Income - - - - -

012 St. Mary’s, Lamy - 12,000 12,000 - -

013 Bishop’s Office Center - - - - -

014 Bishop’s Ridge Contribution 3,000 3,000 3,000 3,000 3,000

015 Total Rental & LLC Income 16,159 27,000 27,000 - -

016 Transfer in - Defaulted Expenses 2,500 - - - -

017 Bishop’s Automobile Replacement - - - - -

018 Bishop’s Sailboat - - - - -

019 Gen. Convention Deputation - - - - -

020 Information Systems Upgrade - - - - -

021 Lambeth Conference - - - - -

022 Building Maintenance Reserve - - - - -

023 Budget Balance - - - - -

024 Search - - - - -

025 Contributions - Bishop’s Election - - - - -

026 Search - - - - -

027 Transition - - - - -

028 Total Revenue 1,417,206 1,472,424 1,477,424 1,477,028 1,483,048

EXPRESSIONS

SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS

Funds for Aided Congregations

All Saints, Grants 5,000 5,000 4,000 - -

Holy Family, Santa Fe 9,500 9,500 7,600 - -

Holy Spirit, El Paso 12,000 12,000 11,000 8,600 8,600

Holy Spirit, Gallup 12,000 12,000 7,000 5,600 5,600

Holy Trinity, Raton 5,120 5,120 4,000 4,000 4,000

Our Lady in the Valley, Albuquerque 6,000 6,000 6,000 4,000 4,000

St. Christopher’s, El Paso 10,000 10,000 9,000 7,200 7,200

St. Christopher’s, El Paso 12,000 12,000 10,000 8,000 8,000

St. Francis, on the Hill, El Paso 10,000 10,000 - - -

St. Francis, Rio Ranchos 12,000 12,000 - - -

St. James’Bob Mission 12,000 12,000 10,000 5,000 -

St. Jerome’s, Chamis 7,660 7,680 7,680 6,100 6,100

St. Luke’s, Deming 8,900 8,900 8,000 6,400 6,400

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Grants 5,000 5,000 - - -

Holy Family, Santa Fe 9,500 9,500 - - -

Holy Spirit, El Paso 12,000 12,000 - - -

Holy Spirit, Gallup 12,000 12,000 - - -

Holy Spirit, Santa Fe 12,000 12,000 - - -

Holy Spirit,_slot 5,120 5,120 - - -

Our Lady in the Valley, Albuquerque 6,000 6,000 8,000 4,000 4,000

St. Christopher’s, El Paso 10,000 10,000 9,000 7,200 7,200

St. Christopher’s, El Paso 12,000 12,000 10,000 8,000 8,000

St. Francis, on the Hill, El Paso 10,000 10,000 - - -

St. Francis, Rio Ranchos 12,000 12,000 - - -

St. James’Bob Mission 12,000 12,000 10,000 5,000 -

St. Jerome’s, Chamis 7,660 7,680 7,680 6,100 6,100

St. Luke’s, Deming 8,900 8,900 8,000 6,400 6,400

NARRATIVE BUDGET 2020: Strong Branches and Deep Roots (Continued from page 2) out to and retaining young adults. We have also heard a deep commitment for reaching out to Hispanic/Latin and Indigenous communities within the Diocese and strengthening our relationship with Navajoland. These communities comprise a significant percentage of the population of New Mexico and West Texas, but are underrepresented in our congregations. Moreover, several of the current Diocesan programs, such as Borderland Ministries, have been identified as vitally important priorities in need of specific support. The Diocese takes seriously our obligation to the wider church. But more than that, as Episcopalians are called to participate in the wider church’s governance structure. We have a participatory form of government for both the clergy and lay orders. These governing bodies meet regularly to discuss, debate, and discern what God is calling our Diocese to do in order to strengthen, comfort, and minister to the members of our congregations and to the communities we serve. In order to do this spiritual work, we have a number of important gatherings of lay and clergy leaders, such as Deanery Meetings, Clergy Conference, General Convention, and our own Annual Convention. These functions, gatherings, and the administrative work needed to support them require funding for their successful operation. Our Priorities by the Numbers: 1. Supporting Congregations so they Thrive: $92,800 [29-51]
Nurturing our individual and common life in the DRG’s congregations and strengthening these relationships is top priorities for Bishop Hunn and our new Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. William Lee Curtis III. Our Bishop and Diocesan leaders listened carefully and learned about the experiences of our member pastors and heard how individuals in these parishes have experienced our common life. Some parishes are thriving, others are just focused on survival, and others fall somewhere in between. Many parishes are not able to open the lights on. In order to address the needs of struggling parishes, we need to develop a Diocesan strategy to support these congregations. This means making sure that all churches have the clergy and lay leaders they need to thrive. During the listening sessions, people in many different regions of the Diocese expressed the need for help of “shared expertise” in the form of more programmatic support more programs to celebrate the Eucharist, and more deacons to keep congregations focused on the needs of the world. We heard clearly that most churches do not want “cash” in the form of a check, but more tangible help from the Diocese. In response to this need for tangible help, the Archdeacon’s role will be expanded. She will be tasked with building a network of deacons and outreach committees across the Diocese to ensure that each church has the resources it needs to do the outreach ministries it feels called to do. Another new initiative is to place curates in our small rural congregations under the guidance of senior priests and with the support of the Canon to the Ordinary. The curates will work with congregations in small towns to strengthen spiritual communities, provide pastoral care, and help with Christian formation. This pilot project will begin in the Big Bend – an area with five mission churches spread out across for West Texas. The largest mission, St. Paul’s in Marfa, owns a vicarage which the
2. Mission, Poverty & Outreach: $1,710,000 [80-66]

The four Deaneans of the DRG provide opportunities for local church, congregational community development, and coordinate mission activities in their respective geographic areas. The Poverty and Outreach Board is the official body supporting Diocesan mission outreach in the past. We spent more than a hundred thousand dollars a year on worthy projects. But it is time to reuse how we spend and reallocate this money. We have seen that POB funds and mission support funds have benefited some congregations and not others. Therefore, in the 2020 budget, POB funds have been reallocated to local church, congregational community development and mission parishes that need support directly engaging parishes with Diocesan staff. Thriving congregations do not need to rely on Diocesan funding for their ministries — in fact, thriving congregations are able to contribute positively to the life of others. Our Diocesan funds must focus on congregations that need help in order to move them according to God’s plan and path for the Diocese and hear about our God’s plan through our annual retreat time to discern and coordinate mission activities in their respective geographic areas.

3. Diocesan Governance: $5,100 [113-116]

An essential characteristic of The Episcopal Church is the participatory nature of its governance, including lay and clergy, to set misional goals and approve budgets through the year. The annual convention provides a robust means of strengthening our relationship to Christ and one another by bringing together delegates from all of our congregations. Our super-sized Diocese relies on Committee work to implement the mandates of Convention, address particular situations as they arise between conventions, track the progress of the budget each month, give advice and consent to the Bishop on Diocesan staff position dedicated to youth and young adult ministry. This new staff person will help parishes connect and develop capacity for this ministry in their own churches by gathering and providing resources, creating strong networks to build community, and strengthening programs for youth and young adults in our churches.
Breaking the Bread of Life.

we can in the Episcopal church, to this special river,
We are here bringing and doing the most holy thing
“We can’t startle” Bishop Michael Hunn, began the celebration of the Eucharist by welcoming both sides of the river with “Bienvenidos… Viva Mexico….Viva United States….”

Bishop Michael Hunn began the celebration of the Eucharist on the weekend of Mother’s Day. The seventh annual Voices From Both Sides event in the Rio Grande.

On Saturday, May 11, hundreds gathered to swim, dance, and enjoy music on the Rio Grande at the Big Bend National Park. The purpose of using art and music to raise awareness of immigration issues, it would take an “act of God” to hold this celebration this year. Jeff’s reply was that immigration issues, it would take an “act of God” to be concerned that with the tensions over the Eucharist in the river. This year a few people were worried about the Eucharist in the river. This year a few people were worried about the Eucharist in the river. This year a few people were worried about the Eucharist in the river. This year a few people were worried about the Eucharist in the river.

John Gaige, all of whom brought the love of God to those gathered at the river. In June the Adventurers went to Temple Mount Sinai where the rabbis talked about Judaism and then gave us a tour of the temple. After each tour, the Adventurers adjourn to a new restaurant for lunch.

On May 16, the Adventurers were joined by a priest and parishioner from St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces, and the priest from St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso, for a visit to Catholic Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services. The DMRS center, only a few blocks from St. Alban’s, an agency that provides free and low-cost immigration services in West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

The agency also advocates and educates in areas of immigrant rights and benefits.

Before our visit, most of what we knew about DMRS is that it’s not unusual to see people lining up as early as 3:00 am to seek assistance. Most of us were startled to learn of the huge disparities in the immigration system. For example, 4% of people seeking asylum through the immigration courts in El Paso are granted asylum, while 66% are granted asylum in Philadelphia immigration courts and 85% in New York City. Small wonder that St. Michael’s and All Angels, Albuquerque, helped their first refugee family transfer from immigration court in El Paso to Philadelphia.

The DMRS information session was led by Deputy Executive Director Anna Hey and Development Coordinator Katy Hudak. Katy, a seminarian completing her second year at Iona College, has been doing field education at St. Alban’s.

In June the Adventurers went to Temple Mount Sinai where the rabbis talked about Judaism and then gave us a tour of the temple. After each tour, the Adventurers adjourn to a new restaurant for lunch.

Bishop Michael Hunn began the celebration of the Eucharist by welcoming both sides of the river with “Bienvenidos… Viva Mexico….Viva United States….”

“God is the first one on the river!”

On Saturday, May 11, hundreds gathered to swim, dance, and enjoy music on the Rio Grande at the seventh annual Voices From Both Sides event in Lajitas. The event began in 2013 and takes place every year on the weekend of Mother’s Day.

Bishop Michael Hunn began the celebration of the Eucharist by welcoming both sides of the river with “Bienvenidos… Viva Mexico….Viva United States….” We are here bringing and doing the most holy thing we can in the Episcopal church, to this special river, celebrating the Holy Eucharist.” Thus began a joyous celebration of God’s love and presence. The Episcopal church was well-represented by Bishop, Meg and Doe Hinn, Fr. Mike and Susan Wallens, Allison and Rudy Scott, Marcy and Asia Reed, and John Gage, all of whom brought the love of God to those gathered at the river.

The day was organized in part by Jeff Haislip of the nonprofit Big Bend Citizens’ Alliance, with the purpose of using art and music to raise awareness of Big Bend’s border. Jeff insists on the day beginning with the Eucharist in the river. This year a few people were concerned that with the tensions over the immigration issues, it would take an “act of God” to hold this celebration this year. Jeff’s reply was that “God is the first one on the river!”

The people of Lajitas, neighbors from both sides of the Rio Grande, came together to show their love, support, and willingness to work toward getting the border crossing re-opened. The unintended consequences of closing the borders have been difficult, with families divided, friends separated, and economies adversely affected. We had good media coverage in the local papers and on Marfa Public Radio, and Bishop Hunn and Fr. Wallens were interviewed for a show on TBS called Full Frontal with Samantha Bee. It will be aired in June.

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every human heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nourish and sustain your precious gift of life.

Empower us this day to live fully and to look at all human beings on both sides of the Rio Grande with eyes of compassion… In your love… empower us…

En tu amor… empoderarnos

Open our ears to hear voices from both sides… In your love… empower us…

En tu amor… empoderarnos

Open our eyes to see the beauty of diversity, each person a unique creation of the image of God… In your love… empower us…

En tu amor… empoderarnos

I close with the litany we used as part of our Eucharistic celebration:

Empower us God that we might live in unity, in peace, and in love.

In your love… empower us…

En tu amor… empoderarnos

Land of Israel, and God of all the nations: we pray for your children across the whole earth, of every land and race, and especially on both sides of this river that they may be strong to do your will.

In your love… empower us…

En tu amor… empoderarnos

We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today proclaim:

Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.

Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.

Where bigotry reigns, we will call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Now and ever, now and ever, and evermore.

AMEN+
Todos Los Santos Begins at All Saints, El Paso

A new Service of Holy Eucharist was begun on Sunday, June 9, 2019, The Feast of Pentecost. A weekly service in Spanish called Todos Los Santos, it met at All Saints in El Paso, with Padre J. J. Bernal officiating and Padre Alex Reyes assisting. Musicians included Alejandro Banquells and Michael Diaz, members of an Anglican Church in Ciudad Juarez. Acolyte/Chalice Bearer assistance was provided by All Saints parishioners Erica and Enrique Rojas. We look forward to watching this service grow to the Glory of God. Todos Los Santos, 3500 MacRae Blvd, Sundays at 12:30 pm.

We said goodbye to Deacon Laurie with sadness. A kind and compassionate pastor, she did excellent work at St. John’s, very efficiently carrying on the business of the church while helping us look to the future with positive expectations.

We are happy to welcome our new priest, Fr. Michael Drinkwater, his wife Sarah and son Grant, and to continue Christ’s work in our community.

St. James in Mesilla Welcomes New Rector

St. James Church is very happy and excited to welcome our new Rector, the Reverend John Tober. Rev. Tober and his wife Amy came to us from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was a Curate at Trinity Episcopal Church as well as serving as Chaplain at the Trinity Episcopal Day School.

They are familiar with the Southwest, having lived in Alamogordo while he was the Senior Intelligence Officer at Holloman Air Force Base. He was ordained a deacon in Albuquerque shortly after graduation in 2017 and a priest in December of the same year.

Fr. Tober and Amy will be joining us at St. James the end of June and we can’t wait to welcome them and begin our work together.

New Priest at St. John’s, Alamogordo

We said goodbye to Deacon Laurie with sadness. A kind and compassionate pastor, she did excellent work at St. John’s, very efficiently carrying on the business of the church while helping us look to the future with positive expectations.

We are happy to welcome our new priest, Fr. Michael Drinkwater, his wife Sarah and son Grant, and to continue Christ’s work in our community.

St James Mesilla Bids Farewell to Padrecita

Our parish has been blessed by having Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, Padrecita, as she is so fondly and respectfully known, as our Priest-in-Charge for the past 13 months. She started at St. James in May, 2018, and at her last service on June 9, the 8:00 and 10:30 services were combined and our sanctuary was full of parishioners wishing to bid her adieu. The service was followed by a potluck with gift presentations to our Padrecita.

It was a full house and many remarked that our parish is a happier, healthier, readier-to-do-God’s work place because of Rev. Jeanne. Her deep love of and expertise in pastoral care, her beautifully effective sermons, and her heart as big as our great Southwestern skies have opened more widely our own hearts and minds to follow His word more closely.

Vaya con Dios, Padrecita and Bill Lutz, not goodbye but see you later. We are so grateful for our time with you both.
Jim Hunter Awarded Doctor of Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Jim Hunter was awarded the Doctor of Ministry Degree from Trinity Episcopal Divinity School, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, May 11, at St. Stephen’s Church in Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

Fr. Hunter’s dissertation is titled “Conformation, Community, and Commitment: Evaluating Church Attendance at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary, Albuquerque, New Mexico.” In a part of the country where it often rains, this day was beautiful, cool, and sunny. “I believe earning a D.Min. is the best continuing education possible, and I would encourage any of the clergy to pursue it,” Fr. Hunter said.

New Rector coming to Canterbury

The Vestry of St. Thomas of Canterbury is happy to announce the call of their next rector, the Rev. Dr. Jeanine Driscoll of Greensboro, North Carolina. Greetings in the name of our triune God! Let all that is within us bless God’s holy name!

Dr. Driscoll brings to her ministry decades of psychotherapy practice, with her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, as well as service to the House of Bishops in the most recent General Convention just past. Her service within the Diocese of North Carolina includes being a member of the Pastoral Response team which provides “valuable insight, resources and plans for clergy, employees and congregations dealing with sensitive pastoral situations that require psychological, legal and/or professional counsel.”

She is the priest associate at Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill, NC. The Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande and the Presiding Bishop are two of her three references. Her ordination to the priesthood was in December 2017. Dr. Driscoll is being called as a “rector time certain,” a call for three years. After her time in office, the Vestry will decide whether to make her the permanent rector of the church.

“We are excited at welcoming the Rev. Dr. Jeanine Driscoll as the new Rector Time Certain of St. Thomas of Canterbury,” says Senior Warden Warren Smith. “I had several hour-long conversations with Jeanine during her visit to Albuquerque, and found her to be a very good listener and insightful questioner like the professional psychologist she is. She will be a strong leader for us.” Search Committee co-chair Fred Chreist writes, “She will bring new energy to us, both spiritually and organizationally. She will give St. Thomas a wonderful opportunity to realize our potential in so many ways.”

Jeanine is currently on the staff of the Student Health Services at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. “Mother Jeanine’s passion and love for young people and university students has inspired me since meeting her a few years ago,” says Canterbury’s campus ministry intern Victor Torres. “When we toured the UNM Campus together, I was so glad to see her light up at the sight of the Alumni Chapel and sharing insights on how we can connect with and continue to serve the campus community in the love and light of Christ.” Jeanine and her wife, Anne, will move in two stages. Jeanine’s first Sunday with Canterbury will be August 18. A subcommittee of the Search Committee is helping them transition here and into Canterbury.

A huge shout of thanks goes to the Search Committee who have worked so intensively on our behalf! Pat Eads and Fred Chreist, co-chairs, Bob Monurity, Diana Melandres, Victor Torres, Marcus Keithley, Stephanie Thomas and Pam Brown. Thanks also to Canon Raney and Bishop Michael of the Diocese of the Rio Grande for their huge help in navigating the rector time certain process.

“As we assembled our candidate profile for Canterbury, the Search Committee were in complete agreement that we were seeking a leader who would ‘love us, accept us, and join us,’” says Search co-chair Pat Eads. “We’ve found that person! From our very first conversations, Rev. Driscoll has said she feels called to serve us and that we are her ‘new rectors’ here.”

Geoffrey Mackey Ordained to the Priesthood

Deacon Geoffrey Mackey was ordained to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. Five years earlier, his brother Theophan was ordained to the priesthood in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America. Fourteen years before that, their older brother Guy was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. Thus the stage was set, so that on the last Sunday in May, Deacon Geoffrey Mackey was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande.

A Catholic Priest, an Episcopal Priest, and an Orthodox Priest walk into a bar. No, really, they did. right into The Bridgetown Brewhouse in Ambridge, PA, and make the classic joke happen for real, but with these three, you don’t really need a punch-line for it to end up ironic, silly, sacrificial, or all three. As you may imagine, some lively debates are unavoidable, and a bit loud at times, among the three who are all dedicated to their ecclesial homes.

The singularity is that these three priests are all the children of Father Jeffrey and LaVonne Mackey, retired from the Diocese of Florida of Episcopal Church. Father Jeffrey and LaVonne, whose own father, two brothers, one brother-in-law, and one sister-in-law or are ordained or licensed in various Christian denominations, have been around the church and want to see three sons devoted to the church and her sacramental life. They answer, “Not a thing.” However, the three sons have conferred, and decided that it was the radical honesty of their parents about the life of the church, its joys and pains, its triumphs and betrayals, that let them come into the priestly life with their eyes open. It would be silly to try to tell any of the three that the church is a Utopian kingdom of blessedness, or that following Christ is a magic pill that makes life wonderful. They grew up knowing better. They chose to accept the sacrament of priesthood anyway. Maybe the honesty they were given was what kept them in the faith. That, and the fact that, though not in communion with one another, they can still drink together.

Father Jeffrey Mackey and LaVonne live in Morganton, NC, with a cozy 27,000 volume theological library. Father Geoffrey is the Dean of Students at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA. Father Theophan is the priest at St. Job of Pochaiv Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Los Alamos, NM. Father Guy is the Rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Farmington, NM.
Deacons are about the Church serving the World

Continued from page 3

Deacons are about the Church serving the World. Their job is not to stay in the church and serve people there, your job is to bring the church with you out into the world.

3. The ministry of the deacon is as organic as the world around him or her. The world is very unpredictable, and so is this ministry. As needs in the world change, your ministry will change. But that’s what keeps it exciting!

4. Deacons are dancers – we are always doing the Hokey Pokey! We put our foot in the church, we put our foot out, we put our foot back in the church, then we shake things up in there so that people notice. Then we turn around and do it again.

Now I am going to ask Mike, Regina, Brian, Ryan, and Stephen to stand. You have a big job ahead of you, and it is not going to be without challenges. Like doing the Hokey Pokey at the roller rink, you can’t sit on the sidelines, and you have to take some risks. You won’t always get it quite right, and the more of yourself you put into it, the more of a challenge you will have. But like the Peace Corps, it’s the toughest job you will ever love. When Bishop Hunn lays hands upon you in a few minutes, you will be set apart. You will have a specific purpose – to be an icon of Christ – a visible symbol of his love for the world. And perhaps most important, as an icon of Christ, you will be the person in whom the Church and the world – the sacred and the secular – meet.

So, my brothers and sister, I leave you with this: as you open your hearts to the service to which Christ has called you, don’t be afraid to dance. Don’t be afraid to put your whole self in the church, then put your whole self out in the world. Don’t be afraid to struggle. Don’t be afraid to take some risks. If you fall down, people will help you get back up. And never give up on yourself. Remember – you are not dancing alone. Every time you reach out to someone in need, you reach out to Christ. And that, my friends, is what it’s all about.

Amen.
The Godliness of Baseball

By Fr. Justin Gibson, Vicar, St. Francis on the Hill

"These old ballparks are like cathedrals in America. We don’t have big old Gothic cathedrals like they do in Europe. But we got baseball parks." – Jimmy Buffet, written on the wall at Southwest University Park

It has been remarked that baseball is the real civil religion of America. It has long been hailed as the national past-time, but could it also be something sacred? On May 6, we had "Episcopal Night" at the Southwest University Park where the Chihuahuas play here in El Paso. I won’t claim that we witnessed any miracles that night, but there is something holy in spending time together as a church in play.

At the game we all had a chance to see Bishop Michael dust off his old catcher’s mitt and throw out the first pitch of the evening. He got it over home plate with ease. As I was standing on the field with the bishop and his family waiting for him to throw the pitch, one of the Chihuahuas staff handed him a baseball. In the next few minutes, I watched as the bishop rubbed dirt on the ball and worked it over with his hands. There was something mesmerizing in the way the ball was prepped for that pitch. The new smell of the ball became earthy and what was just an ordinary ball became special.

The night ended with a new franchise record by the Chihuahuas for the number of home runs hit in a game. It was truly a slug fest! The night gave us the opportunity to just hang out and have fun. As Episcopalians, we might not call baseball our religion, but maybe there is something to be said about the holiness of baseball, the type of holiness that rubs dirt on new things, a holiness in which a church service can be held at a stadium where we give thanks to God for each other, and celebrate with a hot dog and a beer. The church that prays together..."
May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Rest in Peace

The Rev. Walter Allen

The Rev. Walter Drew Allen passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 2, 2019, at the age of 88. His loving wife, Elaine, was with him in their home in Taos, New Mexico. Born on April 5, 1933, in Hearne, TX, Father Walter resided in Houston, VA, CO, and Taos. As a graduate of the University of Houston, he went on to become a commercial developer there before moving to Vail in 1992. A lifelong member of The Episcopal Church, he felt called to become a priest, and was mentored by the Rev. Brooks Keith at the Church of the Transfiguration in Vail. His assistant with ministry there until he and his wife, Elaine, moved to Taos in 2007. They were drawn by their love of art, Elaine being an artist and painter.

Fr. Walter began ministering at St. James. He sang in the choir for many years, assisted with the Food Pantry and helped with the administration of the Rector’s Discretionary Fund and other community outreach programs. He was also involved with the Lions Club in Taos, having served as president and chairman for KidSight, a Lions Club program which helps to screen the vision of 2,000 Taos children per year. Fr. Walter was named on “Unsung Hero” by the Taos News due to his many contributions to the community of Taos. He enjoyed life with his wife, two children, six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Roy Henry Carey, Jr.
Roy Henry Carey, Jr. died on April 28, 2019, at Carlsbad Medical Center. Services were held on Saturday, May 4, at Grace Episcopal Church, Carlsbad.

A devoted member of Grace Church, he served as its senior warden, and most importantly to him, as its organist for more than fifty years.

He also served the Diocese of the Rio Grande as President of the Standing Committee from 1993 to 1998 under Bishop Terence Kelshaw. Conduleses may be sent to his widow, Barbara Carey, at 1307 Gamma Street, Carlsbad, NM 88220.

Mrs. Jane Bates
Your prayers have been requested for the family of Mrs. Jane Bates, especially her husband Deacon Tom. Mrs. Bates died peacefully on Monday, June 24, surrounded by family. Jane, and Deacon Tom, have lived and worked in Silver City for the last 27 years serving at Church of the Good Shepherd. Services were scheduled for Saturday, June 23, at Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City. Cards may be sent to Deacon Tom at 747 Keenchill Trail, Silver City, NM 88061.

Fr. Thad Harris
Father Thad Harris, a parishioner of The Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe and a former assisting at the church, died June 8.

A Mass of the Resurrection for Father Harris, who served under Father Don Campbell in the early 1970s, were Friday, June 21.
This category also includes funding archival services.

5. Clergy Education and Development: $90,000

We demand much from our clergy and we are obligated to provide them with educational, spiritual, and emotional support. Therefore, this budget category includes support for clergy in the DRG and also provides for education and formation of those lay people who are discerning a call to ministry. The 2020 budget supports the Bishop’s School for Ministry in partnership with the growing Iona Collaborative. Lay persons, for whom the time and financial demands of traditional seminary education would otherwise prevent them from becoming ordained ministers, are being given the opportunity to have theological education and pastoral training right here in the DRG. Moreover, this part of the budget includes help for clergy who are in transition to a new cure and need financial assistance to make expensive moves with their families to the DRG.

6. Diocesan Support Groups: $16,800

There are a large number of groups and organizations throughout the DRG that minister in various capacities, and receive financial support, such as the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Recovery Ministry, Congregational Life and Development, and Cursillo. In the 2020 budget, there is an increase for CLAD. It will be part of the support team for parishes that need expertise in terms of visioning work, transitions, or facilitated discussions and planning. Therefore, the team will need to travel more and the increase reflects this.

7. Support and Training for Diocesan Programs: $4,000

As membership declines in many smaller churches, congregations are less able to support full-time clergy and thus turn to part-time and bi-vocational priests. Nearly twenty congregations in the DRG receive financial assistance for their local operations and ministries. This support enables smaller congregations to do the work they otherwise would not be able to do. Some of these congregations receive subsidies for their property expenses. The majority of these aided congregations are missions. However, St. Francis in Rio Rancho and St. Christopher’s and Holy Spirit in El Paso are parishes receiving funding. Some this funding will now be used to call the cure for Big Bend and House the Canon to the Ordinary in El Paso.

8. Funds for Aided Congregations: $29,800

While membership declines in many smaller churches, congregations are less able to support full-time clergy and thus turn to part-time and bi-vocational priests. Nearly twenty congregations in the DRG receive financial assistance for their local operations and ministries. This support enables smaller congregations to do the work they otherwise would not be able to do. Some of these congregations receive subsidies for their property expenses. The majority of these aided congregations are missions. However, St. Francis in Rio Rancho and St. Christopher’s and Holy Spirit in El Paso are parishes receiving funding. Some this funding will now be used to call the cure for Big Bend and House the Canon to the Ordinary in El Paso.


Integral to growing healthy roots and branches is steadily increasing the number of in-person meetings needed. Increasingly, DRG meetings and gatherings are shifting to virtual meetings and gatherings, as well as via these media platforms. The ability to have virtual meetings requires an investment in technology and infrastructure. This is currently happening at a rapid pace throughout the DRG and all Diocese members will be able to connect to each other. This investment in website development and maintenance, electronic media, and meeting space will also be better access to print media will serve as important resources for parishes that may feel isolated from Diocesan life. Also, included in this category are copying costs for those congregations that have been reimbursed, audit fees, and other Diocesan administrative costs.

10. Other Administrative Costs: $70,310

This category includes office equipment maintenance, leases and supplies, staff continuing education, and maintenance contracts. We would like to help support the platforms for electronic communications methods and meeting spaces, insurance, the Bishop’s automobile reimbursement, audit fees, and other Diocesan programs and activities.

11. Diocesan Operations: $65,000

Supporting the work for our future by planning for financial outlays that do not occur each year. This category represents setting aside funds for these future expenses, such as the 2021 General Convention Deputation, the 2050 Lambeth Conference, information system upgrade, Bishop’s sabbatical, and building maintenance reserve.

There are times in the life of a Diocese when we realize that the old ways of doing things aren’t going to do the work God is calling us to do in the future. Having listened carefully to the many voices of our Diocese, we believe now is the time to make bold changes in how we do our ministry together. We need a Diocesan staff that is focused on helping our congregations thrive and has the resources to travel the Diocese to help. We need to invest in our future by focusing on youth and young adults. We need to figure out a sustainable way to provide priesty ministry to small and rural congregations. And we need to move away from a practice of passively receiving money to a practice of actively engaging in the resources that will grow us spiritually.

The process of getting this budget together has not been easy. But now that we are on the other side of this process, we, as Diocesan Council, are excited about the future and eager to see what God has in store for us. The collaborative spirit that this new way of working together has brought to our Diocese encourages us. We feel good that, even without the Settlement Fund contribution, we are able to present a balanced budget that adds new commitments to the work of helping all congregations thrive, a new commitment to youth and young adult ministry, and a pilot project to help small rural congregations. And we feel especially grateful that we can do all of this without raising Fair Share.

As we deepen our spiritual roots and strengthen our congregations, our outreach and our capacity to serve others will grow. In the years to come, we will be working more closely together, sharing one another’s burdens, and celebrating the wonderful things God is doing in our midst.

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Photo by Raymond Raney

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