



Feeding Our Faith



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

4th Quarter 2022





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the CCFMM

This newsletter marks four years since the inception of *Feeding Our Faith*. The CCFMM Board of Trustees and Staff would like to thank all of our readers and donors for your continued support of the Foundation and this newsletter. May the Lord bless you and your families this Advent and Christmas season and into the New Year.

Holiday Hours

The CCFMM offices will be closed Monday, December 26th through January 1st. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Executive Director Kristin Smith at 989.599.0079.

New CCFMM Office Location

The CCFMM has moved one story higher! Offices are now located on the third floor of the Saginaw Diocese building at 5800 Weiss Street. Please feel free to stop by and visit us! Our offices are right off the third floor elevator.

Thank you to Our Board Members



In March of 2023 we will be saying farewell to four of our valued Board Members. We are filled with gratitude for the years of dedication and service that these Board Members have generously given to the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan.



Michael Wolohan

Michael began his first term as a Trustee in 2014. He was a member of the Executive, Investment and Development Committees. Mike served as President from 2021 until March of 2023 and will continue as Past President in 2023.



Michael Shabluk

Michael began his first term as a Trustee in 2016. He was a member of the Executive and Governance Committees. He also served as President from 2019-2020 and Past President from 2021 until March of 2023.



Sarah Ostahowski

Sarah began her first term as a Trustee in 2017. She was a member of the Governance Committee from 2019 until March of 2023.

Stewardship: Giving from the Heart



“As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

- USCCB

A Steward’s Way

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that “all things work for good for those who love God” (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

The Spirit shows us the way. Stewardship is a part of that journey.

Source: To Be a Christian Steward: A Summary of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship by the USCCB

December Grants and Designated Distributions

Every year the CCFMM distributes funds from designated endowments to the Diocese of Saginaw, the Foundation, and Teachers' Salaries. It also opens windows for grant applications. This December the CCFMM plans to distribute over \$390,000. Below is the summary of these distributions.

Grant Distributions:

The Bishop Kenneth E. Untener Catholic School Education Fund disbursed over \$93,000 in grants.

The Geraldine Kuligowski and Karen Tyler Memorial Fund disbursed over \$1,000 in grants.

The Koncavich Memorial Fund disbursed over \$26,000 in grants.

The Reverend Noel T. Rudy Fund disbursed over \$2,300 in grants.

The St. John Neumann Fund disbursed over \$3,000 in grants.

The St. Mary Medical Center Catholic School Education Fund disbursed over \$4,000 in grants.

The William P. & L. Marjorie Falsey Memorial Fund disbursed over \$6,000 in grants.

Designated Distributions:

Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan received over \$1,500 in disbursements.

Diocese of Saginaw received over \$220,000 in disbursements.

Teachers' Salaries received over \$40,000 in disbursements.

CCFMM Fund Memorializes Sr. Roberta Kolasa,

Founded shortly after Vatican II, the Lay Ministry Program of the Saginaw Catholic Diocese was on the cutting edge. The program, started in 1978 by Bishop Francis F. Reh, Sr. Roberta Kolasa, and a group of priests from the Saginaw Catholic Diocese, would commission 500 lay ministers within its first twenty-five years.

One of the co-founders of the Lay Ministry Program, Sr. Roberta, SJ, was an alumnus of the Catholic Schools of the Saginaw Diocese, a Felician sister, a beloved teacher and theologian, and a woman proud of her Polish heritage. Those who were part of her lay ministry program speak of her with only the highest regard.

Sister Roberta graduated from Saginaw's Holy Rosary High School in 1956 and was class valedictorian. Her father was born in Poland and her mother was from a Polish district in Chicago. Right after high school graduation, she entered the Felician Sisters' Convent in Livonia and received a BA from Madonna College. She taught at Saint Christopher School in Bridgeport, where she shared her Polish heritage with her students,

Seniors

MOTTO: Trust God and You'll Never Walk Alone.

PATRON: St. Joan of Arc
COLORS: Blue and Silver
FLOWER: Lily-of-the-valley.



Roberta A. Kolasa
Holy Rosary
Sodality Member 1, 2, 3, 4
Sodality Delegate 3
Choral Club 1, 2, 3, 4
Honor Student 1, 2, 3, 4
Beacon Staff 3, 4
Rosarian Staff 4
Student Council 3
Cheerleader 3

Beloved Co-Founder of the Lay Ministry Program

teaching them Polish dancing with authentic Polish costumes. Sr. Roberta studied in Rome during Vatican II. Later, in the 1970s, she became a Servant of Jesus sister, SJ. In 1978 she was called on to help develop the lay ministry in the Saginaw Diocese, and in 1979 she was appointed the first director for the new program. She continued to be involved until her death.

Sr. Jo Gaugier, OP, a close friend of Sr. Roberta and lay ministry team member, came to the Saginaw Diocese in 1983. The two worked closely together and were co-coordinators of the program.

“Sr. Roberta was very committed and dedicated to helping people develop their spiritual life. She had a master’s degree from Santa Maria College for religious sisters in Rome and a second master’s in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University.”

According to Sr. Jo, some of the areas lay ministers have been involved in include the following: Adult faith formation; Annulment Advocacy; Baptismal preparation; BeFriender leader/ministry; Catechetical ministry; Children’s liturgy; Engaged: couple to couple; Funeral Vigil presiding; Grief recovery; Homebound and nursing home ministry; Hospitality for new members; Jail ministry; Liturgy planning; Marriage ministry; Outreach to the Poor; Pastoral associate; Worship service outside of Mass; and youth ministers. After more than four decades of lay ministry in the Saginaw Catholic Diocese, Sr. Jo enthusiastically adds that there are

CCFMM Fund Memorializes Sr. Roberta Kolasa,

still more lay ministers/more ministries yet to be named! She also believes that “informed/formed lay ministers serve beyond Church (Ecclesia) and also in the World: family, society and workplace.”

Another member of the lay ministry team, Carole Watters, describes the four-year program begun by Sr. Roberta as a complete program. She says it changed people spiritually and emotionally.

As a close friend and lay ministry team member, Carole adds that Sr. Jo and Sr. Roberta were great sparring buddies. Sr. Roberta was a loyal University of Michigan football fan while her colleague in the Lay Ministry Program, Sr. Jo, born in Lansing, was a staunch Michigan State University Spartan fan. While these two women worked closely together in lay ministry, they were on opposite sides when it came to gridiron action in the state. One rooted for the Maize and Blue while the other was all “Go Green!”

Now, over 40 years later, Sr. Roberta P. Kolasa is remembered for her significant role and her many contributions since being named Coordinator of Deacon-Lay Ministry Formation in 1978. Sr. Roberta was recognized with the National Association of Lay Ministers Award and also inducted into the Saginaw Catholic Schools Hall of Fame.

Sr. Roberta passed away September 25, 2013. She was loved and revered by all those in the Lay Ministry Program. Many were touched by her life, including her friend and lay ministry team member Carole Watters, who established The Sr. Roberta Kolasa Endowment for Lay Ministry in 2013 with the CCFMM. The fund

Beloved Co-Founder of the Lay Ministry Program

was created as a lasting memorial to Sr. Roberta for unwavering devotion to her Catholic faith and her love and support for the Lay Ministry Program.

“Sr. Roberta’s commitment and dedication to helping lay ministry formation helps people in our community walk with Christ and will continue to do so through the endowment established in her memory,” said Kristin Smith, Executive Director of the CCFMM.

Written by Mary Beth Looby

With the 10th Anniversary of St. Roberta’s death coming in September 2023, CCFMM encourages contributions to the Lay Ministry Program in Sr. Roberta’s name.

By mail:

*Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan
Sr. Kolasa Endowment for Lay Ministry
5800 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603*

By our website:

*Visit www.ccfmm.org and click the donate button
Search “Sr. Kolasa Endowment for Lay Ministry”*

IRA Giving - A Gift that Keeps on Giving

With your IRA charitable rollover gift you can support the work of the CCFMM and enjoy valuable tax benefits by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the CCFMM. Even better, your gift may count toward your required minimum distribution for the year.

What are the Benefits of an IRA Gift?

Reduce your Taxable Income!

If you make a QCD, you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount of your rollover gift. That's a real tax advantage for a charitably minded IRA owner who does not need the required distribution to live on, and does not want to pay income taxes on required IRA distributions.

Enjoy Charitable Gift Benefits!

If you no longer itemize your deductions, you can still benefit from the reduction in income and resultant tax savings through an IRA rollover gift.

What are the requirements to give?

1. Donors must be age 70 ½ or older on the date of the gift.
2. Up to \$100,000 may be given annually.
3. Only funds in traditional and Roth IRAs are eligible. QCDs are not allowed from inherited IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, or other qualified retirement plans. However, some people may be able to roll assets from such a plan into a traditional IRA and then make QCD.
4. Any IRA owner, including those too young to make QCDs, can designate the CCFMM to receive all or a portion of an IRA at death, thereby avoiding the tax on income.

A Great Source for Major Gifts!



If you wish to make a larger gift to the CCFMM, you can make that gift from your IRA rather than tapping into your cash accounts this year.

Ready to make a gift from your IRA?

It's easy, just follow these steps!

1. **Contact** your IRA administrator to request a distribution check payable to:

**Catholic Community Foundation of
Mid-Michigan**

2. **Notify** the CCFMM of your name, address, phone number, email, and gift designated endowment to ensure the proper use of your gift. You may also share that information with your IRA administrator.

3. **Send** your check to:

**Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan
5800 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48603**

**Contact Kristin Smith,
Executive Director, with any questions or
to help get you started at
989.303.9201 or kristin.smith@ccfmm.org**

CCFMM College Scholarships



In October, the CCFMM launched the College Scholarship opportunities!

Visit the CCFMM website for information on how to apply, deadlines and additional scholarship information!

<https://ccfmm.org/collegescholarships/>

General Student Scholarships

Anthony & Elizabeth Brenske Memorial Scholarship

Cyril William Brenske Memorial Scholarship

Edward & Marie Abele Memorial Scholarship

Fr. Robert G. Navarre College Scholarship

Joshua Robert Jasman Advised Scholarship

LeFevre & Rokita Families Advised Scholarship

Regina Graveline Family Advised Scholarship

All Saints Central School Student Scholarship

Lori Stillwell Memorial Scholarship

Nouvel Catholic Central School Student Scholarships

Berberovich Memorial Scholarship – *Parish Specific*

Bob Logan Memorial Scholarship

Cesario Hernandez Memorial Advised Scholarship

Craig Siler Scholarship

Fr. E. C. LeFevre College Scholarship

Larry J. Oswald Memorial Scholarship

Maria Elizabeth Paquette Memorial Scholarship

Northwest Kiwanis Scholarship

Patrick Ackerman Scholarship

Scott Dangel Scholarship

Shannan Marie Thompson Memorial Scholarship

St. Thomas Aquinas Slominski Scholarship

Rod Luplow Memorial Scholarship

Timothy Horny Nouvel Baseball Scholarship

Val and Julie Kostrzewa Nouvel Scholarship

CCFMM Catholic School Scholarships



In January, the CCFMM plans to launch the Catholic School Scholarship opportunities!

Visit the CCFMM website for how to apply, deadlines and additional scholarship information!

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

General Catholic School Student Scholarships

Catholic School Scholarship
Jane M. Meeker Scholarship
Val and Julie Kostrzewa Scholarship

Nouvel Catholic Central School Student Scholarships

Aarol (Bud) and Elaine
Irish Scholarship

Barbara Shaffran Scholarship

Cox/Bongreen Scholarship

Dan and Arlene Kunitzer

Memorial Scholarship

Francis R. Reh Memorial Scholarship

Holy Spirit of Christ Scholarship in
honor of Philip C. Richards

Holy Spirit of Christ Scholarship in
honor of Dick and Angela Wolohan

John Andrew Heinen Memorial Scholarship

Kate and Dan Zielinski Scholarship

Lilian and Harold

Wagner Scholarship

Marguerite L. Jochen

Memorial Scholarship

Marsha Porath Advised Scholarship

Martin Gembrowski Family

Advised Scholarship

Michael S. Leahy Scholarship

Nansen J. DiMerurio Scholarship

Osthelder Foundation Scholarship

Reverend Michael J. Bell

Memorial Scholarship

Rose Watson Scholarship

Saginaw County League of Catholic
Women Scholarship

Shannan Marie Thompson

Memorial Scholarship

Smith Family Advised Scholarship

Smith Family Scholarship

Sr. Alan Thomas Scholarship

Henry Penzkofer Scholarship

Stanley J. Devoir Scholarship

Student Financial Aid Scholarship

Timothy C. McInerney Scholarship

Thomas F. James Memorial

Leadership Award Scholarship

Nativities around the Diocese of Saginaw



During Advent, we await the birth of our Savior in a humble stable by displaying Nativity sets in our churches and homes. To honor this Catholic tradition, first enacted by St. Francis in 1223, CCFMM began featuring church Nativities from the Saginaw Catholic Diocese on our website and Facebook page in 2020.

We invite you to email us photo(s) of your church's Nativity or your own family's Nativity to Connor Rabine at connor.rabine@ccfmm.org. Be sure to include your name, any details about the history of your Nativity including its age, how it was made or where it came from. We will feature the photos on our Facebook posts this holiday season.

Bless your family's Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or Nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

If you would like to bless your Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene visit the U.S.C.C.B website at <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-christmas-manger-or-nativity-scene>

Enjoy these previously submitted parish Nativity Scenes!

Visit our website to read about each parish's Nativity scene shown here at

<https://ccfmm.org/ccfmm-nativity-gallery/>



Ave Maria Parish



Blessed Trinity Church



Holy Family Church



St. Agnes Parish



St. Mary's Cathedral

Christmas Prayer and Reflection

Lord,
in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter,
we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us:
for shining star and angel's song,
for infant's cry in lowly manger.

We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child.
We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas,
the incomprehensible comprehended,
the poetry made hard fact,
the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder.

We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen.
Help us to rise bigger than we are.
Amen.

Eucharistic Revival 2022-2025



Renew your encounter with the Risen Lord!

On this year's Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we are reminded that Christ wants nothing more than to be united with us and invites us into the mystery that his passion, death, and resurrection have revealed to us: that God gave His only Beloved Son for our salvation, so that we might have the promise of eternal life. Therefore, please come ... and renew your encounter with the Risen Lord!

Over the course of the next couple of years, we encourage you to encounter the Risen Christ in all the ways he is present to us in the Eucharistic Liturgy ("Mass"): the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ; the assembly of God's holy people; the sacred Word of God proclaimed; and the bishop or priest-celebrant. Keep an eye out for the many ways during our diocesan-wide Eucharistic Revival that you can deepen your relationship with the Risen Christ, be encouraged to grow in faith with other faithful Catholics, bear witness to the Risen Lord, and be strengthened to serve Him where you find yourself.

Stay up to date with the Eucharistic Revival events and celebrations throughout the Diocese of Saginaw by following our website posting on this page at:

www.saginaw.org/eucharistic-revival

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, embolden me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Never permit me to be parted from you.

At the hour of death call me and
bid me come to you.

That with your Saints I may praise you

For age upon age.

Amen

Letter from the President



Greetings Everyone!

A powerful message for our young people and for all of us is this: “In a world where you can be anything you want to be.....be kind.”

Mother Teresa said : “Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless.”

She also expressed: “Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness.”

We have all hopefully experienced the power of the kind word. Every time someone offers a word of encouragement, affirmation, or support this is an act of kindness. Particularly during difficult times when we are facing illness, job troubles, or the death of a loved one, a kind word can lift our spirits and make all the difference.

As Thanksgiving and the Advent and Christmas seasons fast approach, let us be generous with our intentional kind words, which cost nothing but have value beyond measure.

May God Bless you and your loved ones during this beautiful and holy time of year!

Thank you for all of your acts of kindness in our faith community!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Wolohan".

Mike Wolohan, President
989.799.5557

Helping People Help People!



The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan (CCFMM) 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!

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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Mission

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

Catholic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF MID-MICHIGAN

