

# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

CATHOLIC *stewardship* IN ACTION



## SERVING ONE ANOTHER

When you give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, you support the work of more than 120 organizations and ministries in our diocese, transforming the lives of thousands of people. Together, we can serve one another and do more than any one parish or person can do.

### OTHER NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Your gift changes lives
- A tax-wise way to support our work
- Autumn: A time of recommitment
- Fort Worth presence at International Catholic Stewardship Conference in NOLA
- World Mission Month
- #iGiveCatholic
- Catholic Charities Little Way Campaign

The 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is a fundraising campaign to assist the Diocese of Fort Worth, parishes, schools and ministries in the coming year. The goal for 2025 is \$5 million, the largest goal to date. **Your gift, no matter the size, will make a difference** in the lives of seminarians, deacons in formation, retired priests, teachers, school children, pregnant mothers, rural and needy parish communities, campus ministries, and many more.

# YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

including yours

Participating in Mass every weekend is a life-changing experience. A consistent donation to the parish offertory is also life changing. It is an act of gratitude for God's blessings in your life. Each time you attend Mass and see where your donation impacts your parish is a full-circle experience in the life of the Church.

The next step in generosity is giving to a mission you may not see in-person every week. A donation to the Diocese of Fort Worth through the Annual Diocesan Appeal calls for a deeper trust in the Lord to steward your generosity according to His will. The Advancement Foundation provides [a report on the donations to the Annual Diocesan Appeal each year.](#)

This year the diocese needs a substantial increase in donations towards the appeal because of the substantial population increase in this area of North Texas.

For years, the Annual Diocesan Appeal has focused on "Helping those in need," (See Right.) With growth throughout the diocese, in 2025 the Annual Diocesan Appeal must also grow. Learn more at <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/annual-diocesan-appeal> and take the next step in stewardship.

[Donate](#)

ANNUAL  
DIOCESAN APPEAL  
CATHOLIC *stewardship* IN ACTION

2025 Goal:  
\$5,000,000

\$1.7 MILLION INCREASE WILL SUPPORT  
20+ DIOCESAN PRIORITIES

## Gratitude and Support for the Clergy

**Needs require a 70% increase**

- Diaconate Formation
- Seminarian Education
- Retired Priest Care

## Evangelization

**Needs require a 64% increase**

- Youth Ministry
- Family Life
- Marriage Support
- Campus Ministry
- Marriage Preparation
- Stewardship Education
- Correctional Ministry
- Communication

## Education

**Needs require a 24% increase**

- School Security
- Catholic School Learning
- Specialists
- Teacher Salary
- Tuition Assistance
- General Operating

## Helping those in need

**Needs require a 14% increase**

- Poverty Intervention
- Respect Life
- Parish Operating Grants
- Parish Fundraising Support

# QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

## A Tax-Wise Way to Support Our Work

Effective January 1, the IRS increased to \$105,000 the annual maximum distribution from a qualified retirement plan you may give to charitable organizations. The amount is expected to increase with inflation each year. Many of our supporters ages 70-1/2 or older choose QCDs for their giving because no taxes are paid when the distribution is made directly to a qualified charity, such as the Advancement Foundation.

And, in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Since the gift does not count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

### For Those 59½ Years Old or Older

If you're at least 59½ years old, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

### Visit

<https://advancementfoundation.planmygift.org/ira-charitable-rollover> for more information, including FAQs and a Take Action! box to actually begin the process with your IRA administrator.



### At Any Age

No matter your age, you can designate the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation, naming a parish, school, the diocese, endowment fund, or a ministry as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA and it will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime. It's simple, just requiring that you contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form or download a form from your provider's website.

**Tip:** Please let us know of your gift because many popular retirement plan administrators assume no obligation to notify a charity of your designation. The convenient form on our website <https://advancementfoundation.planmygift.org/ira-charitable-rollover> is a great way to notify us that an IRA distribution is on the way.

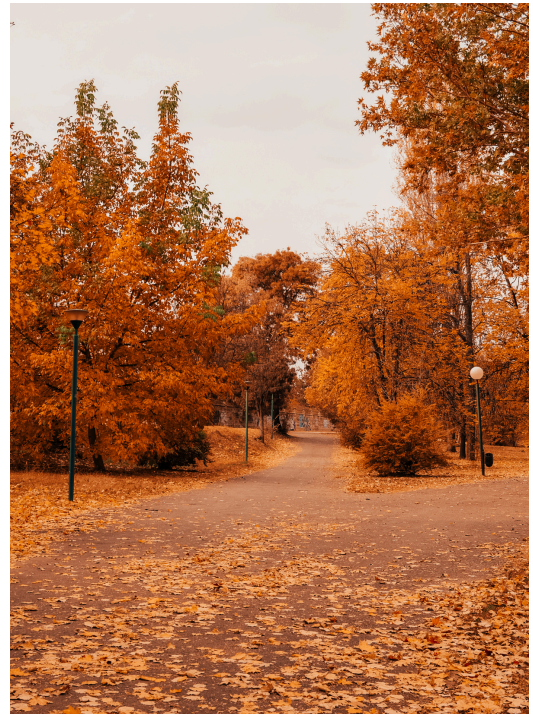
# AUTUMN: A TIME OF RECOMMITMENT TO YOUR PARISH

The autumn brings with it, for countless Christian stewards, the clarion call of renewed commitment to a life of stewardship. Our families are the domestic Church, but we know that as Catholics, next to our own family, the parish is the place where our Church lives and grows and evangelizes.

For many Christian stewards, the fall brings stewardship fairs, witness talks, pledge forms and ministry pleas at our parishes. We hear reports on the financial and social status of our parish. We listen as our friends and fellow parishioners explain what a life of stewardship has meant to their happiness and growth in discipleship. We learn how our parish is making a difference through charity and social justice work. We see how many people contribute to the faith formation of the young, and to the outreach to those who are suffering or to those who have left the Faith. Sometimes, we man the ministry booth at the fair, or help make the posters, or agree to chair a committee. Other times, we sit reflectively and ponder what we have to give and how best to do so sacrificially.

At different points in our life, we are able to do more, and sometimes less. Our time and resources ebb and flow. But one thing remains constant: the parish is our home, it is vital to the life of the larger Church, and we belong there. It is where we grow in Christ through community and faithfulness. We belong, not just as Sunday morning observers, but as active and conscious participants in the liturgy and life of the parish. We owe our parish a prayerful discernment on how best we can give. Now is the time to answer the call to commitment. If this is Stewardship time at your parish, don't miss the opportunity to serve and give sacrificially as you feel called.

*Reprinted with Permission of the International Catholic Stewardship Council*



## Stewardship Prayer

***On October 11, 1962, Saint Pope John XXIII prayed the following prayer to open the Second Vatican Council. Thereafter, the bishops at the Council continued to pray this prayer together before every session.***

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all: enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance; or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true. As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign with the Father and the Son, God, forever and ever. Amen.

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## Foundation Sponsors Red Mass

The Advancement Foundation was pleased to be the principal sponsor of the Annual Diocese of Fort Worth Red Mass on September 26. Thank you to Bishop Olson and all the organizers who made this most inspiring evening possible. Pictured from left Rachel Martinez, Robert Gieb, Lydia Springer, Renée Underwood, Senator Drew Springer, Chris Chapman.



## PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR #IGIVECATHOLIC

Parishes, schools and ministries are gearing up for #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday, December 3, 2024 at [fortworth.igivecatholic.org](https://fortworth.igivecatholic.org). This is a special opportunity to celebrate our faith and to show our gratitude for the many blessings we have received by supporting the organizations doing the Lord's work in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Please save the date and respond generously when invited to support the participating organizations.



Matching Fund sponsorships for #iGiveCatholic are still available! 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](https://www.advancementfoundation.org/iGiveCatholic-sponsorships) to learn more.



# FATHER JOSEPH MORENO SPEAKS AT ICSC CONFERENCE

Rev. Joseph Moreno, pastor of St. Jude Thaddeus, Burkburnett, St. Paul, Electra, and Christ the King, Iowa Park, traveled to New Orleans recently to make a presentation to diocesan foundation and development teams (and many other pastors as well) at the International Catholic Stewardship Council's annual conference. During the highly-attended session entitled *Catholic Stewardship and Development: A Pastor's Perspective*, Fr. Moreno gave insight into the realities of small rural parish life and offered suggestions on how diocesan staff can lighten the load for pastors and parish staffs. Thank you, Fr. Moreno, for representing our diocese so very well.



From left, Justin Veitenheimer, Renée Underwood, Rachel Martinez and Tim Jacquet (parishioner in our diocese who works for OSV) are pictured at the recent ICSC annual conference in New Orleans. Justin was a first-time attendee and Renée and Rachel presented a session called, *Communicating Your Message to and Through Parishes*.



# SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES LITTLE WAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

October 12-13

This collection is one of Catholic Charities' most important annual fundraising initiatives, and brings hope where hope is needed most. Serving our entire 28-county diocese, CCFW is the charitable arm of our local Church, sharing the love of Christ by offering dignified and compassionate care to our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters. The Little Way Campaign is inspired by

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, who modeled for us the importance of little acts of holiness. Seemingly small acts of generosity can make a difference, especially when we partner with others. Through more than a century of service, CCFW's mission has been bolstered by the compassion and generosity of our parish communities. Please donate generously when the collection is taken in your parish, or donate now at <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>. St. Thérèse, pray for us!

SPECIAL COLLECTION  
October 12-13, 2024



Catholic Charities Fort Worth CCFW Weekend A Little Way Campaign

## OCTOBER IS WORLD MISSION MONTH

On Sunday, October 20, Catholics in every parish around the world are invited to participate in World Mission Sunday through prayer and support for the World Mission Sunday special collection. This collection supports the Pontifical Mission Societies, a worldwide network at the service of the Pope that supports the missions and the Young Churches with prayer and charity.

**World Mission Sunday 2024**  
October 20th

**GO AND INVITE EVERYONE**  
*to the banquet*  
(MT 22:9)

**YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:**

- 38,140 seminarians
- 8,750 Shelters and Orphanages
- 12,000 Health Centers
- 844,000 Catechists
- 258,540 Religious sisters

This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew: "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet," reflecting the inclusive and urgent call to bring God's love to everyone. Please donate generously when the collection is taken in your parish, or donate now at <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.



[@advancementfoundation](#)



[@AdvFdn](#)

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## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be closed on **Friday, November 1** in observance of **All Saints Day**.

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