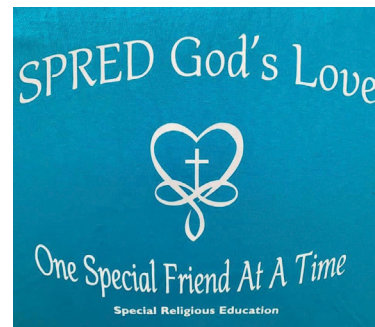


Catholic Sisters Support Special Education

As the Foundation celebrates its 20th Anniversary, it honors its connection to the work of local religious sisters for National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14.

The Society of the Mission Sisters of the Holy Spirit was established in 1954 as a Saginaw diocesan community that focused on social work, religious education, and later parish ministry. Now, in 2026, their legacy continues as they celebrate the 54th year of their Sponsored Ministry called SPRED, or Special Religious Development for individuals with special needs.



SPRED was brought to the Diocese of Saginaw by Sr. Elaine Raymond in 1972. Since its beginning, Sr. Elaine “has called SPRED a process of faith formation designed to help those participating discover belonging and the celebration of the Sacraments, as well as being together and becoming part of a community.” In her experience, SPRED is truly a process, not a program. Today, SPRED continues with the ongoing support of Sisters Elaine Raymond, Mary Lou Owczarzak, and Margo Tafoya. SPRED has also continued under the direction of Marsha Caylor since 1981 with the many volunteers who journey with students.

\$7,293

disbursed from the Ann & Richard Blazejewski Endowment since 2010

“Our goal is to be a faith community for students,” said Marsha. When groups of eight students with special needs meet every other week at St. Dominic Parish in Saginaw, they join volunteer catechists to quiet their minds, pray and sing together, and find a community of friendship rooted in faith. That sense of community is what truly makes SPRED such a special process. In the words of Sr. Margo, “It’s a heart ministry.”

SPRED receives annual disbursements from two endowments managed by the Catholic Community Foundation: the Ann & Richard Blazejewski Endowment and the Fr. C. Albrecht Catholic Education Fund. While supporting other organizations in addition to SPRED, the two funds combined have disbursed over \$19,000 to provide religious education to individuals with special needs. “It just helps keep us going,” said Marsha. “We really want those who are contributing to know.”

\$12,193

disbursed from the Fr. C. Albrecht Catholic Education Fund since 2009

Both funds also carry on a legacy of giving that honors loved ones. In fact, Sr. Elaine was Fr. Craig Albrecht’s religious education coordinator when he was growing up. “He had a love for Elaine, and especially for SPRED,” said Sr. Margo. Now, with an endowment, his legacy of giving continues to support his love of SPRED through the Foundation.



Scan the QR code to follow our Facebook page!

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Catholic Sisters (continued)

In addition to the endowments, SPRED also relies on individual donors. Many Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary groups from Saginaw and the surrounding areas host Tootsie Roll drives to raise money, or donate the proceeds of Monday Burger Night to support SPRED.



Marsha Caylor (third from right) with SPRED students at a Halloween dance.

SPRED also holds opportunities for fellowship outside the classroom. Whether it's a summer picnic, a Mass, or a dance, students in SPRED strengthen their friendship and faith with friends, family, and volunteers in the spirit of Catholic faith.

As for the future of the program, the sisters have faith that the legacy of inclusion started by Sr. Elaine will continue, as they look for future possibilities of how to continue this vital ministry. "It is of God," the sisters say. "It will continue with the help of God."

Investment Forum 2026

The 2026 Investment Forum will be held virtually on **Tuesday, May 5, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Our annual Investment Forum is an opportunity to hear directly from the Foundation's nationally-renowned financial advisors from CAPTRUST. Their presentation will focus on the Foundation's investment performance and strategies for growth. With \$46 million currently in assets under management, the Foundation is your local, Catholic organization dedicated to stewarding endowed funds for the Diocese of Saginaw. The Investment Forum is your opportunity to learn how investing an endowed fund can provide perpetual support to your parish, school, or organization.

This event is free and open to the public. **To RSVP, please scan the QR code or call 989.303.9200.** Prior to the forum on May 5, a link to access the virtual meeting will be sent to participants via email.



2026 Quarter-At-A-Glance

March 10, 11:30 a.m.
Board Meeting
 Center for Ministry
 5802 Weiss Street
 Saginaw, MI 48603

April 1
 2026 Grant applications open

May 5, 12:00 p.m.
 Virtual Investment Forum
 RSVP via email to receive the online meeting link.