

The informal Diocesan explanation:

The **patrimony** or temporal goods of the parishes in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland are generally classified either as "free" or "liquid" capital, or as "stable" capital or patrimony. Stable patrimony is that which is destined for the long-term security and benefit of the parishes. **The land and buildings in parishes across the diocese are considered to be stable patrimony. The sale of a parish building generates proceeds which are considered stable patrimony.** Net proceeds from the sale of property are not assessed (taxed) by the Diocese. This allows that the stable patrimony available for re-investment back into the actual building and grounds of a parish are not diminished over time, but instead will be invested back into the parish and be accretive over time.

Funds from the sale of parish property are deposited into a parish Diocesan Savings & Loan account called "Proceeds from sale of property." According to the policies in our Diocese, the interest on this money can be used for anything that the parish feels is appropriate. The corpus is restricted by the Diocesan Finance Council. The Diocesan Finance Council must approve any sale listing and asking price on the condition that stable patrimony (land & buildings) is converted into stable patrimony (investments that are treated like an endowment).

Under certain circumstances e.g. replacing functionality lost with the sale of the property, the Diocesan Finance Council may release some or all of the corpus. The parish would make a formal written request to the Finance Council for release of corpus for it to be considered at the Finance Council meeting following receipt of the written request.

A more formal Canon Law definition:

Stable Patrimony Defined

Stable patrimony' is defined: by RT Kennedy, in JP Beal, JA Coriden and TJ Green (eds), *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law* (NY, 2000), p 1495 as: '[A]ll property, real or personal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, that, either of its nature or by explicit designation, *is destined to remain in the possession of its owner for a long or indefinite period of time to afford financial security for the future. It is the opposite of free or liquid capital which is intended to be used to meet operating expenses or otherwise disposed of within a reasonably short period of time* (within one or, at most, two years)'; by A Farrelly, 'The Diocesan Finance Council: functions and duties according to the Code of Canon Law', *Studia Canonica* 23 (1989) 149–166, at p 160 as: '[A]ll goods which are designated as constituting the minimum, reliable economic base by which the juridic person can subsist in an autonomous manner and take care of the purposes and services that are proper to it'; and by FG Morrissey, in Sheehy et al (eds), *The Canon Law Letter & Spirit*, p 732, para 2573, as: 'fixed capital'.