

Feeding Our Faith



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



1st Quarter 2021

Thank you to Parish Priests and Staff Members

This beautiful Christmas cactus was a gift to Saginaw Diocesan priests and parish staff members from the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan (CCFMM), at a special 2019 thank-you luncheon at Apple Mountain. In 2020, due to COVID, CCFMM Executive Director Kristin Smith was unable to host a luncheon or gift the Christmas cactuses to those who so lovingly serve our parishes.

As an alternative to the luncheon and plants, the Catholic Community Foundation mailed Visa gift cards to the priests and staff members of each parish, in hopes they might use the funds for something needed in the office or even a treat!



Faith Magazine

Thank you to the Diocese of Saginaw, for offering a page in each edition of the *FAITH Saginaw* magazine for the CCFMM to share our mission and vision with a broader audience!

BIG Raffle 2021 Cancellation

It is with a heavy heart that the CCFMM made the decision to cancel the BIG Raffle Event for 2021. Given the “hands-on” nature of the raffle and managing the event safely, the decision has been made to cancel this year’s event. The raffle event cancellation is in line with the example of numerous major raffle events state and nationwide to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

2021 Board of Trustees and Committee Meeting Dates

To view the meeting dates for 2021 please visit our website at www.ccfmm.org.

Welcome New Board Members!



Let us welcome all of our new board members of 2020 and 2021!

Since March of 2020 the CCFMM has added 11 new members to the Board.

We are filled with joy and excitement for what God has in store for the Foundation this year!

Maureen Becker

Thomas Gross

Mark Bassett

Mike Leen

Ruth Buko

Sister Maria Inviolata

Bridget Staffileno

Rick Warner

Erin Ludwig

Robert Sasiela

Steve Wilkowski

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:35

Kathleen Leikert's Legacy Lives On



Kathleen Mary Leikert was 100 percent Irish and she loved St. James Church and School in Bay City. Kathleen was baptized at St. James, went to school there, raised her family there and sent her five children there.

St. James was well-known in Bay City as the “Irish church and school” and Kathleen embraced both as she did her Irish heritage.

“The church and school were always a priority to her,” said Nancy Kunitzer, Kathleen’s oldest child. “She had a strong connection there from the time she was born. She loved St. James and she loved being Irish.”

Since her death January 16, 2020 at the age of 96, Kathleen’s dedication to supporting St. James was extended beyond her lifetime. She left her estate to The Bay Area Catholic Schools Endowment Fund for All Saints Catholic Elementary School (formerly St. James Catholic Elementary School).

Nancy said that her mother was a life-long supporter and donor to the church, its altar society and the school. “Her generosity was not surprising,” Nancy said. “She was raised to know that the church and school always needed money.”

Lisa Rhodus, Principal of All Saints Elementary School, said the endowment will give





more students an opportunity to experience an education in an environment where they can be themselves, guided by Catholic teachings and standards. “We will use the annual endowment to support students who need help with tuition expenses,” Lisa said. “We also will use it for technology and other learning materials to enhance the educational experiences at our school.”

Sister Julie Gatza, a former Principal at All Saints who taught several of Kathleen’s children, said she was a true Irish Catholic. “Kathleen was devoted to the church, priests, sisters, loved her children and raised them well. “It’s clear that she was thinking about us for a long time,” the former Principal added.

Nancy remembers St. Patrick’s Day as her mother’s favorite holiday of the year. “We had special Irish pins that we wore on our school uniforms each St. Patrick’s Day,” she said adding that their house was on the parade route of the annual Bay City St. Patrick’s Day Parade. My grandfather came right from Ireland so anything Irish always was stressed.”

Nancy said her mother’s devotion to All Saints School also influenced her and her four siblings when they sold their mother’s home. “We found a closet stocked with supplies left over from our school days,” she said.

“It didn’t take us long to figure out what to do with them. We knew she would want us to donate them to All Saints Elementary School.”

Written by Joan Ramm

Thankful for Our Founding Board Members



Archbishop Robert J. Carlson
5th Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw



Richard Dolinski



James Fabiano II



Paul Furlo



† Fr. James Heller



Fred Horak



Lucy Horak



Peter Kirchman



Fr. Randy Kelly

When Bishop Robert Carlson, a man of vision and foresight, arrived at the Saginaw Catholic Diocese in 2005, he saw the need for a Catholic Foundation, one that would make wise investments in line with the values and principles of the Catholic Church. He called together 18 men and women of the diocese to establish what would become the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan (CCFMM). As CCFMM celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2021, it's a good time to acknowledge the work and dedication of the original 18 foundation Board Members.

One of those 18 was Bob Looby, who says, "I was totally honored when Bishop Carlson asked me to serve as chairman of the board for the new foundation." Looby, a CPA for more than 40 years, remembers the early challenges of establishing CCFMM—especially the time-consuming duties of putting together basics such as bylaws and operational items.

According to Looby, fellow board members Brian Buckingham, Saginaw Diocesan CFO; Lucy Horak, Vice Chair; attorney Tom Moran; Deacon Al Oliver; and Sr. Mary Judith, RSM, Saginaw Diocesan Chancellor,



† Leonard LeFevre



Robert Looby



Debra Lutz



Thomas Moran



Bill Myler Jr.



Deacon Al Oliver



Patricia Shaheen



James Van Tiflin



Jim Wolohan



Leroy Wurst

worked with him to manage paperwork and legalities. In addition, it took Looby and Board member/attorney Fr. Randy Kelly five to six months to conduct interviews for an executive director.

In 2006 the foundation started with about 70 funds, as all the Catholic schools and several churches had their own investment funds that were brought into CCFMM. Today that number has more than tripled. CCFMM has 254 funds and assets of \$34 million. Since its inception in 2006, the foundation has been “helping people help others” through gifts that serve programs and ministries throughout the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw and beyond.

Looby, still very involved with and dedicated to CCFMM, states that without Archbishop Carlson’s driving force and vision, the foundation never would have been set up. He also credits Archbishop Carlson with bringing in many of the first donors. “I am proud of what was started and the growth of CCFMM. We are more well known now, and helping many, many more people than 15 years ago,” states Looby.”

Thank you to Archbishop Carlson and the founders of the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan for all you set in place 15 years ago!

Written by Mary Beth Looby

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

In 2006, under the leadership of Bishop Carlson and the 18 founding board members, 70 parishes and schools created endowments with the CCFMM. The endowments were created as part of an important strategy to set aside funds for the future. Setting aside funds in an endowment can be a hallmark of the financial stability of a parish, school or ministry.

An Endowment is an investment that is set up as a permanent fund for the purpose of long-term return. The principle of the fund is not touched. Part of the earned interest is used for the purpose of the fund, while the rest is reinvested into the principle to allow the fund to grow. When an endowment is created there is a guiding document of donor intent – that establishes the endowment purpose and restrictions of how disbursements of 4% from the endowment are to be used. The CCFMM Board of Trustees is responsible for the strict compliance with the endowment purpose and restrictions. The CCFMM Board is also responsible for encouraging faithful giving that is responsibly managed and reflective of the teachings of Jesus Christ.



Since 2006, the CCFMM has helped create an additional 223 endowments for the parishes, schools, and Diocesan ministries. We are here to help guide you with your planned and legacy giving to an existing endowment or a new endowment in memory of, or honor of a loved one.

We are happy to talk with you about your parish, school or ministry endowment or explore opportunities for giving.

**Call us at (989) 797-6680
or email at ccfmm@ccfmm.org**

“Stewardship isn’t a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? “

- Randy Alcorn

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Each new year gives us a chance to reflect, give thanks and anticipate with faith a blessed new beginning. As I look back on 2020, my heart is filled with gratitude. In this quarter's newsletter, we share a story of faith: Mrs. Liekert whose legacy gift to the Bay Area Catholic Schools Endowment Fund for All Saints Elementary School (formerly, St. James Catholic Elementary School) will extend her love of her faith and Catholic schools into perpetuity. I am grateful.

As we look forward, my heart is filled with thanksgiving. This year represents a significant milestone for the CCFMM, our 15-year anniversary! In 2006, then Bishop Carlson, invited 18 men and women of the Diocese to form the founding CCFMM board. With his vision and foresight, today the CCFMM provides approximately \$1 million in annual support to diocesan ministries, parishes, and schools. Thank you donors, you have made this possible!

Thank you Bishop Gruss for celebrating our 15-year anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass on October 7, 2021. In honor of the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary we will also be praying a rosary together before Mass. Stay tuned for more details.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Smith".

Kristin Smith, Executive Director



Please Join Us!

Helping People Help People!

We hope you enjoyed the sixth edition of *Feeding Our Faith*, a quarterly publication by the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan.

New stories and funds are featured monthly.

Mission Statement

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

We hope to hear from you!

Visit us online: www.ccfmm.org or in person:

5800 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48603

Call: (989) 797-6680 or email: ccfmm@ccfmm.org

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF MID-MICHIGAN

*Joyous Giving in Christ to
Forever meet the needs of
all God's people.*

