

FALL 2021

Generous Hearts

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DRIVING FORE
A FAMILY FUND

NEW DONOR
GIVING TOOL

PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS

LEAVE A LEGACY OF
LOVE AND FAITH

a publication brought to you by



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
of West Michigan



"For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you happy and well, enjoying the blessings of the season: the abundance of light and warmth, the abundance of fresh produce, and the abundance of joy that comes from reconnecting with family and friends, hobbies and pastimes. In this time of year, we are reminded of the words found in John 10:10 — Jesus came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly!

I wish to thank everyone — donors, trustees, council members, pastors, and professional advisors — who continues to support the Catholic Foundation's mission. As we conclude the first year of our strategic plan, the Catholic Foundation has expanded its products and services to move our Catholic community foundation forward, better serve our fundholders, and make the greatest impact possible on Catholic ministries. Because of your support and the solid footings we continue to build on, I am abundantly grateful.

In total, we now manage more than 220 charitable funds! I invite all generous hearts to explore the benefits of opening a fund to impact the causes they care most deeply about. By working together, we are creating a stronger, more vibrant faith community — today and tomorrow — for all of us.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Generous Hearts*. Together, we are building a culture of generosity, funding vibrant ministries, and financially securing the Church's work in West Michigan for years to come.

Blessings,

Greg Deja
Executive Director

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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.

Funding Priorities

- Sharing Our Catholic Faith
- Educating Children & Young Adults
- Supporting Religious Vocations
- Helping the Poor & Vulnerable
- Caring for Creation

Contact

(616) 333-1640
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catholicfoundationwmi.org
360 Division Ave. S.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



KANDRA FAMILY

INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO CREATE AN HONORARY OR MEMORIAL FUND? CONTACT US TODAY TO EXPLORE WHICH OPTION WORKS BEST FOR YOU.



MARY AND JOHN KANDRA SR.

Driving FORE a Family Fund

Through a memorial endowment, the Kandra family celebrates their roots at Blessed Sacrament Parish

Back in 1989, John Kandra Sr. wanted to begin the tradition of a family golf outing since all six of his children played golf. His hope was to create an annual event that would always bring his children together, even after he passed away. Today, John would be happy to see the family golf outing is still going strong. But what might surprise him is the reason why.

Thanks to the efforts of his six children, this family reunion on the course has become a fundraiser, with proceeds supporting The Kandra Family Endowment Fund, in memory of John and Mary Kandra and Frank and Agnes Kandra. The Kandra family story begins at Blessed Sacrament Parish. John and Mary found a spiritual home at the (then new) parish, with Masses being held at The Roxy Theatre on Plainfield Avenue until a proper church could be built. Both Kandra got involved in parish life right away.

Mary became a member of the Ladies Guild — a group of women who organized meal trains and other helpful activities for families in need. John, who owned Advanced TV, put his handyman skills to the test at the

parish and in later years, he could be found helping the parish adapt to new audio and video technologies. Their lives of prayerful service were a model to their six children, who fondly recall growing up in the parish and attending Blessed Sacrament School.

“In those days, there were tuition discounts for families putting multiple children through Catholic school,” remembers Carolyn Kandra Grady. “Since our family had six kids, we received many tuition discounts!” But as times changed, so too did the parish and school. After both their parents passed away, the Kandra siblings began discussing how to best honor them and keep the Kandra name alive at Blessed Sacrament.

“We continue to have memorial Masses for Mom and Dad, but we wanted to do more,” says John Kandra Jr. “We all felt that the parish and school had done so much for our family as we grew up. We wanted to figure out how we could give something back to show our gratitude.”

In 2016, John approached Father George Darling, the current pastor of Blessed Sacrament. “Father explained

to us that there were a few options. While we could simply give a gift every year to the parish, he recommended that we consider creating an endowment fund through the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan. **By making steady contributions into the fund, our gift would grow over time and provide even more support to the parish and school,**” John recalls.

Together, the Kandra siblings decided to move forward and create The Kandra Family Endowment Fund, which provides tuition assistance for students at All Saints Academy, the school which grew out of Blessed Sacrament and three neighboring parish schools. The scholarships are awarded to families in financial need, both parishioners and non-parishioners. “Currently, we’re able to defray tuition costs for two families,” Carolyn adds. “We can’t wait to see how this grows in the future. And with our children now part of the annual golf outing, supporting the fund, we are happy the Kandra name will live on at Blessed Sacrament parish and school.”



New Donor Giving Tool Amplifies Impact and Transforms our Catholic Community

Like many Catholics, you attend Mass regularly, give to your parish, send your kids to faith formation or Catholic school, and support Catholic causes that are near and dear to your heart. And you give — of your time, your talent and even your treasure. The problem is... there are a lot of places that need those gifts. So you get asked. And asked. And asked. It all adds up.

You might be wondering, "Where does all my money go anyways?" and "Is it making an impact?" The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan helps you answer these questions in a new and better way.

Allow us to introduce the Foundation's newest donor tool:

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)

Now, instead of giving reactively, you can give: Purposefully. Prayerfully. Intentionally.

Now, you can support all of your favorite Catholic charities with one donation.

Now, your money works harder for you. Your money keeps growing - along with your impact.



Donor Advised Fund Benefits

Giving becomes convenient and more intentional, which offers a hands-on approach to your philanthropy.

Simple.

Streamlining your giving from one convenient account

You can use cash, stock, or other assets to create a fund, earn an immediate income tax deduction, and, when it's convenient for you, give to the charities you wish to support. While you plan your giving priorities, your fund grows tax-free in a socially-responsible investment pool that aligns with Catholic values.

Heartfelt.

Connecting you to the causes you care about

In what ways are you called to make a difference? With a donor advised fund at the Catholic Foundation, you can give to causes you are already supporting, learn of new charities that align with your passions, and join with others to make a greater impact.

Personal.

Bringing intentionality to the giving process and seeding your legacy

Name your fund, choose the charities you wish to support on your schedule, customize each grant, and identify how you would like to be recognized, if at all. You begin to establish a legacy with a DAF and can choose successor advisors to continue your fund's administration beyond your lifetime, make one-time legacy grants to charities of your choice, or create an endowment upon your passing.

READY TO OPEN YOUR DAF?

**Contact us today
(616) 333-1640
info@cfwmi.org**

How Does it Work?



1. Give

You set up a fund through the Catholic Foundation which creates an immediate tax benefit for you.



2. Grow

Your money in the fund grows tax-free through socially-responsible investments.



3. Grant

From this fund, you still give your monthly, quarterly, and annual gifts. Through a simple process, you direct your giving from your fund to the Catholic charity of your choice, and the Foundation manages the paperwork for you.



4. Transform

We'll even work with you to consolidate your giving so it has a bigger impact.

OVER THE PAST 5-YEAR PERIOD, CHARITABLE FUNDS INVESTED THROUGH THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION HAVE REALIZED MORE THAN AN 11% ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN.

Fundholding Organizations

"Two are better than one; they get a good return for their labor."
Ecclesiastes 4:9

DID YOU KNOW?

For more than 25 years, the Catholic Foundation has served as the hub of Catholic endowments, managing funds and distributing grants for a variety — and majority — of Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries throughout West Michigan.

Stewarding over \$95M in assets, the Catholic Foundation is proud to recognize our fundholding organizations who partner with us. Through our shared faith, investment expertise, and helpful support, the Catholic Foundation is committed to furthering their missions today and sustaining their faith-filled work for years to come.

Give online to any partner endowment by going to catholicfoundationwmi.org





Family, Faith, and Generosity

Rev. Ernest J. Bernott
May 10, 1922 – May 13, 2020

Legacies tend to have a thing or two in common, such as being carried over from an earlier time or having an enduring nature. Both seem suitable to Fr. Ernest Bernott's story. His generosity and thoughtful connection to his community can be traced back to his faithful parents, Anthony and Marcella. The couple had eight children, four of whom entered religious life.

Their youngest, Ernest or "Ernie," was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francis J. Haas at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in May 1948. Fr. Bernott served in many appointments as a diocesan priest over his 48 years of ministry, not to mention the additional 13 years he served the diocese after being granted senior priest status.

Throughout his various roles and appointments, Fr. Bernott was consistent in his fidelity to the Catholic faith, as well as his love of family, and his tendency to be thrifty. "His frugality was legendary among the priests," quipped one of his peers. Now, looking back, it seems as though Fr. Bernott had a greater purpose in mind for his thriftiness and the treasures he stewarded.

Prior to his passing, Fr. Bernott made plans to share his generous heart through charitable bequests, gifts made as part of a will or trust. He was intentional about leaving a legacy that would continue to honor his family and Catholic values beyond his lifetime. Fr. Bernott's estate created or contributed to five different endowments with the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan. His life and legacy provides a beautiful example of one who received God's gifts gracefully, nurtured them responsibly, and shared them generously.

Father Bernott's legacy gifts support endowments for the following ministries, guaranteeing them a source of income year after year:

- God's Kitchen, Grand Rapids
- Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family, Brazil
- Muskegon Catholic Central
- SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Grand Rapids
- St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Muskegon



LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE AND FAITH

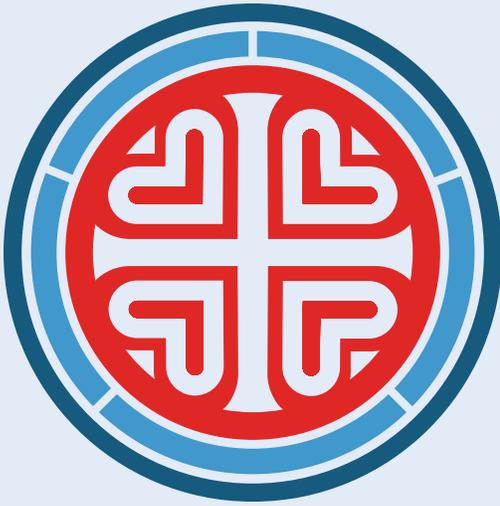
Include the Church in Your Will or Trust

At its simplest level, having a will or trust is important to ensure your assets and possessions end up where you want them. Some donors are in a position to make a major gift (or multiple gifts) during their lifetimes, but many make their largest gift as a bequest in their will. A thoughtful bequest can protect your family, maintain your current lifestyle, allow you to retain control of your assets, and possibly even receive estate tax savings. And, equally important, having an intentional plan empowers you to define your legacy.

Including one of the Church's ministries in your will or trust is a beautiful way to ensure your love never ends. Whether through a gift of cash, stock, property, an annuity, or another giving option, all planned gifts will help ensure that our Church's ministries remain strong and viable for the next generation.

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



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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