

Meeting of the Finance Committee
Thursday 30 October 1997

- 1 A letter from the bishop welcoming the members to their new responsibilities was read. It is to be distributed to the Parish in Sunday's leaflet.
2. Father Hood reported that when he arrived in the parish we were overdrawn at the Royal Bank by \$109,1153.36. The parish however had \$31,472.01 on deposit with the Diocese. which was then applied to our overdraft.
3. In order to allow the parish to function, the Bishop then provided us with a six month loan of \$85,000. This was to provide Father Hood time to investigate the state of the Parish's finances.
4. There were no proper financial records for the twelve month period preceeding Father Hood's appointment. After having the books brought up to date, he arranged for Mr. James Berg, a Chartered Accountant, to go through the Books on a line by line basis, beginning 1st January 1994.
5. The sum of \$69,635.01 was found to have been diverted to non-parochial use. The Bishop was informed and took steps to have these funds returned to the Diocese with interest. Meanwhile, during the months of July & August, Fr. Hood made himself available to all parishioners to discuss the financial situation. A total of 34 families indicated that they wanted to see Mr. Berg's report. Fr. Hood spent approximately two hours at each of these households explaining the financial situation as it then existed.
6. Effective 17th October 1997, the diocese assumed responsibility for the recovery of the \$69,635.01 and, therefore, reimbursed the Parish for that amount. This left the parish with an obligation of \$12,840.84 owing to the Diocese on the \$85,000 loan.
7. Plans had been made to install a heating unit in the rectory kitchen. Currently the kitchen is insufficiently heated by two electric baseboard heaters. Unexpectedly, the furnace in the rectory had to be replaced in October. Rather than continuing with the use of Oil in Grafton, the new furnace and heating unit will burn gas. The furnace at St. Mary's
8. In order to deal with our outstanding debt of \$12,840.84 as well as the cost of replacing the furnace and switching to Gas, the Diocese has granted the parish a loan of \$52,000 amortized over a period of 60 months.