



THE FOUNDATION
Serving the Catholic Community of Eastern North Carolina

Stewarding Your Legacy | Sharing and Growing Your Gifts

September 2026 | Issue #48

TOGETHER IN FAITH

The past month has been joy filled as we celebrated with our annual Mass and luncheon of our Fr. Thomas Price Society members at St. Michael the Archangel in Cary. Our guest speaker, Peter Le, shared how important it is to embrace suffering as a part of life and an opportunity to turn closer to the Lord and allow him to love us more deeply through our suffering.

In addition, the Foundation has been busy working with Cherry Beckert, our audit team, as they prepare the audit from fiscal year close, June 30th. In our November issue, we will share those audited financials with you.

We have also been out and about throughout the diocese working with teams on their endowments and how they can further promote those within their parishes and schools. We have also met with donors and institutions on establishing new endowments that will be invested for future impact.

If we can come to you and host Wine and Wills, please reach out. Our team is eager to continue providing the resources needed for faithful Catholics to align their legacy plans with their values, and ensure their plans for Catholic medical directives are aligned with their intentions in mind.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Stark
Executive Director

[God's Work Our Challenge Grant Supports Farmworker Outreach & Families in Need at St. Francis De Sales](#)

GOD'S WORK OUR CHALLENGE GRANT



OUTREACH MINISTRY TO FARMWORKERS & ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES



St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Lumberton received funding through the *God's Work Our Challenge Grant* to strengthen its **Outreach Ministry to Farmworkers** and **Assistance to Needy Families** programs, bringing Christ's love, compassion, and support to vulnerable individuals and families throughout the community.

Through this grant, the parish was able to provide critical assistance to farmworkers and families experiencing financial hardship. Many farmworkers face significant challenges, including limited resources, economic uncertainty, and barriers to accessing services. The outreach ministry responded by offering practical support and ensuring these individuals and families felt welcomed, valued, and cared for by the Church.

Grant funds also helped in aiding needy families struggling to meet basic needs. Whether facing unexpected financial difficulties, food insecurity, or other hardships, recipients received support that eased immediate burdens and offered hope during challenging times. The ministry served as a tangible expression of the Gospel, providing both material assistance and compassionate accompaniment.

Beyond addressing physical needs, the outreach program fostered personal connections and strengthened the parish's presence within the broader community. Volunteers had opportunities to build relationships, offer encouragement, and share the love of Christ with those they served. Many recipients expressed gratitude for the assistance they received and for knowing that the Church was present to support them during difficult circumstances.

St. Francis De Sales is deeply grateful to all who support the *God's Work Our Challenge* campaign. Their generosity enabled the parish to continue its mission of serving those most in need and bringing hope to vulnerable families and farmworkers throughout the region. Through this grant, lives have been touched, burdens have been eased, and the Church's ministry of compassion continues to make a lasting difference in the Lumberton community.

This grant was made possible through an endowed fund held at The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh. Endowed funds provide a permanent source of support for ministries and charitable outreach, with annual grants distributed from investment earnings while preserving the principal for future generations. This project serves as a powerful example of how endowments create lasting impact, allowing donors' generosity to continue supporting the Church's mission year after year and transforming lives across our diocese.

[Life Insurance Awareness Month](#)

Life Insurance
Awareness Month
September 1 – 30, 2026



DURING LIFE INSURANCE
AWARENESS MONTH,
MANY FAMILIES ARE
EXPLORING CREATIVE
ESTATE PLANNING
STRATEGIES.

Contact Us



(919) 568-1065



THE FOUNDATION
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The Unexpected Gift: How Protecting Your Family Today Builds a Legacy for Tomorrow

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, a time when many of us naturally think about safeguarding our families, planning for the unexpected, and ensuring our loved ones will be cared for no matter what.

It is the ultimate expression of love and stewardship for your household. But what many families in our community are discovering is that a life insurance policy can do even more.

Imagine providing complete financial security for your spouse, children, and creating a lasting source of support for your favorite local parish, school, or ministry; all through the very same plan.

A Twofold Impact

For many faithful Catholics and community members, planning for the future often feels like a balancing act:

How do I take care of my family first while still supporting the causes closest to my heart?

The good news is that you don't have to choose. By thoughtfully structuring your legacy plans, you can:

- **Secure Your Household:** Provide tax-free financial stability, mortgage protection, and peace of mind for the people who depend on you most.
- **Uplift Our Local Community:** Designate the Foundation of Raleigh (or a specific diocesan ministry) as a beneficiary, leaving a powerful mark on our local Church that costs nothing out of your pocket today.
- **Maximize Smart Assets:** Did you know you can use income from retirement accounts, such as an IRA, to fund a policy while protecting your immediate cash flow and creating a lasting legacy for future generations?

What Will Your Legacy Look Like?

Estate and legacy planning can feel complex, but exploring your options is simpler than you might think. Whether you are just starting to review your family's protection or looking for creative ways to support the ministries that have shaped your life, we are here to help you navigate every step.

Curious about how this strategy could fit into your family's plans?

Reach out to our team at the Foundation of Raleigh today at **919-568-1065** for a confidential conversation, or visit our website at <https://foundationdor.org/foundation/planned-giving>, to explore our planned giving resources. Let's talk about protecting your loved ones and building a brighter future for our local community together.

[Faces of The Foundation: Board of Directors Spotlight](#)

Cynthia Hanks MBA
Board Member



Cynthia Hanks holds an MBA and an undergraduate degree in Marketing Management with a minor in Economics. Her professional background includes a leadership role as a Director of Marketing for a Fortune 500 company supporting North America. Additionally, she ranked in the top 2% in sales for a global telecommunications company and successfully negotiated record-breaking contracts. Following her corporate career, she transitioned to managing her family's business while raising two wonderful daughters in Raleigh. She currently serves as the Vice President at Sapphire CNC, INC.

Cynthia currently serves as the Chair of the Lewis Award Committee, which recognizes teaching excellence within the Diocese of Raleigh. Passionate about Catholic education, she is honored to have been serving on this committee for the past six years.

Outside of her professional work, Cynthia enjoys traveling, golfing, and spending time with her family and her dog in the NC mountains. She has been married for over 30 years and currently resides in Wilmington.

Grandparents Day Celebration



September 13 was Grandparents Day, a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the grandparents who have helped shape our lives, strengthen our families, and pass on a legacy of faith.

Grandparents hold a special place in our families. Through their stories, traditions, prayers, and example, they connect generations and help us remember where we came from while encouraging us to look toward the future.

For many of us, grandparents were among the first people to teach us the importance of faith, generosity, compassion, and service. Their influence often extends far beyond the moments we shared with them. The lessons they taught and the values they lived can continue to shape our families for generations.

A Legacy That Lives On

Grandparents Day also offers an opportunity to reflect on the kind of legacy we hope to leave behind.

A legacy is more than what we pass on financially. It can be the faith we share, the values we teach, the traditions we establish, and the difference we make in the lives of others.

For those who wish to extend that legacy beyond their lifetime, a legacy gift can be one meaningful way to support the Catholic Church and the ministries that reflect the values they have cherished throughout their lives.

A gift through a will or trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or another planned giving arrangement can help provide for Catholic ministries for years to come, while creating a lasting expression of faith and generosity.

This Grandparents Day, take a moment to remember the grandparents who helped shape your life and consider what kind of legacy you would like to leave for those who come after you.

The greatest gifts are often those that continue giving long after they are first shared.

For more information visit:

<https://foundationdor.org/foundation/planned-giving>
or call **919-568-1065**

Happy Grandparents Day!

Ask the Foundation...

What is a Family-Name Endowment?

The named endowment differs from a segregated fund savings account in that only a portion of the interest income is used each year to fund distributions. The corpus remains intact in perpetuity. The fund will be used for the purpose that is restricted by the donor and accepted by the beneficiary parish or organization. This is also called a Donor Designated Endowment.

Prayer Corner

TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

O most holy Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ: by the overwhelming grief you experienced when you witnessed the martyrdom, the crucifixion, and the death of your divine Son, look upon me with eyes of compassion, and awaken in my heart a tender commiseration for those sufferings, as well as a sincere detestation of my sins, in order that, being disengaged from all undue affection for the passing joys of this earth, I may sigh after the eternal Jerusalem, and that henceforward all my thoughts and all my actions may be directed towards

this one most desirable object. Honor, glory, and love to our divine Lord Jesus, and to the holy and immaculate Mother of God. Amen. --**Saint Bonaventure**

The Foundation is your Partner for
Catholic Faith Based Stewardship

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