

February 2, 2021

Dear Monsignor and Father,

Greetings to you!

I am writing to formally introduce the Realm software package which will be rolled out in the Diocese of Erie during this calendar year. As you may have heard at deanery meetings over the past year, Realm is a product intended to replace the ageing PDS Church Office software currently used for parish data collection purposes. At a minimum, Realm will be used to track Catholic Services Appeal participation and provide mailing addresses for Faith Magazine. However, Realm has a vast array of other data management and communication capabilities which parishes are welcome to use as well. For example, Realm has online giving available for no monthly service fee and very competitive per-transaction fees. Realm builds its database from the individual, rather than from a family unit – which allows greater accuracy in today's changing demographics.

In 2020, seven parishes in the Diocese of Erie piloted the Realm software. At its most recent meeting in December, Presbyteral Council unanimously approved rolling out Realm to all parishes during this calendar year. This process is now beginning. Later this week, pertinent parish staff will receive an email introducing Realm, and explaining the upcoming first "data clean-up" steps to be taken before parishes are scheduled to transition to Realm. This first step involves configuring the CSA fund reports for 2021 in such a way that the data will easily transition to Realm later in the year. Your staff will also be introduced to the Realm microsite <https://www.eriercd.org/realm.html> on the diocesan website which contains basic information and resources for parishes as we make the transition this year. The microsite will continue to be enhanced in the months ahead. Please know that PDS customer support is aware that we are beginning this work, and will be ready to assist parishes who run into bumps in the road during the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, your vicar or dean with any questions or concerns. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation with this important project.

Sincerely,  
Chris

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