



DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

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Cathedral Audit is Completed

STEUBENVILLE — Schneider Downs, a Pittsburgh-based accounting firm, has completed an independent audit of the Diocese of Steubenville's Holy Name Cathedral Project, going back to the initial "Lift High the Cross Campaign." It has submitted its findings to the diocese as well as to law enforcement authorities.

Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, said, "We are continuing to fully cooperate with authorities. We cannot reveal any information on this audit while an investigation is ongoing."

Renovations to Holy Name Cathedral have been put on hold indefinitely until the bishop is convinced the diocese is in a position to proceed. Bishop Monforton said he hopes the cathedral renovations will resume, "but I'm also hesitant. It cannot be a financial burden, an albatross, to the diocese. We have a building that has not been cared for in more than a decade, so something has to give."

Bishop Monforton also said he is waiting to be informed by the Jefferson County Prosecutors office as to whether any criminal charges will be filed concerning results of a prior independent audit of the diocesan financial office. Jefferson County Prosecutor Jane Hanlin told the Herald-Star on Feb.7 that the allegations "remain under investigation."

When he received the preliminary report of the financial audit in May, Bishop Monforton stated it showed, "various federal, state and local payroll taxes were withheld from employees' checks from 2004 through 2016, but the former comptroller did not send the money to the appropriate taxing authorities." Because of this failure to pay withholding taxes, the diocese had

to pay \$3.5 million to proper taxing authorities, which included accrued interest, by liquidating unrestricted diocesan investments.

The diocese continues to take measures to assure these financial irregularities will never happen again. Chief Financial Officer Patrick Henry has implemented new financial controls and an independent audit will be performed every year.

The bishop said a possible civil action to recover damages related to the irregularities in the finance office has been delayed pending results of the law enforcement investigation.