

ADVANCING THE MISSION



HONOR YOUR ROOTS this Spring!

Spring is a season to remember the deep roots, strength and stability we find in God's love. As it's said in Ephesians 3:17-19: "May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Spring is also a time to think about how we, as Catholics, can nourish these roots to grow our legacy and ministry. In this edition of *Advancing the Mission* we will share how the Advancement Foundation works with the Diocese of Fort Worth to help you honor your roots.

OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Marriage & Family Life
- June 30 last day for FY24 Annual Diocesan Appeal
- Promote your business in the Catholic community
- Congratulations to St. Mark Church
- Walk Alongside a Seminarian with the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild
- Cristo Rey Presentation Day
- Beneficiary Designation
- Young People in Stewardship

SUPPORT MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

Before June 30

Last month we sat down with Chris Vaughan, Director of Marriage and Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Worth, to hear how the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports his department. Chris shared the ways the diocese supports the Church's vision for marriage and its transitions along the way. Some parishes depend on the Diocese for marriage enrichment retreats throughout the year and thanks to the generosity of donors to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, Chris has seen 'deeper roots' forming in the marriages of couples needing support in small communications and bigger issues.

Watch here:

<https://bit.ly/ADA24MarriageFamilyVideo>

Seeing the beautiful weddings in this video and the beautiful couples who strengthen their marriage with the Diocese Marriage and Family Life Office, affirms that your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal makes a difference in our communities. Please consider a gift today!

<http://bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal>



Chris Vaughan, Director of Marriage and Family Life
for the Diocese of Fort Worth

ANNUAL
DIOCESAN
APPEAL

CATHOLIC
stewardship
IN ACTION

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. MARK CHURCH

Building a Community to Worship as One



Inspiring. Amazing. Reverent. Those are some of the words parishioners used to describe the recently completed St. Mark Church dedicated by Bishop Michael Olson April 13 in Argyle. The mission-style structure, featuring two bell towers and a dome dedicated to the Holy Spirit, is the faith community's first church building in its almost 30-year history. The entire parish, coming together to achieve a common goal, helped the capital campaign and construction process succeed. Establishing firm roots, St. Mark grew from a mission community with 400 families in the 1990s to 2,700 families today.

The Advancement Foundation team was pleased to be part of the efforts to raise the necessary funding for St. Mark Church. [Read more in the North Texas Catholic.](#)

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God,

When your Spirit descended
upon the apostles at Pentecost,
they spoke the languages of those
who came to hear their testimony.

They proclaimed a new covenant
in Christ Jesus,
sanctified by his blood,
bound by the Holy Spirit,
and sealed in the waters of Baptism.

We give you thanks and praise
for releasing your Spirit upon us;
and in these anxious times
pray that it will break through
the many barriers that divide people.

Let your Spirit open our eyes
as a communion of faith
to your ongoing presence among us,
so we can recognize you when we serve one
another.

Let your Spirit open our minds
so that we may gain the wisdom
to work together to show love for our
neighbors,
and unite our talents to build a better, safer
world.

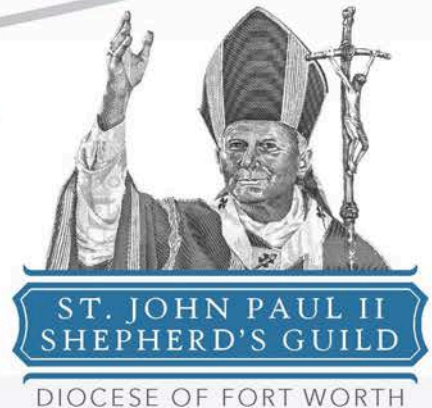
And let your Spirit open our hearts so that
together
we can live more fully in Christ,
shine his light of mercy and hope
and prepare for the day of his glorious return.

We pray this through your son,
Jesus Christ
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen

WALK ALONGSIDE A SEMINARIAN

Members of the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild
walk alongside approximately
30 men each year.



Contributions to the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild benefit the Seminary Burse, an endowment fund with \$8.3 million in assets. The Seminary Burse annually distributes income to the Diocese of Fort Worth to pay for the expenses of educating seminarians.

Our goal is to add \$1 million to the burse each year with contributions of \$2,500 each from 400 faithful Catholic families. A fully-funded endowment of \$28 million will cover the annual expenses for seminary formation in the diocese.

JOIN
TODAY!



advancementfoundation.org/membership



Our four amazing Cristo Rey Fort Worth College Prep student interns are pictured here on Presentation Day. It has been another great year and these four ladies have been a valuable asset to our team as they serve the donors to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, its parishes, schools and ministries. At the Foundation the students are being rooted in the disciplines of working in a professional office setting, skills that will serve them well for a lifetime.

YOUNG STEWARDSHIP: A WITNESS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

“Jesus’ call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now — at this moment, in these circumstances. There can be no delay” (SDR, p. 14). This excerpt from the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* is particularly powerful. As stewardship leaders, we must constantly ask ourselves these questions: What is our particular moment of life personally and in our faith community? What circumstances must we take into consideration as we call one another to live and grow as stewards, especially our young people?



In the first chapter of the bishops’ letter, they help us to recognize that embracing stewardship is about living out our particular vocations and acting as compelling Christian witnesses to others. We discern Christ’s call for us in the context of the community of believers; we respond to the urgent call of Christ. This is why it is very important that we begin forming our children and teens as stewards, so that they will recognize and respond to God’s grace in their lives, understand themselves as disciples of Jesus Christ from a very early age, and reflect on their response to Christ’s call and their many blessings as good stewards.

There is much evidence that such real-life, day-to-day faith formation is needed if our youth are to remain actively engaged in a life of faith within the faith community as young adults. In the United States over 30 percent of adults under the age of 30 are now unaffiliated. The majority of these young people leave their faith community before age 24. Young adults tell us they are looking for a meaningful way of life; they want to contribute to something that matters; they need to know that religion is not at odds with science, but rather, that faith brings a larger perspective to what is learned through science. They want and need to learn from the witness of adults who are actively living as faith-filled people in the world. Stewardship provides so much that our young people need. Forming young people to live as good stewards is a gift beyond what most of us can ask or imagine.

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BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

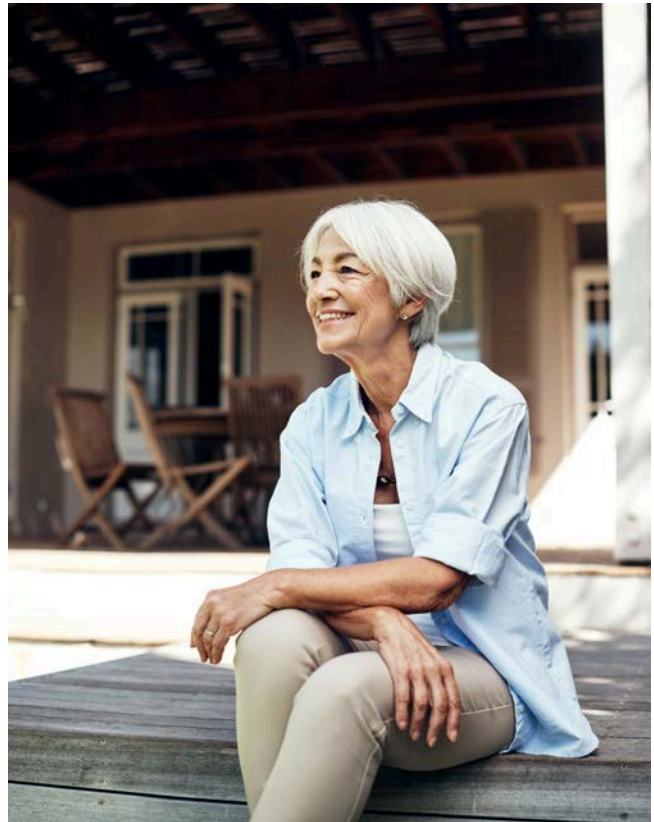
Make a Gift in 3 Easy Steps

Not everyone wants to commit to making a gift in their wills or estates. Some prefer the increased flexibility that a beneficiary designation provides by using:

- IRAs and retirement plans
- Life insurance policies
- Commercial annuities

It only takes three simple steps to make this type of gift. Here's how to name the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation as a beneficiary:

1. Contact your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution for a change-of-beneficiary form.
2. Decide what percentage (1 to 100) you would like us to receive and name us, along with the percentage you chose, on the beneficiary form.
3. Return the completed form to your plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution.



Once you have done this, be sure to contact us and let us know that you have made a beneficiary designation for your parish, a Catholic school, a ministry or the Diocese of Fort Worth through the Advancement Foundation. Contact Renée Underwood, CFRE for more information or visit

<https://advancementfoundation.planmygift.org/beneficiary-designations>



Spring is a season to remember the impact of deep roots in our lives of faith and family. The Advancement Foundation offers an online will-writing resource, to support our parish community in thoughtful estate planning.

By creating your plan, you can protect what God has entrusted you with and create an eternal legacy with your parish or the ministry of your choice. Visit <https://www.freewill.com/fortworthdiocese> to create your will today.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

as a Giving Day Sponsor



Each year #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday reaches thousands of local North Texas Catholics who have the spirit of giving to parish, school and ministry fundraisers on the National Giving Day. #iGIVECATHOLIC #GIVINGTUESDAY

Your business can reach the homes of thousands of Catholics and supporters by becoming a Ministry Matcher with in-kind prizes and cash awards.

Visit www.advancementfoundation.org/iGiveCatholic-ministry-matcher to learn more.

In order to receive the highest level of exposure, please submit your sponsorships in July.

A PRESENCE IN WICHITA FALLS

Justin Veitenheimer, new Regional Director of Development, shared information about the Advancement Foundation at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Ministry Fair.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on **Monday, May 29** in observance of **Memorial Day** and **Monday, June 19** in observance of **Juneteenth**.

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)

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Catholic Communications May 11-12

Support the Catholic Communication Campaign at Mass to help our local communications projects. Half of the funds raised remain here in the diocese. The other half support projects in the United States and developing countries.



Annual Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence) June 29-30

To support the Holy Father's mission, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace, and brotherhood among peoples: thanks also to the many activities of service carried out by the dicasteries, bodies and organs of the Holy See who assist him every day.



Visit [fwdioc.org/special-collections](https://www.fwdioc.org/special-collections) to make a donation to one or all special collections.

HAVE YOU ESTABLISHED AN ENDOWMENT FUND?

Three new funds established this year

More and more faithful Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth are creating (or adding to) endowment funds within the Advancement Foundation to benefit their parish, a Catholic school or ministry. New endowment funds recently opened include:

- Laneri-Cassata Saint Andrew Catholic Parish Building and Maintenance Endowment
- The Peter Kosewicz Nolan Catholic High School Endowment
- St. Scholastica Endowment (for St. Maria Goretti Catholic School)

For a full list of the more than 200 endowment funds as well as simple forms to begin the process of opening of new fund or contributing to an existing one, please visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds> or contact Renée Underwood, CFRE.



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WHAT WE DO

Support the Catholic Diocese of Fort
Worth

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

*There are different
kinds of spiritual gifts
but the same Spirit.
~1 Corinthians 12:4*

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