

# Feeding Our Faith



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



1st Quarter 2022



## Stay Tuned!

Coming this May the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan will be hosting an Investment Forum. This event will be an opportunity to meet our investment managers from CAPTRUST, hear about how CCFMM endowed funds are invested and their performance merits. The event will be held at the Horizons Conference Center on May 11th from noon until 2 p.m. with lunch being served. To register for this free event visit our website at [www.ccfmm.org](http://www.ccfmm.org).

## Meet our CAPTRUST Management Team!

Heidi Spencer is a senior financial advisor and relationship manager for Catholic and institutional clients assisting in the oversight of clients' investment programs. Her contributory knowledge of internal processes combined with the team of professionals at CAPTRUST provide personalized and effective client service. Learn more about our team and CAPTRUST at their website [www.captrust.com/captrust-religious-services/](http://www.captrust.com/captrust-religious-services/).

## New Phone Numbers

The CCFMM began the New Year with a new phone number! The new main number for the Foundation is \* 989.303.9200. To contact each staff member at their new extension, look to our Staff Page in this newsletter.

# Welcome New CCFMM Board Members



**Mark Bassett**

Mark was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but was raised in Hawaii. Mark and his family attend Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Midland, Michigan. Recently retiring as Chairman & CEO of Hemlock Semiconductor, Mark currently is a member of the Board of Directors of Covenant Hospital.



**Dennis Day**

Dennis is a retired shareholder from the practice of Law at Plunkett Cooney P.C. He lives eight months a year in Pointe Aux Barques Township near Port Austin, Michigan. The remaining four months of the year he lives in Sonoma, California. He attends Annunciation of The Lord Parish in Kinde, Michigan.



**Nancy Schultz**

Nancy is the Business Manager at St. Mary's Catholic School and Nativity of the Lord Parish in Alma, Michigan. She has been with the school and parish for over seven years. She is from Chesaning, Michigan and she and her husband, Alan, are members of St. Michael's Parish, Maple Grove.

*We are filled with joy and excitement for what God has in store for the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan this year!*

# Hopeful Future Scholarship launches with gifts

Dedication to protecting life and generous donations have given birth to a new endowment to fund college scholarships for women who are pregnant or new mothers.

The Hopeful Future Scholarship will help pay tuition and other school-related expenses thereby encouraging pregnant women to continue their education at Saginaw Valley State University or Delta College. Already the endowment has grown to \$50,000 with funds from more than 50 donors including individuals, parishes and organizations including the Knights of Columbus.

Michael Marsden, of Saginaw Township, made an early generous \$20,000 donation for the endowment in memory of his wife Helen, who died Nov. 16, 2020 at the age of 72. She was well known in Saginaw for her pro-life volunteer work and was honored by President George W. Bush in 2008 as Michigan's only recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement.



Michael and Helen Marsden

*“Helen was a life saver,” said Michael, describing his wife. “She spent four or five days a week volunteering at the Abortion Alternatives Information facility in Saginaw, working with clients, coordinating services and organizing donations and supplies.”*

# from Pro-Life Donors



Helen and her husband also prayed outside the abortion clinic in Saginaw reassuring women that there were resources available to help them keep their child.

*“She was no different than a firefighter rushing in to save a child from a burning building,” Michael said. “She saved babies. I always think of her as a hero.”*

After his wife died, Michael, who is a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Thomas Township, was looking for a way to keep her memory alive. “This scholarship fell right in line with what Helen worked for her whole life,” he said.

SVSU students, who proposed the scholarship and initiated the drive to fund it, said the project addressed a long-time criticism of the pro-life movement — not supporting mothers after they gave birth. “Starting this scholarship is a way to help new mothers finish their education,” said Matthew Bartels, a past president of Protect Life SVSU, who organized the effort with Madison Velez, another SVSU student. “It is a way to take action. It also provides tangible hope and support to mothers and children both born and unborn.”

Madison said young women are ridiculed today if they keep their babies.

*“Unfortunately, abortion is acceptable in our culture,” she said.  
“Our goal is to reach people and change their hearts.”*

# Hopeful Future Scholarship launches with gifts

The endowment was set up last summer after several meetings with Michael, the student organizers, the Knights of Columbus, the Diocese of Saginaw, and Kristin Smith, executive director of CCFMM. “You could tell the Holy Spirit was at work during the meeting,” Kristin said. “All things came together.”

The deadline for the first round of grant applications is expected to be June with disbursements for the fall of 2022 semester. The minimum \$1,000 scholarships can be renewed one time. Matthew said future plans are to include all 10 colleges in the Saginaw Diocese.

Michael said that Helen’s Presidential Award recognized her more than 4,000 hours of volunteer work. She was honored in a ceremony at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in the White House compound on September 19, 2008. Helen was one of 20 volunteers from across the United States to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award during that ceremony.

In her nomination letter she was credited with keeping Abortion Alternatives Inc. afloat in Saginaw for nearly two years when the agency lacked leadership and was in danger of closing. “I believe without Helen’s commitment and willingness to do anything to keep AAI afloat, our agency might not exist,” wrote Sandy Buza, the AAI director who nominated her.



Matthew Bartels (left), Kristin Smith,  
Mike Marsden, Madison Velez

## from Pro-Life Donors cont.



Michael said that his wife suffered from Crohn's disease for 50 years. "Although she had 65 surgeries in her lifetime, that did not diminish her enthusiasm for the pro-life cause." He added that when she was not volunteering at the center, she was knitting and crocheting baby blankets and educating new mothers. She also served as the chairperson of the Christian Service Commission at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Charles in the 1980s.

*"She was a real trooper," Michael said of his wife of 49 years. "I am so proud of her."*

*Written by Joan Ramm*

## *Inspired To Give? Here's How!*

### **By our website:**

Go to [www.ccfmm.org](http://www.ccfmm.org) and click on our donate button  
Search "The Hopeful Future Scholarship"

### **By mail:**

Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan  
Hopeful Future Scholarship  
5800 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603

*Please feel free to contact us at our new phone number 989.303.9200  
with any questions you may have!*

# Hopeful Future Scholarship Celebrated: Empowering,

In what was a fitting way to close out the Saginaw Catholic Diocese's "9 Days for Life" prayer campaign, a new scholarship for pregnant college students was celebrated at a reception following the concluding Mass for "9 Days for Life" at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption on January 29.

The Hopeful Future Scholarship is the fruit of prayer, planning and dedication to the pro-life cause by Saginaw Valley State University student Madison Velez and SVSU alumnus Matt Bartels. The two believe the idea to provide scholarships for pregnant students in need was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In his homily at the concluding Mass for "9 Days for Life," Bishop Robert Gruss praised the phenomenal work of pro-life organizations and the growing pro-life commitment of young people like Madison and Matt.

The Hopeful Future Scholarship celebration was attended by 80 people. It began with a welcome and introduction by Jenny Abbott from Michigan Protect Life. Madison and Matt followed with background on Protect Life SVSU. The Knights of Columbus organization was represented by Barry Borsenik, who affirmed the K of C's commitment to the sacredness of life and to helping with the Hopeful Future Scholarship selection process. Kristin Smith, executive director of CCFMM, led a question/answer session to conclude the program.

**Those wishing to learn more about the Hopeful Future Scholarship or make a donation may contact Kristin Smith directly at 989.599.0079 or [kristin.smith@ccfmm.org](mailto:kristin.smith@ccfmm.org).**

*Written by Mary Beth Looby*

# Equipping and Supporting Mothers and Babies



# Stewardship: Giving from the Heart



We introduced the four areas of stewardship in our 2021 newsletters and elaborated on being Disciples as Stewards in our 3rd quarter edition. In this issue we focus on being Stewards of Creation.

## What does it mean to be a steward of creation?

It means that God created the world, but entrusted it to human beings.

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

*Source: Care for Creation by the USCCB*

God's creation is a gift and humans are stewards of this gift. As Catholics, we believe that the earth and the entire web of life is a gift, created and found "very good" by God. The web of life is one, and our mistreatment of it diminishes our own dignity and sacredness. Humans are called to be stewards to God's creation, safeguarding the created world and by our creative work, even enhancing it. But we must remember that we are "co-workers" with God, called to care for and protect the world; we are not to take the place of God.

*Source: Corresponding paragraphs in Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 World Day of Peace Message: 2, 6, 10, and 12*

It is important to ask ourselves daily, "God, how do you want me to care for your creation today?"

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## Prayer to become Stewards of God's Creation

### Creator God,

As we feast our eyes on autumn reds and yellows, we sense your creative power. As we marvel at the uniqueness of each winter flake, we rejoice that you know us each by name. As we hear the songs of birds of spring, we yearn to sing your praises. As we breathe the delicious scents of summer flowers, our souls rest in your love.

### Forgiving God,

We have not lived out our responsibility to be faithful stewards of creation. For this, we seek your pardon. Our over consumption has impacted the poorest members of our human family most of all. For this, we ask your mercy. Our actions have endangered both the lives of our children today as well as those yet to be born. For this, we seek your forgiveness.

### Living God,

As we meet you in nature, inspire us to see anew our place in the web of life. In our daily lives, help us to make daily choices that reflect global solidarity. As we reflect on the teaching of our faith, equip us to advocate for laws and policies that reflect your call to faithful stewardship. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

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# The Saint Joseph Society

of the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan

In 2021, the CCFMM established the Saint Joseph Society (SJS), which was introduced in our Q4 15th Anniversary Edition of *Feeding Our Faith* Newsletter. Since its inception, the SJS has received over \$33,900 in donations.

The SJS evangelization efforts have resulted in the distribution of 124 Bibles to 6th graders at four participating Catholic schools. All Catholic schools have been invited to participate in the SJS program. Soon the SJS will expand to all parish religious education programs for 6th graders.

We are also starting to plan the annual Giving Level Events! Donors at various giving levels are invited to participate in events with Bishop Robert Gruss. Events available are the Summer Picnic and Annual Mass on July 26, 2022, the Lenten Retreat on March 26, 2022, and a Dinner with Bishop Robert Gruss!

Please see the CCFMM website for details: [www.ccfmm.org/st-joseph-society/](http://www.ccfmm.org/st-joseph-society/)

The link above provides more information about the SJS and it also displays stories as well as the beautiful thank you letters and cards we received from each 6th grader.

*We invite you to join the Saint Joseph Society, make a difference in the life of a 6th grade student's relationship with Jesus, attend faith community events with Bishop Gruss and help fund the current and future operations of the CCFMM.*

*Thank you.*

## For direct gifts to existing endowments:

Go to [www.ccfmm.org](http://www.ccfmm.org)

Click on our donate button and choose a category or favorite endowment.



## Inspired to give spontaneously?

Become a member  
of the *St. Joseph Society!*  
Use this QR code to be taken  
directly to our donate page.



## We are ready to assist you in planning your gift to the church!



5800 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603



989.303.9200



[ccfmm@ccfmm.org](mailto:ccfmm@ccfmm.org)

Be sure to find us on social media!



# Letter from the President



By way of introduction, my name is Mike Wolohan and it is my privilege to currently serve as President of the CCFMM Board of Trustees. The CCFMM Executive Director, staff, Board of Trustees and volunteers are excited about recent CCFMM innovations and opportunities.

The Hopeful Future Scholarship highlighted in this issue supports Delta and Saginaw Valley State University students challenged with crisis pregnancies. The goal is to help young women to welcome their baby as well as continue with their education. This effort was started by Matt Bartels and Madison Velez, Protect Life SVSU Leadership. The CCFMM and the Knights of Columbus are happy to be a part of this great initiative.

We also are delighted to welcome our new CCFMM Board Members this year: Nancy Schultz, Dennis Day, and Mark Bassett. These individuals are multi-talented and we look forward to working with them. In the spring of 2022, the CCFMM plans to host an event for the community to provide information and opportunities about how the CCFMM can help members of our faith community fulfill their Catholic philanthropic goals and aspirations. We look forward to continuing our support of Bishop Gruss, the Diocese of Saginaw, parishes and their extensive Catholic Ministries.

We are dedicated to serving you and our entire faith community. We wish you a joyful, peaceful, happy and healthy 2022!



Sincerely,

Mike Wolohan, President

989.799.5557

# Thank You



## Helping People Help People!

We hope you enjoyed the tenth edition of Feeding Our Faith, a quarterly publication by the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan. New stories and endowments are featured monthly.

## Mission Statement

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

## Check out the CCFMM Staff's new phone extensions!

Kristin Smith <i>Executive Director</i> 989.303.9201	Connor Rabine <i>Communications Coordinator</i> 989.303.9202	Michele Driver <i>Endowment Coordinator</i> 989.303.9203
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*Ex Officio*

*Joyous Giving in Jesus  
Forever supporting the needs of God's people.*

**Catholic**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF MID-MICHIGAN

