



# A Visit to the Thresholds of the Apostles

Bishop McManus shares  
his experiences with the  
Ad Limina Visit to Rome

## *What is an Ad Limina visit?*

Periodic visits, usually every five years, are made by the bishops of dioceses as a group from a region of a country. Beginning in the fall of 2011, the Bishops of the United States are making their first ad limina visits to Pope Benedict XVI. I was joined by the Bishops of Region I of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, a region which includes all the dioceses and archdioceses of New England.

It is called “ad limina” from the Latin for “to the thresholds” or, in this case, to the Roman basilicas dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. Months prior to the trip, a report is prepared which covers over a dozen different areas of concern which officials of the Holy See discuss with each bishop, called the *Quinquennial Report*, named for the typical five year reporting period.

Over the course of five days we as bishops meet with the various offices or

*(continued on page 3)*

Photo courtesy of Servizio Fotografico O.R.



## Witnesses of God's Love in the World



Dear friends in Christ,

For at least the past five years, the Diocese of Worcester has been engaged in concerted efforts at educating Catholics of our roles as stewards of God's gifts, giving gratefully for all God has done for us. Please accept this financial report which relates how our diocese has been a good steward of the resources you have entrusted to us. Our evangelizing mission, calling us to be witnesses of God's love in

the world, compels us to put our faith into action in various ways, as demonstrated in part through this report.

Overall, the Diocese of Worcester ended the fiscal year with an operating deficit of \$315,690 after accounting for depreciation expenses of \$467,874.

First and foremost, programs funded by Partners in Charity for FY2011 operated within the amount raised for last year, although challenges could arise in the coming year, since the appeal missed its \$5 million goal by \$275,650. I must call attention, however, to one program, Priests Retirement, which operated at significant expenses over revenues by \$1,036,127. The challenge of retirement care, including related individual expenses, are daunting given that 60 priests were in retirement last year while 120 priests continue to be in active ministry. While I am firmly committed to the well-deserved and appropriate care for these priests who served our parishes throughout their lives, typically until the age of 75 or beyond, prudence dictates that continued deficit spending cannot continue and additional funding among other efforts will be explored this year.

All offices and programs under Central Administration operated within their budgets. Although revenues exceeded expenses on the Supplemental Details report, those revenues on paper must be viewed in light of unrealized investment gains of \$616,246.

Our Diocesan Expansion Fund (DEF) weathered the rocky investment year with revenues exceeding expenses by \$381,861. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the members of our DEF Board, our Diocesan Investment Committee and our Diocesan Finance Committee for their diligent oversight and sound advice during these challenging financial times.

Catholic Schools have been an integral part of our diocesan mission to pass on the faith in our own time and cultural circumstances. However, the recent economic downturn has made it too difficult for some families to continue to exercise this educational choice for their children. Central Catholic Schools experienced \$23,209 in operating expenses beyond \$12,584,090 in revenues, essentially operating within their means while facing declining enrollments. I am grateful to the superintendent's office, the administrators and the teachers in our Catholic schools for stretching every educational dollar as far as it can go. Yet we must find ways to increase financial aid as well as increase our statewide efforts to allow families to exercise their choice to send their children to a Catholic school. I encourage you to read the Catholic Schools Annual Report which is published each year during Catholic Schools Week in January and is available online.

It is perhaps not surprising that in an era when all print media are faced with economic pressures, *The Catholic Free Press* experienced \$103,990 in expenses over revenue. While discussions are already underway with priests and departments on how this can be turned around, I want to acknowledge that our newspaper has played and continues to play a vital role in informing Catholics and non-Catholics alike on issues vital to our Church and our society. Additional work is also underway to explore how we can broaden our parish and diocesan communication efforts to reach those Catholics who are not regularly at Sunday worship and who, as a result, are not as well informed about their faith or critical Church issues.

In closing, I wish to thank you, the faithful supporters of our parishes and diocese. We are on this journey of faith together within the community of faith which is the Church. This report is an annual attempt to identify our diocesan ministries that operate due to good stewardship of your financial resources. May God continue to bless you in your daily endeavors as together we seek to manifest God's love and compassion in the world in which we live.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. McManus". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester

dicasteries which have various areas of competency in church affairs. The most significant meeting, of course, is with the Holy Father himself.

*What concern is an ad limina visit to the average Catholic in our diocese?*

When the diocese issues financial statements, such as the summary statement with its accompanying management letter in this flyer, we are demonstrating a certain level of transparency and accountability. It is also important to know that we are regularly evaluating the effectiveness of our work in accomplishing the mission of the church, not just by our local standards, but by standards which are put forward for the universal church. In essence, the report we are issuing to the people of Worcester relates what we spent and assures them that we are focused on mission.

*Was this trip more than just an administrative duty?*

Unlike multinational companies which have franchises around the globe, each diocese or See enjoys a collegial bond with the Holy See which is Rome. That bond is related in a very specific way to the bond that each bishop has to the first apostles. We continue the mission of the church which was begun on that first Pentecost. As the apostles were sent forth to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, we, as bishops, travel to the city of Rome where St. Peter died for the faith to bring back reports of how the Gospel message is being received today. As bishops we also take the time to celebrate liturgies at major basilicas and to renew, in a sense, our episcopal vocations, namely to govern, to teach, and to sanctify in our local

dioceses. It is also an important opportunity to experience our work collegially as bishops, and, of course, to share our experiences with our Holy Father.

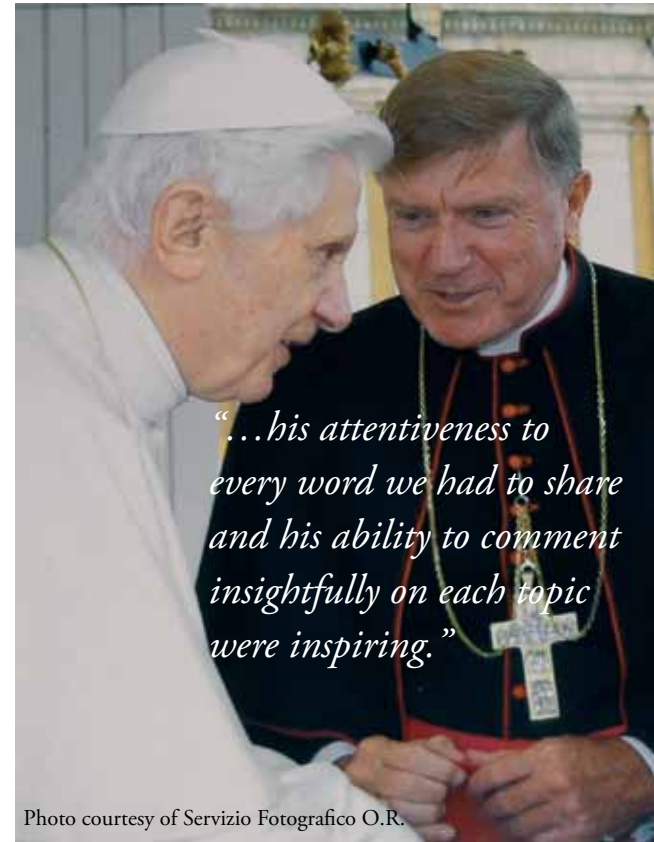
*How can we learn more about our nature as church from these visits?*

To understand ourselves as Church, a field of study we call ecclesiology, we must look to our relationship to one another and in a particular way to Rome. No Catholic church exists in isolation from all the other Catholic churches in a diocese, and no diocese or archdiocese exists outside the communion of the universal church. We cannot be myopic or insular, and likewise, Rome cannot ignore local concerns. The ad limina visit is a unique opportunity for local bishops to share pastoral concerns with Roman offices led by various cardinals who are named by the Holy Father and charged with the various work of the church. These offices oversee the sacred liturgy, Catholic education, vocations to the priesthood and religious life, social welfare, canon law, and the new evangelization. Sacred Liturgy, or Mass is the source and summit of the Church's life. As a result, we are charged at the end of each Mass to carry on that mission in all the aspects of our daily lives.

*Some skeptics would say that the Pope can't be worried about an individual diocese like Worcester. What was it like to meet with Pope Benedict XVI?*

In many ways the meeting was both inspiring and empowering. We sat in the Holy Father's private study as a group of seven bishops. Each of us

was prepared to convey summaries on specific, mission-oriented topics. Despite the Holy Father's age and the fact that English is probably his third or fourth language, his attentiveness to every word we had to share and his ability to comment insightfully on each topic were inspiring. It reminded me of my last visit in August, 2004 when Bishop Reilly and I visited Blessed Pope John Paul II who was clearly enduring great physical chal-



*"...his attentiveness to every word we had to share and his ability to comment insightfully on each topic were inspiring."*

Photo courtesy of Servizio Fotografico O.R.

lenges. He nonetheless spoke with both of us and was aware of specific challenges I would face as the newly appointed Bishop of Worcester and encouraged me in my future work. These successors to St. Peter who have demonstrated such great fortitude in leading the Church, have made it even clearer to me that as Chief Shepherds, they are endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide faithfully the Church who is the bride of Christ. ■

# Annual Report on Financial Activities FY2011

## Partners in Charity

Revenue Sources	
Donations	\$4,807,782
Uncollected Pledges	305,537
Available Funds for Use	4,502,245

## Use of Funds

### Programs

African Ministry	\$23,170
Campus Ministry	35,390
Catholic Charities	350,000
Central Catholic Schools Subsidy	175,000
Development	334,888
St. John Cemetery System	180,492
Office of Marriage and Family	37,741
Grant-In-Aid	350,000
Haitian Apostolate Ministry	54,671
Hispanic Ministry	103,570
McAuley Nazareth Home	33,600
Ctrl. Catholic Schools Assessment Sbdy	26,250
Communications	176,183
Office for Divine Worship	76,380
Office of Ongoing Priestly Formation	16,040
Minister to Priests	50,307
Advance Studies for Clergy & Laity	74,972
Pastoral Planning	46,600
Permanent Diaconate Program	76,873
Pernet Family Health	30,000
Priests' Retirement Fund	450,000
Religious Education	286,810
Respect Life Office	45,833
Retired Priests Ministry	56,000
Seminarian Education	534,946
Subsidy to St. Paul Cathedral	78,805
Superintendent of Schools	237,778
Vocations & House of Studies	315,843
Youth Ministry & Retreat House	91,591
Administration	104,293

Total Use of Partners in Charity Funds: \$4,454,026

Partners in Charity Rev. Over Expenditures: \$48,219

## Central Administration

Revenue Sources	
Cathedraticum	\$2,091,646
Insurance Program	839,580
Realized Investment Income	224,399
Unrealized Investment Gain	616,246
Other Income	244,820
	\$4,016,691

## Expenditures

Bishop's Office	\$182,273
Bishop's Residence	71,868
Building Commission	90,349
Chancellor's Office	100,714

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(Central Admin. Use of Funds continued)

Computer Services	14,638
Donations and Memberships	197,043
Fiscal Affairs Office	371,930
Interest on Indebtedness	1,087,591
Legal Services	9,009
Office of Healing and Prevention	132,199
Presbyteral Council	418
Priests' Financial Assistance	440,906
Reserve for Bad Debt	200,000
Sharing Our Blessings	222,118
Miscellaneous Expenses	24,531
Therapeutic Assistance	38,455
Tribunal	166,430
Vicar for Religious	56,380
Women's Commission	2,777
Total Departmental Expenses	3,409,629

Depreciation	103,674
Ctrl Administration Revenue Over Expenses	\$503,388

## Central Catholic Schools

Revenue Sources	
Tuition	\$11,389,022
Fund Raising & Non-Educational	830,322
Bookstore Income	189,952
Parish Assessment	80,325
Other Income	94,469
	\$12,584,090

## Expenditures

Educational Expenses	\$12,003,074
Fundraising & Non-Educational	604,225
	\$12,607,299

Central Catholic Schools Operations (23,209)

## Other:

Partners in Charity Funding 175,000\*

Designated Income 60,000

Depreciation (320,837)

Net Change in Assets (\$109,046)

## St. John Cemetery System

Revenue Sources	
Revenues from Cemetery Operations	\$1,101,766
Release of Restricted Funds	124,130
	\$1,225,896

Expenditures \$1,406,388

Excess Expenditures (180,492)

Partners in Charity Funding 180,492\*

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## Priest Retirement

Revenue Sources	
Partners in Charity	\$450,000*
Parish Assessments	768,533
Investment Income	86,361
Bequests/Donations	35,530
	\$1,340,424

## Expenditures

Support for Retired Priests	\$2,133,267
Nursing Home/Assisted Living	483,696
	\$2,616,963

Unrealized Gain on Investments 240,412

Expenses over Revenue (\$1,036,127)

## Diocesan Expansion Fund

Revenue Sources	
Investment Income	\$1,079,847
Interest on Loans	2,243,277
	\$3,323,124

## Expenditures

Interest on Savings Accounts	\$2,101,170
Interest Waived on Loans	110,292
Bad Debt Expense	180,000
Administration	192,875
	\$2,584,337

Unrealized Gain on Investments (356,926)

Revenue over Expenses \$381,861

## Catholic Free Press

Revenue Sources	
Parish Quota Subscriptions, Net	\$275,714
Direct Subscriptions	17,199
Advertising	211,887
Print Shop	15,215
Miscellaneous Sales	542
	520,557

## Expenditures

Newspaper	601,658
Print Shop	22,889
	\$624,547

Expenses over Revenue (\$103,990)

## Restricted Funds

Released	
Forward in Faith	\$1,114,308
Endowment & Annuities	514,135
Donor Restricted Funds	138,002
	\$1,766,445

## Expended

Forward in Faith	\$1,114,308
Endowment & Annuity Commitments	514,135
Donor Restricted Support to Ministries	138,002
	\$1,766,445

Change in Designated Funds (\$0)

\* Included in Partners in Charity Detail of Use.



## DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

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To learn more visit our website for a complete report: worcesterdiocese.org