

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

CATHOLIC  
*stewardship*  
IN ACTION

## NEW LOOK

## STRONGER MISSION

For many years, parishioners throughout the Diocese responded with Faith, Hope and Charity to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. While those virtues have grown, so has our understanding of stewardship teachings. With the Diocesan Day of Stewardship, Stewardship Sunday and Light of Christ Awards embraced throughout the Diocese, participation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal is a tangible expression of *Catholic Stewardship in Action*.

This September your pastor will ask for you to join him in participating in the Annual Diocesan Appeal. As you discern your commitment, recall the parable of the good steward. The master asks the steward for an accounting of all he has been entrusted. As a donor to the Appeal, you deserve this accountability too. The 2023 accountability report can be found [online here](#). The third page

continued next page

### OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- \$10,000 a day on what?!
- Aging with Grace
- Two Great Ways to Leave a Legacy
- Donate to your Parish After Death
- Stewardship Prayer
- Eucharist and the Spirituality of Stewardship
- 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal
- Rocky Bleier at Catholic Bowl

# ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL 2023-2024

"Love one another as I have loved you"

Continued from page 1

of the accountability report will be included in all parish bulletins September 9/10, Announcement Weekend. This weekend serves as a time to learn about the Annual Diocesan Appeal and discern the commitment God is calling you to make.

[Click here for the Sept/Oct North Texas Catholic Magazine featuring the full 4-page Accountability Report.](#)

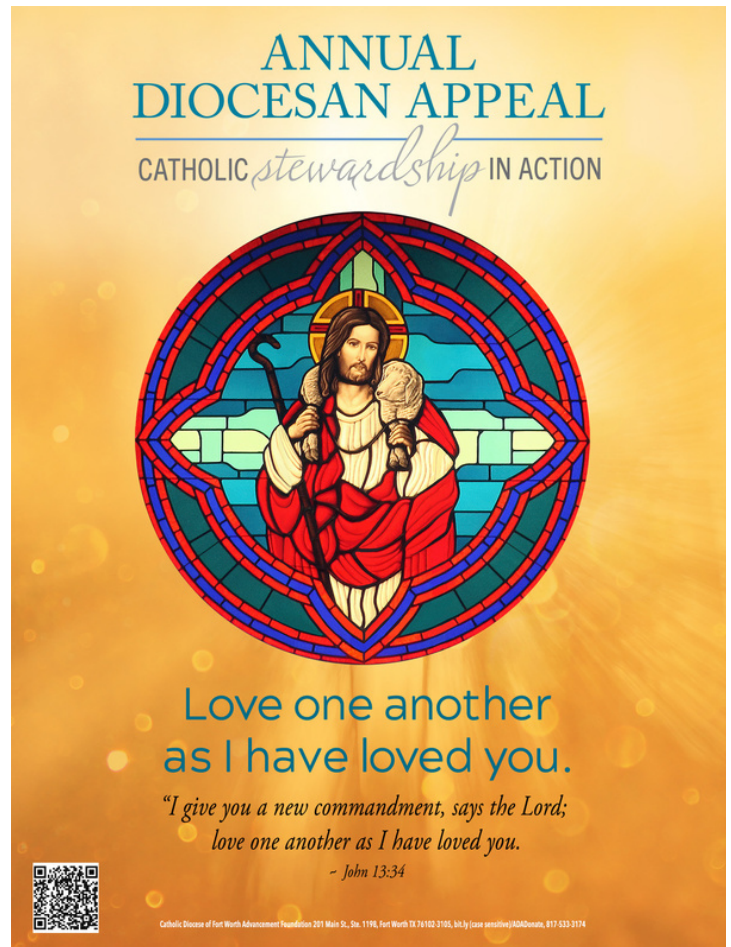
In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells the disciple whom he loved, "I give you a new commandment, love one another as I have loved you." As we discern the sacrificial gift we can give to our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth, let us remember Jesus' sacrificial gift to us as well.

September 16/17 is Commitment Weekend for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. That weekend is when commitment envelopes will be available to make recurring monthly or single donations.

There are many ways to give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

- **Option 1** – Online at [bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal](https://bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal) (case sensitive)
- **Option 2** – Text APPEAL to 817-241-5160 for mobile friendly giving link.
- **Option 3** – By phone 817-533-3175
- **Option 4** – Checks made payable to: "Annual Diocesan Appeal"

Each parish has a goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If every parish reaches their goal the Diocese will meet its overall goal of \$3,700,000 for 2023-2024 and be able to provide financial support to those who need it most. Please be generous.



The Annual Diocesan Appeal provides grants to

- Parishes
- Catholic Schools
- Campus Ministries
- Parish Food Pantries
- Catholic Charities Fort Worth
- Priest Retirement
- Seminarian Education
- Deacon Formation
- Marriage and Family Life
- Prison Ministry
- Respect Life Ministries
- Stewardship and Development Initiatives

# STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

at your parish



**Stewardship Sunday** will be celebrated in all parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth the weekend of **October 14/15, 2023**. This year's theme is **"Eucharistic Stewardship...Our grateful response to His Gift."** This diocesan event is an opportunity to learn about stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship is returning to God what is already His by giving of our time in prayer, service to others and giving generously of our resources. On Stewardship Sunday, reflect on the stewardship homily during the celebration of the Mass. View the "Stewardship Reflection" inside your bulletin this weekend and discover what other events your parish will be participating in to celebrate Stewardship Sunday.

Visit: <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/stewardship-sunday> for more information about Stewardship Sunday and living Stewardship as a way of life.

## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Good and gracious God,  
Even in the midst of these extraordinary times,  
you continue to reveal your loving presence in the  
communal life of our parish.  
Help us to see your active presence in our  
parish family, a community where peace, love and  
fellowship will prevail. May it be truly prayerful,  
intensely Eucharistic, and deeply joyful.  
Teach us how to be good stewards of our parish  
family even during times of stress and anxiety.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit make our  
hearts humble and compassionate so that we  
may carry out our responsibilities to our  
parish family in a just and holy manner.  
And through your Spirit,  
may we love one another as you love each of us,  
as sisters and brothers who gather around the  
Eucharistic table, an authentically holy,  
Catholic community,  
working together to hasten your Kingdom.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen





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# BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

## Aging with Grace Workshop Scheduled for October 26

More than 70 people attended the first Aging with Grace workshop on July 18 at Holy Family Parish in Fort Worth. The workshop included presentations by clergy and laypersons, including Catholic attorneys, on topics such as ethical medical decisions, important legal documents, caregiving and discerning how one wants to be remembered after they are gone.

So popular was the event, several parishes have contacted the event organizers – the Advancement Foundation, the Office of Respect Life and the St. Thomas More Society – to hold another one in their part of the diocese. The organizers are planning to host similar workshops on a quarterly basis with the next one scheduled for **October 26 at Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls**. Registration will be limited to the first 50 participants. Learn more about the next event at <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/aging-with-grace#topics-bios>

For more photos and information about the July 18 event, please visit: <https://northtexascatholic.org/news/a-well-planned-finish-aging-with-grace-workshops-give-catholic-perspective-on-spiritual-medical-and-legal-issues>



# HOW CAN A FUND IN YOUR NAME CONTINUE TO MAKE DONATIONS TO YOUR PARISH AFTER YOUR DEATH?

Endowment Education: Fifth of a 6-part series



The chart below shows the amount required in an endowment to make annual distributions of \$1,000 or more in perpetuity.

## Endow Your Annual Gift

Make a plan so that the Catholic entities most important to you continue thriving after your lifetime.

If your annual gift is:	Amount needed to endow your gift forever:
\$1,000	\$25,000
\$2,500	\$62,500
\$5,000	\$125,000
\$10,000	\$250,000
\$20,000	\$500,000

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

Visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds) or contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242.

The Advancement Foundation staff is often asked, “Who will replace my offertory giving to my parish or my yearly contribution the Annual Diocesan Appeal after I pass away?”

With careful planning, the answer to that question can be, “You will!” With as little as \$10,000, you may establish a named endowment fund and specify which entities will receive annual distributions. Many faithful stewards provide initial funding while they are living, then make provisions in their will or beneficiary designations to provide more substantial assets to their chosen endowment following their death.

Even as it makes annual distributions, each endowment fund continues to grow in value over time, thanks to wise investment management by the Advancement Foundation, including a proprietary Catholic values screening/proxy voting.

# PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS

## \$10,000 a day for school security

Over the past several years we have seen increases in unprovoked violence against children in schools. Even Catholic school students are susceptible to common underlying factors such as isolation, depression and radicalization through technology.

These concerns are coupled with increased constraints in the law enforcement community through staffing shortages and low morale has resulted in ever increasing response times to critical incidents.

The Catholic Schools Department of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has contracted with a security firm to provide off-duty law enforcement officers at each of our 17 school campuses during the school day to provide security and build relationships with staff and students. This is critical in preventing and responding to catastrophic emergencies. In addition, many of our school campuses need security upgrades in order to deal with the current threat environment.

For 17 schools, for 180 school days, total cost of armed security is \$10,000 per day. This enormous price tag is only affordable with donations from caring parishioners like you.

[Learn more and give online here](#)



For the third consecutive year, the Advancement Foundation is a presenting sponsor for the Catholic Bowl. This year Nolan Catholic and Sacred Heart High School will compete in Catholic Bowl III on **Saturday September 9 at the Dallas Cowboys' Star in Frisco.**

Army Veteran and former NFL running back, **Rocky Bleier**, will be in attendance at both games.

Tickets are available here:

<https://seatgeek.com/catholic-bowl-tickets> (\$10 student | \$20 adult)



More than 50 organizations from the Diocese of Fort Worth will participate in #iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday on November 28. Watch for more details in the next issue of "Advancing the Mission" and in your parish bulletin or school newsletter.



# EUCHARIST AND THE SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP

by author and lecturer, Reverend Joseph D. Creedon from his 2018 book, *Stewardship: A Life-Giving Spirituality*

I firmly believe that the spirituality of Stewardship is the best solution to the problem of declining Sunday Mass attendance. Eucharist means thanksgiving and the first step on the road to becoming a good steward is “To receive God’s gifts gratefully.” If we can enrich the “attitude of gratitude” in our lives and in the lives of the people we love then we will be on the road to recovery. Once we rediscover that “everything we have is a gift from God” then we will be forever vigilant in our search for ways to thank God for all that he has given us.

There is no better way to thank God than to gather with our fellow believers, admit our sinfulness, give glory to God, open our minds and hearts to the Word of God proclaimed, offer our gifts, pray together for those gifts to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, receive communion and then be sent forth to a waiting world with the message that God gives us the gift of his love.

The Second Vatican Council, in its decree on the Liturgy, reminds us



“Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows.” (#10) It has been 50 years since the Council issued its first teaching on the liturgy. Much has been done to restore liturgy to its central role in the life of the Church. More remains to be done until the vision of “full, active and conscious” participation in the Mass becomes the norm rather than the exception.

**It is impossible to actively join in the celebration of the Mass and not have our hearts filled with gratitude.** Whenever we gather to celebrate the Mass, we come to give thanks to God for all his gifts and a miracle happens. We come to give thanks, we receive more gifts and we go forth with even more for which to be thankful. Perhaps the best way to explore the miracle, the mystery of the Eucharist, is to take part in an extended meditation of just what happens when we gather to break bread as the People of God.

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International Catholic Stewardship Council*

# TWO GREAT WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY

With just a few words, you can make a huge difference.

It's true! Your support of your parish or a favorite ministry through the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation can last far beyond your lifetime—and it only takes a few minutes to make it happen. Here are two popular ways to make your dedication continue for generations:

## 1. Include us in your will or living trust.

*How do I set it up?* Add as little as one sentence (often referred to as “bequest language”) saying you want to support us. With the help of your estate planning attorney or your will-planning website, like <https://www.freewill.com/FortWorthDiocese>, you can give a specific amount of cash or securities, a piece of property or a percentage of your estate.

*What if I need to change it?* No problem! You can alter your will or trust whenever you like. Even so, there are great benefits to informing us of your gift: We can ensure that it is used exactly as you wish (just fill out our gift intention form at <https://advancementfoundation.planmygift.org/documents/c/catholic-diocese-of-fort-worth/6504intent.pdf>), and you become eligible to join a community of other dedicated givers who make up the Diocese of Fort Worth Legacy Society.



## 2. Name the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy or commercial annuity.

*How do I set it up?* Contact your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution for a change-of-beneficiary form or ask how you can change beneficiaries online. On the form, list the percentage you would like us to receive on behalf of your specified parish, Catholic school, the Diocese of Fort Worth or another Catholic entity.

*What if I need to change it?* You can modify beneficiary designations at any time. Review them every two to three years, because your assets may never reach your intended recipients if you did not keep the beneficiary designations up to date.

**Let Us Help You Take the Next Step**  
We would be happy to work with you on making a long-lasting impact through your will or trust or through a beneficiary designation. Please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242, Chris Chapman at 817-310-8368 to discuss your options, or visit <https://advancementfoundation.planmygift.org>





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## WHAT WE DO

Support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth

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

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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



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