

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

*Advancement Foundation Newsletter + Diocese of Fort Worth*

*Wishing you a  
Blessed Advent and a  
Merry Christmas!*

*The Advancement Foundation Team*

*Renée, Diana, Elizabeth, Dianna, Cecile,*

*Chrissy, Debra & Gracie*



Inside this Issue

## Year End Giving

Timely information about making a donation to your parish or the Diocese at the end of the year.

## The Eucharist Makes Us the Church

An update on the Annual Diocesan Appeal with a focus on Catholic Charities.

## Special Collection - Retired Religious

Learn about the National Collection for Retired Religious and support the needs of aging sisters, brothers and religious order priests.



## Life is "Ever Green"

Message of the Christmas Tree from St. John Paul II  
December 19, 2004

The traditional "Christmas tree" is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it. The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view: It reminds us of the "tree of life" (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity.

The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is "ever green" if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.

# Year End Giving

Your gift at the end of the year helps us carry out our mission every day, all year.

The end of the year is a busy time, full of holiday fun with family and friends, special celebrations and a time of rejuvenation for the New Year. It's also one of the best times to review financial decisions, especially decisions regarding charitable giving. There are certain benefits to making gifts before the end of the year.

Please visit our website at [www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving) for additional information.



## Requirements for Tax Deductible Giving

\*In order to be credited as a donation in the 2018 tax year, checks must be dated and mailed with a postmark on or before Monday, December 31, 2018.

\*Credit card gifts are effective on the date the card is charged.

\*Electronic fund transfer is effective on the date of the transfer.

\*Stock transferred electronically are effective on the date of transfer.

## Annual Diocesan Appeal Update

Thank you to the more than 9,100 families across the Diocese who have given more than \$2.279 million for the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Through Nov. 15 we have reached 54.27% of our \$4.2 million goal.

There is still time to give and be part of the movement that makes a difference for many in our Diocese. To see the giving options please visit [bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal](http://bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal) or text ADA to 91999 to make a donation now.

When you give you are supporting the needs of others. Thank you!



## The Eucharist Makes Us the Church

**Catholic Charities - To serve, advocate and call all people of good will to do the same**



When you give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal you are supporting vital ministries in our local community like Catholic Charities. This year the appeal intends to gift Catholic Charities with \$450,000 of the total amount raised to support the many programs aimed at reducing poverty and transforming lives.

The programs and employees of Catholic Charities work to serve, advocate and help all people of good will to do the same. When you give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal you join Catholic Charities in service and advocacy for those who face the daily difficulties of poverty. Thank you for your generosity to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Together we are the Church, together we can make a difference.

# Support our Retired Religious

Please be generous during this special collection - December 8-9, 2018

On December 8-9 parishes will take up the special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This is an opportunity for Catholics across the Diocese to give to those who have given a lifetime and assist more than 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose religious congregations lack adequate retirement funding.

There are several ways to give. Participate in the special collection in your parish during weekend Masses on Dec. 8-9. You can also give by texting REL to 91999 or visit <https://fwdioc.org/special-collections> to make an online donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



## Trust

A stewardship way of life does not guarantee a life without pain and suffering. In fact, throughout time, the saints have recognized that the more one shares in the sufferings of Christ, the more one grows to be like Him. As we strive to be more faithful stewards of God's blessings, sometimes we find ourselves wanting to bargain with the Lord, telling Him we will give more back to Him so long as He keeps certain crosses away from us. Or, we let Him know that while we will give a great deal back to Him in some areas, He shouldn't expect us to give as fully in others.

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*A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God.*

*St. Faustina*

The moment of trust arrives when pain does enter our lives, or we are confronted with the realization that we are still holding back in our giving. This is the moment, when, as stewards, we must choose whether or not to trust God. Trust proves itself with the confidence we have in Him through difficult, dry times - periods of desolation, sorrow, and pain.



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## Congratulations Renée Underwood, CFRE



Congratulations are in order to Renée Underwood, Associate Director of the Advancement Foundation, for earning the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification. The CFRE is an internationally recognized certification in the fundraising field and provides a level of certainty that fundraising efforts in the Advancement Foundation are cared for with the highest degree of professionalism. Please join us in congratulating Renée on this outstanding achievement!

# My Catholic Giving Guide

A guide to giving in stewardship

Each Sunday, we have the same routine. We get ourselves dressed and ready for Mass, have a cup of coffee and as we're stepping out the door we grab the check book so we can write a check in the car on the way to Mass or even worse, write the check during Mass! It's great that we give, but is how we're doing it also pleasing to God? Are we truly giving from our first fruits or what is left over? Shouldn't we put more thought into these decisions? If we did, we would avoid that last minute rush and ensure our giving is in line with our charitable priorities. The short answer to all of these questions is "yes" and the Advancement Foundation has developed the **My Catholic Giving Guide** to help.

The **My Catholic Giving Guide** is a form that takes you through an exercise to determine your annual giving amount. Next you can then decide the dollar amount for each giving opportunity. This thought provoking form also provides best practices to assist with finances, make giving easier and even a step-by-step giving example.

To learn more about this tool and to download visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving) or contact Diana Liska at 817.945.9444 or [dliska@advancementfoundation.org](mailto:dliska@advancementfoundation.org) for assistance.



“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me? Psalm 116:12

## Advancement Foundation honors Diocese of Fort Worth Donors



*Celebrating timeless philanthropy are Don Wagner, Jim and Kathy Breen, Renée Underwood, Elizabeth Becker and Ed Gray, Jr.*

National Philanthropy Day, held annually in November, was established to recognize individuals who demonstrate selfless service and leadership in order to build a better community. This year marks the 38th Annual National Philanthropy Day and the Association of Fundraising Professionals hosted a luncheon to honor local individuals and their philanthropy efforts. The 2018 honoree for the Advancement Foundation are the Supporters and Donors of the Diocese of Fort Worth. We recognize that without each person giving a bit of their treasure it would be impossible to support the good work that goes on across our Diocese.

In addition to honoring donors from the Diocese, we were pleased to attend in support of Mr. Joe Monteleone, a member of the Advancement Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Monteleone was named the 2018 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Fort Worth Metro Association of Fundraising Professionals.

# Calendar of Events

Dec. 8-9, 2018 - Special Collection for Retired Religious

**Saturday, December 15, 2018 - Advent Celebration with Bishop Olson and our Seminarians**

Please contact Elizabeth A. Becker for more information 817.945.9443 or [ebecker@advancementfoundation.org](mailto:ebecker@advancementfoundation.org)

**Dec. 24, 2018 - Jan. 1, 2019 - Christmas Holiday**

The Pastoral & Administrative offices of the Diocese of Fort Worth (Catholic Center) will be closed.

View these events and more on our website [www.advancementfoundation.org/calendar](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/calendar)

# Advancement Foundation Team

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Donor Information Updates + Parish Roster Updates

# Courageous Leadership Seminar

The Church faces many challenges. Challenges in regards to the laity and the clergy, but both affect everyone in the parish. The Courageous Leadership Seminar held Nov. 5 at Most Blessed Sacrament in Arlington and St. John the Apostle in North Richland Hills, brought together priests, parish staff and laity to discover how to integrate their leadership skills to create a stronger parish and therefore a better Church.

For more information about this seminar or other presentations like this, contact Diana Liska at 817.945.9444 or [dliska@advancementfoundation.org](mailto:dliska@advancementfoundation.org).



*Seminar participants enjoy a pre-seminar breakfast and an opportunity to get to know each other.*



*Jonathan Baca, from the Diocese of Dallas, was the seminar presenter. His knowledge and wisdom helped everyone in attendance understand the importance of leadership among the laity.*