

Customer Spotlight

Archdiocese of Denver Saves 12 Hours a Week with AvidXchange

AvidXchange and Sage Intacct Bring Unified Processes to a Decentralized Organization

Established in 1887, the Archdiocese of Denver is comprised of 148 parishes and churches, 36 elementary schools, six high schools, 180 religious communities, four Catholic hospitals, and numerous charitable organizations such as food banks, soup kitchens, and counseling ministries.

"This is a complex organization. We have so many separate entities, we needed an AP processing solution that would integrate seamlessly across the entire organization."

-Joann Nerheim, Corporate Controller

It was this complexity, and the need for integration with their existing Sage Intacct accounting system that led the Archdiocese to AvidXchange. "Prior to my arrival, a little less than a year ago, the Archdiocese was already using Sage Intacct, so when deciding upon an accounts payable (AP) and payment automation tool it was an easy decision to choose AvidXchange. We knew it already partnered well with Sage Intacct."

Streamlined Invoice Processing and 24/7 Visibility

With AvidXchange and Sage Intacct working together, the Archdiocese has evolved from what Nerheim describes as a "very manual and labor intensive" process. Invoices would be circulated by hand through each department with individuals "running around, getting the coding in, getting approvals, getting the invoices to accounting and then, entering them into Sage Intacct in order to get a check cut."

AvidInvoice eliminated the need for the manual processes and added a level of transparency that, previously, had not been there. That transparency enabled the heads of the myriad number of Archdiocese departments to access and view their own financials and transactions.

"Department heads had always wanted more visibility and control and now they have both, thanks to data access that, prior to AvidXchange, they didn't have. We are also seeing a tremendous time saving now that every department has access to the system and is able to view where an invoice is at any given moment, versus waiting for accounting to have to run a report. Now the tools are right there for them to manage and see in real time."



We wanted to make every process automated, so that we could make efficient use of our accounting resources and to bring more transparency to our department heads with access to their own financials and transactions.”

– Joann Nerheim, Corporate Controller

Saving 15-30% of Time Inputting and Tracking Invoices

The Archdiocese has also benefitted from time savings on several other fronts. With 80-100 invoices coming in each week, “we had to dedicate a person to managing that, and it would take that person all day to manually input the invoices across all of our entities,” says Nerheim.

The Archdiocese was also relying on other employees who would scan each invoice into Sage Intacct, since that was the only means of giving each department head a view into the invoices. “It got difficult to keep the process flowing and to keep track of all the invoices,” she says.



Then there was the issue of invoices received that were incomplete or inaccurate. Invoices would arrive missing critical information such as a signature or the proper code. “We’re probably at least 20% more efficient, now that we don’t have accountants inputting information and then checking and rechecking it.”

With AvidXchange, information is entered into the system once and each of the accounting departments across the Archdiocese’s decentralized organization have a view of it. “All invoice information can be quickly verified,” says Nerheim, “not only eliminating 15% - 30% of manhours spent by accounting personnel, but expediting the processing of payments, which vendors really appreciate. Once the check is paid, the system provides a view of the cancelled check, eliminating extra bank trips, which everybody really appreciates.”

Nerheim admits that she did have a concern going into the AvidXchange integration. “I did feel like many of the people who work here, who had been accustomed to doing things a certain way for ten years, would have difficulty adapting, that using a new system might scare them. But, once they started using it the response was, ‘oh, this is easy’ which was a great relief.”

“We’ve Stepped Into the 21st Century.”

The Archdiocese of Denver was able to gain greater control over its AP process through implementing AvidXchange in partnership with Sage Intacct. By bringing much-needed, unifying processes to a decentralized organization, the Diocese is now accomplishing more, and with greater efficiency and accuracy. “This is still relatively new to us,” says Nerheim, “but I can already see that – in terms of internal resource management, cash flow and spend management— we’re only just beginning to realize the impact of implementing AvidXchange and Sage Intacct. We’ve stepped into the 21st Century and it’s great to be here.”