



THE FOUNDATION
Serving the Catholic Community of Eastern North Carolina

Stewarding Your Legacy | Sharing and Growing Your Gifts

August 2026 | Issue #47

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Leaving a legacy is scope of the work of the Foundation. Recently we had a chance to gather with Monsignor John Wall as he shared his living legacy of his journey as a young Catholic in North Carolina when the numbers were very few and we were one diocese. He shared his call to the priesthood and journey as Catholicism grew and we divided into two dioceses in the 1970's. In attendance, was our newest priest in our diocese Fr. Drew Navarro and young adults from the NC State College Campus Ministry. The evening was filmed for the Diocese of Raleigh archives.

I appreciate the work alongside donors, priests and principals thinking of what impact we can have today and in perpetuity. Each year as the Foundation endowments gift generous amounts to the diocese for various ministry work, I stand in gratitude for the legacy planning that took place long before I became a part of this mission work.

In this “Make a Will Month” I challenge you to pray about your faith and what legacy you want to leave in your own life, whether it’s for your parish, a Catholic school or even a ministry that is near and dear to your heart. Reach out to our team and we will work alongside you.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Stark

Executive Director



A Joy Filled Evening Celebrating a Life of Faith & the History of the Diocese



*An Evening
With*
Msgr. Wall



On Friday, August 7, friends, clergy, and members of the Catholic community gathered at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Raleigh for a memorable evening with Msgr. John A. Wall. Hosted by the Office of Development and The Foundation, the special gathering offered Msgr. Wall an opportunity to reflect on his life, his priestly ministry, and the history of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The evening was filled with laughter, treasured memories, and stories that offered a glimpse into the remarkable journey of a priest who has witnessed and helped shape, the growth of the Catholic Church in North Carolina. Joining Msgr. Wall were longtime friends and colleagues, including Bishop Luis Zarama, Fr. Michael Burbeck, Fr. Joseph Ita-Sam, and Fr. Drew Navarro.

A Life Shaped by Faith and Service

As Msgr. Wall reflected on his childhood, seminary years, and priesthood, he shared how dramatically the Catholic community in North Carolina has grown. During his grade school years, Catholics represented only about 2% of North Carolina's population. Today, Catholics make up more than 10% of the state's population, a remarkable testament to the growth of the Church and the generations of faithful who have helped build its presence throughout the state.

Msgr. Wall also recalled his years studying at the seminary in Baltimore and a pivotal moment when he received word from Bishop Waters that he would be assigned to Rome. He described his

time in Rome as one of the highlights of his life, embracing every opportunity to learn, experience the Church, and deepen his faith.

One particularly memorable story involved an encounter with then Cardinal-Patriarch Angelo Roncalli. Msgr. Wall had the opportunity to meet and speak with him, never knowing that the very next day Roncalli would be elected Pope John XXIII.

During their meeting, Msgr. Wall recalled hearing the affectionate Italian expression:

“Vieni qui, caro mio.”

“Come here, dear one.”

It was one of many personal moments that brought the history of the universal Church to life during the evening.

Preserving a Legacy for Generations to Come

Beyond celebrating Msgr. Wall and his extraordinary life of service, the gathering served an important purpose for the Diocese of Raleigh. The Office of Development and The Foundation hosted the evening so Msgr. Wall's stories, reflections, and memories could be preserved for future generations.

The event was professionally recorded through video and still photography, creating an archival collection that will help preserve an important chapter of the Diocese of Raleigh's history.

The evening was a beautiful reminder that the history of the Church is not simply found in dates and documents; it lives in the stories, faith, friendships, and memories of the people who have dedicated their lives to building the Church.

Through the generosity and service of faithful Catholics like Msgr. Wall, the story of the Diocese of Raleigh continues to be written and now, thanks to this special evening, a piece of that story will be preserved for generations to come.



National Make-A-Will Month

August is National Make-A-Will Month so it's the perfect time to take an important step toward protecting the people and causes you care about most. Whether you're 25 or 75, creating your first will or updating an existing one, having a current will helps ensure your wishes are clearly documented and your loved ones are provided for. A will can help you designate who will receive your assets, name guardians for minor children, and make meaningful gifts to the charitable organizations and ministries that matter to you.

Don't wait, make August the month you put your wishes in writing and

take an important step toward securing your family's future and creating a lasting legacy.

3 Reasons You Need A Will

(And Why TODAY is the Day to Start)

- 1. Protect the People You Love Most:** Ensure your assets, home, and savings go directly to your family without unnecessary legal friction, stress, or delays. It provides peace of mind to you and your family.
- 2. Name Trusted Guardians for Your Children:** Take total control of who will raise and care for your kids, rather than leaving a lifechanging decision up to a court.
- 3. Build an Everlasting Legacy:** Pass down your values alongside your assets by leaving a meaningful gift to the ministries, parishes, and charitable causes that shaped your life.

If you already have a will, you've taken an important step toward protecting your loved ones and planning your legacy. Now is a great time to revisit it and make sure it still reflects your current wishes, family circumstances, and the causes you care about. A thoughtful review today can help ensure your plans remain up to date for tomorrow.



Board of Directors Spotlight

Kerrie Debbs, CFP®

Board Member



Kerrie Debbs brings 39 years of experience in financial services and a decades-long commitment to community service. For Kerrie, financial stewardship is not simply a profession, it is a calling, and one she has directed toward individuals, families, nonprofit organizations and faith-based communities that depend on trusted advice through every stage of their financial journey to fulfill their missions. As a CFP®, Kerrie is held to the highest standards of financial knowledge, ethics and fiduciary responsibility, and she brings these standards to each board, committee, family and institution she serves.

Her professional practice focuses on investment planning, cash flow management and tax strategy for individuals, families and institutions, built on long-term relationships grounded in trust. The discipline she has developed over nearly four decades, gaining

an understanding of complex financial structures, anticipating risk, and aligning resources with long-term purpose; translates directly into the community nonprofit work she finds meaningful.

Kerrie currently serves as an officer of Legatus of Raleigh, a national organization of Catholic lay business founders and executives dedicated to living and spreading the faith in the marketplace and their personal lives. A devoted Notre Dame alumna, she served on the Board of Directors of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, including as Chair of the Student Welfare & Development Committee, and has led alumni engagement as a Past President of both the ND Club of the Jersey Shore and the ND Club of Eastern North Carolina.

Her faith is the foundation. Shaped through decades of parish and community involvement, Kerrie's faith informs not only how she serves but why. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and MBA from Fordham University and has worked in financial centers from New York and London to Red Bank, NJ, before making Cary, NC her home.

Kerrie is honored to bring her financial expertise, governance experience, and deep Catholic identity to serve as a board member of the Foundation of the Diocese and to contribute to an institution whose mission she holds close to her heart.



Did you know?

Anyone that has a legacy gift planned in their estate for a parish, school or any other Catholic ministry within the Diocese of Raleigh is, by nature of your planned generosity, a part of our legacy society,

The Father Thomas Price Legacy Society.

Annually, we celebrate together with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Luis R. Zarama, followed by a luncheon and guest speaker.

**This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd
at St. Michael the Archangel and invitations have been sent out!**

Please help us be sure you are invited by letting us know your intentions, we would love to see you there.

Please email Kelley.karpinski@raldioc.org.



August: Back to School

August brings the excitement of a new school year. Classrooms are being prepared, teachers are welcoming students, and families are getting ready for another year of learning, faith, and growth.

At our Catholic schools, education is about more than academics. We strive to form the whole child mind, heart, and spirit, while helping students grow in their relationship with Christ and live out the Gospel in their daily lives.

As we celebrate the beginning of another school year, we are also grateful for those who invest in the future of Catholic education. **School endowments provide lasting support for our students and schools,** helping ensure that a Catholic education remains strong and accessible for

generations to come. There are over [65 School Endowments that are under The Foundation's management.](#)

This August, we invite you to join us in praying for our students, teachers, administrators, and families. May the new school year be filled with faith, discovery, and abundant blessings!



Ask the Foundation...

How is The Foundation different from other community foundations?

The Foundation is distinguished by faith-based and socially responsible operations purposely aligned with the Catholic Church. The Foundation's Catholic mission is the most important factor in a donor's decision to manage his or her charitable plans through The Foundation which subscribes to United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines on socially responsible investing.



Prayer Corner

As the new school year begins, bless our students, families, teachers, and school staff with wisdom, patience, courage, and joy. Keep our children safe, guide their hearts and minds, and help them grow in knowledge, faith, and kindness. May our teachers be filled with compassion and strength, and may our families be places of love, peace, and encouragement. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Foundation is your Partner
for *Catholic Faith Based Stewardship*

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