

SPRING 2021

Generous Hearts

In the issue:

GENERATIONS
OF GENEROSITY

5 REASONS TO
GIVE THROUGH
THE CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

PARISH SCHOOLS
RECEIVE THEOLOGY
OF THE BODY
CURRICULUM

END-OF-YEAR
GIVING SUMMARY

a publication brought to you by



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
of West Michigan



Your witness of faith, commitment, and generosity brings tremendous hope.

From the Executive Director

To raise the Church, it takes a village.

I am profoundly grateful for the people of West Michigan who continue to share their blessings with joy. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt in many aspects of our lives, your witness of faith, commitment, and generosity brings tremendous hope.

As we wrestle with the turn of events throughout the world, we are reminded of our common humanity. One of the most prominent reasons for optimism is a renewed sense of togetherness. We were together in the hardships and we remain together as we look to the future. As we do, one can sense a desire not just to return to the prior state of normalcy, but to live together in a thriving, vibrant community.

As Catholics, our faith reminds us that we stand in solidarity as one human family; that people are sacred and social; that we are called to organize our society in a manner that respects human dignity, values work, and seeks the common good and well-being of all. The charitable actions by which we help our neighbors and the spirit in which we respond to their needs are wonderful opportunities to live our faith.

Over the past few months, many people made use of charitable giving as a way to stand in solidarity with those in need. Perhaps you're one such donor. If so, thank you. If, in the spirit of togetherness, you feel called to put your faith into action through a charitable gift or opening a fund, we are here to help make sure your giving is as efficient as it is heartfelt. Thank you, West Michigan, for sharing the beauty of our Catholic faith as we embrace 2021 — together.

Blessings,

Greg Deja
Executive Director

Trustees

- Most Rev. David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids
- Rev. Msgr. William H. Duncan
- Michael Lown
- Kevin McDowell

Staff

- Greg Deja
Executive Director
- Erinn Hill
Stewardship Officer
- Beth Kiisk-Milanowski
Executive Assistant

Our Mission

We inspire and enable generous support for parishes and ministries rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church to make a lasting impact in our communities and the lives of others.

Contact

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Inspiring the Next Generation of Generous Hearts

"We can continue to support those individual causes which are important to us, but in a more streamlined way and with a better plan in place. And, more importantly, it will continue to be carried forward beyond our lifetime."

Patrick and Alissa Mullally believe the adage "to whom much is given, much will be required," a lesson they learned from their parents as well as scripture (Luke 12:48). As children, Patrick and Alissa witnessed their parents being generous by offering their time to the parish and sharing their blessings to help others in any way they could. Not only has this sentiment, rooted in faith and family, inspired their generosity today, but it also reinforces a lesson they hope to leave their children.

When their children were little, Patrick and Alissa looked for a church community and found a second home at Saint Mary's in Spring Lake. There, Alissa was confirmed in the Catholic faith and their children began their Catholic school education, a priority for both parents as Catholic school graduates. They immersed themselves in various roles: volunteer, board member, auction committee, and more. Alissa now works at the school as the 4th grade teacher, and all three of their

children — Addison, Reagan, and Jack — are enrolled in the school.

Several years ago, the Mullally's had the opportunity to meet the Bishop, Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, at a fundraiser for the new Saint Mary's School building. Patrick was energized by Bishop Walkowiak's sentiments on the importance of Catholic schools and his vision for diocesan-level missions. Inspired by his encounter with the Bishop, the Mullally's contacted the Catholic Foundation to join the Bishop's Angels Society. A greater conversation ensued.

Not only did Patrick and Alissa want to share their blessings and show their support of Bishop Walkowiak, they also wanted to leave a legacy for their children. They decided to open a donor advised fund (DAF) at the Catholic Foundation, a vehicle that allows them to support multiple causes such as Catholic education, priestly vocations, pro-life causes, and the

Bishop's Angels annual giving program from one fund. Patrick said, "With our DAF we can continue to support those individual causes which are important to us, but in a more streamlined way and with a better plan in place. And more importantly, it will continue to be carried forward beyond our lifetime."

Opening a DAF not only provided Patrick and Alissa with a vehicle for their philanthropy, but also a tool to teach their children about generosity. **"Ideally, this fund will long outlive Alissa and me. The kids will carry it forward and continue to contribute to it and also to use the fund in ways that are important to them at that time,"** said Patrick. For Alissa, she hopes her children will work hard not only to achieve something for themselves, but also to do good unto others. Rooted in faith and family, Patrick and Alissa's example will inspire their children to have generous hearts and pass on their blessings — just as they learned from their parents.



WHY SHOULD I PARTNER WITH THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF WEST MICHIGAN?

5 Reasons to Give to and Through the Catholic Foundation



1. You Give According to Your Faith

The Catholic Foundation facilitates charitable giving and philanthropy in the name of our Catholic faith. Through the generous spirit of our donors and partnering organizations, who have shared their blessings through gifts both large and small, we manifest God's love in the world.



2. You Get a Partner Who Prioritizes You

The Catholic Foundation acts as your advisors and advocates to ensure your giving intentions will be structured, honored, and stewarded the way you desire, in keeping with the values of our Church. We are an independent, 501(c)3 community foundation serving West Michigan for the benefit of Catholic ministries.



3. You Amplify Your Generosity to Your Favorite Catholic Causes

By growing your fund — through additional contributions and investment gains — you provide even more grants to your favorite Catholic organizations! Opening a fund at the Catholic Foundation allows your generosity to be not only efficient and heartfelt, but also growth-oriented and strategic — amplifying the impact on the ministries closest to your heart.



4. You Realize Additional Benefits

Another value-add is the peace of mind knowing your fund's investment returns come from socially-responsible sources that align with our Catholic faith. The convenience of using a single source to give to numerous charities, receiving expert assistance and advice tailored to your needs and interests, and realizing tax advantages are all additional benefits of partnering with the Catholic Foundation.



5. You Become Part of a Larger Story

Think big, and you will see the Catholic Foundation represents a larger story. By combining our blessings and resources, we enhance our ability to realize the promise of our founders: to be a sustaining source of generosity to meet the needs of our Catholic community for all time.



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US, GIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AND BUILD A LASTING AND PROFOUND LEGACY OF GENEROSITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

GIVE FOR TODAY. GIVE FOR TOMORROW. GIVE FOR FOREVER.

Funding Priorities:

Sharing Our
Catholic Faith

Educating Children
and Young Adults

Supporting
Religious Vocations

Helping the Poor
and Vulnerable

Caring for
Creation



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS Flexible & Personal

Giving becomes convenient and personal with a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), which offers a hands-on approach to your philanthropy. This fund invests your charitable gift to grow tax-free in one simple account for future giving to your favorite Catholic organizations, causes, and ministries.



BISHOP'S ANGELS Help Us Serve

Bishop's Angels are special individuals who annually designate a contribution (\$2,500+) to support the general operation of the Catholic Foundation and The Providential Care Fund, a fund that allows the Bishop to identify — and respond to — a specific cause at a time of need.



ENDOWMENT FUNDS Always & Forever

An endowment is a fund that is invested in perpetuity and provides a spend rate that reflects a portion of the annual earnings, distributed in the form of annual grants to your parish, school or ministry, forever.



FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS Unite for a Cause

Rally with friends and strangers alike through Field of Interest funds, reflecting the Catholic Foundation's funding priorities. You and like-minded donors can feel the joy of giving together for a particular cause to meet both immediate and emerging community needs.



HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS Celebrate a Life

Create an honorary or memorial fund, or add your contribution to an existing fund, to celebrate the life of a particular person who has made a special impact on you. This type of gift serves as a testament of the love, respect, or appreciation you have for the special individual.



OPEN A FUND Realize Your Charitable Vision

Realize your charitable vision to benefit the ministries you care most deeply about. Contact us when you're ready to begin the process of customizing your giving plan to maximize your desired impact.



Collaboration for All God's Children

Made in God's image and likeness is a common refrain in Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body teachings, an inspiring reminder that we are all beloved children of God. To instill this fundamental belief in the hearts and minds of children, a collaboration between multiple parties brought Theology of the Body lessons to all K-5 classrooms throughout the diocese.

The initiative to add the teachings of Theology of the Body as a specific piece of Catholic school curriculum came from Bishop Walkowiak. However, when it came time to implement these lessons in classrooms, a challenge loomed: a lack of lesson materials. As schools looked for a solution to acquire curriculum materials, Paul and Leisa Snow stepped forward. Through their endowed fund, The Paul and Leisa Snow Fund for Catholic Truth and Apologetics, they issued a grant that purchased lesson materials for 24 Catholic schools. "We started the endowment to support efforts that illuminate the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. When the idea was introduced of providing the Theology of the Body curriculum, I felt blessed to help instill these teachings in the children," said Leisa Snow.

Now equipped with lesson materials, teachers have engaging age-appropriate content through a blend of testimonies, stories of saints, movie clips, and more. By starting these lessons in kindergarten, students are able to build on the teachings over multiple years, reminding them that each individual is a unique, unrepeatably, and irreplaceable gift. The lessons continue in middle school and high school where other resources and expertise exist, helping graduates of Catholic schools throughout the diocese articulate the beauty of our faith to others.

At the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, we strive to match donors' passions with the needs of our Catholic community. Joining together in generosity, we can help meet the needs within and beyond our community, much like Paul and Leisa did for students and teachers in parish schools.

"Theology of the Body is such a gift to our students. It helps them to see who they are: beloved children of God possessing the worth and dignity with which God created them."

Jim Hurst, Theology Teacher at St. John Vianney Catholic School, Wyoming

"We are so excited to use this beautiful program with our students. We want all children to know how much they are loved by God."

Margaret Karpus, Principal at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Greenville

"I am grateful for the Theology of the Body materials as it has helped the students grow closer to God and in their faith."

Maureen Hall, 2nd Grade Teacher at St. Stephen School, East Grand Rapids

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity."

2 Cor. 9:11



LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE AND FAITH

Include the Church in Your Will or Trust

Including the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan or one of the Church's ministries in your will or trust is a beautiful way to ensure your **love never ends**. Many ministries have benefited from the generosity of parishioners and friends who share your values and were intentional about planning ahead.

By supporting the Church with a bequest gift, you secure your legacy without affecting your

current lifestyle, retain control of your assets, protect your family, and possibly avoid or reduce estate taxes. As you consider your options, know that our team would be honored to guide you through the process of creating your customized legacy plan.

"Love never ends."
1 Cor. 13:8

END-OF-YEAR GENEROSITY

October 1 – December 31, 2020

\$140K Donor Advised Funds

\$60K Bishop's Angels Annual Giving Program

\$5.88M Endowments

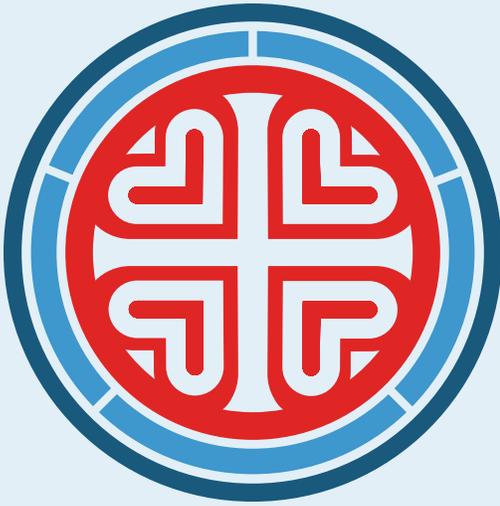


Assets:

\$82.05 MILLION

January 2021

THANK YOU!



Designed to be inclusive, inspiring, and elevated, our logo represents the universal Catholic Church enveloping the Foundation's five funding priorities, bringing us closer to Christ through generous hearts.

Our Purpose

The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to serving both our donors and our Catholic community by facilitating charitable giving to impact and sustain a more caring community reflective of Christ's love.

What will your legacy be?

Let's start a conversation.

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