



Advancing the Mission

Advancement Foundation Newsletter | Diocese of Fort Worth | October 2018



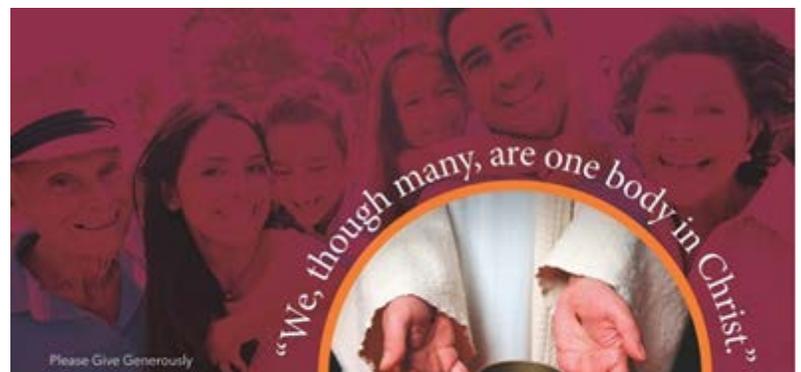
Advancement Foundation
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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As members of the Body of Christ we are called to respond, in love, to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Sharing our gifts of treasure is one way to respond to the needs of others. This month marks the beginning of the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal, our annual opportunity to share from our abundance in service to others. When you give or make a pledge to the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal you are demonstrating:

- **Gratitude and Support for the Clergy** through the healthy and holy formation and education of men for the priesthood and permanent diaconate and caring for retired and infirm priests.
- **Support for Rural and Needy Parishes and Schools** through operating grants for faith formation and youth programming, priest salaries, utilities assistance and many other needs.
- **Hope and Healing for the Poor** to aid the disadvantaged, the disabled and those who are most in need of God's healing grace through Catholic Charities and Correctional Ministry.
- **Love and Strengthening for Families** through Marriage and Family Life ministries that bind us closer to Christ through our love and respect for



THE
Eucharist
Makes Us
THE Church

- **Faith and Formation for Future Generations** – Tuition Assistance and Campus Ministry Programs to empower our children, youth and young adults to grow in their Catholic faith in preparation for a life of Christian leadership and service.

Please consider how you can, as a member of the Body of Christ, can make a difference for so many in our Diocese by sharing from your abundance to raise \$4.2 million for these vital ministries. There are many ways to give, please visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/annual-diocesan-appeal-ways-to-give>. Thank you for your support and gifts.

Special Collection for 2018 Disasters requested by USCCB



Storm damage caused by Hurricane Florence in Wilmington, N.C.

The Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD has announced that the Diocese of Fort Worth will take up an emergency special collection on October 6 - 7 to assist those affected by natural disasters, like Hurricane Florence. This collection will also be used to assist with needs that arise from natural disasters that are likely to occur in the next few months.

We've all seen the news coverage and have heard about the widespread destruction these storms cause. Our hearts join with many others around our nation for those in the path of these storms and for the on-going efforts to rebuild. But many of us feel the need to do more.

In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Office of National Collections has set up a fund for natural disasters that the faithful can contribute to. This 2018 Disaster fund will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church. These agencies will respond to immediate needs such as food, water, shelter and medical care and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery. The disaster funds will also be used for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

Thank you for your donation for this special collection, your generosity will make a difference for many.

Please give generously during weekend Masses October 6 - 7, 2018

In September the Advancement Foundation quietly released its new website. Over the past couple of weeks the site has been refined and is ready to be officially introduced.

The site contains much of the same information but in a new, more user friendly format. For example, on the landing page, you will find six general categories of information, such as My Giving or News You Can Use. These quick clicks will give you valuable information at your fingertips!

A new feature is our Calendar. Here you will find information about upcoming Special Collections, events and meetings. This is a great way to see what's happening and get involved!

Finally, it's easy to donate on our new website. You will find a red Donate Now button on most pages that will take you directly to a page with easy steps for completing your gift.

Please take a moment and visit the new site at the same web address: www.advancementfoundation.org. You can also keep up with the Advancement Foundation by liking us on Facebook. Search for the following:

- @sjp2shepherdsguild for the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild page
- @advancementfoundation for the Advancement Foundation page

Introducing the Advancement Foundation's New Website!



A New Name, a New Logo Same Mission – Support and Foster Vocations

Bishop’s Guild renews as the St. John Paul II Shepherd’s Guild

In 2012, a group of lay Catholics undertook the mission of creating a membership organization to raise funds for the education of our Diocesan seminarians. Under their leadership, the Bishop’s Guild was formed. In the years since 2012, the Bishop’s Guild has had as many as 250 members and provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for seminarian education. Their vision and passion for vocations provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of men studying for the priesthood and set the stage for the next phase of its mission.

It’s evident, with 29 seminarians currently in formation, that the culture of vocations is strong in our Diocese. As growth continues it is imperative that the Bishop’s Guild become more visible in the pastoral work of fostering vocations. With the blessing of Bishop Michael F. Olson, STD, we are excited to share that the Bishop’s Guild will now be called St. John Paul II Shepherd’s Guild.

The Shepherd’s Guild is named after St. John Paul II who reminds us to “Thank the Lord for the gift of vocation, for the grace of priesthood, for priestly vocations.” Gratitude for vocations can be expressed through the generosity of prayer and time spent learning about the process of priestly formation. An increase in prayer and education are integral parts of the mission of the Shepherd’s Guild. Prayer and learning provide a way for members to participate more fully in the pastoral work of supporting and fostering vocations. Additionally, these prayer and learning opportunities increase the visibility of the Shepherd’s Guild and open up avenues for more to join us in our mission of providing for the education of our seminarians and sustaining vocations for our Diocese.

While the overall mission of the Shepherd’s Guild remains the same, to provide financial support for the education of our seminarians, the ways in which we achieve that mission will be different. As Shepherd’s Guild members pray and learn, we spiritually sustain our seminarians, foster future vocations for the Diocese and welcome others to join us in this vital mission.



ST. JOHN PAUL II
SHEPHERD’S GUILD

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. ~ Isaiah 40: 11

Levels of Support

Friend	\$500 annually
Disciple	\$1,000 annually
Steward	\$3,000 (\$1,000 annually for 3 years)
Companion	\$7,500 (\$2,500 annually for 3 years)
Advocate	\$50,000 one-time gift
Corporate	\$3,000 annually for business owners



Please Pray for our
Seminarians

To learn how you can join the St. John Paul II Shepherd’s Guild and participate in the pastoral work of supporting and fostering vocations, contact Elizabeth A. Becker at ebecker@advancementfoundation.org or 817.945.9443.

You can find the Seminarian Daily Prayer List by visiting <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/seminarians>

Voices for Mission



Every year, something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October. World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world – all of us, children of God – into one community of faith. At Masses on October 20-21, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. St. John Paul II reminds us that “mission revitalizes faith.” When all the children of God, at every stage of life, reflect on the fact that our lives are a mission, our faith remains ever young.

As we pray and respond on World Mission Sunday here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish, seminary, school and convent all over the world. Together with children of God in every corner of the globe, we become voices for mission, providing the prayerful and financial support necessary to bring the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as children of God, His missionaries! And it provides an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

World Mission Sunday – October 20 - 21, 2018

Please give generously to the World Mission Sunday collection during Mass on the weekend of Oct. 20 - 21 or Text MISSION to 91999 to donate.

McGread Stewardship Conference

18 from the Diocese of Fort Worth attend



In late August, 18 people from the Diocese of Fort Worth, including four priests, made the trip to Wichita, Kansas to attend the McGread Stewardship Conference. This semi-annual conference is held at the beautiful Spiritual Life Center and built around the teachings of the late Msgr. Thomas McGread, who is often referred to as the “Father of Stewardship.” During the conference attendees heard the story of how stewardship transformed the parish that Msgr. McGread was pastoring and how their example has encouraged other parishes across the country.

Msgr. McGread taught that stewardship is a spiritual, biblically based principle that begins with conversion of heart, and translates into a lifestyle of service. Conference participants left inspired to develop solid stewardship practices for their lives and their parishes.

Conference attendees representing the Diocese of Fort Worth, including (from left to right),

Fr. Philip Brembah from St. Vincent de Paul,
Fr. Jonathan Demma from St. John the Apostle,
Fr. Ray McDaniel from St. Philip the Apostle and
Msgr. Joe Pemberton from Most Blessed Sacrament.

To learn more about Stewardship or for parish resources contact Diana Liska, Director of Stewardship at dliska@advancementfoundation.org or visit www.advancementfoundation.org.

Advancement Foundation

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Thank you!

A huge thank you to the 140 people who donated on Sept. 20 – North Texas Giving Day! Your contributions helped the Diocese of Fort Worth raise more than \$52,000 during the 18 hour giving extravaganza. The money raised will go toward the \$4.2 million Annual Diocesan Appeal goal and will provide

- Gratitude and Support for our Clergy
- Outreach to Rural and Needy Parishes and Schools
- Hope and Healing for the Poor and Imprisoned
- Love and Strengthening for Families
- Faith and Formation for Future Generations

This year's Annual Appeal theme is *The Eucharist Makes Us the Church*. Thank you for joining with many others as the Body of Christ to respond to the needs of so many.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Oct. 15, 2018 – White Mass

St. Patrick Cathedral | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
1206 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
Reception to follow in the Pastoral Center

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018 – All Saints Day

Holy Day of Obligation – The Pastoral & Administrative offices of the Diocese of Fort Worth (Catholic Center) will be closed.

Nov. 4-10, 2018 National Vocation Awareness Week

Monday, Nov. 5, 2018 – Who Will Lead?

Two sessions
Presenter: Jonathan Baca, Diocese of Dallas
Most Blessed Sacrament | 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2100 North Davis Drive, Arlington, TX 76012

St. John the Apostle | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
7341 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180
RSVP Requested to Diana Liska
dliska@advancementfoundation.org | 817.945.9444

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 – Shepherd's Guild Advent Event

RSVP Required to Elizabeth Becker
ebecker@advancementfoundation.org | 817.945.9443

Diocesan Travel Program – Holy Land Information Sessions

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. | The Catholic Center
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 | 5:30 p.m. | The Catholic Center

Holy Land Travel Dates

Dec. 8 – 16, 2018

For more information about the **Diocesan Travel Program** contact Renée Underwood at 817.945.9441 or
runderwood@advancementfoundation.org

Stewardship Corner

Prayer & Stewardship

Christian stewards desire to give back to God the fruits of what He has so generously given to them. Giving back time to the Lord begins by spending time with Him each day in prayer. Stewardship of time, according to the U.S. Bishops in their pastoral letter on stewardship, "...should include setting aside periods for family prayer, for reading of Scripture, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and for attendance at Mass during the week whenever this is possible."

Giving top priority to God through a daily life of prayer is especially important for Christian stewards, since the heart and soul of stewardship is prayer. Through prayer, Christian stewards place themselves in God's hands so that He can direct their hands to serve according to His will.