

Embracing Technology To Complement Catholic Evangelization

The Role and Impact of Financial Administrators

Canadian Catholic Financial Administrators 2023 Conference

May 28 to June 1, 2023
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Hosted by

- Diocese of St. Paul
- Diocese of Prince George
- Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

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May 31, 2023
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IQ DIGITEC

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Over 150 combined years of Software and Data Technology experience

1. Websites

- New
- Refresh
- Update
- Adding and supporting donation pages
- Security and updating certificates

2. Mobile Apps

3. Custom Web Applications

4. Custom Programming

5. Data Analytics

6. Legacy Data Migration



Evangelization

To preach the gospel – to convert to Christianity

Merriam-Webster Dictionary



The Giving Journey



Evangelization

Spread the word - Increase followers and believers

Only receive free-will gifts – give to the poor

Growth continued – more churches were built
– The increased need for financial support
Temporal Goods

Grey area – Religious duty vs Government Taxes

Tithing (Tenth) – 585 AD – Second Synod of Macon

19th century – Stewardship – formally managing

The reliance and importance of Financial Administrators

21st century - Technology is widely used –
Donation process becomes sophisticated

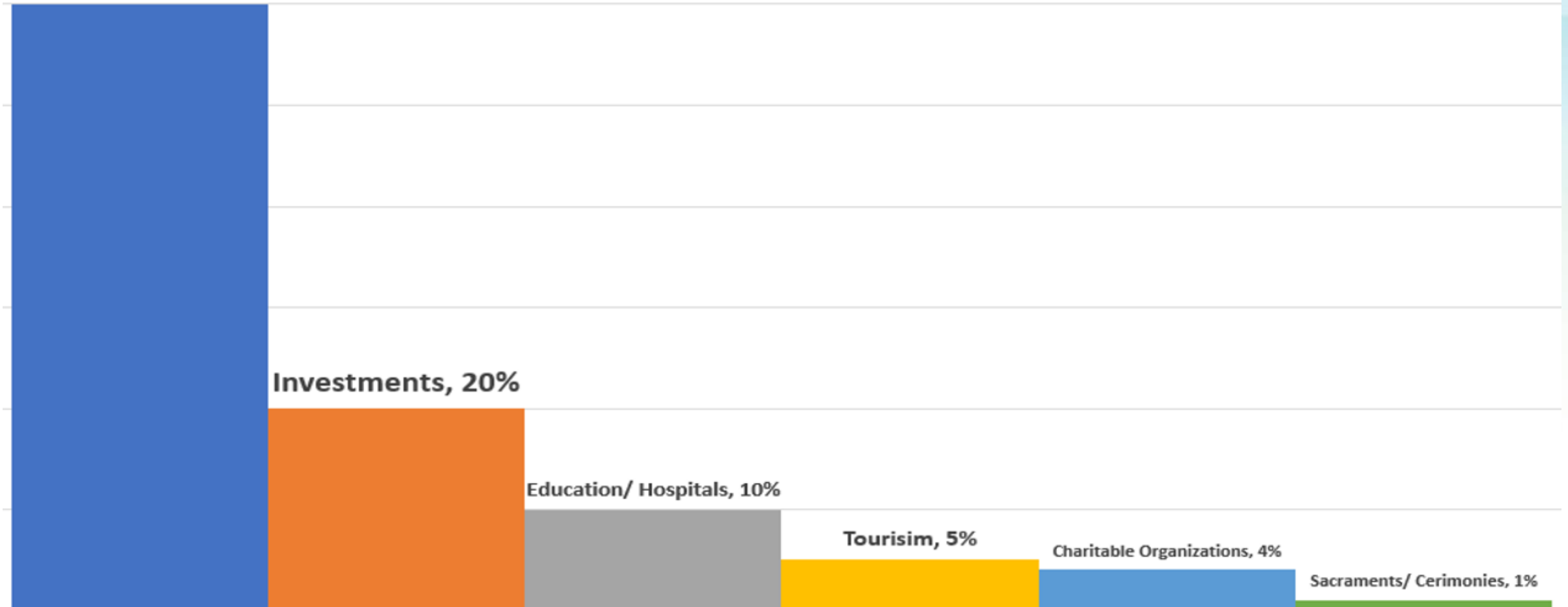
20th century - Modern Fundraising Techniques



What is the source of income for the Catholic Church

- The Holy See is the governing body that generates money through **donations**
- It then **invests** a portion of that money in stocks, bonds, and real estate.
- Vatican City generates revenue through museum admissions and the sale of coins, stamps, and publications.

Donations, 60%



Catholic Church today

- Decreasing numbers in North America and Europe, increase in Africa and Asia
- Some remote parishes are closing
- Some parishes are beyond repair and too expensive to fix and maintain
- Insurance costs are very expensive
- Finding volunteers and hiring people to run parish offices is challenging
- Since 1970, weekly church attendance among Catholics has dropped from 55% to 20%
- However, total number of Catholics worldwide grew from 1.253 billion in 2013, to 1.378 billion in 2021

Catholic News Agency



What is Technology

The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.

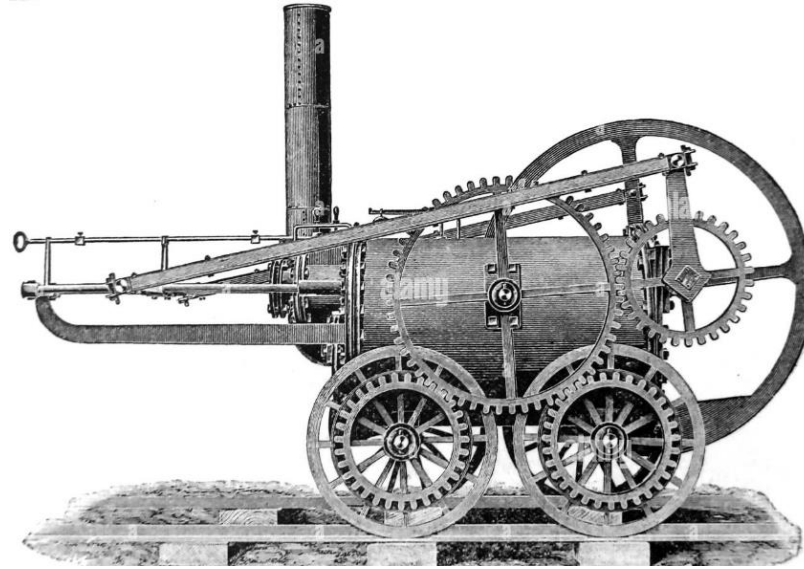
Could be tangible tools such as utensils or machines, and intangible ones such as software.

Current technology refers to any tool, device, or software that facilitates communication, data processing, and automation of tasks.



Technology...is like a moving train, its always moving...it is up to you when and if you want to jump on....

...even trains have and will evolve...



Examples of technologies

Past Technologies:

Printing Press - Mass production of books

Typewriter: Individuals print characters onto paper

Vinyl Records: Listen to recorded music at home

Steam Engine: Transporting people, news and goods

Telegraph: Long-distance communication

Radio: Audio mass broadcasting

Television: Visual mass broadcasting

Present Technologies:

Smartphones: Mobile pocket-sized communication

Social Media: Global communication and virtual communities

Internet: Instant global information

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Machines mimicking human intelligence

Bluetooth: Short-range wireless technology

3D Printing: Almost instant manufacturing



Future Technologies (Emerging or Speculative):

Quantum Computing: Revolutionize current computers

Internet of Things (IoT): Connecting everyday objects to the internet

Augmented Reality (AR): Overlays digital information onto the real world

Driver-less Vehicles: Self-driving cars

6G Networks: Instant network availability and capacity

Biotechnology: Gene editing for medicine, agriculture, and bioengineering

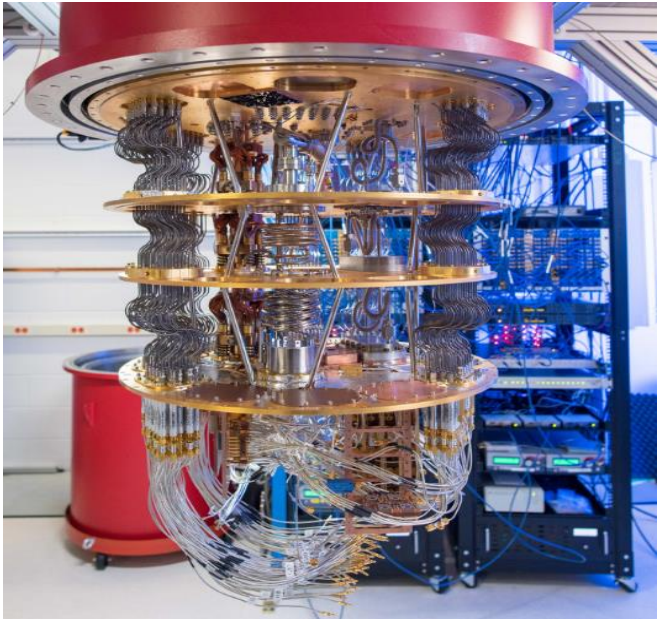
Nanotechnology: Molecular size design and manufacturing

Advanced Robotics: Replace some human tasks

Computing 80 Year Evolution...Room to Desktops to Mobile to Wearables to Implanted Microchips to Quantum Computing



The Eniac (1943) 1,800 sqft, 50 tons
(did 385 operations per second)
Current Smart Phone = 17 Trillion



Quantum Computers – SUPER POWER & SUPER SPEED

No longer restricted by linear binary coding – 0's and 1's

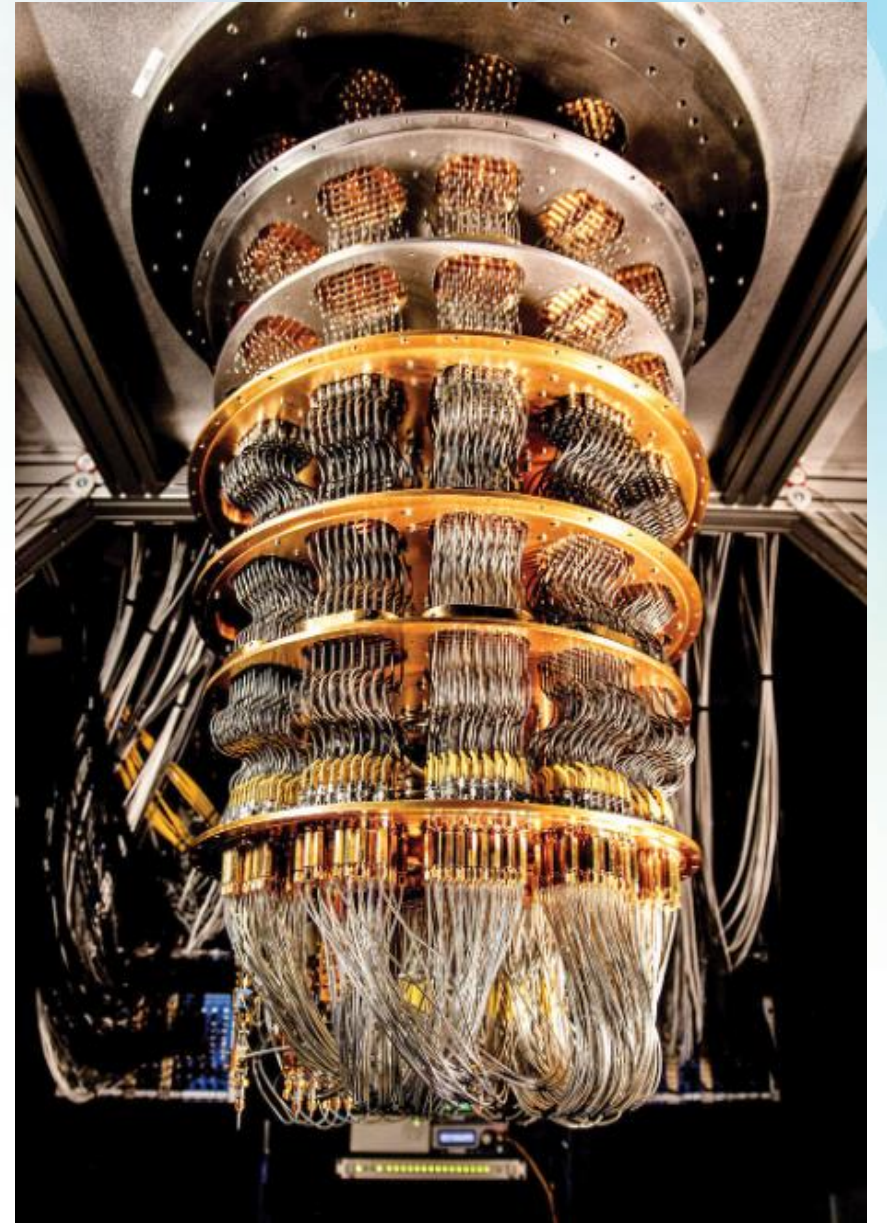
Quantum relies on Qubits – to store data using Quantum Physics

Super secure RSA-2048 standard encryption used by banks around the world.

For a 617-digit password code.

It would take classical computers 300 trillion years to break it open.

With a quantum computer, they can break it open in 10 seconds.



Technology adaptation and how it has changed the way we communicate



World Population = 8,035,000,000
Active Smart Phones = 7,000,000,000



Blackberry - 2002

Some future technologies for the Catholic Church

- LED lighting. Smart Buildings.
- Upgrade sound system and live streaming capabilities/ Better parishioner experience.
- Set up “Giving-Kiosks” in parish lobbies to accept donations.
- Make online donations process very simple through your websites and mobile capabilities.
- Set up a secure laptop in parishes lobbies so guests can leave messages, suggestions, donations.
- Digitize Newsletters, Announcements, Events.
- Square readers and Point-of-Sale equipment. Make it easy to donate, purchase and rent a hall.



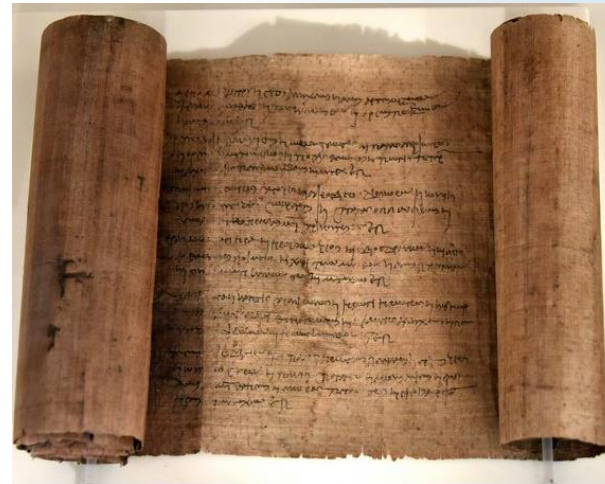
Evolution of Technologies and Evangelization



Oral Gospel



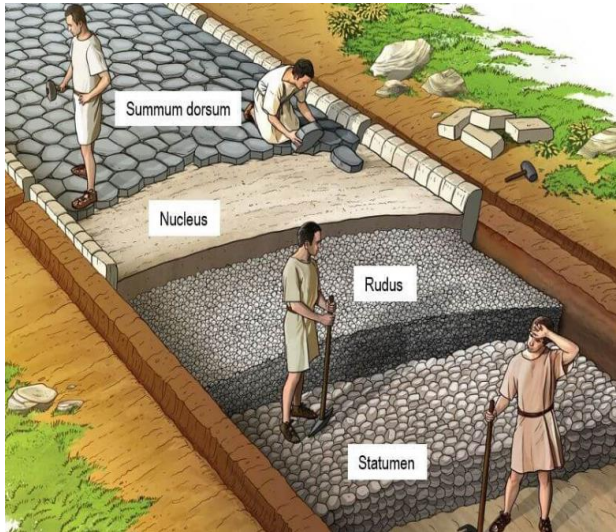
Letters



Papyrus and Manuscripts



Codex



Ancient Roman Roads



Gutenberg printing press 1454 - Bible



Telegraph 1774



Radio - 1897



TV - 1927

Technologies and Evangelization today



Smart Devices



Websites - Internet



Live Streaming



TikTok



Social Media



Push Notifications



Video Conferencing



Podcasts and eBooks



Global Satellite Broadcasts



Artificial Intelligence

Some Technology options for Financial Administrators to consider

1. **Cloud-based collaboration tools:** Stay connected with parishes. MS Office 365 or Google Workspace, and video conferencing.
2. **Mass live streaming and video production equipment:** Engage with parishioners who cannot attend in person.
3. **Integrate systems:** You do not need to run multiple systems that don't talk to each other and do multiple entries.
4. **Database management software:** Centralize, organize parishioner, sacramental records, and other vital data.
5. **Online giving platform:** Enabling online giving options.
6. **Security and surveillance systems:** Protect parishes physical assets, ensure safety of staff, volunteers, and visitors.
7. **Latest Financial Software:** On premise or Cloud. Take advantage of latest features.
8. **Website:** Develop a user-friendly and value-based website that makes parishioners want to return.
9. **Mobile App:** Communicate and keep them engaged constantly, where-ever they are. Easily capture expenses.
10. **Social Media Platforms:** Stay in engaged and connected with parishioners on these virtual communities.
11. **Data Security/ Backup Solutions:** Data security measures and backup systems to protect sensitive information.

Impact and benefits of technology adoption on Financial Administrators



- 1. Increased Efficiency:** Automates manual and repetitive tasks.
- 2. Improved Accuracy and Data Integrity:** Minimizes the risk of human errors.
- 3. Streamlined Collaboration and Communication:** Get everyone on the same page.
- 4. Enhanced Compliance and Risk Management:** Stay compliant with regulatory requirements and internal policies.
- 5. Remote Work and Flexibility:** Work remotely and access financial systems and data from anywhere.
- 6. Professional Development and Learning:** Education and training through e-learning platforms and webinars
- 7. Cost Savings:** Reduces the need for manual labor, decreases the risk of errors, and minimizes the use of paper and physical storage.
- 8. Real-Time Access to Information:** Access financial data and information in real time.
- 9. Streamlined Financial Planning and Forecasting:** Create accurate financial plans and forecasts.

Technology is a tool that is meant to complement financial administrators' expertise and decision-making, rather than replacing their skills and judgment.

Trends Affecting Financial Administrators

- **Automation** - Artificial intelligence will handle manual processes.
- **Demographic** – Aging population, people passing away, inheritances.
- **Generational** – Differences in spirituality among generations.



Some examples of technology adaptation

Archdiocese of Winnipeg – Digital Enhancements

- Website donation enhancements
- Mobile parishioner donation and engagement platform
- Future Accounting system enhancements to streamline major fundraising campaigns



Diocese of Brooklyn – Android Mobile App



Archdiocese of Los Angeles – Internal “Web Apps Central”

- Catholic Schools and Catholic Education Foundation of Los Angeles
- Timesheet App and Budget App



Archdiocese of Boston – CatholicTV



Archdiocese of Melbourne – iPad – Interactive Education Platform



Archdiocese of Dublin – Dublin Diocese Mobile App



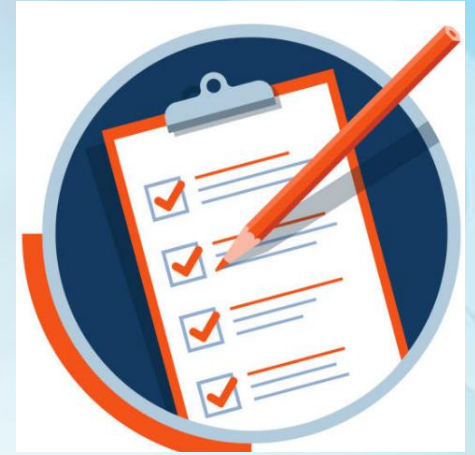
Archdiocese of New York – “The Good Newsroom” Digital News



Technology Guidelines for Financial Administrators

Will the main focus be on:

- Efficiencies
- Modernizing
- Complete transformation
- Combination of the above



1. Identify your overall objective. **Will you lead with people, process or performance.**
2. Assemble your team, appoint a team leader and develop a plan.
3. Build a consensus of your objectives, set priorities, itemize immediate painpoints and keep your mission in mind.
4. Conduct an inventory of your current technology. Keep it practical. Let an IT expert (internal or external), fill in the blanks.
5. Add replacement and maintenance cost of technology to your annual budget. Be careful of that “introductory hook”.
6. ROI analysis. Monetary costs, but also efficiencies, parishioner engagement, Bishop’s mandate, evangelization, office well-being. It’s doesn’t always come down to a two column spreadsheet.
7. Create a task schedule, with a roadmap, timelines, assign project owners. Document this process.
8. Create a budget.
9. Raise funds from your parishioners. Create fundraising campaign to upgrade technology tools and systems.
10. Once a plan has been developed, stick with it.
11. Set regular weekly team meetings.
12. Don’t get overwhelmed as you cannot do everything at once, do them in phases if possible. Separate needs and wants.
13. Work with 3rd party IT experts. However, do not feel stuck with their proprietary systems.
14. Review and update your plan every quarter/ year.



Summary

Evangelization has been and will continue to be the biggest objective for the Catholic Church, especially through these challenging times.

Technology has played a very big role since day one. Current technology now provides Financial Administrators with more options to help and assist their Bishops, grow their respective Archdioceses and Dioceses.

Financial Administrators play a crucial role in this technology adaptation as the donation process and pressures of incoming revenue increase and become more sophisticated, while dealing with increased expenses and trying to assist their Bishops with declining parishioner attendance and engagement.

There are now many more options available for the Financial Administrators to increase revenues and increase parishioner engagement by using different technology resources.

Conclusion

In conclusion, embracing technology to complement Catholic evangelization is essential in this modern digital age and Financial Administrators will play a key role in this.

As the Roman roads allowed people to travel to different communities to spread the word, and the printing press provided bibles to the masses, technology today helps communicate the word digitally to all of your respective Archdioceses and Dioceses much quicker and more efficiently. This keeps your parishioners more engaged, informed, sense of belonging and that bodes well for increased donations.

Financial administrators play a very crucial role in the use of technology, digital platforms, online resources, social media, and collaboration tools and so on.

With their expertise and leadership, beyond their day-to-day accounting and finance responsibilities, will have a huge impact on the success of their respective Archdioceses and Dioceses.

Thank you

...Questions & Comments



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