

Feeding Our Faith



A Quarterly Publication by the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan

1st Quarter 2023





2023/2024 CCFMM Scholarships

College Scholarships

On January 6, 2023 the CCFMM closed the application window for the 2023/2024 College Scholarship process. These recipients will be announced in May. The Grants Committee will review the scholarship applications and submit their recommendations to the Board of Trustees for their review and approval.

Thank you to all those who have participated in the scholarship process.

We are grateful to offer these scholarships in support of higher education and Catholic school education.

Saint Joseph Society

The Lenten Retreat with Bishop Gruss will be held on March 18th and the Summer Mass and Picnic with Bishop Gruss will be held on August 8th. Be sure to keep an eye on the CCFMM website and Facebook page for updates. We look forward to another fruitful year.

CCFMM Second Annual Investment Forum



The CCFMM will host its second annual Investment Forum May 10 at the Horizon's Conference Center in Saginaw. Investment committee members and benefactors, grantees, and interested members of the public will have an opportunity to hear financial advisors from CAPTRUST who will focus on the Foundation's assets including investment performance and policies.

CCFMM sets its own asset allocation and investment strategies working with National Catholic Investment Pool consultants from CAPTRUST. CAPTRUST has been advising Catholic institutions for more than 36 years and consults to the largest number of archdioceses and dioceses in the nation from Maine to Alaska.

Representatives from Michigan Catholic Conference, administrators of the National Catholic Investment Pool for the past 15 years, also will be part of the program.

Kristin Smith, CCFMM executive director, said the forum is open to all investors and supporters. "We received positive feedback following our first forum last year, so we decided to make it an annual event," she said. "We want to give everyone an opportunity to hear an update about our investment strategies from our experts. There also will be time for a question and answer session."

Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. The event is free and will begin at noon.

To register for this free event visit our website at <https://ccfmm.org/events/>

Hopeful Future Scholarship had a successful 2022

Fundraiser Dinner planned for May 20, 2023 - Horizon's Conference Center

Four significant events have occurred since the Hopeful Future Scholarship was launched last year to support college students with unplanned pregnancies.

- The first two \$1,000 scholarship recipients have been named.
- The endowment fund, administered by CCFMM, has doubled from \$35,000 to \$70,000.
- The scholarship committee has worked with local pregnancy resources to use the scholarship to best meet the needs of the clients they serve.
- Plans are in the works to expand the scholarship to additional colleges within the Diocese of Saginaw.

And more work is underway.

A Hopeful Future Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner will be held Saturday, May 20 at the Horizon's Conference Center in Saginaw to benefit the endowment fund.

“Our goal is to help women, who have an unplanned pregnancy, become successful mothers and college students,” said Madison Velez, who co-founded The Hopeful Future Scholarship with SVSU graduate Matthew Bartels. The two proposed the scholarship in early 2021.

Madison said the dinner will provide an opportunity to thank donors, provide current information, and share plans for the future. “Our donors are so committed to the cause and have a lot of confidence in what we are doing,” she said. Planned



speakers for the event include Mary Kate Payne, a Catholic mother of three young children and Lori Drake, executive director of Life Clinic Community Resources.

Madison explained it is tragic that women have been told they will not be successful if they have an unplanned pregnancy, and their only option is to resort to violence in order to achieve their dreams. “Women deserve the opportunity to be successful as mothers and students,” she said.

Matthew said the recent passage of Proposal 3 during last November’s election awakened people to the evil of abortion in our own state and the need to act locally. The proposal amended Michigan’s Constitution to allow the unlimited right to abortion even after fetal viability. “We now have an opportunity to work on a local level, within our realm of control, to achieve our goal,” he said. “Women facing crisis pregnancies need to know that even though abortion remains an option, it is not the best or only option. We must ensure that mothers know they and their babies are loved and that there is an abundance of options and resources available.”

The scholarships are open to SVSU and Delta students. Applications are available year-round and scholarships can be awarded throughout the year as needed.

Madison clarified that they want to bridge partnerships with other pro-life organizations, not compete for resources. “We hope to shed light on a better option,” she said. “We want young moms to know that although it won’t be easy, we are committed to supporting them however we can, and that they are much stronger than they’re given credit for.”

Matthew said the CCFMM and Kristin Smith, its executive director, have been essential to the success of the endowment. “We could not have chosen a better organization to work with,” he said.

**The fundraiser dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.
To register for this free event visit our website at <https://ccfmm.org/events/>**

CCFMM Executive Director active in Catholic

You might see Kristin Smith cheering for the home team at a Catholic school varsity football game, hear her singing at a Sunday liturgy, or see her praying with others from around the diocese at First Friday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

If you attend the annual Michigan Catholic Women's Conference in Lansing each fall, you could spot her there as well, enjoying great speakers, musicians, and entertainment.

In October 2022, Kristin joined 1,000 other spirited women who came from dioceses all around the state to sing, pray, shop, and experience the fellowship of sisterhood in Christ Jesus.

"As executive director of the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan (CCFMM), it is important for me to be involved in the community," Kristin says. "I believe that attending local and state events is a valuable means of growing our faith community."



Kristin joins women from Michigan and out-of-state dioceses for a photo featuring the 2022 conference theme: For Such a Time as This.

From left to right: Amy Wisniewski, Erin Looby Carlson, Ann Schwarze, Joan Sampson, Mary Beth Looby, Meghan Looby Waintraub, and Kristin Smith.

events in local communities and around the state



According to Kristin, the Catholic Women's Conference provides fellowship as well as opportunities for reconciliation, prayer, and Mass.

"It is a great way to meet Catholic women from different walks of life, make new friendships and strengthen existing friendships," Kristin says. "I always walk away from this conference with a renewed sense of the wonder of our Catholic faith."

Kristin encourages diocesan women to save the date for this year's Michigan Catholic Women's Conference at the Lansing Center on October 21, 2023. It is a life-changing experience for many.

To purchase your ticket for this year be sure to check out the Michigan Catholic Women's Conference website at <https://michigancwc.org/>

Written by Mary Beth Looby



Kristin prays with Deacon Dan Medich and others as he blesses departing conference attendees.

CCFMM helps Midland students attend National

A group of Assumption Midland youth had a “Walk on Water” experience at the 2022 National Catholic Youth Conference last November in Long Beach, CA. The conference theme, inspired by the story of Jesus calling Peter to come out onto the water despite being in the eye of a storm (Matt 14:29), encouraged a group of high school-age youth from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary to step out of their boats to deepen their faith and trust in God.



The trip was funded in part by a grant from the St. John Neumann Fund, managed by the CCFMM.

In their own words, the participants reflected on the conference’s impact:

“I feel a lot closer to God and the people I came with. The speakers were all very good and I feel like I can love God more and show it better.”

“On the last day of the trip I went to confession and this changed me mentally and physically. The priest made me look at God in a greater picture in my life.”

Catholic Youth Conference in Long Beach, CA

"The nightly sessions were overflowing with jubilation for the Lord, the speakers were furious with passion and each day brought about a more mystically awesome revelation of the beauty of God."

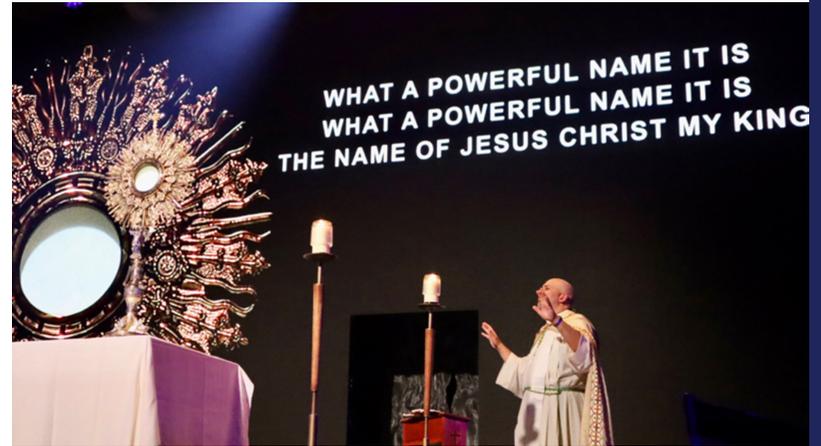
"Thanks to our parish for all of their support and fundraising. I really can't recommend this experience enough!"

Kathy Russell, director of Youth Ministry at Assumption, said the teens joined 2,600 other young Catholics from across the country during the three-day event. Takeaways included an emphasis on daily prayer, faith sharing, and building community.

"We are not in this boat alone," she said.

"We need friends who bring us closer to God and support us in our faith."

Written by Joan Ramm



Behind the Scenes

You may know the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan for the millions of dollars in scholarships and grants it disperses, but do you know the important role it also plays behind the scenes in our diocese?

For example, CCFMM supported the nearly 400 people who joined Bishop Gruss for a Prolife Rally and March from St. Mary's Cathedral to Holy Family Church on Friday, Jan. 22. It was cold, blowing, and snowing hard that entire morning, as it had at previous local marches. However, the marchers stayed warm in their "Michigan for Life" knit hats and were treated to refreshments after the rally, thanks to efforts of the diocesan Respect Life Office and CCFMM.

Afterwards, Holy Family Church had a full house to listen to the music of JAM (Jesus and Music) and the powerful words of an ecumenical group of area prolife priests/pastors. Students from several diocesan Catholic schools, adults, and even babies also visited displays from various Mid-Michigan prolife organizations. CCFMM provided logo tote bags for the valuable materials attendees took with them regarding support for mothers and babies.

The foundation was also there to provide assistance at the annual banquet to raise funds for seminarian education and vocations held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City last fall. CCFMM was happy to provide



Prolife supporters Drew Carlson, NCC 10th grade student and his mother, Erin Carlson, were among the hundreds that marched the distance to Holy Family Church in a blowing snowstorm Jan. 22.



meals for the 12 priests who had a good time serving guests and additional priests/band members who entertained. The foundation also provided goody bags and gifts for golfers at the Bishop's Golf Outing earlier that day.

With its strong commitment to our Catholic schools, CCFMM was pleased to contribute a centerpiece for the "Back to School" Mass and reception with Bishop Gruss at the Cathedral in October 2022. This event was an exciting way to kick-off the school year, as the church was packed with energetic students and their families from all around the diocese!

According to Kristin Smith, CCFMM executive director,

"The Foundation's focus is long-term financial support of parishes, Catholic schools, and diocesan ministries, but the Foundation remains active in the community by supporting everyday needs of the Saginaw diocese and its activities."



Father Pete Gaspeny, one of a dozen priests who served guests at the recent Fundraising Banquet for Seminarians, enjoyed a laugh with Ken Grembowski (left) and Paul Dombrowski (right).

Written by Joan Ramm and Mary Beth Looby

Prayers for Priests and Seminarians

In support of the priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Saginaw, the CCFMM has created monthly calendars dedicating each day to priests and or seminarians of our Diocese. The CCFMM welcomes prayers for clergy and vocations in the Diocese of Saginaw to further the mission of Bishop Robert Gruss and the Catholic Church.

The CCFMM posts current and past calendars to our website and our Facebook page. Please feel free to share these calendars with your friends and family!

Visit our website for each monthly calendar!

<https://ccfmm.org/pray-for-our-priests-and-seminarians/>

Looking for more ways to support our priests and seminarians? You can donate to an endowment!

The CCFMM has over 20 endowments in support of priests and seminarians. The CCFMM endowments have contributed \$1,437,045 towards seminarian education and development over the last 16 years and \$211,063 is expected to be disbursed in 2023. Currently endowed funds for seminarian education total more than \$4,855,800.

For a full list of endowments visit our website at <https://ccfmm.org/priest-and-seminarian-endowment-funds/>

CCFMM Catholic School Scholarships



The application deadline has been extended!

In January, the CCFMM launched the 2023/2024 Catholic School Scholarship program. To provide more opportunities to apply for these scholarships, the CCFMM has extended the deadline to go through April 30th.

If you know a child who desires to attend a Catholic Elementary or High School, please be sure to share these opportunities.

The CCFMM has more than 30 scholarships available for students to attend a Catholic School. There are 28 scholarships available for students looking to attend a Nouvel Catholic Central school and 3 scholarships for students looking to attend a Catholic School.

Last year the CCFMM awarded over \$30,000 in Catholic School Scholarships. We look forward to offering more opportunities to provide greater financial support for all students and families desiring to attend one of the great Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Saginaw.

Visit the CCFMM website for how to apply and more information on the available scholarships!

<https://ccfmm.org/catholic-school-scholarships/>

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Faithful Community,

Salt of the earth; light of the world. These words struck a chord with me as I sat in church recently and listened to the reading of Matthew's Gospel. I thought of all that the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan tries to accomplish through its numerous grants, scholarships, programs and outreach.

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, you will be updated on how the Hopeful Future Scholarship is helping pregnant mothers continue their college education. You will see how CCFMM is involved in the community, be it the March for Life, "Back to School Mass" for students at the Cathedral, or even the free annual Investment Forum we now host.

A favorite quote of mine from Bishop Robert Barron notes that "we are called to preserve everything that is good, true and beautiful." The CCFMM seeks to preserve what is good, true, and beautiful through the many ministries that benefit from the foundation endowments: seminarian education, lay ministry formation, and Catholic schools. All of these bring the light of Christ to parishes, the laity, and students in our Catholic schools and religious education programs. Truly our CCFMM benefactors are Salt of the Earth, preserving what is good, true, and beautiful – Jesus and the Kingdom of God.



Kristin Smith

Kristin Smith, Executive Director
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Helping People Help People!



The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan is a nonprofit organization that inspires faith-filled charitable giving and manages assets to provide perpetual funding for Catholic parishes, schools, ministries, and nonprofit organizations in the Diocese of Saginaw community long into the future.

The CCFMM receives, grows, and distributes funds on behalf of our donors. We offer donors a personal and highly effective investment vehicle completely in line with Catholic values; the finest professional stewardship of those funds; optimal tax benefits; and the opportunity to create meaningful and lasting legacies through generous and responsible giving to the community.

Please call us anytime!

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Mission

*We encourage faithful giving that is responsibly managed
and reflective of the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

Catholic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF MID-MICHIGAN

