

Advancing the Mission

Advancement Foundation Newsletter | Diocese of Fort Worth | August 2018



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Assumption, Stained Glass
by **Jan Rombouts**
ca. 1505 – 1510

On August 15 we celebrate *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.
The Catholic Center will be closed on Aug. 15.



ANNUAL
Diocesan Appeal
2018

2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal finishes strong

Thank you for *Contributing for the Common Good*

The 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal ended on June 30 and with the generosity of more than 11,000 families raised \$3,060,902 for ministries in our Diocese. During the 2018 Appeal we were inspired by the spirit of charity that prevailed in our parishes as faithful Catholics *Contributed for the Common Good*.

The Advancement Foundation is thrilled to share that much of the money raised is already meeting the needs of many. For example, support of rural and needy parishes and schools is one way Appeal funds are used. Our Catholic schools and 29 parishes were recently awarded Operating Grants. Operating Grants provide funds to support the operating budget of a parish or school and pays for things like salaries for directors of religious education and youth ministers, RCIA and Bible study materials and vestments for altar servers. Without these grants it would be difficult for qualifying parishes and schools to meet needs like

these. Your generosity has far-reaching effects and will live on in the lives of these parishioners and school children today and well into the future.

We look forward to sharing more about how your gifts of treasure touch the lives of men discerning a call to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate, couples preparing for marriage, volunteers bringing Christ to the incarcerated, education for children and young adults through Catholic schools and campus ministry programs and those served by the numerous programs of Catholic Charities.

We thank you for your support and gifts to this year's Appeal. Your contribution for the common good is greatly appreciated!

Members of the Advancement Foundation Team travel to San Juan, TX

Learning at the Region X Stewardship Retreat + June 10-12, 2018

The Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle in San Juan, TX provided the backdrop for the annual Region X Stewardship Retreat. This retreat is for diocesan staff that work in the area of stewardship and development and is an opportunity to come together to grow our skills and learn from each other. Region X covers a vast area including every diocese in the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. This year, representatives from nine dioceses participated, including our own Renée Underwood and Elizabeth Becker.

The photo to the right is of a mosaic on the outside of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle. The Shrine was dedicated on Apr. 4, 1980 and designated a national Shrine on Mar. 24, 1998. On June 12, 1999 Pope John Paul II designated Our Lady of San Juan del Valle a minor Basilica.

Pilgrims from near and far come to visit the Shrine to pray and celebrate Mass. It is estimated that more than 1 million pilgrims visit Our Lady of San Juan del Valle each year, making this Shrine one of the most visited Shrines in the United States.



Each year this retreat hosts guest speakers who bring relevant information to attendees, this year was no exception. Because we were in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley it was a perfect opportunity to learn about Stewardship in the Hispanic community. Fr. Bob Charlton, SS.CC., Pastor of Queen of Peace Catholic Parish in Harlingen, shared his life-long experience with culture, community and stewardship. Fr. Charlton summarized his understanding very simply; everyone needs Christ and when we have a relationship with Christ, we begin to realize that it doesn't matter what the amount of our worldly riches are, we are all richly blessed.

Retreatants also learned about the upcoming National V Encuentro from Joe Citro, Director of Development for V Encuentro (see photo top left). Joe shared the history of this Encuentro and its extensive consultative process. We learned that the primary goal of V Encuentro is to engage and empower the Hispanic community to become missionary disciples.

Finally, this annual retreat is a time to renew ourselves for the year ahead. Time is spent in prayer, celebrating Mass (photo bottom left) and enjoying the company of each other over meals and social time. There is also an opportunity to share best practices, network and help each other with unique challenges. It's an annual event that everyone in stewardship and development looks forward to!



Your generous gifts help pay for medical and long-term care over and above what is covered by our priests' insurance and other resources.

Please respond in gratitude for their selfless service.

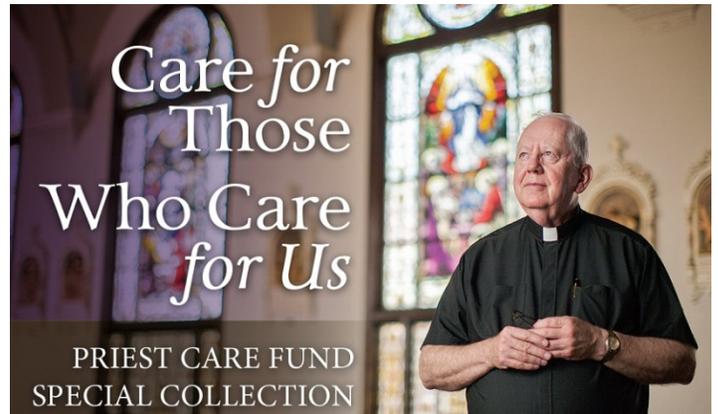
Care for those who care for us

Support the Priest Care Fund on Aug. 4 – 5, 2018

Have you ever considered how much a priest gives to his parishioners and others who seek his guidance or assistance? Our priests journey with us through life and celebrate the very important milestones that we encounter along the way. They demonstrate their care for us by their selfless giving. What a blessing to have a living example of Jesus' love for us!

We have a special opportunity to show them our gratitude by ensuring they are cared for in their retirement and infirmity by giving to the Priest Care Fund. In 2017, the diocese spent more than \$430,000 on medical and long-term care. As medical expenses continue to climb our priests need us now more than ever! Please prayerfully consider how you can care for the men who've cared for us.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



There are several ways to give to the Priest Care Fund

- Contribute during weekend Masses on Aug. 4 – 5
- Give online <https://bit.ly/PriestCare>
- Text to Give **PRIESTS** to 91999

Stewardship Corner

It's back-to-school time

It's back-to-school time and the perfect opportunity to start new habits that teach children about stewardship. New pens, pencils and crayons are important to start the year off right, but equally important is practicing to be a good steward. Following are ideas on how to encourage students to practice stewardship. Maybe some of them will work for you.

- Pray before all meals.
- Enlist the help of children in a recycling program at home or school.
- Say a rosary or chaplet while traveling to/from school or other activities.
- Laminate a holy card and place it in your child's backpack.
- Look for ways to volunteer at your parish.
- Write notes to those making the journey through RCIA.



Still time to travel to the Holy Land

Hurry! Only 8 spots remain + registration closes on Aug. 8

There are a few open spots on the Diocesan Travel Program pilgrimage to the Holy Land scheduled for Dec. 8-16, 2018. Don't delay; you must be registered by Aug. 8 to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Join Fr. John Swistovich, Spiritual Director, to see the ancient cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Cana, and Nazareth. Pilgrims will also visit the Mount of Olives and the Sea of Galilee as they travel in the footsteps of Jesus and see the roots of our faith come alive by experiencing the culture of the Holy Land.

For additional information, contact Renée Underwood at 817.945.9441 or runderwood@advancementfoundation.org. Additional information can be found by visiting <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/holy-land-pilgrimage-2018>

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September Special Collection

Catholic University of America + Sept. 1-2

The National Collection for The Catholic University of America is held Sept. 1-2, 2018. Its mission centers on serving the Church through education and research. University faculty and scholars promote Catholic social teaching and, through their research and discourse, help form the Church's response to challenging social issues of our time. In addition, CUA educates hundreds of priests and religious each year and can proudly call over 12,000 of them alumni. Please consider giving generously in support of this critical institution for our Church and nation.

To learn more, please visit: <http://collection.cua.edu>.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018 - In Gratitude for Vocations

Bishop's Guild Annual Summer Gathering
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Presentation at Historic Hilton Hotel
RSVP Required

Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018 – Building a Vibrant Parish Seminar

St. Michael Catholic Parish, Bedford
3713 E Harwood Road. Bedford, TX. 76021
8:30 a.m. Mass (optional)
9:00 a.m. Check in & Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Seminar begins
1:30 p.m. Day concludes
RSVP Required

Weekend of Sept. 8/9, 2018 – 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal Announcement Weekend

Weekend of Sept. 15/16, 2018 – 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal Kick-off Weekend

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018 – North Texas Giving Day

Get up to support the Advancement Foundation during this one-day giving blitz.
No RSVP Required

SAVE THE DATE



North Texas Giving Day is Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018! Mark your calendars now for this one-day online giving blitz to support the ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. By participating on this day, your donation dollar grows with bonus funds and possible prizes

available to participating non-profits.

Back by popular demand is the ability to schedule your gift before North Texas Giving Day! Scheduling your donation works like scheduling to pay your bills. Between Sept. 10 and 19 go to www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org and schedule your donation to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. Your donation will be processed on the morning of Sept. 20.

Please remember to get up and give!
Thank you!