



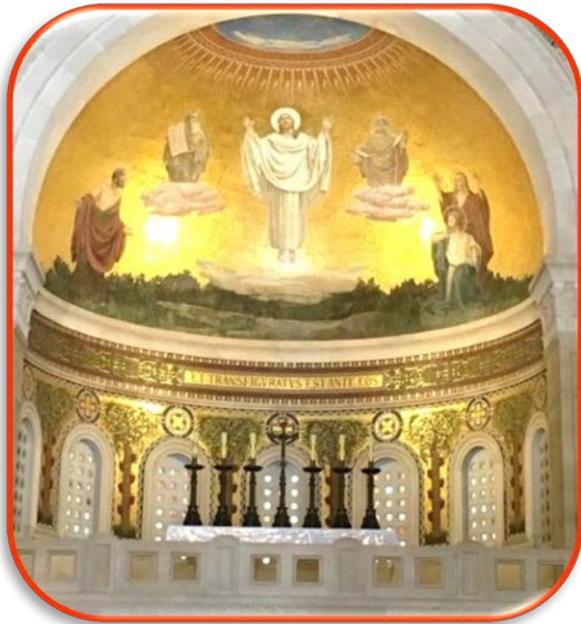
Advancing the Mission

Advancement Foundation Newsletter | Diocese of Fort Worth | April 2018



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Travel with the Diocese

Trip to the Holy Land planned for December 2018



The **Diocesan Travel Program** is pleased to present our next travel opportunity, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. On this fully escorted, 9-day trip you'll explore the roots of your faith, walk in the footsteps of Jesus and His Apostles, and have your most cherished beliefs come to life. We'll begin our journey in Tel Aviv and visit the cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Cana, Nazareth, and many sites in between.

For more information contact **Paula Parrish** at 817.945.9440 or pparrish@advancementfoundation.org

Holy Land Pilgrimage Dates: Dec. 9-16, 2018

Trip Information Nights:

- *Tuesday, May 3
- *Monday, Aug. 6
- *Wednesday, Sept. 12
- *Wednesday, Oct. 10

All meetings will be held at:
The Catholic Center
800 West Loop 820 South
Fort Worth, TX 76108
7:00 p.m.

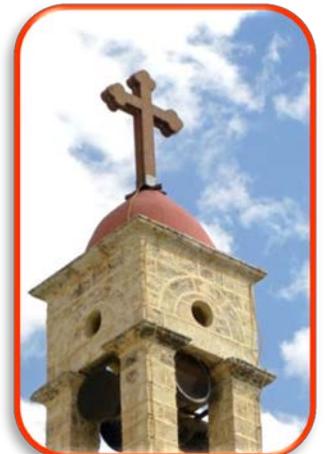
Trip Details

\$3,961 per person, double occupancy

Cost includes:

- *Round trip air fare from DFW
- *All hotel accommodations
- *All transfers and transportation
- *Daily Mass
- *Breakfast and dinners
- *All guided tours

To register and make payments go to
<https://custom.globusfamily.com/payments>
Tour Code BICJ81209T





It's that "tithe" again, a stewardship focus on giving

Through Baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit, who guides us in our life of Discipleship. Once a person commits to being a Disciple, stewardship is not an option, but rather, a responsibility.

The definition of stewardship from the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) is: A steward is a Disciple of Jesus who "receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others and returns them with increase to the Lord."

Let's focus on the phrase "shares them lovingly in justice with others":



Sharing is a gift that is given to another without wanting or expecting something in return. Sharing involves giving the whole self just as Christ did on the Cross. This is how we should model our giving relationship with the Church. Sharing our gifts generously, without expectations, helps the Church live out its mission.



Lovingly means to serve others with love, out of love. Love is wanting, desiring, and doing for the good of others. What you have received from the love of God you must share with others. This is why loving your spouse is an act; you show your love by giving, sharing, and serving your spouse freely.



Justice means not to overdo it and not to give too little. It means finding the perfect balance. You cannot give away your house because that takes away from your family. But you can give a gift card to someone who is homeless. This is justice and balance.

Where do we start?

- *Make a list of the things you have received from God. Be grateful for all you've been given.
- *Decide you will be a conduit of God's gifts. God's intent is for His blessings to flow through you rather than stop with you.
- *Learn how to give. Give to God from the first fruits of your gross income, not the leftovers. This is for everyone, children who receive an allowance, youth who mow lawns and babysit, college kids and adults. We can all give and we can all start now!

It's important that we look at our giving on an annual basis. The **Advancement Foundation** has a **Catholic Giving Guide**, a tool to help you walk through your annual giving commitments. This guide will assist you in determining your tithe based on your annual income. The Bible teaches to give a full tithe, 10 percent or more. But what's important is that you start, even if it's a small amount, and work on staying consistent or increasing your amount when you can.

Once you've determined the amount of your tithe, there's a formula for giving that you should consider. We like to suggest that half of your total giving go to your parish's offertory collection. Then decide where the remaining half will be given, maybe to special collections, your parish capital campaign, the Diocese, a Catholic school or another charity that you support.

Together we make up the body of Christ. Imagine what we could do if everyone gave purposely in gratitude to God from their first fruits? Remember, we can never outdo God in generosity.

To obtain a **Catholic Giving Guide** contact **Diana Liska** at 817.945.9444 or dliska@advancementfoundation.org

Stewardship Day of Renewal – Purposeful Living

Are you making plans to attend this year's **Stewardship Retreat**? This **Day of Renewal** is designed for all pastors, ministry leaders, parish and school staff, leadership committees/councils and all lay people in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Please RSVP by April 20 to **Diana Liska**, dliska@advancementfoundation.org

Retreat Details: Saturday, April 28, 2018 · St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church · 1200 S. Davis Drive, Arlington, TX 76013 (School Gym) · Mass at 8:00 a.m. · Retreat following until 2:00 p.m. · Cost is \$10 plus a canned food item (optional) · Breakfast and lunch are included!



Diocesan Prayer for a Seminarian

God our Father, Thank you for calling (insert seminarian name) to prepare for the priesthood. Grant him the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer.

Help him form his personality as a credible witness to others. Bless him while he studies Your word and the teachings of the Church, and give him a generous heart to serve Your people. We ask this through Your son, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.

Amen.

Please pray for our seminarians:

Deacon Maurice Moon
 Deacon Jonathan Demma
 Thomas Jones
 Pedro Martinez
 Samuel Maul
 Brett Metzler
 Jason Allan
 Ling Nguyen
 Joseph Moreno
 Ed Hopkins
 William Hayes
 David LaPointe
 Collin Becker
 Austin Hoodenpyle
 Brandon LeClair
 Eric Flores
 Benjamin Grothouse
 Harrison Lewis
 Diego Soto-Deniz
 Joseph Hoffschwelle
 Jacob Daniell
 Austin Evans
 Kyle Lange
 Blake Winn
 Blake Thompson
 Reed Proctor

*“The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
 John 10:11*

Support our seminarians

Donate on Good Shepherd Sunday April 21-22, 2018

A spiritual family needs spiritual fathers. Seminarians for the Diocese of Fort Worth are our future. These men will one day accompany us on our journey of life and faith as our priests.

Currently there are 26 men studying for the priesthood in our Diocese. They attend seminaries in Louisiana, Texas and Washington D.C. Each man will spend between 7 and 9 years in seminary formation.

The annual average cost to cover expenses for one seminarian is more than \$52,000. These funds pay for things such as, tuition, room and board, health insurance, and other

basic needs. You can help our seminarians on their journey by making a financial contribution to our annual **Good Shepherd Sunday** second collection held this year on April 21-22. When you give, you will have peace of heart knowing you are contributing to the sustainability of the priesthood in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Please be generous.

In addition to the Sunday collection, donations are accepted online at bit.ly/Seminarians or by texting **SEF to 91999**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Bishop Michael F. Olson, STD, awards \$450,000 to Catholic Charities

The fundraising efforts behind the **Annual Diocesan Appeal** are “a labor of love” for **Renée Underwood**. It’s exciting when the fruits of labor become dollars for vital ministries in our Diocese. On Mar. 19, 2018, **Bishop Michael F. Olson, STD** presented \$450,000, raised through the **Annual Diocesan Appeal**, to **Heather Reynolds**, President and CEO of **Catholic Charities Fort Worth**.

These funds, generously given by people across the Diocese, will help **Catholic Charities** fulfill its mission “to provide service to those in need, to advocate compassion and justice in the structures of society, and to call all people of goodwill to do the same.” Supporters of the **Annual Diocesan Appeal** enable **Catholic Charities** to provide programs for men, women, children and families to end the cycle of poverty. Your generosity makes this possible. Thank you for giving and contributing for the common good!



The Most Reverend Bishop Michael F. Olson, STD presents \$450,000 to Heather Reynolds to support the work of Catholic Charities – Fort Worth.

Advancement Foundation Team

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Mark this date, Sept. 20, 2018, and get up to give on *North Texas Giving Day!* Once again the Advancement Foundation will be participating in this one-day giving blitz.

Last year's event brought in more than \$30,000 to support the ministries of the *Annual Diocesan Appeal*. Your continued generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming events



Saturday, April 28, 2018 – Stewardship Day of Renewal

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, Arlington
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Contact **Diana Liska** for more information or to RSVP 817.945.9444 or dliska@advancementfoundation.org

Thursday, May 17, 2018 – Building Your Legacy Presentation

St. Andrew Catholic Church, Fort Worth
8:00 a.m. Mass 8:45 a.m. Presentation
RSVP Required

Saturday, May 19, 2018 – Presbyteral Ordination

St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth
10:00 a.m. Reception following

You can find these and many more events on the Diocesan calendar

<https://fwdioc.org/public-calendar>



Update ~ Annual Diocesan Appeal

There is still time to participate in this year's *Annual Diocesan Appeal* and support vital ministries in our Diocese. The table shows the super progress that's been made by so many generous donors, but there's still work to do. Please consider a one-time gift or joining one of the monthly automatic giving societies to support the work of Catholic Charities, to educate seminarians and deacons, to provide programs for families and support Catholic schools.

Your gift, joined with the thousands already made, will be *Contributing for the Common Good.*

For more information contact **Renée M. Underwood** at 817.945.9441 or runderwood@advancementfoundation.org

2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal			
	2018 Goal	2018 Actual	Percent of Goal
Donor Goal	22,000	10,528	47.85%
Financial Goal	\$3,300,000	\$2,982,825	90.39%

