

The Newsletter of the Advancement Foundation  
Supporting the Diocese of Fort Worth

# ADVANCING THE MISSION



And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

## MORE THAN \$3.5 MILLION RAISED FOR MINISTRIES OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

### Highest Level of Support Ever

Through the generosity of 11,323 families, the Annual Diocesan Appeal raised **\$3,520,082** during the fiscal year ending June 20, 2020, *the highest level of support in the 37 year history of the annual campaign!*

On behalf of the Diocese of Fort Worth ministries sustained by this campaign and those who benefit from their services, thank you for your support and trust.

Through your stewardship to this campaign, we were able to provide:

- \$873,000 in operating grants to 29 parishes
- \$178,000 in operating grants to 8 Catholic schools
- \$250,000 in tuition assistance to families attending 19 Catholic schools
- \$450,000 to Catholic Charities Fort Worth
- \$2,125,082 to seminarian education, deacon formation, marriage and family life ministries, campus ministry, prison ministry, stewardship education



July/August 2020

# PARISH SUPPORT VITAL TO SUCCESS OF 2020 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

The theme of the 2020 campaign - *The Eucharist Makes Us the Church* - was embraced by Catholics throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Congratulations to the following parish communities that exceeded their assigned goals or achieved the highest levels of participation among registered families.

## *Parishes Achieving Goal*

1. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 144.64%
2. St. Theresa, Olney, 142.00%
3. Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls, 136.79%
4. St. Mark, Denton, 126.42%
5. Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington, 124.63%
6. St. William, Montague, 123.22%
7. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 121.09%
8. St. Joseph, Cleburne, 120.71%
9. St. Brendan, Stephenville, 120.00%
10. St. John, Strawn, 116.07%
11. Vietnamese Martyrs, Arlington, 115.08%
12. Holy Trinity, Azle, 113.17%
13. All Saints, Fort Worth, 112.03%
14. Our Lady of Lourdes, Mineral Wells, 111.04%
15. Holy Cross, The Colony, 110.31%
16. Sacred Heart, Seymour, 110.15%
17. St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, 110.14%
18. Sacred Heart, Muenster, 109.98%
19. St. Joseph, Rhineland, 108.38%
20. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Breckenridge, 108.23%
21. St. Philip the Apostle, Lewisville, 106.55%
22. Holy Family, Fort Worth, 106.11%
23. St. John Paul II, Denton, 104.75%
24. St. Mary, Dublin, 104.26%
25. St. Mary, Graham, 103.13%
26. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 102.16%
27. St. Jerome, Bowie, 102.02%
28. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Keller, 102.00%
29. St. Mary, Jacksboro, 100.80%
30. St. Francis of Assisi, Grapevine, 100.51%



## *Parishes With Highest Participation*

1. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 100.00%
2. Santa Rosa, Knox City, 61.54%
3. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 58.71%
4. Sacred Heart, Seymour, 51.66%
5. St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 50.00%
6. Immaculate Conception of Mary, Wichita Falls, 48.84%
7. St. John Paul II, Denton, 46.24%
8. St. Mary, Windthorst, 42.48%
9. St. Benedict, Fort Worth, 40.48%
10. St. Joseph, Rhineland, 36.05%
11. Sacred Heart, Muenster, 34.91%
12. St. Boniface, Scotland, 34.62%
13. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 34.50%
14. St. Peter, Lindsay, 34.22%
15. St. Theresa, Olney, 31.58%
16. Jesus of Nazareth, Albany, 28.57%
17. Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 28.38%
18. St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, 27.54%
19. Holy Trinity, Azle, 27.36%
20. Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls, 25.97%
21. St. Jerome, Bowie, 25.00%
22. St. Joseph, Crowell, 25.00%

# NORTH TEXAS GIVING TUESDAY NOW

Powered by  COMMUNITIES  
FOUNDATION OF TEXAS  United  
Way  
Metropolitan Dallas

## MORE THAN \$300,000 RAISED ON MAY 5

Thanks to you for generously donating \$14,900 in support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal through North Texas Giving Tuesday Now on May 5. Your support helps us navigate the new challenges present as a result of the pandemic. In all, more than \$300,000 was donated during this special day of giving to Catholic schools and apostolates throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## SEMINARIANS ENJOY SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS AT FOUNDATION

Two of the men studying for the priesthood for service to the Diocese of Fort Worth - Benjamin Grothouse and Kyle Lange - are learning about finance, fundraising and the concepts of stewardship during their summer assignments with the Advancement Foundation.

Ben, a second year theology student at Theological College in Washington DC is from St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington.

Kyle is a fourth year philosophy major at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington LA. His home parish is Good Shepherd Catholic Community in Colleyville.

With Foundation President Clint Weber the men have learned concepts of finance and managerial accounting, as well as the basics of investing.



*Benjamin Grothouse*



*Kyle Lange*

With Wendy Collins, director of stewardship and parish relations, they have studied the USCCB pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* and helped spread the word about the #iGiveCatholic day of giving that will be conducted throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth on December 1.

Under the direction of Foundation COO Renée Underwood, the seminarians have worked on parish goals and on the design, copy writing and proofreading of materials for the upcoming 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal, learned about endowments and parish capital campaigns, and written personal notes to each member of the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild.

We will miss Ben and Kyle when they return to their respective seminaries in the fall, but know that their experiences and ours have been enriched through this time together.

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# HOW TO GIVE WITHOUT PARTING WITH CASH TODAY

## Discover the Options and Benefits

Did you know there are many ways you can support your parish, a Catholic school, a favorite ministry or the Diocese of Fort Worth without giving up funds right now? When you include a gift to the Diocese of Fort Worth in your estate or financial plans, you ensure your support for our work for the kingdom of Jesus Christ lives on for generations.



## Reasons to Make a Planned Gift

In addition to making an impact on our future, a planned gift allows you to create a legacy that speaks to your values. It also offers you benefits such as: Your gift is generally deferred until after your lifetime, so your current income isn't affected. With many planned gifts, you have the right to change your mind at any time throughout your lifetime.

## Planned Giving is For Everyone

A common myth about planned giving is that it is only for the wealthy. The reality: Planned giving is for everyone! No matter your age or income, you need a plan. When you take time to plan, you create a secure future for yourself and your loved ones.

## A Popular Option

A gift to the Diocese of Fort Worth in your will or living trust is the most popular type of planned gift. Many choose this because it is flexible and can be structured to meet your needs.

## Create Your Legacy at the Diocese of Fort Worth

No matter the type of planned gift you choose, it is reassuring to know your gift will allow you to extend your impact into the future. You can feel confident in the fact that we will be here to carry out the mission of the Church for years to come thanks to your support.

To learn more about planned giving to support your parish, school or another Catholic organization in the Diocese of Fort Worth, please contact **Renée Underwood, CFRE** at 817-945-9441 or [runderwood@advancementfoundation.org](mailto:runderwood@advancementfoundation.org) or visit [www.advancementfoundation.planmygift.org](http://www.advancementfoundation.planmygift.org).

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# ANCIENT PSALMIST CALLS US TO GRATITUDE

## In Disquieting Times

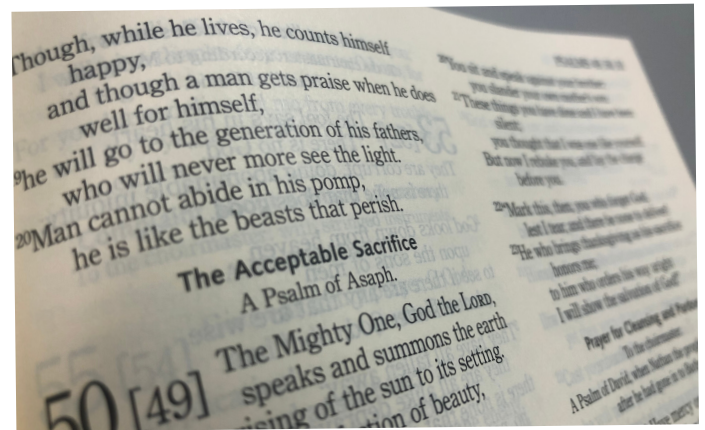
If you are looking for some consolation from the Bible during these disquieting times, you might try the Book of Psalms. Historically, the psalms are so closely linked to King David that many believe some of them were written by him. They provide prayers for every aspect of the life of the Israelites, and today they reveal a spiritual wisdom that can draw the Christian steward into a deeper intimacy with God, especially through the fundamental notion of gratitude.

Psalm 50 provides an insightful look at gratitude. The psalmist felt so strongly about the call to thankfulness to the Lord that he even chose to speak with the Lord's voice, assuring the people that God did not need their burnt offerings: "I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine. The cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine." No, God tells the people, everything is already God's, so your cattle and birds and young bulls need not be offered to their Creator.

So what does God want from us? The psalmist urges us to "offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving."

Keeping in mind that all we have is from God, and remains God's, Christian stewards awake each morning to say with humility, "Thank you." The ancient psalmist's words make sense to a modern Christian, because the God who gave us free will does not possess our thankfulness until we freely give it. And we're asked for more than a perfunctory show of gratitude. The God who already possesses cattle on a thousand hills and every bird of the mountain is calling us to a deep sense of conversion, a sense that we stand before the God who has gifted us with everything we possess.

Go to your Bible this month. Take some quiet time to pray some of the psalms. And remember to be thankful for what he has done for us.



## Stewardship Prayer for July

*Dearest Lord,*

*As we continue to confront the pains and struggles in our lives and in the life of our country, whose birth we celebrate this month, the tensions, anxieties and fears that pervade us cry out to you for healing, courage, faith and hope.*

*Be with your people now.*

*Show us a sign of your presence.*

*Do not leave us in fear and despair.*

*Let us know that you are ever faithful and will not abandon us.*

*We pray that all who suffer may find comfort in you who have carried all the sufferings of the world and have died to bring new life. May all those who are in agony and pain see in your cross a sign of hope.*

*Give us the wisdom to be good stewards of your Gospel. And show us how we may more readily reveal your presence to all those most in need of a sign of your boundless love and mercy. You who live and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

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# AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR PRIESTS FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

## Support the Priest Care Fund Special Collection, August 1-2

The patron saint of priests, Saint John Vianney, once wrote “the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus Christ.” A priest’s love also extends to the Catholic faithful as they lead parishes, teach and preach the Gospel and offer the Sacraments.

As faithful Catholics we have an opportunity to return to them, in love, a sense of security in their retirement years by making a gift to the **Priest Care Fund**. This special collection provides funds for medical and long-term care over and above what is covered by our priests’ insurance and other resources.

In 2019, more than **\$239,000** was collected to offset medical expenses for retired and infirm priests in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Please respond in love for their years of generous service by donating to the Priest Care Fund.



PRIEST CARE FUND | AUGUST  
SPECIAL COLLECTION | 1-2

Please support this collection in your parish or give online at [bit.ly/PriestCare](https://bit.ly/PriestCare)

### Ways to Donate

- Use the envelopes or online giving channel provided by your parish
- Mail a check to your parish with Priest Care Fund in the memo space
- Text PRIESTS to 91999
- Online <https://bit.ly/PriestCare>

#iGIVECATHOLIC



Want more Information?

[www.advancementfoundation.org//iGiveCatholic-en](http://www.advancementfoundation.org//iGiveCatholic-en)

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## PARTICIPATE IN A GLOBAL DAY OF CATHOLIC GENEROSITY

Save the Date - Tuesday, December 1

In the weeks ahead you will be hearing a lot about #iGiveCatholic, a crowdfunding event on Giving Tuesday that allows the Catholic community to give thanks and give back.

Now in its sixth year, #iGiveCatholic raised more than \$7.4 million last fall for more than 3,500 participating parishes, schools and ministries in 39 dioceses. Thanks to underwriting from the Advancement Foundation, 2020 marks the first time for organizations in the Diocese of Fort Worth to participate.

Catholics will be able to support Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, their parish or school, a campus ministry, a religious order, the Annual Diocesan Appeal and many more! Watch our website and social media for more information.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1-2 - Priest Care Fund Special Collection

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



Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Ephesians 5:18-20

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

An easy way to keep up with the ministries supported by the Advancement Foundation is to “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter! Here you will find information about giving opportunities, upcoming events and occasionally some words of wisdom and inspiration.



@advancementfoundation  
@sjp2shepherdsguild



@AdvFdn  
@sjp2shepherdsguild



**Advancement Foundation**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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## WHAT WE DO

- Support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
- Identify Needs
- Raise Funds
- Create Awareness
- Provide Opportunity
- Inspire Generosity

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