

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## JOIN BISHOP OLSON FOR DIOCESAN DAY OF STEWARDSHIP

All are welcome to attend the Diocesan Day of Stewardship, a Lenten renewal opportunity to focus on our response to Christ's gift of the Eucharist, Saturday, March 18 at Saint Andrew Parish, 3312 Dryden Road in Fort Worth. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael F. Olson and priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Following Mass, participants will enjoy breakfast and hear Bishop Olson and Father Joseph Moreno speak on how we receive the Body of Christ in order to become the Body of Christ.

### OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Rapid Growth in the Diocese of Fort Worth
- Part 2: Endowments
- Almsgiving, The Lesser Known Lenten Sacrifice
- Has Your Life Changed? Let us know
- RSVP to the Diocesan Day of Stewardship
- Your Annual Diocesan Appeal donation serving inmates



# DIOCESAN DAY OF STEWARDSHIP

RSVP by Monday, March 13

## The Eucharist and Stewardship as a Way of Life

### Diocesan Day of Stewardship

March 18, 2023

8:30 am - Mass

9:15 - Noon - Breakfast / Presentations

St. Andrew Catholic Church  
3312 Dryden Road  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Join us for a special Lenten opportunity to embrace Stewardship as a way of life – a way to make a return in gratitude for God’s many blessings in our lives and in our parishes.



*“Be what you see and receive what you are.”*

~ St. Augustine

#### Our Featured Speakers



**Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA**  
Bishop of Fort Worth



**Reverend Joseph Moreno**  
Pastor of St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett; Christ the King, Iowa Park; St. Paul, Electra

Cost per Person: \$10  
(includes breakfast and materials)

R.S.V.P. by March 13, 2023  
For additional information or to register,  
please visit: <https://bit.ly/DayofStewardship>



*stewardship*  
A WAY OF LIFE

# RAPID GROWTH IN DIOCESE INCREASES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

It's a time of exciting growth in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Currently, many of our parishes are building new parish halls, rectories, education buildings and youth centers, upgrading school buildings and parking lots, adding adoration chapels and organs, constructing or renovating worship spaces, retiring debt or creating endowment funds. Funding major projects like these almost always requires the parish to undertake a capital campaign. With many campaigns currently in progress (or planned) in the Diocese of Fort Worth, chances are, you have been asked to support such an effort with a multi-year financial commitment, over and above your regular offertory contributions to your parish.

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, all parish capital campaigns are conducted through the Advancement Foundation. Any funds raised are restricted exclusively for the purposes outlined in campaign promotional materials. Foundation staff members provide extensive support to assist pastors, parish business managers and campaign committees successfully raise the funds needed to complete their projects. Additionally, our gift processing team provides donor services for all pledges and campaign contributions, including handling donations of stock or other appreciated assets, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from retirement plans, employer matching gifts, donor advised funds and tax receipting.

“Bishop Olson dedicated our new church in Flower Mound just over a year ago and we’re moving forward with the Advancement Foundation on a campaign to continue our expansion,” says Mark Masty, Business Manager of St. Philip the Apostle.



*Continued next page*

## RAPID GROWTH IN DIOCESE continued

Business Manager of St. Philip the Apostle. “The Advancement Foundation provided tremendous support throughout our last campaign. As we prepare for our Forward in Faith campaign, we are working with Foundation staff in streamlining our process and automating our activity utilizing their recent system enhancements. St. Philip is in the early stages, but we’re confident that through our partnership we will gain significant efficiencies in our upcoming campaign.”

To contribute to one or more of the many capital campaigns being managed by the Advancement Foundation, please visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/parish-capital-campaigns>.

## HOW DO ENDOWMENT FUNDS BENEFIT CATHOLIC ENTITIES IN THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH?

### Endowment Education: Second of a 6-part series

The Advancement Foundation manages more than 200 Endowment Funds representing over \$75 million in assets. These funds enjoy a favorable historical performance and are invested in accordance with the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Guidelines](#) for Socially Responsible Investments through a proprietary Catholic Values screening.

Many of these funds are considered “funds held for others,” through which the various parishes, Catholic schools, cemeteries, organizations and ministries in the Diocese of Fort Worth benefit by investing assets with the Advancement Foundation and receiving distributions from the income.

Typically, endowments annually distribute to their beneficiaries 5 percent of the average portfolio value for the previous 12 calendar quarters. Earnings above 5 percent are



reinvested in the fund to allow it to grow. Many beneficiaries elect not to take annual distributions to increase the value of their endowment funds more rapidly.

Besides investment earnings, endowments increase in value through additional contributions to the fund from the parish, school or their donors. The Advancement Foundation is well equipped to accept contributions to an endowment in any form, including cash, buildings, real estate, mineral interests and personal property. We also accept gifts of stock, including gifts of stock from a closely held business.

### **Learn how endowments create perpetual support for the work of the Church.**

An Endowment Fund provides a source of annual income to a Catholic parish, school or organization of your choice. To learn more contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242.

[Find Part 1 of this endowment series here.](#)

# ALMSGIVING AN IMPORTANT LENTEN EXERCISE

When we look at the three traditional “disciplines” of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we know that almsgiving gets the least attention. Yet, the Bible places emphasis firmly on almsgiving: Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life (Tobit 12:8-9).

A central part of our faith is the practice of almsgiving. It is a practice described in our Catholic Catechism thusly: The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on “almsgiving,” which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is “a witness to fraternal charity” and “a work of justice pleasing to God.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

To be a Christian steward includes having compassion towards others, especially the most vulnerable in our society. Almsgiving is an act where we imitate the love and mercy that God has for these people by providing for their most basic and fundamental needs.

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## An Important Lenten Exercise

Almsgiving is also an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given us, and a realization that as a member of a community of faith, it is never just about “me and God.” It is fundamental to being a good steward of our community. For disciples of the Lord, almsgiving means much more than simply throwing a little change in the poor box. It is an attitude of generosity. It challenges us to examine how we are using our time, abilities, and money to better the lives of those around us. It urges us to share what we have been given by God with others in love and justice. It reminds us that Jesus blesses those who seek to be “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3).

Almsgiving opens our hearts to the realization that God blesses us through those we serve. We see God in the life of Jesus, and we see Jesus in all those who are in need of our care. Look around, see those who are in need, and ask God to take away those obstacles and distractions that keep us from being generous with them. In turn, we will receive God’s blessing in ways we cannot even imagine.

# HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED? SO SHOULD YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Ever look at the calendar and marvel at what year it is? Has that much time really gone by? With time's passage comes change: Babies are born, loved ones depart. We move to a new town, start a new job. Laws get revised. We discover a new passion, a new cause. When changes happen, it's important that your estate plan reflects them. Here are key categories to consider:

- **Timing:** Did you write your will prior to 2001? A lot has changed in the world of estate taxes. For example, the amount you can leave to heirs without paying federal estate tax rose from \$675,000 to more than \$12 million in 2022.
- **Relationship status:** A change in your marital or long-term relationship means you may want to alter your will and beneficiary designations.
- **Children:** Perhaps you now have children or grandchildren, and you want to ensure you have provided for them. Or, you created a will when the kids were young and they are now grown and financially stable.
- **Residence:** Legal requirements and taxes vary by state. If you've moved to a new state since creating your will, you'll want to see what impact that may have.
- **Family and friends:** Our connections with people sometimes shift over time. You may want to increase or decrease the amount left to certain individuals, or even add or remove them from your will or beneficiary designations.



- **Pets:** Ensure that your pets are cared for after you're gone. Name a guardian you trust and assign assets to provide for your pet's food and veterinary care.
- **Charitable causes:** If you have formed new or deepened connections with a nonprofit organization and want to take your support to the next level, you can set up gifts in your estate plan to ensure your values endure after your lifetime.

## Does The Catholic Church Belong?

When creating or updating your estate plan, we hope you consider the role your parish, a Catholic school or a ministry of the Diocese of Fort Worth has played in your life and how you can continue making a difference. Contact Chris Chapman at [cchapman@adv-fdn.org](mailto:cchapman@adv-fdn.org) or 817-310-8368 today to discuss how your dedication can last.

# UNLOCKING THE GOSPEL

## with the Annual Diocesan Appeal

Unlocking the Gospel with the Annual Diocesan Appeal “The Lord commands us to help the forgotten, the marginalized — whether they are homeless, whether they are hungry. In this case, when they are in prison. We’re being Christ to others,” said Raul Soto, prison ministry coordinator at St. John the Baptizer.

There are five state prison units and two federal prison units in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Most are located in rural areas and depend on small parish communities to minister to them. In 2022 the tri-parish community of St. John the Baptizer in Bridgeport, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Decatur, and St. Mary in Jacksboro requested a grant from the Annual Diocesan Appeal. They could no longer afford to minister to the prison without sacrificing the basic needs for their parish. Thanks to donors of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, a grant has made it possible for the prison ministry to lead spiritual activities at the Bridgeport Prison Unit Monday through Friday, including Bible studies and RCIA in English and Spanish. The recent North Texas Catholic article by Susan Moses share more. In it Soto said, “We live in the greatest country on earth. God provides, and we have so many blessings. We’re asked to share that with others.” Please consider a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal to help those who bring Christ to the marginalized who may one day reenter our society having met Jesus while imprisoned.



## A Thank You Video

Parish grant recipient representative, Raul Soto, says "Thank You" to donors of the Annual Diocesan Appeal in this clip from the Prison Ministry feature video.

## A Stewardship Prayer for Lent

*God of mercy,*

*You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives, embrace the Good News and draw closer to You.*

*During this season of Lent, help us use this time to fast and pray, be more generous and show others how to live in Christ.*

*Let us see each day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and gain a deeper appreciation of Your active presence in our hearts and our community of faith.*

*Give us the grace to see Your face in others, especially the poor and those who suffer.*

*And through your Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of Your love so that we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout the world.*

*We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 18 Diocesan Day of Stewardship

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on **Friday, April 7** and **Monday, April 10**, in observance of Easter.



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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You will find information about giving opportunities, upcoming events and occasionally some words of wisdom and inspiration.

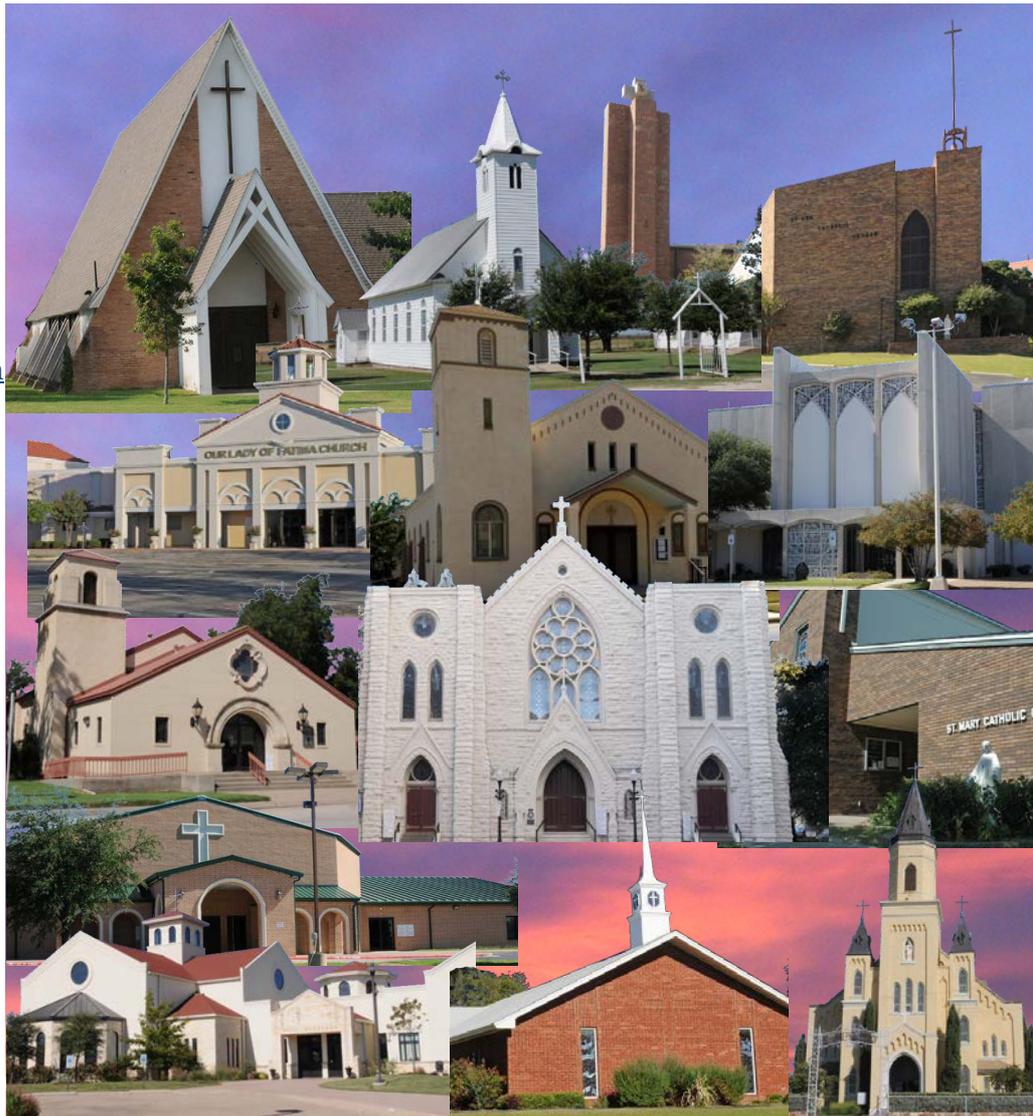
You may see your parish on our Facebook if you have met your Annual Diocesan Appeal goal.



[@advancementfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/advancementfoundation)



[@AdvFdn](https://twitter.com/AdvFdn)





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WHAT WE DO

Support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth

- Identify Needs
- Raise Funds
- Create Awareness
- Provide Opportunity
- Inspire Generosity

*Be what you see  
and receive what  
you are.*

Saint Augustine

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We are here to assist you, please contact any member of the team for information.