THE FOUNDATION
Serving the Catholic Community of Eastern North Carolina

November 2026 | Issue #50

STEWARDING YOUR LEGACY

Sharing & Growing Your Gifts

TOGETHER IN FAITH

In my role at The Foundation, I have the pleasure to see both sides of the impact of endowments. I appreciate working with donors, parishes, and schools in the creation of an endowment that aligns with purposes they have in mind.

I also experience the joy of the direct impact of gifts that are taken from annual distributions. For example, Immaculata school recently updated their school entrance with enhanced security and better functionality all from a distribution from a donor endowment. The grants committee recently gifted more than $23,300 to support causes assisting the poor in our diocese from God's Work our Challenge endowments that were established years ago during a diocesan campaign. The sweetest story you will read further in the newsletter from a scholarship assisting a family who was in dire need focusing on more critical matters in life.

This is our Catholic faith. And you can be a part of it. We are here to serve and as we enter the season of year end giving, if setting up an endowment is something we can help you with, reach out.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Stark
Executive Director

Arlene J. Straight Endowment Fund shares the Power of Endowment... gifts impacting now and in perpetuity:



A Legacy of Love: How an Endowment Helped One Family Through an Unexpected Journey

What does it mean to create a lasting legacy? For Sam Straight, it meant honoring his late wife Arlene's lifelong passion for children by establishing an endowment to support families in need. What began as a commitment to helping children receive a Catholic education became a meaningful source of hope for a family facing an extraordinary medical journey.

Meet Joseph Lyons, whose battle with a congenital heart condition brought his family face to face with months of hospital stays, medical expenses, and uncertainty. Through the generosity of an endowment established years earlier, Joseph's family received a scholarship that helped ensure their children could continue attending St. Francis Preschool during a difficult time.

Discover how one family's generosity became another family's blessing, and how an endowment can create a lasting impact for generations.

Click Below to Read the full story:
Let the Little Children Come to Me

Story Author: Mike Watson

Every Gift Has a Purpose.
Every Endowment Builds a Legacy



Did you know there are different types of endowment funds that can help sustain the Catholic mission for generations to come?

Through the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, endowment funds can support a variety of needs across our Catholic community, including:

· Parish Endowments – Help sustain parish ministries, worship, and community outreach.

· Catholic Education – Support Catholic schools, scholarships, tuition assistance, and educational programs.

· Charitable Ministries – Provide ongoing support for ministries serving those in need and advancing the Church's mission.

· Diocesan Initiatives – Help strengthen programs and ministries that serve Catholics throughout the Diocese.

· Designated Endowments – Direct support toward a specific ministry, institution, or purpose that reflects your values and charitable intentions.

An endowment is more than a gift; it's an investment in the future of our Catholic faith. By establishing or **contributing to an endowment**, you can help ensure that the ministries and communities you cherish continue to thrive for generations.

Together, we can nurture faith today and sustain our Catholic mission for tomorrow.

Learn more about endowment giving through the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
call us at 984-900-3407.

Faces of The Foundation:
Board of Directors Spotlight

Mary Gorczynski
Board Member



Mary Gorczynski retired from corporate life after 40 years of service in finance, engineering, and sales and marketing at IBM.

A member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parrish since 1985, Mary has served on various ministries over the years. Currently she is a liaison to

Catholic Parish Outreach, serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the sick and supports the pro-life ministry in her community.

As Mary transitions into retirement, she is excited to put her talents and diverse corporate experience to work for Christ as a board member of The Foundation.

Wine, Wills, and Ways to Give Seminar at St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church in Cary



On November 3, 2026, St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church in Cary welcomed The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh for a “Wine, Wills & Ways to Give” seminar. Nearly 70 parishioners attended the 90-minute event, which marked several exciting milestones for The Foundation.

The seminar featured an expanded presentation introducing a variety of planned giving options that can help parishioners and their families achieve personal and financial goals while also supporting St. Michael’s. It also welcomed its first guest financial expert: Certified Financial Planner, Foundation Board member, and St. Michael’s parishioner Kerrie Debbs, who shared insights on the value of working with a financial planner or advisor when developing long-term plans.

The evening also marked the first seminar led by Erika Estrada Boden, The Foundation’s new Director of Planned Giving, who joined the organization on October 5.

It was an engaging and inspiring evening, and The Foundation looks forward to continuing conversations with St. Michael’s parishioners interested in exploring how planned giving can support their beloved parish while advancing their own family, financial and philanthropic plans.

The Foundation also looks forward to hosting its next “Wine, Wills & Ways to Give” seminar at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Apex on February 2, 2027.

If you are an estate planning or tax attorney, accountant, or financial planner or advisor and would be interested in serving as a guest speaker at future seminars presented by The Foundation, please email:

Erika Estrada Boden, Director of Planned Giving, at
erika@foundationdor.org.

Save the Date for Upcoming: Wine, Wills, and Ways to Give Seminars

Holy Family
November 18th 6:00-7:30 pm

St. Andrew in Apex
February 2nd

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The Foundation of the Diocese of Raleigh

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