

Dear Ascension Members,

Regarding the financial update that the Executive Team sent to all parish members on June 12, we have received news the Diocese of Huron did not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) in May. That means Ascension will not receive the subsidy in May. Canon Paul Rathbone, the secretary-treasurer of the diocese, sent a letter to congregational leaders explaining the situation, which included this update:

*"For the month of May, in looking at a further wage subsidy for Huron congregations, we consolidated all of our congregation's operating revenues reported to us. Unfortunately, for this month we needed to qualify with a 30% reduction in revenue for May 2020 versus May 2019. Our revenue decline was only 16% in May. This, although not what may have been the best outcome for garnering a federal grant, it does show to us that our parishioners have been faithful and supportive during these challenging times. It is helpful in keeping our operations and payroll active.*

*"Though some congregations in May may have qualified on their own with a 30% reduction in revenue, as it is our diocesan business number for payroll purposes with the CRA that reports all our wages paid for withholdings and federal taxes, it is the diocese as a whole that needs to qualify for a subsidy for wages paid through our business no.*

*"The diocese will consolidate our revenues again for June, July and August, which are periods still being offered by the CRA for a wage subsidy. We are hoping that the government will look to loosen the revenue reduction requirement down from 30%!!"*

As we mentioned in our June 12 financial update to members of Ascension, this will have an impact on our financial situation as we continue to try to operate our church during the pandemic shutdown.

We again thank you for your generosity, support, patience and understanding as we navigate through these very uncertain times.

Your Executive Team

Rev. Canon June Hough, Russ Braley, Mary Grant, Sandra Coulson, Steve Holmes, Bill McKinstry