Feeding Our Faith

September/October 2026

A newsletter brought to you by the Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MID-MICHIGAN

Building the Body of Christ, One Student at a Time

With eight kids in three different Catholic Schools, Sharon Gembrowski knows the cost of providing a good Catholic education to young scholars. She's also seen the fruits of providing that for her family.

When her husband, Martin, died after a brief illness in 2016, Sharon chose to keep his memory alive through a scholarship fund. "I thought, if I can help a little bit to get your kids to Catholic School," so she set up an endowed scholarship through the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan.

Sharon and her husband Martin were both products of Catholic Education. Martin was a graduate of St. Mary Cathedral High School in Saginaw, and attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Sharon also graduated from St. Mary's Cathedral High School in Saginaw and was able to stay home to raise their family. **Knowing the value of that education, she wants to pass that gift on.**



Fr. Matthew Gembrowski and his mother, Sharon Gembrowski

Applying for the scholarship is easy. "All we ask is that kids are enrolled in Catholic School, and that they be active." The scholarship is also renewable every year and is open to anyone who plans to attend Nouvel High School.

The Martin Gembrowski Family Advised Scholarship is one of over 30 scholarship funds designated for elementary and high school Catholic Education. The window to apply for these and the College Scholarships opens on October 1, 2026.

Helping young people get a good Catholic Education has a ripple effect beyond the local community. As Archbishop Robert J. Carlson said when he began the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan two decades ago, **"If you hear about priesthood and religious life around the time you're in 4th grade, by the time you get to 8th grade or into high school, the Lord might be working on your heart to go to the seminary."**

That was true for the Gembrowski family as they saw Fr. Matthew Gembrowski ordained to the priesthood in 2024. Not only discernment to the priesthood and religious life, but there are innumerable benefits to Catholic education, including continuity of faith and community service. Statistics show that Catholic-educated young people are more likely to succeed as adults because of the faith formation they receive in Catholic Schools across the Diocese.

Your Legacy, Their Future.

To learn more about **applying for Catholic School Scholarships** like the Martin Gembrowski Family Advised Scholarship or **setting up your own fund** to support future scholars or ministries in your Diocese of Saginaw, call Debra Gunn at (989) 303-9201 or email her at Debra.Gunn@ccfmm.org.

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Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF MID-MICHIGAN
2006 2026
Celebrating 20 Years!

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SAVE THE DATE

October 1, 2026
Catholic Community Foundation scholarship application window opens.

November 13, 2026
Catholic Community Foundation Grants Luncheon

Leave A Lasting Legacy

The lessons learned in a Catholic school extend far beyond the classroom. They help shape the conscience, character, and faith of the young people who will become tomorrow's parents, professionals, community leaders, and leaders of the Church. The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan upholds these same Catholic values in all that we do.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a lasting legacy, please contact Debra Gunn at (989) 303-9201 or by email at Debra.Gunn@ccfmm.org.



Fr. Matthew Gembrowski

Join Bishop Robert Gruss in supporting Catholic Education, whether in our schools or through strong Catholic Faith Formation programs in our parishes.

"As Pope Francis says in The Joy of the Gospel: 'Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture."

Learn more about applying to a Catholic School Scholarship here!