

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE DIOCESE



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The third annual Light of Christ Awards honored Catholic stewards in parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Ceremonies were held each Thursday in June with pastors, diocesan, foundation and parish representatives presenting certificates to nominated parishioners. “Through your generous participation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we are able to support important stewardship events like this one which honors those who exemplify the Light of Christ through your lives of Christian Stewardship and leadership,” said Clint Weber, President and CEO of the Advancement Foundation.

71 individuals, some couples, were nominated by 51 parishes. For a complete list of parish honorees, please visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/stewardship-awards>

# PARISH OPERATING GRANTS ANNOUNCED EARLY

Annual Diocesan Appeal surpasses goal.

More than 9,000 individuals and families throughout North Texas honored Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you," with a sacrificial gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal campaign.

"Because we were so close to reaching goal in May, the grant review committee, including several priests, was confident in deciding and announcing parish operating grant recipients early this year," says Renée Underwood, Chief Development Officer of the Advancement Foundation.

Grant recipients were surprised to learn the generous amounts of their grants at the Light of Christ awards in June held in various deaneries throughout the diocese. Father Joseph Moreno couldn't hold back his surprise when St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Burkburnett was awarded \$49,000 for hiring a coordinator of discipleship. Tears welled up in the eyes of Patricia McKeever, officer manager at St. Paul near River Oaks in Fort Worth, as their grant of \$35,000 was announced for salaries, retreats and their parish food pantry. "Our parish boundaries are surrounded by some of the neediest neighborhoods in Fort Worth. "Our parish is small and offertory is low. There are some weeks we are not sure we can pay our three staff members," says McKeever.

ANNUAL  
DIOCESAN APPEAL  
CATHOLIC *stewardship* IN ACTION



Nathan Mena, Campus Minister for Tarleton State University accepts a \$45,000 grant for St. Brendan Parish in Stephenville from the Annual Diocesan Appeal parish operating grant program.

St. Paul Parish, while struggling on its own, does not overlook the struggling community outside its doors. Their food pantry is open twice a month and feeds more than 500 families a month.

Twenty-two parishes will receive operating grants totaling \$585,325 paid in monthly installments from July 2024-June 2025.

As of June 25, North Texas Catholics have donated \$3,730,000 to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, truly honoring Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you." On behalf of all grant recipients, thank you for your generosity. A full report on the Annual Diocesan Appeal will be published online and in the *North Texas Catholic*.

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# PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

as a Giving Day Sponsor



#iGIVECATHOLIC  
#GIVINGTUESDAY

Sponsorship opportunities are available for #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, **December 3, 2024**, 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 and 74,000+ in print and in advertising to the 1.2 million Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/iGiveCatholic-sponsorships](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/iGiveCatholic-sponsorships) to learn more.

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

## Levels of Support Include

Click link for specific incentives

- [Loaves and Fishes Sponsor \\$10,000](#) (two available)
  - includes your in-person participation at July 22 and July 25 event for parishes
- [Miracle Sponsor \\$5,000](#) (three available)
- [Blessing Sponsor \\$2,500](#) (five available)
- [Faithful Sponsor \\$1,000](#) (unlimited availability)
- [Incentive Sponsors \\$250 minimum](#)
  - Provide cash, gift cards or prize packs specific to your business, to use as incentives for parishes, schools and organizations to achieve the most donors during early giving, the most donors, the most donations overall and the most donations during select “Power Hours” throughout the #iGiveCatholic Giving Day.

Sponsors have the option to designate their matching funding to benefit all parish, school and ministry participants or may elect to have their match benefit only parishes, only schools, only respect life ministries, only campus ministry organizations or only diocesan ministries. To designate your sponsorship, please contact Renée Underwood at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org).

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## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5** in observance of Independence Day and **August 15** in observance of the Feast of the Assumption.

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# AGING WITH GRACE

A Catholic workshop for empty nesters, retirees, caregivers and their loved ones.

Science may explain physical aging, but life experience and faith can teach us far more about how to cope with it.

As we age or care for aging parents, we often wonder what the Church teaches about ethical medical decisions, the sanctity of life, and preparing documents, such as advance directives or a will.

This event will help answer those questions and provide guidance and inspiration for the journey ahead!

## Cost:

\$15 per person, \$25 per couple  
(Includes Lunch, Snacks and Materials.)  
Registration is limited to 50 Participants.

**Saturday, July 20, 2024**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(Check in from 9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.)

St. Rita Catholic Church, Fort Worth  
5550 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth - 76112

**Advanced registration is required.**

## Presenters:



Rev. Keith Hathaway  
*Spirituality of Growing Older*



Deacon Brad Samuelson  
*Catholic Medical Ethics 101*



Renée Underwood, CFRE  
*Picture Your Legacy*



MaryAnn Jones, JD  
*Elder Law from a Catholic Perspective*



Terri Schauf  
*Event Moderator*

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## Stewardship Prayer

Good and Gracious God,  
We thank You for this gift of summer;  
of being able to pause, relax  
and enjoy the abundant gifts  
You have given us.

At this time of year,  
our thoughts may turn to vacations  
and outings. We may experience  
seashores, mountains or lakesides.  
We may enjoy fishing, swimming and  
barbecues.

But whatever our summer opportunities,  
we realize they are ultimately gifts from  
You and that these gifts, Lord,  
are ultimately meant to be shared.

Show us the joys of generosity,  
keep us mindful of others and open our  
hearts to our parish, neighborhood and  
world. They need the generous spirit of  
good stewards.

As we enjoy the leisure that summer  
brings, we thank You for Your many gifts,  
and ask that You make  
us a gift to others as well.  
In Jesus name we pray.  
Amen



# WELCOME, BREDA SHELTON

## to the Advancement Foundation Board of Directors

Breda L. Shelton was officially welcomed to the Board of Directors of the Advancement Foundation at its June 20 meeting. She is a retired Texas Catholic School educator, business investor and philanthropic supporter of nonprofit organizations dedicated to bringing education, dignity and self-sufficiency to those in need.

Through her faith-filled service to several Catholic institutions Breda continues the work that she began with her late husband, George P. Shelton III, four decades ago. Breda, George and their two children, Candace and John, moved to Texas from California in 1990. She continued her public-school teaching career in Fort Worth followed by 12 years at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School in Arlington. Breda took early retirement in 2005 to provide at-home hospice care for her beloved father.

A short time into retirement, Breda began a new career in nonprofit governance by joining the Board of Trustees of Fort Worth Academy. From that experience she found a purpose and passion for serving on nonprofit boards, including:

- The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, Board of Trustees
- Catholic Charities Fort Worth, Fort Worth TX, Board of Directors
- The Gingrich Foundation (Speaker Newt Gingrich and U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Callista L. Gingrich), Arlington VA
- Bethlehem University Foundation (Supports Bethlehem University in The Holy Land), Beltsville, Maryland, Board of Directors
- St. John XXIII Foundation (Supports the work of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA), Washington DC, Board of Directors

Mrs. Shelton is a member of the following:

- The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
- St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild, Member
- St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Arlington TX,
- Dame Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (Southwestern Lieutenancy)
- Legatus Fort Worth Chapter
- The Catholic University of America University Alumni Association
- Member of the University of Notre Dame President Advisory Circle
- Member of The Irish Angels (Angel Investor Group University of Notre Dame Alumni, Professors and other Professionals with current or past Associations with the University)

The Foundation welcomes Breda Shelton to the Board of Directors and is grateful she is sharing her expertise with the Foundation in this advisory position.

# EXERCISING GOOD STEWARDSHIP

## In the Month of July

A quick check of July's holiday calendar reveals this month to be one that celebrates national ice cream day (16th), national hot dog day (17th) and national paperback book day (30th). These and other quaint holidays all serve to underscore the fact that the month of July is probably ground zero for those "lazy, hazy, crazy" days of summer. If June finds us finishing off the graduation parties, August brings back-to-school sales. But July? July is swimming, picnicking, the lake or beach, and vacation. July brings Fourth of July parades and highways and airports jammed with travelers. How does one exercise the virtues of Christian stewardship during this noisy, boisterous, sun-filled month?

Hospitality is a big part of July, and essential to exercising Christian stewardship. July brings the easy, informal backyard kind of hospitality. Consider sharing a cook-out with neighbors you've been hoping to know better, the parish priest you normally see only on Sunday, or the family member who may be lonely this summer. Organize a block party. Invite the people next door over for a quiet evening on the patio.

Even though July has a "time off" feel to it, make sure you don't extend that feeling to weekend Mass. If you travel, it's now easy to locate a Catholic Church and find Mass times. It is also enlightening to experience sacred liturgy in a new environment at a different locale. If you're staying home, July might be the time to visit a neighboring parish. Just remember that your home parish needs your financial support all during the summer months.



If July finds you able to engage in more leisurely reading in a lounge chair, hammock or on a beach towel, be a good steward of your spiritual life and supplement your summer reading list with a spiritual classic. And with the morning sun up early, perhaps become a contemplative by making a dawn prayer walk a healthy and spiritually nourishing habit during July.

Many charities host "runs" during the summer. But even if you're not up to a 5K, they're a good reminder that local charities need our support during July as they do every month. Consider offering one free afternoon to a food bank or shelter, especially if you can involve your children or grandchildren.

Let us also remain mindful that gratitude is fundamental to the Christian life and there is much to be grateful for during the warm, sunny days of July. Remember to begin each day with a grateful heart and a resolve to be a good steward of God's abundant gifts.

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# 3 REASONS TO MAKE A WILL

## During Make-A-Will Month

August is National Make-A-Will Month. For many busy Americans, this yearly reminder is just the motivation they need to finally sit down and create their last will and testament. And once they do, many find the process isn't as long or tedious as they anticipated.

Do you still need to make your will? Whether you've been too busy or simply don't know how, here are three great reasons that will motivate you to write your will this August.

### **1. It's an important legal document that everyone should have.**

All adults should have a will — it's a powerful document that lets you distribute your property and protect your loved ones after you pass away. One-third of all American adults have a will, and that number is growing every day.

### **2. It provides peace of mind to you and your family.**

Wills aren't just for the rich and famous. They make life (and death) easier for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Consider your belongings. You may not think you own a lot, but you likely have more property than you realize: your home, vehicles, furniture, clothing, books, sentimental items and more. If you don't have a will, your loved ones will be tasked with finding a home for this property when you pass on. Creating a will prevents family conflict, eliminates confusion and ensures your assets go to the people you most want to have them. It also gives your family guidance and reassurance that they can fulfill your wishes during what is likely a very difficult time for them.

With a will, you can also plan ahead for those who are in your care — for example, you can name a legal guardian for your minor children and choose who should care for your pets.

### **3. It lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime.**

None of us live forever. But there are ways to continue making a positive impact on this world long after you leave it. One of these ways is by making provisions for your Catholic parish, school, the Diocese of Fort Worth or a favorite ministry in your will.

There are many different ways you can use your will to benefit a charity — you can give cash, stock, real estate and more. Leaving a gift like this in your will costs you nothing during your lifetime, but will ensure that your Catholic values live on through the work of the entities you name.

### **Already made your will?**

That's a fantastic first step. Now that you have a will, it's important to keep it updated. Estate attorneys recommend reviewing your will every three to five years, or whenever you have a big life event (like getting married, moving into another state or having a grandchild).

You may also consider taking a few extra minutes to make sure you've named beneficiaries of your non-probate assets, like your life insurance policies or retirement accounts. You can name the Catholic church as one of the beneficiaries of these assets as another great way to leave a lasting impact.

### **It's easy and free to make a will during Make-A-Will Month**

With FreeWill from the Advancement Foundation, writing a will does not have to be expensive and time-consuming. Many Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth have already completed a free, legally-binding will in less time than it takes to watch an episode of your favorite TV show. To learn more, or get started, visit

<https://www.freewill.com/FortWorthDiocese>.

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# FOUNDATION EXPANDS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO MUENSTER AND PROSPER AREAS

## Lydia Springer J.D. and Richard Ferry Join Foundation Team

The Advancement Foundation welcomed Lydia Springer, JD and Richard Ferry MBA to the development team in late April 2024.



In her new role, Lydia will work with our parishes, schools and parishioners throughout the diocese with estate plans and legacy gifts. Lydia earned her law degree from SMU Dedman School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Dallas. After running her own law firm for nearly twenty years, Lydia brings to the Foundation expertise in estate plan preparation and probate, asset planning and protection, as well as family law matters and property sales. A counselor in more than one definition of the term, Lydia worked with the Employees Retirement System of Texas to counsel retirees and help certify their complex retirement benefits based upon decades of legislative changes for the Texas State Agency employee. She also served as a high school counselor and director of testing and dual credit coordinator for Sacred Heart Catholic High School.

Lydia and her husband, State Senator Drew Springer (R), have been married for more than 30 years and are blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Members of Sacred Heart in Muenster, Lydia volunteered her time as Sacred Heart Catholic School's director of development for more than twenty years, working with numerous donors on creating endowed scholarship funds, provided guidance and legal counsel for donor bequests and giving programs.



In this new role, Richard will work with our parishes, schools and parishioners in the northeast part of our diocese on behalf of the Catholic Education and Faith Formation Campaign. With a MBA from Baylor University and a MA from Southern Methodist University, Richard brings academic excellence and local connections to his role with the Foundation. His professional journey in Catholic development includes roles as the Director of Development at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Dallas, where he orchestrated a substantial increase in fundraising revenue and established a successful planned giving program. At Cristo Rey Dallas College Prep Corporate Work Study Program, Richard managed key corporate partnerships, securing vital revenue streams amidst challenging economic conditions.

Richard and his wife, Nancy, are proud parents to a young son and daughter. They first crossed paths in the Young Catholic Professionals Organization and currently reside to the east of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Please join us in extending heartfelt congratulations to Lydia and Richard as they embark on this new chapter within to the Advancement Foundation and the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.



## A WIN-WIN WITH A GIFT OF STOCK

Do you own stock that's increased in value (and that you've owned for at least one year)? You have a unique opportunity. If you donate your shares, you'll receive the same tax savings that you would if you wrote the Advancement Foundation, your parish or a favorite ministry a check...but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes!

Supporting the mission of the Catholic Church through a gift of securities is as easy as instructing your broker to transfer the shares. The past decade has seen many swings in the financial markets, but you may still have appreciated stock in your portfolio that could be used to make a charitable gift to us.

### How a Gift of Stock Works

Your purchase price of stock: \$10,000

Your stock's value today: \$25,000

If you sell the stock yourself to make a donation to the Foundation, you will pay a tax on the capital gains.

- \$2,250: Capital gains tax owed ( $\$15,000 \times 0.15$  capital gains tax rate for those in a tax bracket of less than 37%)
- Gift to Foundation: \$23,750

If you donate the stock directly to the Foundation, you will not pay tax on capital gains.

- Gift to Foundation: \$25,000
- Capital gains tax: \$0

If you aren't ready to give up your stocks during your lifetime, you can designate them as a gift in your will or living trust. You'll have the flexibility to change your mind at any time, plus you can continue to receive dividends and participate in shareholder votes.



We are happy to work with your advisors to help you plan for tomorrow and receive maximum benefits today.

### Take the Next Step

We can help clarify and document the steps to donate stock to the Advancement Foundation to benefit your parish offertory or capital campaign, support the Annual Diocesan Appeal, create or add to an endowment fund, provide tuition assistance funds for a Catholic school or support a ministry like seminarian education, campus ministry or retired priests, to name just a few options. Simply contact Dianna Rhoads at [drhoads@adv-fdn.org](mailto:drhoads@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-3174 or visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/ways-to-give> to see how this gift can be a win-win.

*Information contained herein was accurate at the time of printing. The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.*



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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.

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