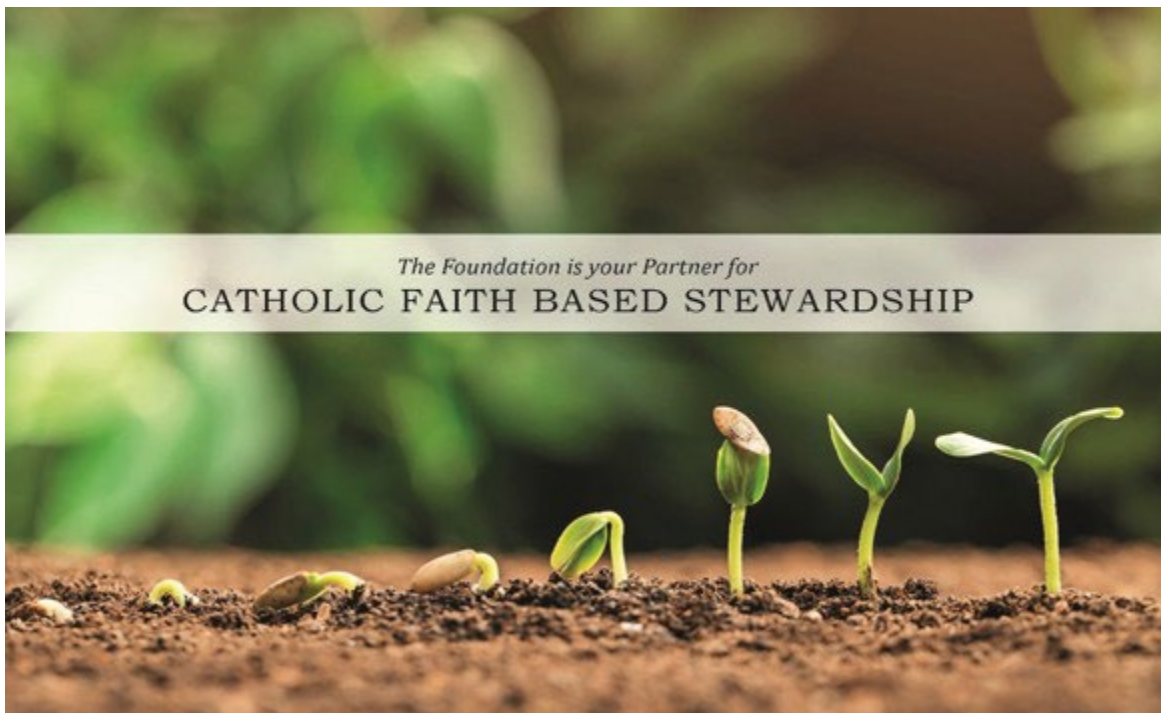


# STEWARDING YOUR LEGACY

Sharing & Growing Your Gifts

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## TOGETHER IN FAITH

I recently traveled to St. Louis for the annual CEO Symposium with the Consortium of Catholic Foundations. 47 of my colleagues from around the US convened on the beautiful campus of the Augustine Institute. I have leaned on this group of leaders and my growing relationships with them as I have navigated my role in the almost two years with The Foundation.

I value the time spent together. Not only is it professional growth but spiritual. Fr. Chris Martin shared some incredible homilies with us in daily Mass and reminded us that this is God's work and we may need to calm down!

We had the beautiful blessing to hear from Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson, who has started three Catholic Foundations, and believes so highly in our work. He

reminded us that this work is the long game and we need to develop trust and empower people to align with their passions.

Finally, hearing the story from Dr. Tim Gray of the incredible philanthropy around the Augustine Institute moving to this 283 acre state of the art campus on the Missouri river and how it has been, and will be used, was inspiring.

Times are ever changing. AI policies and practices need to be thought through. While our diocese is growing, some are reorganizing and parishes are closing and leaders are dealing with these circumstances. Others are navigating Bishop changes or anticipated retirements in upcoming years.

One thing remains: Catholics are generous. As we near the close of my second fiscal year, I see this over and over. It is an honor to lead, and my pleasure to continue the work of impact.

Sincerely,

*Dawn M. Stark*

*Executive Director*



CEO Symposium of Consortium of Catholic Foundations  
2026



## **LEWIS AWARD RECIPIENT**

On May 2, the annual dinner to recognize the finalists and their families of The Lewis Award was held at the North Ridge Country Club. The award is given annually to a full-time teacher in a Diocese of Raleigh Catholic School who has shown strong commitment to students, colleagues and schools as well as their family, church community and civic community. Taylor Blanton, an AP United States History and Economics teacher was this year's recipient.



2025-2026 Lewis Award recipient, Taylor Blanton and his wife.



Anne Stahel, establisher of The Lewis Award with Fr. Dan Oschwald, Fr. Chris Koehn, and Msgr. John Wall



The three finalists recognized at their schools. From top to bottom: *Taylor Blanton*, Recipient, Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh, *Jennifer Sullivan*, St. Thomas More School, Chappel Hill, *Andrew Pietrus*, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Raleigh

## NEW ENDOWMENTS

We are pleased to share the following new Endowments that have been established throughout the Diocese of Raleigh.

### ***Office of Education STEAM Endowment***

Created by Dave Commyn, this endowment will support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics education programs in elementary schools throughout the Diocese of Raleigh.

We are deeply grateful for his benevolence in initiating this endowment. We continue to be humbled by the generosity shown by all.

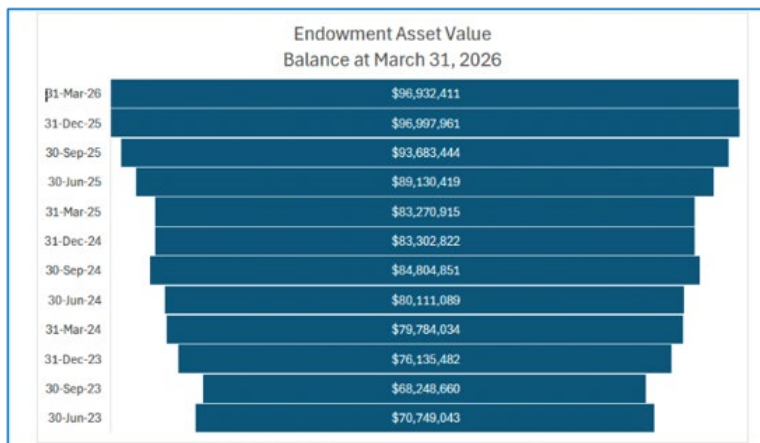
### ***Our Lady of the Rosary Columbarium Endowment***

Under the leadership of Fr. Edward Tembo, C.I.C.M., Our Lady of the Rosary established this endowment to ensure the grounds and area of those choosing to be interred here will be cared for in perpetuity.

### ***Infant of Prague Catholic Church Campus Endowment Fund***

Longtime parishioners are joining together, led by a generous lead gift from Bob Rusch, to establish this new endowment for overall campus needs of the growing Infant of Prague Church and School community. This endowment ensures annual distributions can be factored into an operating budget for upgrades to campus facilities in perpetuity.

We are grateful for the continued growth of our Endowment pooled assets since the inception of The Foundation.



## MONTH OF MARY



With devotional practices, the May Crowning, and the connection to spring, **May is the Month of Mary** – a time to honor the Blessed Virgin Mother. The devotion began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Read a little more with [an article from the Diocese of Raleigh, 2022.](#)

## Join Us!

### *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](mailto: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. For more information, visit [St. Francis Raleigh Wellness Fair](#).

#### *Featured Activities & Screenings:*

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



**THE FOUNDATION**  
Serving the Catholic Community of Eastern North Carolina

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