



Advancing the Mission

Advancement Foundation Newsletter | Diocese of Fort Worth | January 2018

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Special Collection for Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund

Please give generously Jan. 27-28

The mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth is to “empower students and their families by proclaiming the faith, celebrating values and ministering to the spiritual, academic, social, cultural and physical needs of diverse communities.” The *Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund* provides financial assistance to families in need. Assistance ensures that students who seek an education in the Catholic tradition will be afforded the opportunity.

The *Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund* was established in 2006 and has assisted hundreds of families with financial aid. During the weekend Masses of Jan. 27-28, 2018, there will be a special collection for *Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund*. The funds from this special collection will help make a Catholic education possible for many families in our Diocese.

For more information about special collections held in our Diocese or *Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund* contact **Renée Underwood** at 817.945.9441 runderwood@advancementfoundation.org

Advent Celebration with our seminarians

Second annual event proves to be a festive time

On the chilly Saturday morning of Dec. 16 members of the Bishop's Guild, their guests and seminarians for the Diocese of Fort Worth gathered together for their second annual Advent Celebration. The morning started with Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral celebrated by **Bishop Michael Olson** and **Fathers Hathaway, Keating, Strittmatter** and **Wallis**. After Mass everyone enjoyed a festive hot chocolate station and a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Omni Hotel.

The highlight of the morning came when seminarian **Brett Metzler** shared his vocation story. **Brett** eloquently described how he discovered his call to the priesthood while attending Texas A & M University. During his year at the university Brett spent time in prayer and study, especially reading about the saints. His vocation became very clear to him on a long night reading a book of quotes from the saints. "I couldn't stop reading this book", he said, "I knew God was calling me to the priesthood."

Brett shared a few of his experiences of serving in the Diocese, for example as a sixth grade CCD teacher. These



Lani Zavala, Bishop Michael Olson and Dan Zavala are pictured in the foyer of the Omni Hotel.



Brett Metzler, seminarian, inspired the entire room with his vocation story.

experiences, while challenging, build a sense of excitement about becoming a priest, "I look forward to serving God's people."

Following **Brett's** vocation story were remarks by **Bishop Olson**. **Bishop Olson** thanked members of the Bishop's Guild "for accompanying seminarians on their journey to the priesthood" with their prayers and financial support.

The festive event concluded with guests joining together to pray the Prayer for Vocations led by seminarian **Pedro Martinez**. Celebrating the season of Advent with a morning of worship and fellowship with our seminarians was truly inspiring.



Seminarian Blake Thompson and Erin Vader enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other over a lovely buffet breakfast.



Heidi Hoffschwelle, Bishop Michael Olson, Rebecca Logan and their service dog-in-training pose for a photo after the Advent Celebration.



Joseph Moreno, seminarian, and Bruce Mallory, Bishop's Guild member have a good time visiting at the Advent Celebration.



Father Jonathan Wallis, Director of Seminarian Formation, introduces our seminarians.



Diego Soto-Deniz, seminarian, visits with a member of the Bishop's Guild during the Advent Celebration.



Kyle Lange, a first year seminarian for the Diocese, meets a member of the Bishop's Guild.



Seminarians Ed Hopkins, Jacob Daniell, Joseph Hoffschwelle and Kyle Lange are introduced during the event.



Consider an IRA charitable rollover to support your Church or favorite ministry

If you are 70.5 years of age or older and have a required minimum distribution (RMD) due from your IRA there is an opportunity to avoid paying taxes on the RMD by making a charitable gift. Your gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA can be given without having to pay income taxes and you can support your parish capital campaign, a Catholic school, the Annual Diocesan Appeal or a particular ministry of the Diocese of Fort Worth. To be sure to avoid paying taxes, the gift must come directly from your IRA broker to the selected charity.

For more information about making a charitable gift from your IRA contact **Renée Underwood** at 817.945.9441 runderwood@advancementfoundation.org or visit the Advancement Foundation website at www.advancementfoundation.org

Upcoming Bishop's Guild Events

SAVE THE DATE



Be sure to save the date for these 2018 *Bishop's Guild* events:

Saturday, May 19, 2018 Presbyteral Ordination
10:00 a.m. | St. Patrick Cathedral | Reception following

Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018 Meet the Seminarians
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral | 6:30 p.m. Meet the Seminarians at Historic Hilton

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Deo Gratias Gala, St. Joseph Abbey & Seminary, Covington, LA Visit the seminary college where all of our youngest seminarians attend, and experience their Gala with them!



Painting of St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary by **Frank De Melo**.

RSVP's are required for all of these events. Contact **Elizabeth Becker** for more information about these events or to become a member of the *Bishop's Guild* 817.945.9443 ebecker@advancementfoundation.org

Building Your Legacy 2018 event dates announced

The beginning of the New Year motivates many of us to spend time focusing on goals for ourselves and our families. Have you considered preparing vital documents, like a will, to your list of goals for 2018? If so, the Advancement Foundation has several *Building Your Legacy* events scheduled in parishes across the Diocese that you might be interested in.

Building Your Legacy events are informational only and give you the tools needed to evaluate your personal goals for your legacy for your family and the Church. There are four *Building Your Legacy* events scheduled in 2018:

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Keller
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Presentation

Thursday, May 17, 2018
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Fort Worth
8:00 a.m. Mass
8:45 a.m. Breakfast and Presentation

Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Wichita Falls
6:00 p.m. Dinner and Presentation

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Arlington
8:30 a.m. Mass
9:15 a.m. Breakfast and Presentation

The meal and presentation portion of the *Building Your Legacy* events last approximately an hour. For more information about *Building Your Legacy* contact **Renée Underwood** at 817.945.9441 runderwood@advancementfoundation.org.

Stewardship A focus for the New Year

Throughout his life, Pope Francis has been an amazing and humble witness to living simply and caring for others. From the beginning of his papacy, he has shown us how to use the gifts God has given us to care for one another and the world. Pope Francis speaks of stewardship with language that is fresh and fitting for the modern world, and yet the call to live out good stewardship is as ancient as the Scriptures themselves.

The command that we live as stewards was first given to us in the Book of Genesis, where we are told God made every good thing for us and then entrusted it to us so we would care for it. None of us is exempt from this command, for all of us have been given great gifts from our heavenly Father.

With the New Year upon us, and Lent quickly approaching, this is an ideal time to reflect on your personal stewardship efforts. Have you been using the gifts entrusted to you wisely and sharing them generously? Does your faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ?

Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Hershey, PA



Parish business managers gear up for 2018



There is a special group of people in our parishes who make sure that envelopes for special collections are ordered, that materials for the Annual Diocesan Appeal are posted and updated, that announcements for planned giving, stewardship, Diocesan Travel Program and Bishop's Guild are printed in the bulletin

and announced at Mass. These are the unsung heroes who support the work of the Advancement Foundation: our parish business managers and bulletin editors.

In addition to their myriad responsibilities for their parishes, these dedicated individuals serve as an extension of our Team. Associate Director **Renée Underwood** and Director of Stewardship and Parish Relations **Diana Liska** had the opportunity to thank them personally at their Nov. 30 meeting at St. Bartholomew in Fort Worth.

Approximately 75 people, including Catholic Center staff members, attended the day-long gathering. Among the topics covered were year-end giving guidelines, 2018 and 2019 special collections, communications and websites, human resources, payroll and accounting procedures.



Annual Diocesan Appeal reaches 83 percent of goal

With just more than six months remaining for one-time gifts and pledge payments to be fulfilled, the Annual Diocesan Appeal has raised \$2.743 million of its \$3.3 million goal. As of Dec. 21, 2017, 9,979 families had made contributions. The focus now is on reaching our goal of 22,000 different families throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal before June 30. Thank you to the 19 parishes that have surpassed their goals for the Appeal.



Contributing
FOR THE COMMON GOOD



Diocesan Travel Program Two travel opportunities in 2018



The Diocesan Travel Program is thrilled to provide two travel opportunities this year. The first trip will be June 7-16, 2018. You will spend 10 days seeing the sites in England, Scotland and Wales. There's even a castle stay on this trip! Cost is \$4,289 per person.

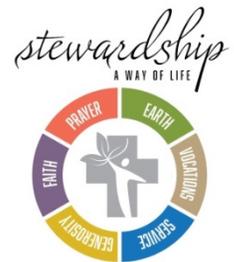
The second travel opportunity is set for Dec. 9-18, 2018. This 10-day excursion is a journey through the Holy Land. On this trip you'll tour Tel Aviv, Jaffa, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and more! Cost is \$4,258 per person.

Both trips include air fare. Act soon as the trips are filling now and there is limited space. To learn more, contact **Paula Parrish** 817.945.9440 or pparrish@advancementfoundation.org

More information is on the Advancement Foundation website <https://www.advancementfoundation.org>

2018 Leadership Day of Renewal Save the date – Saturday, April 28

Purposeful Living, the 2018 **Leadership Day of Renewal** hosted by the Advancement Foundation is **Saturday, April 28, 2018**, at **St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church** in Arlington from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This event features speakers that will cover topics such as stewardship, hospitality, evangelization and leadership.



Please join us for a chance to refresh, recharge and renew your spirit. For more information, please contact **Diana Liska**, Director of Stewardship and Parish Relations at 817.945.9444 or dliska@advancementfoundation.org. The official flyer with all of the details will be coming soon.

