



Fully Developed, implemented by other Dioceses and Lowest Priced

Introduction: Parishinfo is the most advanced Diocese-Parish automation Software. Each diocese can customise and implement it under their name, label and domain. It enables seamless integration of Diocese, Parishes, Foranes/Deanaries, Priests, Families, Members, Congregations, Institutions, Religious, Seminarians, Staff and Volunteers. The program is designed to implement uniform system across the diocese, minimises paper work, quicker communication and automatic data processing. The focus is to provide the benefits of technology that makes church life and parish ministry more relevant and appealing to the present and next generations.

Implementation and Support. The software is centrally implemented, managed and supported. This eliminates separate installation, maintenance, backup and support at each parish.

Consultations: Parishinfo is developed with wider consultations undertaken with Bishops, Curia Administrators, Priests, Parishioners, Congregations, Family Unit/Zonal heads, Volunteers, Pious Group coordinators, Animators, Functionaries and Parishioners to ensure the software addresses everyone's concerns and benefit everyone.

Control and Ownership by each Diocese: Root access of the server remains with the diocesan administrator. He will have full control of the application and database. Ownership of the software remains with the diocese so long as subscription remains valid.

Server, Source Code and Data: We share source code with diocese under a non-disclosure agreement to eliminate any concern about service discontinuity. Diocese shall provide the server which can be either outsourced or located within the Curia.

Data Entry & Migration: Data Migration from existing application to Parishinfo is possible subject to dependencies. The software requires single point data entry and it automatically populates other templates as required.

The team behind Parishinfo: Parishinfo is developed by Theosys. Theosys began its operations in 1999 and provides enterprise class email systems, sever co-locations, cloud computing, consultancy and software development with in-house technical expertise in all these areas. It took us 4 years of research and coding to develop up the cloud edition of Parishinfo. **We would like to put on record our immense gratitude to the all the Priests and Functionaries** of various Catholic Dioceses across India for their inputs and sincere support that made this product a success story.

Why past software attempts did not take off as expected?

Parishinfo has several advantages and takes care of the many problems faced by offline software. Following are excerpts from a study on why off-line software did not take off and how Parishinfo is designed to overcome those shortcomings:-

1. **Offline software Implementation, installation, maintenance, support, updates and upgrades were to be provided at each location making it expensive and unviable in the long run.** [*Parishinfo is cloud based and centrally implemented, installed, supported, maintained and controlled from a single location at the Diocese*]
2. **Offline software was installed on local PC. In many instances, lack of timely support and absence of quality system maintenance crashed PCs along with the software and data.** [*Parishinfo is system independent. It is accessible from anywhere on any internet connected system or mobile with a username and password*]

3. In most cases, Offline software vendors got their money in the first year itself. This left them disinterested to upgrade the programme to future requirements. [*Parishinfo does not charge upfront fees. It is based on a monthly subscription ranging from Rs.75 to 200 per Parish. Subscription based software ensure timely maintenance and support*]
4. Security patches and updates could not be carried out regularly as it was difficult to reach all Parishes; leaving Offline software redundant and defunct. [*Parishinfo is managed centrally, upgrades and patches are required to be done only one a single system making it quick and uniform for everyone*]
5. Offline software had single user format where parish priest was the only user and in many cases the software discontinued due to inadequate operational knowledge of the incoming priest. [*Parishinfo is built on multi user format. Every functionary and member has a login. This ensures continuity and ease of management*]
6. Diocese had no operational control over the Offline software and it became difficult to push through implementation and ensure continuity. [*Parishinfo is Centrally installed, controlled and managed by Diocese*]
7. Offline software did not offer direct benefits to everyone. The system mostly meant to compile parishioners' data without benefits to everyone in the diocese. [*Parishinfo provides functional benefits to everyone connected with the Diocese*]
8. Offline software used manual data processing. Updating member records periodically became extremely difficult. [*Parishinfo offers a login for everyone so that they can update their information online without the intervention of parish or diocese*]

Developing your own Software vs. Parishinfo

Requirements: Diocese-Parish systems and procedures are complex. The challenge is to understand all the requirements of this complex system before developing software that meets everyone's requirements. Parishinfo is a unified system with automatic data integration between Diocese, Parish, Families, Priests, Congregations and Institutions. It has multiple options for easy and quick member registrations. In the past, software was developed with basic features hoping new features can be added later. Once Parishes, Families and others actually start using the software, new requirements starts coming is and it keep coming in which requires more complex coding. It is at this point the developers back out as either they don't have the expertise, or the software architecture can't handle the new requirements or the additional cost.

Maintenance: Online Software is accessed on different devices, operating systems and environment. So even after developing own software, a diocese has to retain at least one technical resource to maintain it and also ensure continuity of this technical resource.

Cost of developing your own software vs. Parishinfo

Items	Own Software(Cost)	Parishinfo(Cost)
System Study and Analyses – 6 months' salary for 2 people	3,60,000.00	Nil
Database and software design-3 month's salary for 2	1,80,000.00	Nil
Templates and logo designs	75,000.00	Nil
Coding-2 years' salary for 3 technical staff	21,60,000.00	Nil
Testing & Debugging - 1 year salary for 3 technical staff	10,80,000.00	Nil
Security Audit and performance certification	2,50,000.00	Nil
Mobile App	4,60,000.00	Nil
Online Server & Maintenance, per parish (per year)	6,000.00	6,000.00

Advantages of Parishinfo over developing own software

1. Parishinfo is fully developed and it is ready to use. No waiting with uncertainties
2. Development and maintenance cost is shared among all diocese. So you pay a fraction of it
3. Parishinfo is implemented under the name and identity of each diocese, just like own software
4. Software maintenance and continuity is assured as the resources are shared by all participating dioceses
5. Parishinfo is implemented for each diocese without any inter-connectivity with any other diocese.
6. Like own software, Parishinfo is managed and controlled by each diocese with administration control
7. Each diocese can backup their software source code as well as database within the diocese
8. Parishinfo is customizable to the specific requirement of each diocese
9. Parishinfo is cloud based. The software is centrally installed and maintained by each Diocese. There is no need to install and maintain the software at each parish.

Security: Online technology is designed to handle the challenges of securing online data on a regular basis. There are a set of requirements that needs to be followed diligently to maintain it safe. Parishinfo is implemented with security requirements (similar to net banking) as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and maintains it. These measures are given below:-

1. **Encryption:** Encryption is the conversion of electronic data into cipher text, which cannot be easily understood by anyone except authorized parties. The name **Parishinfo** when encrypted looks like this: **HR+kFj1j8ZvTp4VnIA/K29xsiclrTDjKB7sUshEnt**
2. **Forced Secure Socket Layer (SSL).** With SSL, all data entered on system and uploaded to the server is encrypted. This provides on-the-fly security to user Id and passwords.
3. **Source Code Encryption:** The entire software is encrypted using latest licensed encryption tools with domain and IP restrictions. This means even if someone gains access to the source code, he can't use it until he also has access to the diocese domain name and IP address of the server.
4. **Physical protection and Security:** Online server comes with add-on physical security, highly restricted access, disaster protection and backup of data and application.
5. **Firewall:** The firewall restrict access to the server as required by the diocese
6. **Brute Force Protection:** This prevents attempts to break into the system using guessed Login Ids and password by blocking failed IPs
7. **Root Login alerts:** Diocese admin gets and email alert for all failed as well as successful login attempts.
8. **Login information:** The software maintains log files that contain information of the Login ID, User IP, Date and duration of software access along with the files the user has accessed
9. **Server hardening:** The server services that are usually a target of hackers is permanently locked and starts only when needed.
10. **Random User Id and Strict password:** The software enforces random Id to make it difficult for others to guess it. The password enforcement policy contains alpha-numeric-special character password combination.