



Case Study

Faith-based Nonprofit Diocese of San Angelo Improves Processes with Abila MIP Advance™ and Soft Trac, LLC

Company Profile | The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo



Mission Statement

We, the People of God of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of San Angelo, are called by Baptism and nourished in Eucharist to holiness and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, inviting all people into a loving relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, united as sisters and brothers in service to the world.

About

- Established in 1961
- Covers 37,433 square miles
- Comprised of 29 counties

Having separate funds in MIP™ instead of only one in QuickBooks has brought to light issues that have been “hidden” thus far.



Business Situation

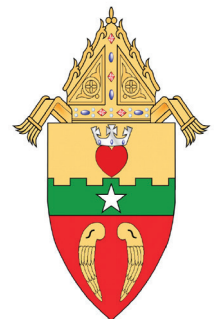
The Diocese of San Angelo was using QuickBooks to manage their financial systems. The majority of their financial reporting was done outside of QuickBooks in Excel. They were also struggling with their Chart of Accounts (COA) which needed to be cleaned up. They had a few additional critical needs related to budgeting and Accounts Receivable Billing, as well as a desire to streamline their processes through implementing more automated methods to replace their existing setup which relied heavily on manually intensive workflows.

“On a quarterly basis, we present the current financial statements to the diocesan finance council in which the knowledge of each member pulls from different industries. We have had a banker on our finance council for the diocese for many years. He was blown away when he realized that we are only getting a 1.01% interest rate on the diocesan investments as it is all in CDs. His comment was that he had no idea that’s the rate we have been getting, as the information was not presented in a way where this was clear in the past. The new structure in MIP, allows us to have one fund strictly for the invested funds and shows the interest earned very clearly. Being part of the diocesan investment committee, he is now helping to explore ways to invest the money more effectively in order to earn the best rate of return possible without compromising the ethical standards of the Catholic Church.”

Project Scope

In implementing Abila MIP Advance™, some of the specific project goals included:

1. Building a flexible table-driven Chart of Accounts that would allow for reporting by any segment.
2. Utilizing Accounts Receivable Billing to manage hundreds of invoices per month.
3. Moving towards a more paperless finance office.



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“The conversations at the monthly financial review meetings have changed drastically with the new Chart of Account structure created with the implementation of MIP. Having separate funds in MIP instead of only one in QuickBooks has brought to light issues that have been “hidden” thus far. We now have the ability to analyze the cemetery, for example, where the amount of unpaid receivables stands out. The ability to see the fund balance that belongs strictly to the cemetery allows us to see the direct impact of having to write-off accounts as it reduces the total fund balance. An accountant may understand the impact without having to see a fund balance; however, there’s no question of the affect it has when it is in its own fund and reported every month.”

Solution

Soft Trac provided the following services to assist the Diocese of San Angelo with a successful software implementation:

1. Imported the Chart of Accounts, Vendors and Customers into MIP Advance.
2. Identified and setup ways for Diocese of San Angelo to take advantage of the many paperless options available throughout the MIP application including-
 - a. File Attachments
 - b. Electronic Funds Transfer for Vendor Payments
 - c. Vendor Notification emails for EFT payments
 - d. Electronic invoices and Statements
3. Provided thorough discovery, and identified and automated sophisticated interfund transfers.
4. Organized and highly automated customer billing.

Benefits

Soft Trac worked closely with Diocese of San Angelo throughout the entire implementation project assisting them in streamlining their processes and utilizing the MIP system to achieve their goals of an improved chart of accounts structure, automation of their billing process, and migration towards a more paperless office. Some specific benefits that have been achieved thus far include:

- Improved Chart of Account structure resulting in a reduction of 695 GL Accounts down to only 112.
- Reduced time needed to produce internal invoices from several days to only a half day per month.
- Produced various reports within MIP utilizing new segment structure allowing access to better data on which to base their organizational decisions.
- Implemented more efficient EFT payment process providing for more extensive automation and a reduction of manual workflows resulting in time savings for finance staff.

“At the diocese, we have all employees from the parishes, diocesan office, retreat center, outreaches, etc. on one insurance plan. This holds true for multiple insurance plan types. While this is a great way to reduce costs on insurance, it adds quite a bit of work to invoice the locations for their share each month. In QuickBooks, these invoices were memorized to have a place to start each month, but editing each invoice was extremely time consuming. It took several days each month to update over 800 invoices and make sure none were inadvertently duplicated, left out, or other mistakes made. With MIP, we are now able to have one excel file to import these billing invoices. Now it only takes half a day, at the most, to edit the file in Excel, verify amounts, and import into MIP. This is the way we chose to take care of invoicing as we are not creating a traditional sales/service type of invoice but rather a reimbursement type of invoice. There are several different tools within MIP in regards to billing giving many options to find what works best. ”

“The understanding of our accounting department has changed dramatically in regards to the transactions being created. In QuickBooks, the mindset was that we were merely typing the AP check on the computer and printing it out as opposed to hand writing a check. The information being typed on the checks were to benefit the vendor being paid. The structure of MIP has allowed the mindset of our team to be shifted to focus on the information being entered to benefit both our records and the vendor being paid. In QuickBooks, the screen is literally a picture of a check which creates the illusion that there is nothing else impacted by the transaction entry. In MIP, the screen is a true data entry form allowing the person entering the information to think more intently on the descriptions being entered. This, along with some re-training on the information that should be entered, has made a world of difference in our accounting records in MIP. ”

Products and Services Used

Diocese of San Angelo purchased Abila MIP Advance Cloud Subscription Service. Soft Trac worked with the Diocese of San Angelo to provide consultation, training, project management and support services. Their staff were fully trained on the software modules allowing them to perform their daily tasks. Training was provided remotely.



Diocese of San Angelo received a prestigious Abila Excellence Award as a Rising Star for their recent implementation of MIP Advance and the stellar results they have achieved using the software.

Soft Trac was honored to nominate them in this category, and for the opportunity to highlight the great success that they have had with their MIP Advance software.

All quotes included in this case study were provided by J. L. Collier, Comptroller | Diocese of San Angelo.