

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

ADVANCING THE MISSION



Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.

Col. 1:12

Checks must be dated and mailed with a postmark on or before December 31, 2019. Credit card gifts are effective on the date the card is charged. Electronic funds transfer is effective on the date of the transfer. Stocks transferred electronically are effective on the date of transfer. Please plan ahead.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

The end of the year is a busy time, full of holiday fun with family and friends, meaningful liturgies 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. The following information is designed to help answer your questions about giving at year end.

Donor Assistance During the Holidays
Offices Closed: Monday, December 23, 2019 - Wednesday, January 1, 2020

On these days, please contact us at 817-945-9463 or YearEndGiving@advancementfoundation.org

Messages will be monitored and returned as soon as possible.

Visit www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving for more information on year-end giving.



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STRONG OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT KICKS OFF ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Eight parishes have already achieved commitments over their goal

The 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal kicked off in parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth on September 22 and since that time the outpouring of generosity has been truly humbling.

Through October 30, 7,651 families have made commitments totaling \$2,169,636. Thank you!

Each year, through the work of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth renews its mission of bringing Christ's redemptive and healing presence to people across the 28 counties of North Central Texas. Your generosity sustains Diocesan ministries and programs that ensure that our holy Catholic Church is there to comfort the sick, serve the poor and warm the hearts of those in need.

It's not too late to make a commitment to this year's campaign.

Easy ways to give

- Pick up a commitment form in your parish and return it by mail to the Advancement Foundation or drop in the collection.
- Text ADA to 91999
- Donate securely online at: <https://bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal>



Congratulations to the following parish communities that have received commitments to the Annual Diocesan Appeal above their goal!

St. Mary, Jacksboro, 123.80%

St. John, Strawn, 112.50%

St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 111.61%

St. Joseph, Cleburne, 110.63%

St. William, Montague, 104.15%

Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls, 103.88%

Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington, 102.61%

St. Theresa, Olney, 101.82%

THANKS TO YOU WE RAISED \$47,877



Thank you for your outpouring of support for the ministries of the Annual Diocesan Appeal on North Texas Giving Day, September 19.

A total of \$47,877 was donated online by 143 individuals. These gifts will be credited to your parish goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal, but tax receipting for any gifts made that day will come from Communities Foundation of North Texas. If you need to print an additional receipt, please visit www.northtexasgivingday.org.

Thank you for supporting the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth on North Texas Giving Day!

PRAYING WITH AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Exercise the Stewardship of Prayer during the month of All Souls

All Souls Day, November 2, is one of my favorite days in the Church's year. This special feast gives me an opportunity to communicate with all the people I have known and loved who have died.

As Christians, we do not believe in false or superficial forms of communication with the dead (séances or voodoo or other forms of superstition). We communicate with those who have died through our prayer.

Many years ago, when he was a professor of theology, Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) wrote a series of scholarly reflections on death and eternal life. In one of these he writes:



"The possibility of helping and giving does not cease to exist on the death of the Christian. Rather does it stretch out to encompass the entire communion of saints, on both sides of death's portals."

If we take this seriously, it means that we have a stewardship responsibility to pray for those who have died. Prayer is always directed to God, but we Christians believe that Mary and all the saints can assist us in our communication with our Heavenly Father. They intercede for us, whether we ask them to or not, but they also pray with us. That means they accompany us on our individual spiritual journeys, and if we let them, they can and do communicate with us along the way.

Praying with the people we love who have died doesn't require a lot of words. In fact, prayer is more about listening than about talking. When we pray, we place ourselves in God's hands. We open our hearts to him. We listen for his word, and we seek to do his will.



Praying with Mary and the saints (and all who have died) is no different. It's about being open and receptive to what God has to say to us through them.

And it means sharing our deepest hopes and fears, our joys and our sorrows, our frustrations in daily living, and our desire to be better persons and to grow in holiness as disciples of Jesus Christ. When I talk to my mother who died many years ago, I tell her that I love her. I thank her for the gift of life and for all the things she did for me as I was growing up. I ask her to forgive me for taking her for granted sometimes. And I forgive her for her failings as a mother. Finally, I ask her to help me be a better man, to love and support my wife and family, and my sisters and brothers and their families, more consistently, and to be a wise and humble man. My conversations with my mother take place in the context of prayer. I pray with and for her and, more importantly, she prays with and for me.

The stewardship responsibility we have to pray for and with those who have died is one way of "giving back to the Lord with increase." It acknowledges that we were blessed (gifted) with the love and support of our beloved dead. Now it's our turn to return with increase these precious gifts. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. And may they pray for us always as we promise to pray for them until we are all united with Christ in our heavenly home on the Last Day.

Daniel Conway
Good Steward Newsletter
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November/December 2019

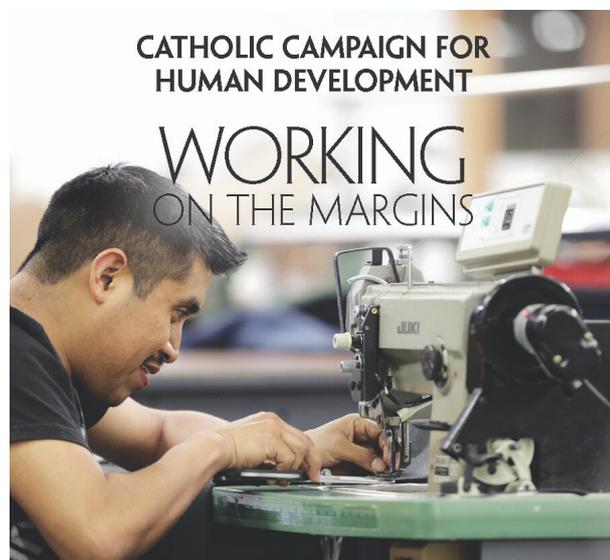
WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Special Collection, November 23-24

In the United States today, more than 43 million Americans live below the poverty line. As members of the Body of Christ we are called to respond to the needs of these, our brothers and sisters living and working on the margins. We can carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, "to bring good news to the poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18) by giving to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and is an instrument of the Catholic Church working to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.

Through this collection, we stand in solidarity with the poor and support them as they work to break the cycle of poverty and transform their communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out.

Please remember that 25 percent of the funds collected remain in the Diocese of Fort Worth to fund local anti-poverty efforts.



For more information:
fwdioc.org/special-collections or
povertyusa.org

There are several ways to give:

- To the **special collection** taken during weekend Masses November 23-24, 2019
- **Text CCHD** to 91999
- **Online** <https://bit.ly/CCHDDFW>

PARISH STEWARDSHIP DAY INSPIRES LEADERS



Annette Lee and Michelle Allen of St. Michael in Bedford enjoy Tracy Welliver's presentation on "Everyday Stewardship" on October 17.

Approximately 40 parishioners, priests and parish staff members attended a day of focused learning on stewardship at St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine on October 17.

Sponsored by the Advancement Foundation and presented by Catholic author, blogger and stewardship coach Tracy Welliver, the event was designed to reinvigorate stewardship as an everyday part of life. According to Welliver, "Stewardship is an expression of discipleship with the power to change us to become mature in our faith."

Donna Campbell and Diane Kain of Good Shepherd in Colleyville said the event motivated them to help people in their parish discover their spiritual gifts.

The Advancement Foundation provides many stewardship resources for individuals and parish committees. To learn more, visit www.advancementfoundation.org/stewardship

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November 9-10 - Triennial Special Collection for Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS)

November 23-24 - Special Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

November 28-29 - Thanksgiving Holidays (Catholic Center Closed)

December 7-8 - Special Collection for Retired Religious

December 23-January 1 - Catholic Center Closed (see page 1 for Year-End Giving Information)

View these events and more on our website www.advancementfoundation.org/calendar



Therefore, stay awake! You do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42

WHAT WE DO

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



Advancement Foundation
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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FIND THE FOUNDATION ON FACEBOOK

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



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