

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## PARISH COMMUNITIES DEVASTATED BY EASTLAND COMPLEX WILDFIRE

How You Can Help



Fr. Vijaya Mareedu, SAC, surveys the aftermath of the Eastland wildfires

*A brief excerpt from North Texas Catholic article "What comes next for the survivors of the Eastland Complex Fires?" by Susan Moses:*

### OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Matching Grant for  
Eastland County

Convent for  
Dominican Sisters

#iGiveCatholic  
Matching Funds

Good Shepherd  
Sunday

Annual Diocesan  
Appeal Update

Evelyn Guillen remembers as “the worst 30 minutes of her life,” when she was unable to contact her father and feared that he had been caught in one of the largest wildfires ever recorded in Texas history — the Eastland Complex wildfire. About 90 percent of the Carbon (TX) population of roughly 350 lost their homes. Just six months ago, Jaime Perales moved his wife, four children, and a granddaughter into a home in Carbon. “I was with my cousin, renting a house for seven years. It took me one year to renovate my house [in Carbon]. We moved to the house six months ago. [It completely burned down.] With God’s help first, we will [build] something again,” he said. Bishop Michael Olson called for a special collection “for the compassionate, long-term recovery and significant community needs arising from these tragedies.”

To support this special collection online visit [bit.ly/EastlandRelief](https://bit.ly/EastlandRelief) (case sensitive).

To read the entire *North Texas Catholic* article visit [bit.ly/NTCEastland](https://bit.ly/NTCEastland) (case sensitive). Don't miss the video at the end!

# MABEE ISSUES CHALLENGE GRANT FOR ALL SAINTS FAMILY CENTER

The parish communities of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cisco; St. Francis Xavier, Eastland; St. John, Strawn; and St. Rita, Ranger have been fundraising for a much needed Family Activity and Youth Center. Currently the parishes share a one-room school in Eastland that was spared from the recent wildfire. In January the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Midland-Tulsa awarded the parishes with a **\$200,000 challenge grant** for the construction of their family activity center.



Digital rendering of All Saints Family Activity and Youth Center

The first phase of construction consists of a kitchen, bathrooms, foyer and 2-3 classrooms. This modest 8,210 square foot construction will cost \$1 million, \$600,000 of which is funded through an All Things Possible Rural Expansion Grant. The four parishes share CCE teachers and meet in Eastland right now. Due to the small room they meet in, all grades cannot meet at the same time. Even funeral receptions are turned away due to size. Funeral receptions were taking place at the Baptist church nearby which recently succumbed to the arson during the wildfires.

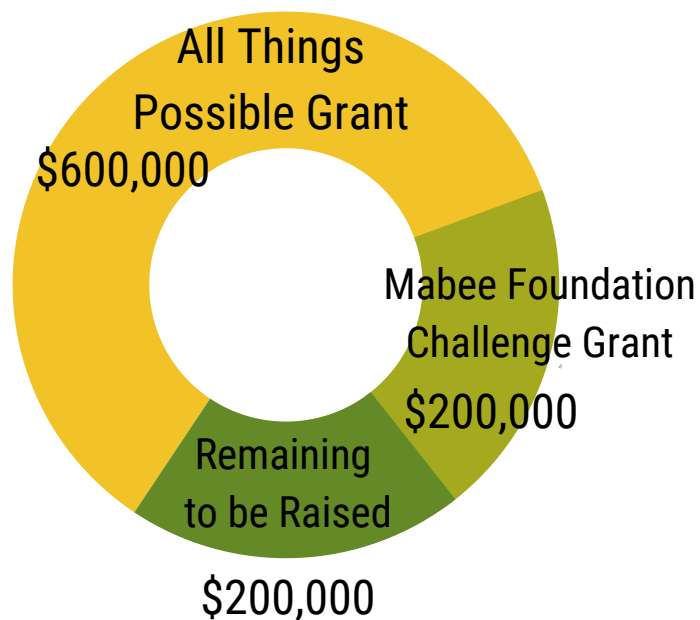
These four parishes are some of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The small parish communities will have a difficult time raising such a large sum of money without outside support.

**March/April 2022**



If we, as a Diocese, can meet the challenge and raise \$200,000, the Mabee Foundation will provide \$200,000 toward the project, reaching the \$1 million phase 1 construction cost.

## PHASE 1 COST



**If we cannot raise \$200,000 towards this project by January 2023, the Mabee Foundation Challenge Grant will not be funded.**

Please bring hope to this region that has suffered from the largest wildfire in Texas history. You can give online at [bit.ly/MabeeEastland](https://bit.ly/MabeeEastland) or by check mailed to the Advancement Foundation 201 Main Street, Suite 1198, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3101. Please include "Mabee Eastland" in memo line.

# HELP BUILD A CONVENT FOR THE DOMINICAN SISTERS IN OUR DIOCESE

The Advancement Foundation has started a capital campaign to raise \$3.5 million to build a new 11,000 square foot convent for the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate on the grounds of Nolan Catholic High School in east Fort Worth.

Construction is rapidly progressing on the new home for the sisters, scheduled to open for the 2022-23 school year.

The new convent, being built in a monastic style and opens to a courtyard. It will improve the lives of the sisters who help educate the Catholic youth of the diocese and will have space for expansion.

The order has 39 sisters teaching at 18 different universities, high schools, and elementary schools in several dioceses. In the Fort Worth diocese, the sisters teach at St. George, St. Joseph, St. John the Apostle, St. Rita, Holy Family, St. Peter the Apostle, Nolan Catholic, and in parish ministries as directors of religious education at St. Jude Church in Mansfield.



Digital rendering of future Blessed Imelda Convent

## Project Timeline

**Construction** - *in progress*

**Landscaping** - *pending*

**Fixtures and equipment** - *pending*

**Furniture** - *pending*

**Demolition of old facility** - *pending*



Sisters survey building progress with project architect, Scott Martsolf, AIA

Contributions to the campaign may be made payable to Advancement Foundation, 201 Main St., Ste. 1198, Fort Worth TX 76102, or make a secure online donation at <https://bit.ly/BlessedImeldaConvent> (case sensitive)

Naming opportunities are available. Please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242

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# ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL NEARS GOAL

After reopening Churches and schools, the theme of the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal - Give Thanks to the Lord - was embraced by Catholics throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. \$3,177,401 has been committed by 8,434 families. Congratulations to the following parish communities that exceeded their assigned goals or achieved the highest levels of participation among registered families. This year's campaign ends June 30.

## *Parishes Achieving Goal*

1. St. Paul, Electra, 218.00%
2. Christ the King, Iowa Park, 210.74%
3. Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls, 160.08%
4. St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, 156.67%
5. Our Lady of Mercy, Hillsboro, 144.53%
6. Assumption BVM, Decatur, 139.46%
7. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Morgan, 133.33%
8. Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington, 131.58%
9. Sacred Heart, Comanche, 127.30%
10. St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 124.78%
11. St. John, Strawn, 116.38%
12. St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport, 114.94%
13. St. Maria Goretti, Arlington, 114.39%
14. St. Joseph, Cleburne, 114.15%
15. Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 113.27%
16. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 112.76%
17. St. John Paul II, Denton, 111.61%
18. Our Lady of Lourdes, Mineral Wells, 108.92%
19. Jesus of Nazareth, Albany, 108.82%
20. St. Mary of the Assumption, Fort Worth, 108.68%
21. St. Mary, Dublin, 108.62%
22. St. Rose of Lima, Glen Rose, 107.37%
23. St. Theresa, Olney, 107.32%
24. Holy Trinity, Azle, 105.86%
25. St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, 104.88%
26. Vietnamese Martyrs, Arlington, 104.44%
27. St. Joseph, Rhineland, 104.37%
28. St. Mary, Graham, 102.82%
29. Christ The King, Fort Worth, 101.53%
30. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 101.28%
31. St. Francis of Assisi, Grapevine, 101.11%
32. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 100.79%
33. Holy Cross, The Colony, 100.69%



## *Parishes With Highest Participation*

1. St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel, 107.69%
2. Our Lady of Fatima, Fort Worth, 63.31%
3. St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, 57.69%
4. Christ the King, Iowa Park, 51.11%
5. St. John Paul II, Denton, 42.16%
6. St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, 42.03%
7. St. Paul, Electra, 40.54%
8. Sacred Heart, Seymour, 36.42%
9. St. Martin de Porres, Prosper, 32.46%
10. St. Rose of Lima, Glen Rose, 31.73%
11. St. Mary, Windthorst, 30.83%
12. St. Benedict, Fort Worth, 28.57%
13. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott, 26.78%
14. Our Lady of Guadalupe, De Leon, 26.32%
15. Sacred Heart, Muenster, 26.08%
16. St. Peter, Lindsay, 24.78%

**It's Not Too Late.**  
Make a difference in the lives of thousands of people—people like the parishioners at St. Joseph parish in Rhineland who have found spiritual nourishment with the help of essential operating grants from the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL**

[bit.ly/ADADonate](https://bit.ly/ADADonate) (case sensitive)

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# YOUR GIFT CAN LAST FOREVER

During our lifetime, most of us strive to make a difference in the lives of others, by providing gifts to the people and causes we value. Wouldn't it be nice to leave a legacy that can make a difference for your parish, a Catholic school, the Diocese of Fort Worth or another organization even after you are gone supporting in perpetuity the causes most important to you? By creating an endowment with the Advancement Foundation —or adding to our existing endowment—you can give a gift that lasts forever.

The Advancement Foundation manages more than 200 funds representing more than \$81 million in assets. These assets are invested in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines for Socially Responsible Investments through a proprietary Catholic Values screening and active proxy voting. Performance is available upon request.



## A Case Study of Benefits

For many years, Susan has been providing \$5,000 to her parish offertory each year. She wants to continue this giving and create a legacy of support after her lifetime. She decides to update her estate plan and establish an endowment gift in her will of \$125,000. When the gift is made, we use a portion of the endowment each year to provide income to the parish and reinvest the remainder, allowing it to grow and support annual payments to the parish indefinitely. This generous arrangement allows Susan to continue supporting her parish each year during her lifetime and ensures she can support it after her lifetime.

The Foundation is well equipped to accept gifts in any form, including cash, buildings, real estate, mineral interests, cryptocurrencies or personal property. The Advancement Foundation also accepts gifts of stock and mutual funds, including gifts of stock from a closely held private business.

An Endowment Fund provides a source of annual income to a Catholic organization of your choice. This fund is designed to function in perpetuity, making it possible for you to ensure long-term financial support to your chosen cause. Once established, anyone can make additional contributions to the fund in any dollar amount.

We would love to work with you to help you create a lasting legacy that honors your Catholic values for many years to come. Please contact us today to learn more about establishing an endowment with the Advancement Foundation, or complete the simple form on our website at [www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds).

# THE EXPERIENCE OF EASTER

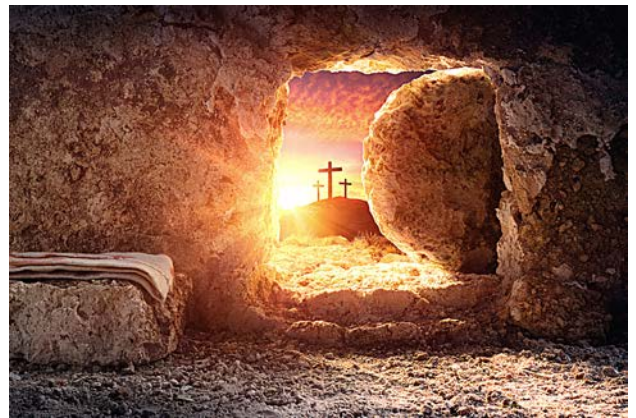
We are an Easter people.

We are an Easter people. The joy of Easter is celebrated not only during the liturgical season we call Easter. It is celebrated every day of the year. The Mass is the Paschal Mystery, and every time it is celebrated, we participate in the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As St. Paul teaches, we die with Christ and rise with Him in the Holy Spirit. We are transformed into new creations. We are renewed.

For Christian stewards, each day is a new dawn for living in the light of Christ.

Stewards of God's abundant gifts hold dear the promise of renewal and pledge themselves to the work of reconciliation, healing and proclamation of the risen Lord. There is much about dying and rising with Christ that we do not know; much about the Paschal Mystery we do not understand. But stewards of God's love are always open to learning more; to being called out of their ignorance and into the light of faith which comes with an ever-deeper understanding of its peace and joy. Easter is a good time to reflect on how we experience the joy of Christ's peace. It is also a time to ask ourselves how we can experience the gift of Easter each day of our lives.

*Reprinted with permission from the International Catholic Stewardship Council.*



## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for April

Christ Our Savior,  
As our Lenten journey brings us  
closer to Easter,  
we see with a deeper awareness  
our world's desperate need  
to experience  
the healing power of your  
justice and peace.

Make us sacraments of your mercy  
and instruments of your compassion.

Show us how to be better stewards  
of your people;  
through our families,  
our brothers and sisters  
with whom we share your Eucharist,  
our neighbors, and the stranger.

Show us how to carry the cross  
so that by dying to ourselves  
we may give new life to others.

And strengthen our faith, so that  
we may proclaim your Easter triumph  
more confidently,  
every day,  
in word and deed.

Amen.



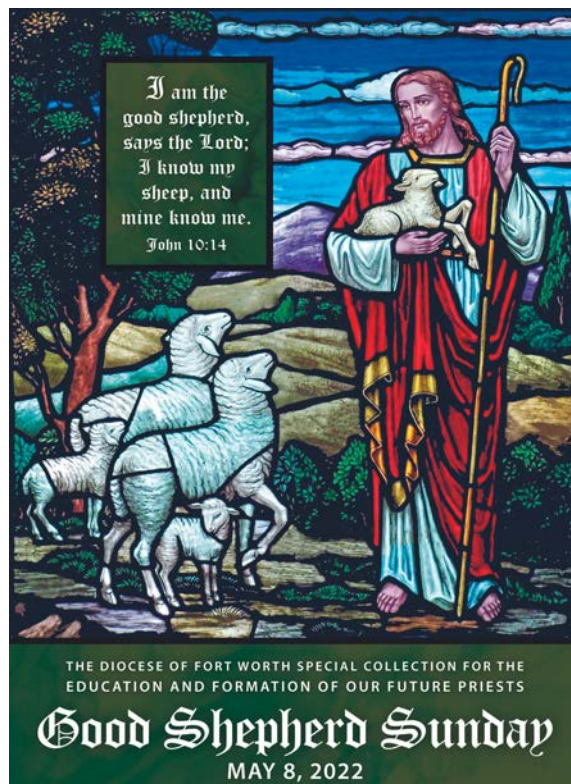
# SUPPORT FOR SEMINARIANS

Support Good Shepherd Sunday  
Special Collection, May 8

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me."

The Diocese of Fort Worth is blessed to have 23 seminarians in various stages of the thorough discernment and formation journey. In imitation of Jesus Christ, they will teach and grow the faith. With your support, the Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to paying for all of the costs associated with their formation and education. Consequently, our seminarians can commit to prayer and studies during their education and formation. This period can span seven to nine years and cost up to \$50,000 annually for each of the men.

In 2021, more than **\$260,000** was collected on Good Shepherd Sunday for our seminarians. Please respond in love for their years of generous service by donating to the Seminarian Education Fund.



## Ways to Donate

- Use the envelopes or online giving channel provided by your parish
- Mail a check to your parish with seminarians in the memo space
- Online [bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections](https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections) (case sensitive).

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## #IGC MATCHING FUNDS

Multiply your donation - make it a matching gift!

**\$402,516** was raised by parishes, schools and ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth during #iGiveCatholic 2021. Each gift plays a critical role in allowing us to serve the faithful in our community and build the Body of Christ. All participants in #iGiveCatholic were awarded a share of matching funds based on the amount they raised last November 30. Congratulations to the top five participants listed below. All participating organizations are eligible for matching funds when they participate in #iGiveCatholic on **November 29, 2022**. If you are interested in providing matching funds to benefit the participating organizations, contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org) or 817-533-7242.

Name	Total Raised	Matching Funds Received
Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington	\$ 118,091.56	\$29,424.28
St. Andrew Catholic School, Fort Worth	\$ 29,970.00	\$ 7,467.47
St. John the Apostle School, North Richland Hills	\$ 26,697.00	\$ 6,651.96
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Grapevine	\$ 25,585.00	\$ 6,374.89
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Prosper	\$ 18,761.00	\$ 4,674.58

# PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

Bishop Olson Asks Us to Listen, Hear and Respond in Fidelity to a Call

Most Reverend Michael Olson called us to be witnesses of the Gospel, first by praying and listening, and then by living out our faith, proclaiming the truth of the Gospel and carrying out the mission of the Church. He addressed these remarks to more than 175 priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders on March 19 at **The Heart of the Mission: Diocesan Day of Stewardship** at St. Michael Parish in Bedford. Following the celebration of Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Bishop Olson gave a keynote address in which he noted, “The work of stewardship begins with prayer and gratitude and goes forward in service.”



Next, Cande de Leon, executive director of the office of mission advancement for the Diocese of Phoenix and author of *The Heart of the Mission: Simple Ways to Bring People to Jesus*, stressed that conversion is necessary before one can do the will of God. He described Stewardship (strengthening relationships), Discipleship (boldly growing engagement) and Evangelization (connecting people to the mission) as integrally tied to one another. He said to the parish leaders assembled, “You don’t want volunteers, you want disciples.” The event was sponsored by the Advancement Foundation. For stewardship resources, please visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/stewardship](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/stewardship).

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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- April 2-3** Eastland Wildfire Disaster Relief\*
- April 15** Good Friday Pontifical Holy Land Collection
- April 23-24** Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- May 7-8** Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Education Fund\*
- May 28-29** Catholic Communications Campaign
- June 25-26** Annual Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

\*100% of this collection remains in the Diocese of Fort Worth

For more information or to donate visit: [www.fwdioc.org/special-collections](http://www.fwdioc.org/special-collections)

March/April 2022



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 25** Light of Christ Awards at St. Patrick Cathedral

**June 30** Last day for Annual Diocesan Appeal contributions to credit to parish goals for FY2022.

**September 11** Annual Diocesan Appeal Announcement Sunday

**September 18** Annual Diocesan Appeal Commitment Sunday

**September 22** North Texas Giving Day

**October 16** Diocese of Fort Worth Stewardship Sunday

**November 29** #iGiveCatholic Giving Day on Giving Tuesday

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on the following days:  
**Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Monday - April 14, 15, 18**

*The Advancement Foundation observes the holiday schedule of the Pastoral & Administrative offices of the Diocese of Fort Worth (Catholic Center)*

View these events and more on our website  
[www.advancementfoundation.org/calendar](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/calendar)

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

An easy way to keep up with the ministries supported by the Advancement Foundation is to “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter! Here 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)

**March/April 2022**

During Lent, we prepare our hearts for the joy of the Resurrection through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In your Lenten giving, please include a gift to support parishes, schools, ministries and outreach programs.

[bit.ly/ADADonate](https://bit.ly/ADADonate) (case sensitive)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD, MA  
Bishop of Fort Worth

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Rev. Stephen Hauck  
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Ms. Rosa Navejar  
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## WHAT WE DO

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

*Blessed are they who have  
kept the word with a  
generous heart  
and yield a harvest  
through perseverance.*

Luke 8:15

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

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