

May/June 2022

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

# ADVANCING THE MISSION



Seminarians at the December  
Shepherd's Guild event

## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS THIS SUMMER

at St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild Event

### OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#iGiveCatholic  
Matching Funds

Annual Diocesan  
Appeal Update

Ukraine and Eastland  
Collection Update

Laneri Alumni

How to Choose an  
Executor

Twice each year, members of the Shepherd's Guild are invited to a Saturday morning Mass and brunch event with Bishop Michael Olson, priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Those with a passion for the formation of future priests join the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild with a \$2,500 annual Companion membership. The current members contribute towards seminarian tuition, room, board, travel and health insurance each year. This consistent commitment for the future of our Church is appreciated at this semi-annual event. Events take place at St. Patrick Cathedral with 8 a.m. Mass followed by a brunch and remarks from Bishop Olson, Father Jonathan Wallis and one of our seminarians. Date and time for the July event will be sent to members via email in June. To join the Shepherd's Guild visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/become-a-member](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/become-a-member) or call Renée Underwood at 817-533-7242.

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# ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II SHEPHERD'S GUILD FAQ'S

In addition to financially supporting the education of our seminarians and prayerfully accompanying them on their discernment journey, members of the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild gather for Mass and a brunch with Bishop Olson and the seminarians each year.

## How can I attend the Seminarian Brunch?

By becoming a member of the Guild, you will receive an invitation to the event. Members are encouraged to bring prospective new members to each event.

## Why is there a Seminarian Brunch?

Seminarians spend most of the year at school outside of the Diocese of Fort Worth. They come home for Christmas and summer breaks. These events are special opportunities for them to meet the individuals and families who are supporting their studies. Unlike other dioceses, the Diocese of Fort Worth does not require seminarians to take out student loans. Fort Worth seminarian education has been fully funded through generous donors for decades.

## Why Giving Levels?

Generous stewards want their gifts to multiply like loaves and fishes. Giving levels help the Advancement Foundation plan for future funding and assure funding for each year's seminary expenses are covered. Making your donation an annual gift assures the men have no financial burdens during their studies.

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ST. JOHN PAUL II  
SHEPHERD'S GUILD

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

## How many members do you need?

To fully fund the \$1.4 million annual budget for seminarian education would require more than 560 members.

## Do I have to be a member to support seminarians?

No. You might already support seminarians if you donate to the [Annual Diocesan Appeal](#), the [Good Shepherd Sunday Special Collection](#), [#iGiveCatholic](#) and especially through prayer. The [St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild](#) provides a unique opportunity for faithful Catholics to understand the formation journey of seminarians, to accompany them in prayer, and to meet them and their families in person twice each year.

Give Thanks  
to the Lord

*"Give thanks to the LORD  
for he is good, his mercy  
endures forever!"*  
– Psalm 107:1



**Congratulations!**

*Thank you for reaching your parish goal!*

## ONE-THIRD OF PARISHES HAVE MET GOAL

34 of 94 parishes have met their Annual Diocesan Appeal goal bringing the diocese to 82.12% of goal.

How close is your parish to goal? Check the thermometer poster in your parish or see if there is a congratulations poster nearby. Your pastor or parish staff can provide that information. You can also call the Advancement Foundation to check on your parish goal. Many generous stewards call to donate the remaining amount of their parish's goal.

June 30 is the last day to make a donation to the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

### *Parishes With Highest Participation*

1. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 107.69%
2. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 68.05%
3. St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 57.69%
4. Christ the King, Iowa Park, 51.11%
5. St. John Paul II, Denton, 43.14%
6. St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, 41.30%
7. St. Paul, Electra, 40.54%
8. Sacred Heart, Seymour, 37.75%
9. St. Martin de Porres, Prosper, 34.03%
10. St. Benedict, Fort Worth, 33.33%
11. St. Rose of Lima, Glen Rose, 31.73%
12. St. Mary, Windthorst, 31.58%
13. Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 27.63%
14. Sacred Heart, Muenster, 27.30%
15. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 26.78%
16. St. Peter, Lindsay, 26.11%
17. St. Boniface, Scotland, 23.08%

### *Parishes Achieving Goal as of April 22*

1. St. Paul, Electra, 219.00%
2. Christ the King, Iowa Park, 210.74%
3. Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls, 161.52%
4. St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, 156.67%
5. St. Francis Xavier, Eastland, 155.18%
6. Sacred Heart, Comanche, 145.35%
7. Our Lady of Mercy, Hillsboro, 144.53%
8. Assumption BVM, Decatur, 140.40%
9. Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington, 138.60%
10. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Morgan, 133.33%
11. St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 124.78%
12. St. John, Strawn, 119.83%
13. St. Joseph, Cleburne, 115.45%
14. St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport, 115.26%
15. St. Maria Goretti, Arlington, 115.12%
16. Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 113.68%
17. St. John Paul II, Denton, 113.59%
18. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 112.76%
19. Our Lady of Lourdes, Mineral Wells, 109.48%
20. St. Mary of the Assumption, Fort Worth, 109.24%
21. Jesus of Nazareth, Albany, 108.82%
22. St. Mary, Dublin, 108.68%
23. Holy Trinity, Azle, 107.38%
24. St. Rose of Lima, Glen Rose, 107.37%
25. St. Theresa, Olney, 107.32%
26. St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, 106.89%
27. Christ The King, Fort Worth, 105.67%
28. Vietnamese Martyrs, Arlington, 105.31%
29. St. Joseph, Rhineland, 104.37%
30. St. Mary, Graham, 104.03%
31. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 101.87%
32. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 101.69%
33. St. Francis of Assisi, Grapevine, 101.39%
34. Holy Cross, The Colony, 101.29%

Give Online at <https://bit.ly/ADADonate> (case sensitive)

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# HELP ME CHOOSE AN EXECUTOR OF MY ESTATE

Part of writing a will is choosing an executor. This person oversees the estate settlement process. Perhaps you have been named in a loved one's estate plan. It's an important job. Be sure you know what you've signed up for and who should fill the job for you.

As an executor, the main responsibilities are to:

- Notify all interested parties and agencies of your loved one's passing.
- Hire an attorney, at the expense of the estate, to guide you through the probate process, if necessary.
- Locate the will and file it in court.
- Notify the beneficiaries named in the will.
- Inventory all assets and have them appraised, if necessary.
- Collect all debts owed to the estate.
- Pay valid claims against the estate.
- File tax returns.
- Distribute assets and obtain receipts from the beneficiaries.
- File papers to finalize the estate.

## How to Select the Right Person

Part of the will planning process is selecting the person to fill the critical role of executor—and who you think is up to the task. The best person for the job is someone who is responsible, organized and trustworthy. Common choices are a spouse, an adult child, a sibling or a close friend.



Talk with the person you're considering and make sure they are willing to accept the responsibilities. Part of your discussion should include your values and philanthropic vision so it's clear what is important to you.

If you don't have a friend or relative you trust to complete these duties, you can name a bank or trust company to settle your estate for a fee. Many banks have expertise administering estates, especially large estates.

Tip: It's a good idea to select a backup person in case your first choice is unavailable or unable.

## Need Help?

If you have questions or need help locating qualified professionals to assist you with your plan, please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242 or [plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org](mailto:plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org). We'd be happy to help, and can show you how you can extend your support of your parish, a Catholic school, or a specific ministry of the Diocese of Fort Worth through your will.

# UKRAINE AND EASTLAND COLLECTIONS

An Update on Emergency Special Collections



Viktoria and her children fled the city of Mykolaiv. Now they are receiving relief in Poland. Photo courtesy of Philipp Spalek/Caritas Germany

In March, a special collection was held for CRS efforts for Ukraine refugees. CRS and Caritas partners are on the ground and need immediate support to meet both ongoing needs as the situation intensifies. With your gift, families in Ukraine and the surrounding countries continue to receive food, clothing, transport to safe shelter, cash assistance, counseling and care for children.

**\$467,166.43 raised within  
the Diocese of Fort Worth for CRS-Ukraine**

About 90 percent of Carbon, TX was burned including the homes of seven parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Eastland. A special collection in April raised some funds, but not enough to rebuild the town or the family homes. While government assistance is available, the parishioners are hopeful our community of Catholics will support them in their time of need.



**\$119,664.69 raised within  
the Diocese of Fort Worth for Eastland Fire**

## Donations Still Being Accepted

- The Ukraine/CRS collection will remain available for donations throughout the year. Visit: <https://fwdioc.org/ukraine-relief-en>
- The Eastland collection will remain available throughout the year at: <https://fwdioc.org/eastland-wildfire-disaster-relief>

Both causes and communities need assistance today. Thank you for sharing your generosity.

**May/June 2022**

# STEWARDS OF THE EASTER SEASON

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

As Catholic Christians, we celebrate the Easter season for seven weeks, until the fires of Pentecost once again inflame our hearts on June 5. Indeed, how could we not continue to celebrate this event that has changed everything for us?

It's easy to slip into a cultural way of thinking about our great feasts. Many people have the Christmas tree taken down at the end of New Year's Day, rather than waiting for Epiphany. Likewise, most of us have long ago put the Easter decorations away.

But the Christian steward is aware of the beauty and meaning of the seasons in the liturgical calendar.

The Easter season remains a special time for recommitment to the Lord. One word for this period is "mystagogia," and those who were newly baptized at the Great Easter Vigil are especially familiar with this term. It literally means that we delve more deeply into the mystery of our faith. But exploring this mystery is not just an endeavor for new Christians. As we prepare for Pentecost, we prayerfully examine what the Resurrection means in our own lives.

For Christian stewards, it's a time to reevaluate how faith in the Risen Lord informs every aspect of our lives – how we labor, how we play, the way we pray, how we allocate our resources, where we spend our time, how we love, how we extend our compassion to others. If Christ is truly risen – an astounding and life-altering belief – then this Easter time brings immense joy and a continuing desire to know the Risen Lord.

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The Scripture readings of the season are especially helpful. We hear once again the stories of the appearances of Jesus to his friends; how often they failed, initially, to recognize him in his glory. The Acts of the Apostles tell us of the struggles and the excitement of the new community of believers.

We spent forty days in the penitential season of Lent. Now, we are embarked on fifty days of joyous celebration. Let us experience this joy throughout the Easter season, so that when we celebrate Pentecost, we may truly find our hearts on fire with the Holy Spirit.

## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for May

Heavenly Father,

Your Son ascended in great triumph to sit at your right hand.

You sent your Spirit to watch over us, guide us and teach us to be better stewards of your abundant gifts.

May this Spirit of wisdom make us better stewards of our Easter promises.

May your Spirit increase our awareness of the dignity of every human life, and show us the way to be better stewards of our neighbor.

And through your Spirit, may we be inspired every day to live in accordance with the Gospel, and to give witness to our risen Lord.

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

# #IGC MATCHING FUNDS SPONSORSHIPS

Your business name and logo throughout the Diocese.

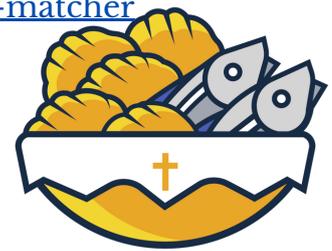
Sponsorship opportunities are now available for #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, November 29, in the Diocese of Fort Worth. As one of our "Ministry Matchers", your business name and logo will be seen by Catholics throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth as a supporter of #iGiveCatholic. Your business will be visible to 35,173 on social media, 74,000+ in print and the 1 million Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The Advancement Foundation of the Diocese of Fort Worth has paid the registration fee for all parishes, schools and qualifying Catholic organizations to participate. Throughout the next six months, the Foundation will continue to dedicate time and funding preparing and supporting participants to achieve their Giving Day goals.

Last year, the faithful in our diocese gave back, and Gave Catholic, donating \$402,516 to our parishes, schools, and ministries! Matching funds added another \$100,000 to that. We look forward to another successful year of working with churches and organizations within our diocese to help them fulfill their mission and outreach.

You can find specific sponsorship information online at <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/iGiveCatholic-ministry-matcher>

or contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242.



#IGIVECATHOLIC

## 4 TYPES OF SPONSORSHIPS

### 1) Matching Sponsorship

- Directly impact every participant of #iGiveCatholic within the Fort Worth Diocese
- Your donation will be split among every participant
- Your business or organization name and logo will be prevalent on all promotional materials

### 2) Designated Sponsorship

- Directly impact a group of participants such as schools, rural parishes or pro-life organizations
- Your donation will be split among this select group

### 3) Special Event Sponsors

- Exclusive event promotional opportunities
- Event audience will be pastors, parish staff, bulletin editors, and more
- Kick-off Event: July 14

### 4) Incentive Sponsors

- Sponsor cash prizes for participants who reach a variety of achievements such as power hours and door prizes
- This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who want to encourage parishes, schools and organizations

## Sponsor Levels

\$10,000+

\$5,000

\$2,500

\$1,000

Visit [here](#) for complete sponsor benefits.

Donations of less than \$1,000 will be listed on [our website](#).

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# CHAPMAN SHARES WITH SERRA CLUB

The Serra Club of Arlington invited Chris Chapman to April Meeting

Chris Chapman, Senior Director of Development for the Advancement Foundation, began his remarks to the Arlington Serra Club in awe of the seminarian parents who instill in their sons the importance of carrying on the faith. In support of vocations and seminarian education he pointed out, "The most important thing is not your pastor, but who is going to be the pastor to your kids or grandkids."



Chapman shared that the mission of the Advancement Foundation is to secure funding to carry out the priorities of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth. He shared an interaction with a single gentleman who recently left his estate to the Diocese, we'll call him Dan.

**Chris:** "Why do you want to give to the Diocese of Fort Worth, Dan?"

**Dan:** "Because, I was born in the country. I was born in Texas. And I was born in this Diocese. God put me here."

**Chris:** "Where would you like your legacy to live?"

**Dan:** "I want to be sure the Bishop's priorities are met long after I'm gone."

**Chris:** "You understand we might change Bishops in the next 30 years?"

**Dan:** "I understand."

**Chris:** "You understand the priorities might change."

**Dan:** "I hope so! That means you've already funded the first set of priorities."

Chapman pointed out that the Advancement Foundation is not in the business of making money. "We are in the business of being a portal to support the initiatives of the diocese and parishes," he explained. The Q&A portion of his talk brought to light funding wants and needs for schools, seminarians and other interests of those present and how the Advancement Foundation can help reach those priorities.

If you would like your parish or organization to hear from a director of the Advancement Foundation, please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE, Chief Development Officer at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242 to schedule a presentation this year.

# HONORING RELATIONSHIPS & ENRICHING LIVES

## Laneri Alumni and the Advancement Foundation

In the few short months of 2022, the Advancement Foundation has intentionally developed relationships with pioneers of Catholic education in the Fort Worth Diocese. Through purposeful and thoughtful planning, the men of Laneri High School have enjoyed several opportunities to re-connect with former classmates, maintain life-long friendships and enjoy the fellowship of those that share this common bond.

The momentum for this engagement of Laneri alumni is the brainchild of Walter Welborn and his wife, Rose Hall. What started with a small dinner gathering in November 2021 at the now Cassata High School, included an alumni gathering of more than 30 at the site of their old Laneri High School for a meal, a tour of the facility by current Cassata students and an informal strategy session. Led by Cassata principal, Dr. Maggie Harrison and Advancement Foundation CEO Clint Weber, those in attendance **remembered their collective past fondly with an optimistic eye toward the future of Catholic education.**

It didn't take long to learn that there are several hundred Laneri alumni still living in the North Texas region. In fact, informal gatherings had been taking place for upwards of 30 years! One such group involves roughly ten alumni that regularly meet monthly for a meal and a friendly round of golf. What is particularly interesting about this group is that the coordinator of these efforts is a current resident of Denver, Colorado!

John Hewatt contends that if he can make every monthly meeting and travel from Denver, those that have remained local should coordinate their calendars to enjoy the fellowship of friends.

Undoubtedly, these men have a bond that can not be hindered or broken by geography. Like many Catholic school students, the fellowship of their life-long friends is too important to be taken for granted. To attest to the strength of Catholic education, more than 35 members of Laneri High School were honored at the April banquet produced by Cassata High School.



Mr. Walter Welborn – Laneri High grad '62 Accepts Award from Dr. Maggie Harrison at Cassata Banquet

“This evening preserves and honors their legacy in Fort Worth Catholic education,” says Dr. Maggie Harrison, President of Cassata Catholic High School. “We hope that today’s students leave our campus with the same strong sense of purpose and belonging that the Laneri alumni have.”

## Laneri Alumni Continued



After helping Cassata surpass their fundraising goal on April 26, attendees gathered for a group picture under the lights at Joe T. Garcias.

In keeping with the theme of honoring relationships and enriching lives, Nolan Catholic High School was proud to also host not only the alumni of Laneri High School, but also alumni from Our Lady of Victory (OLV). On May 5, a special Mass was led by Father Moon and followed by a tour of Nolan with a fellowship brunch for all in attendance. "We were honored to host so many wonderful alumni and advocates of Catholic education!" said Kristy Webb, President of Nolan High School. "Connecting our past with the future graduates of Nolan Catholic High School will no doubt continue the bond that our alumni and current students both share."

The Advancement Foundation was a proud sponsor of this engagement event and relished the opportunity to serve as a conduit for this special group of alumni. "Creating and maintaining a Catholic education system for the formation and education of the youth of the Diocese of Fort Worth is a critical component of the spiritual formation of our next generation," says Clint Weber, CEO of the Advancement Foundation.

These Laneri alumni have a passion for quality Catholic education that is catching. There is much excitement and anticipation of the next opportunity for these men. If you happen to meet one of these special men, you might want to stop, visit and thank them for blazing a trail for our next generation of leaders in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- May 28-29 Catholic Communications Campaign  
June 25-26 Annual Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

For more information or to donate visit: [www.fwdioc.org/special-collections](http://www.fwdioc.org/special-collections)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 25 Light of Christ Awards at St. Patrick Cathedral  
June 30 Last day for Annual Diocesan Appeal contributions to credit to parish goals for FY2022.

- September 11 Annual Diocesan Appeal Announcement Sunday  
September 18 Annual Diocesan Appeal Commitment Sunday  
September 22 North Texas Giving Day  
October 16 Diocese of Fort Worth Stewardship Sunday  
November 29 #iGiveCatholic Giving Day on Giving Tuesday

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on **Monday, May 30** in observance of Memorial Day.

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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.



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



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

May/June 2022

**It's Not Too Late.**  
Make a difference in the lives of thousands of people—people like the parishioners at St. Joseph parish in Rhineland who have found spiritual nourishment with the help of essential operating grants from the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

FAITH • HOPE • CHARITY  
ANNUAL  
DIOCESAN  
APPEAL

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## WHAT WE DO

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

*For the Son of Man did  
not come to be served  
but to serve and to give  
his life as a ransom for  
many.*

Mark 10:45

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

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