

ADVANCING THE MISSION



#IGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

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On November 13, we start Early Giving for #iGiveCatholic. #iGiveCatholic is an online giving event on Giving Tuesday for the faithful from participating dioceses across the nation to bring the Catholic community together to inspire and support generosity. Last year, grateful givers donated \$834,393 to their favorite participating parishes, schools and ministries in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Because of this outpouring of stewardship, St. John the Apostle Catholic School provided tuition assistance for many students to receive a Catholic education, MSU Catholic Campus Ministry Center raised funds to convert the library into a larger Adoration space for college students to worship, St. Jude in Manfield was able to enhance their parish by paving an unusable parking lot and Catholic Charities was able to continue their mission of providing services to those in need. These are just a few examples of the incredible impact of your gratitude and generosity.

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#IGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

This year we invite you, once again, to share your gifts to support the hard-working organizations of the Diocese of Fort Worth that are teaching and carrying out our Catholic values.

Together, #iGiveCatholic can be a miracle of loaves and fishes, where every gift shared lovingly from a grateful heart becomes bread for the multitudes and the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

Advanced Giving begins November 13 and goes through November 28, #iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday. Visit <https://fortworth.igivecatholic.org/> to find your favorite participating parish, school or ministry or click the links below.



[Advancement Foundation](#)
[All Saints Catholic Church](#)
[All Saints Catholic School](#)
[Annual Diocesan Appeal](#)
[Cassata Catholic High School](#)
[Catholic Charities](#)
[Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund](#)
[Cristo Rey College Prep](#)
[Holy Family Catholic Church](#)
[Holy Family Catholic School](#)
[Holy Trinity Catholic School](#)
[Immaculate Conception School](#)
[Immaculate Conception Church](#)
[Most Blessed Sacrament Church](#)
[Mother & Unborn Baby Care of North Texas](#)
[MSU Catholic Campus Center](#)
[Nolan Catholic High School](#)
[Our Lady of Guadalupe Church](#)
[Our Lady of Lourdes Church](#)
[Our Lady Queen of Peace](#)
[Rachel Ministries](#)
[Sacred Heart Church, Wichita Falls](#)
[Saint Andrew Catholic Church](#)
[Saint Andrew Catholic School](#)
[St. Francis of Assisi](#)
[St. Michael Catholic Church](#)
[St. Peter the Apostle School](#)

[St. George Catholic School](#)
[St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild \(Seminar Education\)](#)
[St. John Paul II University Parish](#)
[St. John the Apostle Catholic School](#)
[St. John the Apostle Parish](#)
[St. Joseph Catholic School](#)
[St. Jude Catholic Church](#)
[St. Maria Goretti Catholic School](#)
[St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church](#)
[St. Martin de Porres Catholic School](#)
[St. Mary of the Assumption](#)
[St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church](#)
[Saint Rita Catholic School](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Arlington](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Fort Worth District Council](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Holy Family Conference](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Our Mother of Mercy](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Maria Goretti](#)
[Stephen Breen Memorial Foundation](#)
[Tarleton Catholic Campus Ministry](#)
[TCU Catholic](#)
[UTA Catholic Community](#)
[Whole Life Authentic Care](#)
[Young Catholic Professionals](#)

SMART WAYS TO GIVE BEFORE 2023 ENDS

Would you like to finish this year with a gift that maximizes your impact and reduces your taxes? Consider the four smart options below.

#1 *Make an Immediate Difference*

When you support our mission by simply writing a check, you make great things happen and may receive a federal income tax charitable deduction. If you itemize, you can write off the amount you're donating, resulting in lower taxable income. Unsure of whether your gift is tax-deductible? Contact your financial advisor or tax consultant.

Did you know? Your envelope must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31 for your donation to qualify this year.

#2 *Use Appreciated Securities*

By donating appreciated securities that you have owned for longer than one year, you receive the same income tax savings as you would by making a gift of cash. You also eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

Did you know? If the securities are electronically transferred to us, the gift date is the day the securities enter our account—not the date you ask your broker to make the transfer.

#3 *Contribute to Your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)*

Add funds to an existing DAF or open a new one by a written agreement with the Advancement Foundation.

Did you know? You qualify for a tax deduction when you make a gift to a DAF, without immediately having to choose the organizations you want to support.

If you are ready to start making an impact with your DAF, consider recommending a grant (or recurring grants) to support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation.

#4 *Make a Gift from Your IRA*

If you are 70½ or older, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation. (Note: This amount will be higher in subsequent years to adjust for inflation.) You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your obligation. Your IRA administrator must remove the funds from your account by Dec. 31 for your donation to qualify this year.

Did you know? If you have check-writing features on your IRA, your check must clear your account by Dec. 31 to count toward your required minimum distribution for the calendar year.

The Countdown Is On

As we approach the end of the year, we are happy to help ensure that you realize the greatest benefit for your kindness. Please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242 or plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org.

For more information

www.advancementfoundation.org/year-end-giving **Nov/Dec 2023 Page 3**

AN ENDOWMENT - THE PERFECT GIFT

Endowment Education: Final of a 6-part series

Establishing a memorial or tribute endowment is a meaningful way to honor a loved one, or a favorite priest, sister or teacher this Christmas.

An Endowment Fund in the Advancement Foundation provides a source of annual income to the Catholic organization(s) 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, even through bequests or beneficiary designations.

How It Works

- You give cash, securities or other assets to an existing endowment or an endowment you create with the Advancement Foundation. If you can't give up assets today, consider making the gift in your will or other estate plan, specifying that you would like your gift to be used to fund an endowment.
- You determine if your endowment will be designated to fund a specific parish, school or ministry, or given without restrictions to allow our board of directors to direct the fund to the most critical needs in the Diocese of Fort Worth.
- We use a small portion of the fund to support our mission and provide ongoing income to the benefitting organizations, but the balance always remains invested to perpetuate the fund.
- You can support the work of our mission. Your memorial or tribute gift will be a lasting tribute to your loved one and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



We Can Help

There is still time to establish an endowment fund before year end. Please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242 or plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org, or visit www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER: A TIME TO REFLECT ON GRATITUDE AND GIVING

Towards the end of each year, it is easy for us to become distracted with the busyness and planning for the upcoming holidays, starting with Thanksgiving. As Christian stewards, it is an important aspect of our faith to live each day in gratitude and to prayerfully discern and reflect on what we are giving back to God through our parish, diocese and other charitable institutions in the coming year.

Giving generously to their parish, dioceses and institutions of the universal Church is second nature to good stewards.

Now is a good time to reflect on what priority we will give to God in our spending. Christian stewards acknowledge with gratitude that even our financial resources, our material wealth ultimately come from God. Exercising good stewardship over the money one makes, manages, spends and offers back to God is a tangible measure of their gratitude to God and their spiritual health. Giving generously to their parish, dioceses and institutions of the universal Church is second nature to good stewards. They prayerfully reflect on their ability to give and return the “first fruits” of their financial resources back to God (Leviticus 23:10).



The good steward's desire is to put God first among his or her spending priorities. They take seriously the psalmist's question: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12). The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting that generosity day by day. What God does in Jesus' human life is a much-magnified version of what happens when we take time to pray, offer our time and talents to our parish family or when family budgets and spending habits are reprioritized to conform more devotedly to the Gospel. The stewardship question is not, "Should I do these things?" but rather, "How much should I do?"

Take time during November and the Advent Season to reflect prayerfully on God's generosity toward you, on the quality of your own life of gratitude and what you are doing and can do to further God's kingdom by your own giving patterns in the coming year.



THANKSGIVING

Stewardship Prayer

As the autumn season continues
its transformation;
and the days become shorter,
the earth cooler;
as we join family and friends
in joy and celebration
on Thanksgiving Day,
we pause to give you thanks
and praise for the abundant blessings
You have bestowed upon us:
for life and health,
safety and comfort,
food and nourishment.
Through your Spirit,
open our hearts
so that we may be even
better stewards of Your many blessings.
Show us how to be a blessing
for the poor, sick, lonely and
all who suffer.
And help us nurture the gift of faith,
revealed to us by your Son,
Jesus Christ, our greatest gift,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16 - St. John Paul II Shepherd's
Guild Advent Brunch (by invitation to
members)

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Advancement Foundation will be
closed on

- **Wednesday, November 22 through
Friday, November 24** for Thanksgiving.
- **Friday, December 8** in observance of
the Feast of the Immaculate
Conception.
- **Monday, December 25 through
Monday, January 1** in observance of
Christmas, New Years and the
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

However, our staff is available during
office closures to answer your questions
and to ensure your gifts are received in
the **2023** tax year.

Contact by phone or email regarding year-
end giving is available to donors at 817-
533-3174 or YearEndGiving@adv-fdn.org.
Messages will be monitored and returned
as soon as possible.

To ensure that your gift is credited on or
before December 31, please donate online
at:

[Annual Diocesan Appeal](#)
[All Other Donations](#)

For mailed check donations, please ensure
that they are made payable to
Advancement Foundation, dated and
postmarked by December 31. Mail them to
Advancement Foundation, 201 Main St, Ste
1198, Fort Worth TX 76102-3101.



AS JESUS LOVED

Annual Diocesan Appeal supports retired and infirmed priests; prison ministry

Retired priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth spent a lifetime in service to the North Texas Catholics. Now, without a parish to care for them, retired and infirmed priests depend on insurance, pensions and the generosity of faithful Catholics.


Our retired priests honored Christ's commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you." As Jesus laid down his life for our sins, priests dedicated their lifetime to sharing the Gospel with Catholics in North Texas.

We received a handwritten letter from Philip, a 'brother in brown' at the Bridgeport Correctional Unit.

A parish grant supports prison ministry volunteers walking with Philip.


[Click here for the typed version of Philip's letter.](#)

Retired priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth (nine not-pictured)



**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE
LOVED YOU**

The Annual Diocesan Appeal financially supports retired priests in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Show them your support today with a gift at <https://bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal>



CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH OUR SEMINARIANS

Members of the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild will soon receive an invitation to the Annual Advent Mass and Brunch with Bishop Olson and the Diocese of Fort Worth Seminarians on December 16. Watch your mailbox!

If you are not presently supporting seminarian education through the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild, there is still time to join us. Please visit <https://www.advancementfoundation.org/membership>



St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild



Advent Gathering
with Our Seminarians

A gift for you and your future

As a thank you for being a friend of Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation, FreeWill is delighted to help you create your legal will. It's 100% free to you, and most people finish in 20 minutes or less. Learn more at www.freewill.com/FortWorthDiocese



Visit FreeWill.com/FortWorthDiocese
to get started

FREEWILL



Underwood Acknowledged for ICSC Board Service



At the October International Catholic Stewardship Conference in Orlando FL, Renée Underwood, was acknowledged for her years of service on the board of the International Catholic Stewardship Council. Renée served as an Executive Officer on the ICSC Board of Directors for more than six years, sharing her talents with dioceses and parishes throughout the country.

Photo: Renée Underwood, CFRE (left) and Margaret Keightley, Board Chair of International Catholic Stewardship Council and Executive Director of Catholic Community Foundation Richmond, Virginia

Help Us Keep our Schools Safe and Secure

Please prayerfully consider a one-time or recurring contribution to this comprehensive plan with one of the giving levels suggested below:



- \$70 hourly cost for one Security Resource Officer
 - \$500 cost of security officer per student
 - \$10,000 per classroom per year
 - \$100,000 per school per year
 - \$700,000 cost of crisis counselors
 - \$1,700,000 cost for security officers in all 17 schools
- [Learn more and give online](#)

#iGiveCatholic Challenge for Free Tuition

The cost of one year's tuition at each of our 17 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth is \$155,013 - and that's our goal on #GivingTuesday during #iGiveCatholic. Won't you help us provide tuition to one family in each of our Catholic schools? [Give here](#)
November 13 - 28



Faithful Citizenship in Support of Parental Choice

Chris Chapman and Clint Weber of the Advancement Foundation and representatives from Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops recently hand-delivered to 28 members of the Texas House of Representatives and 8 members of the State Senate a binder of letters from Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth fathers and mothers, school families and parishioners who are constituents in their respective districts. Copies were also presented to representatives from the Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office and the Speaker of the House. Acting on [Bishop Olson's Pastoral Letter to Pastors and Principals](#), the letters urged the passage of a parental choice bill in Texas. To learn how you can advocate for this important issue, please contact Chris Chapman at cchapman@adv-fdn.org



TRANSFORM NOVEMBER INTO A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING

Very soon Americans will celebrate the Thanksgiving holidays; a time where so much is devoted to sumptuous meals highlighted by turkey and pumpkin pie, traveling to and from the ancestral home, enjoying family, feasting on leftovers, seeing a Thanksgiving Day parade and watching football.

For many of us, Thanksgiving Day is so full of activity that there is a tendency to forget what's at the heart of Thanksgiving, offering our thanks to God for the many gifts that have been bestowed upon us. Although sometimes the reason for the holiday is forgotten in our secular culture today, **good stewards of their life and faith recognize that Thanksgiving should be directed primarily in God's direction.**

Because the "busyness" of Thanksgiving Day can easily distract us from slowing down to a pace more suitable to adequately expressing our gratitude to God, perhaps this November we might allow Thanksgiving to permeate our lives for more than just a day. How about the entire month? Expressing gratitude is at the heart of good stewardship. So, let's dedicate a little time each day in November to giving thanks for our blessings.

Begin with November 1 and 2, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Spend a few minutes each of those days thanking God for all the people in your life who have gone before you.



Then, each day thereafter, set aside a few minutes to remember all that God has given you and say "Thank you."

Take part of a day and walk or hike down a woodland path. Express your gratitude for the beauty of God's autumn creation. Take a minute each day to thank the people in your life who matter to you. Tell them you're thankful for them. Drop someone a note, place a short phone call or even text them! Telling people you're thankful for them will enrich your life as well as theirs.

Make a point to attend at least one Mass outside the regular weekend Masses. Going to Mass on Thanksgiving morning is an excellent way to enrich that holiday. As a community of faith, we know that giving glory to God in this way is an important aspect of our communal life of faith.

Transform the month of November into a month of Thanksgiving. If you do, you will find your celebration of Thanksgiving Day a more richer and fuller experience than you could have imagined. In fact, you might just discover that your overall happiness with life improves. May this month of Thanksgiving be a time when we not only say "Thank You" to God, family and neighbor, but a time when our hearts draw us much closer to the Lord.

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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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CONTACT

201 Main Street, Suite 1198
Fort Worth TX 76102-3101
www.advancementfoundation.org

Clint Weber

President and CEO

817-533-3171 cweber@adv-fdn.org

Renée Underwood, CFRE

Chief Development Officer

817-533-7242 runderwood@adv-fdn.org

Chris Chapman

Senior Director of Development

817-310-8368

cchapman@adv-fdn.org

Wendy Collins

Director of Stewardship &
Parish Relations

817-533-3178 wcollins@adv-fdn.org

Rachel Martinez, CFRE

Director of Annual Giving and Grants

817-382-4939 rmartinez@adv-fdn.org

Dianna Rhoads

Gift Processing Supervisor

817-533-3174

drhoads@adv-fdn.org

Graciela Garcia se habla Español

Gift Processing

817-533-3175 ggarcia@adv-fdn.org

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