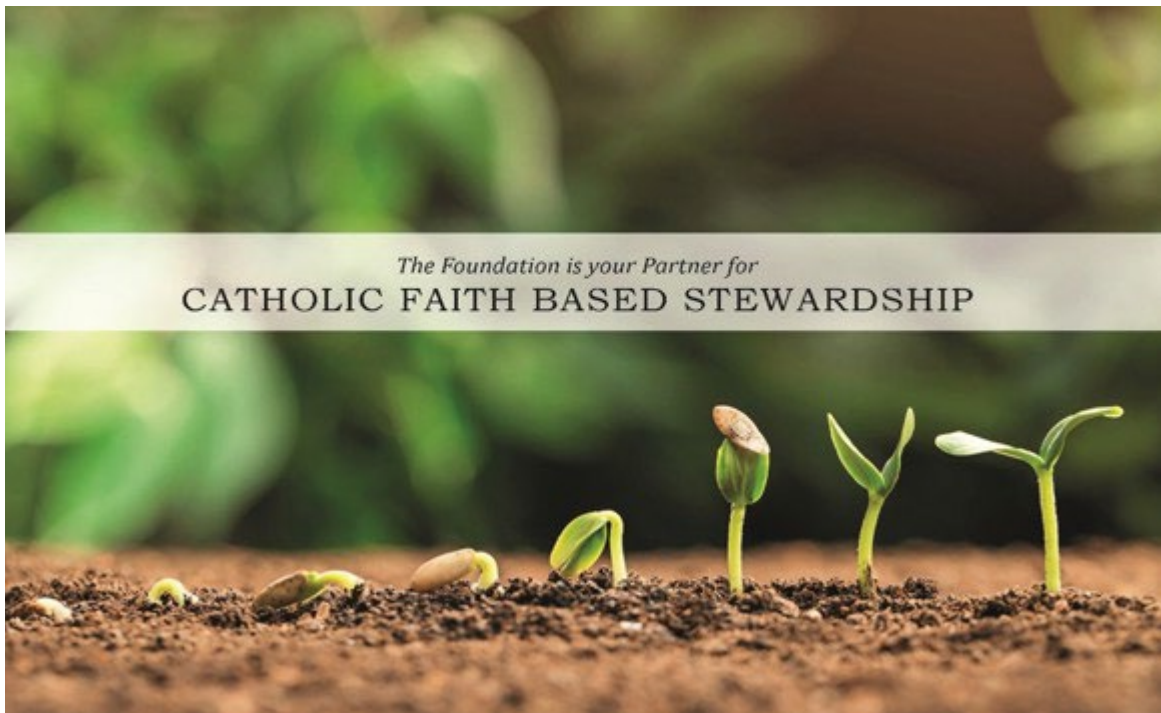

STEWARDING YOUR LEGACY

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TOGETHER IN FAITH

I recently had the opportunity explore Portugal and Spain. What I love about our Catholic faith is its universal, so no matter where we are in the world, in whatever language, we experience the Mass.

The Easter Vigil is, by far, one of my favorite Masses and this year I encountered it at Igreja de Santa Maria Madalena de Lisboa (Church of the Magdalene). From light to darkness. As we walked outside with the community gathered to light the Easter candle and begin the Vigil celebration, the curiosity from tourists nearby was evoked. After the gloria, the magnificence of the historic church came to life as the lights emerged.

Throughout my travels, I was in awe of the history of our faith and inspired by my encounter with the shroud of Jesus, relics, buildings, statues, and paintings in the Lisbon Cathedral, Cathedral of San Salvador in Oviedo and the Holy Cave and Sanctuary of Covadonga.

Easter is a time of renewal. I was recharged and renewed in spirit to continue the great work that needs completed throughout the Diocese of Raleigh, and as we begin the next chapter of work with The Foundation.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Stark

Executive Director



The Foundation is excited to announce the addition of four new external Board members. We welcome:

Kerrie Wagner Debbs, *St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church*

Jim DeJuneas, *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church*

Cynthia Hanks, *St. Stanislaus Catholic Church*

Michael C. Thelen, *Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church*

We joyfully welcomed **Gabriel Nugent** and **Leonardo E. Lopez** at the Mass of the Ordination on Saturday, April 11th held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, where they were ordained as Transitional Deacons.

Please continue to keep Gabriel and Leonardo in your prayers as they faithfully continue their journey in response to God's call.



Lewis Award Recipient



Congratulations to Taylor Blanton! Taylor has been recognized as the 2025-2026 recipient of the **Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching**. This award is given annually by the Lewis Committee to a teacher in the Diocese of Raleigh who has shown strong commitment to students, colleagues, and their school while actively engaged in their church and civic community as well as being a pillar to their family. Taylor teaches Advanced Placement United States History and Economics at Cardinal Gibbons High School.

St. Mark, Patron Saint of Venice

Feast Day: April 25 - Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, the history of the early Church found in the Canon of the New Testament...

Read on about [St. Mark and his life here](#).



Saint Mark, you were a friend of the Apostles and shared their commitment to spreading the faith. From your home in Heaven, may you strengthen all those who lack the courage to live the Gospel message in their own lives so they can witness it to others. Amen.

Upcoming Estate Planning Seminars:

Wednesday, April 15th | 6:30pm-8:00pm

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Friends & Family Hall

940 Carmichael St, Chapel Hill

Wednesday, April 22nd | 5:30pm-7:00pm

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

The Lewis Room

5801 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh

Save the Date!

Community Wellness Fair

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church | Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 30 • 8:30am–12:00pm

11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh, NC 27613

Contact: Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org

Take part in St. Francis of Assisi's first Community Wellness Fair and discover resources to support your mind, body, and spirit. With more than 40 local vendors, this event offers practical tools, expert guidance, and supportive services for all ages.

Featured Activities & Screenings:

- Pulse Screenings
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Balance Assessments
- Long-Term Care Resources
- Technology Assistance
- Home Improvement Guidance
- Fitness Information



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