



Dear Friends in Christ,

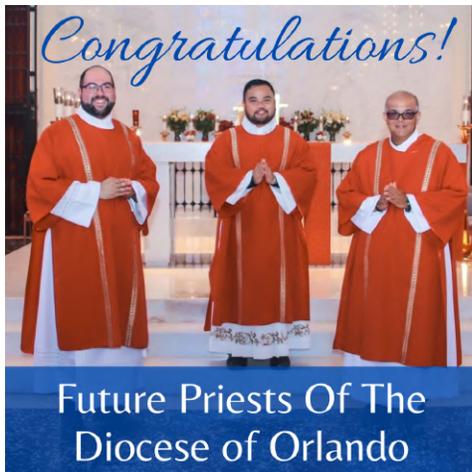
During May, the Month of our Blessed Mother Mary, may we recall the teaching of Blessed Mother Teresa: "If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."

May we draw on such wisdom and strength as the faithful increasingly return to the Eucharist and Church as cases of COVID-19 decrease and vaccinations increase. We celebrate our return to the Eucharist, the source and summit of daily living, and the bountiful faith fruits harvested through the collaboration with The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida and our generous donors, clergy, and diocesan partners. This month, we celebrate the ordination of three new priests, St. Faustina Catholic Church's campaign to secure a permanent home in Clermont, and webinars to assist donors on their philanthropic journeys. We also honor the 137 Middle School students who faithfully participated in our Marian Contest where they expressed their reverence for Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus.

#### **In This Month's Newsletter:**

- Celebrating our future priests
- Marian Contest scholarship awards
- Special offer for Donor Advised Fund philanthropists
- Western deanery Legacy Planning webinar series

- Nationally renowned speakers join Planned Giving Advisory Council webinar
- St. Faustina Catholic Church launches their capital campaign to secure a permanent home
- Becoming kings of Catholic stewardship
- **...and more...**



Please join us in CONGRATULATING Transitional Deacons Francisco Ojeda, Nathanael Soliven, and Roberto Marquez. They will be Ordained to the Priesthood tomorrow at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. We are grateful for their commitment to serve our faith family in the Diocese of Orlando. Prayerfully consider making a gift at [www.cfof.org/seminarians](http://www.cfof.org/seminarians) to support seminarians on their journey to becoming priests in our diocese.

You are warmly invited to join the Ordination to the Priesthood via livestream, Saturday, May 29 at 10 a.m., at:

- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/orlandodiocese/>
- YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/orlandodiocese>

### Marian Contest Scholarship Awards



One of the defining moments in Christianity is when Our Blessed Mother Mary replies to the angel Gabriel that she will faithfully give birth to Jesus, the Son of God: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," said the Virgin Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. Also guided by faith, Joseph, Mary's husband, dedicated his life to his family and raised Jesus as his son. Mary's and Joseph's love for Jesus and each other has served as a role model of faith and family ever since.

This year's Marian Contest: "Mary & Joseph – The Model Parents & Disciples" was a beautiful expression of devotion to the Holy Family and the powerful example they set for us today. Middle-school students who entered the Marian Contest had the opportunity to earn scholarship awards from \$50 to \$1,000 by expressing their love for Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and her most chaste spouse, St. Joseph.

The annual contest, administered through an Endowment Fund at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida in partnership with The Diocese of Orlando's Office of Schools, and Office of Laity, Family and Life, was open to 5th-8th grade students enrolled in a diocesan Catholic School, Parish Faith Formation or Youth Ministry Program.

This year's contest was overwhelmingly faith-filled. Thanks to the support of teachers and catechists, we received 137 entries from 16 schools and parish faith-formation programs. Middle school students tapped into their Catholic faith to express their reverence for Mary and Joseph through written essays, PowerPoint presentations, and videos. Student contest entries combined Catholic scripture, history, reflection and personal testimony.

The entries went through 3 stages of reviewing:

- Preliminary: Did the entry meet the basic requirements and was it relatively free of major errors.
- Review Committee: Each entry was then reviewed by two of our 14 review committee members.
- Finalist: The top two entries from each reviewing group was reviewed by the President & CEO and Vice President & CDSO of The Catholic Foundation, and a Foundation Donor Services team member who coaches the Bishop Moore Catholic High School debate team to narrow down several elite entries based on their scores to the top three.

This year's submissions were outstanding and after review the following 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries were selected along with five Honorable Mentions:

**1st Place:** Samantha Lorey, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School – Essay (\$1,000 scholarship award for continued faith formation. [Please click here](#) to read Samantha's essay.)

**2nd Place:** Kaelyn Johnson, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School – Essay (\$100 scholarship award for continued faith formation. [Please click here](#) to read Kaelyn's essay.)

**3rd Place:** Aileen de la Rosa: St. John Vianney Parish – Video (\$50 scholarship award for continued faith formation. [Please click here](#) to see Aileen's video.)

**Honorable Mentions:**

- Lila Allender, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School - PowerPoint
- Lucky Boren, St. Brendan Catholic School - Essay
- Santino Cevallos, St. Brendan Catholic School - Essay
- Andres Gomez, Ascension Catholic School - Essay
- Alexa Johnson, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School - Essay

To assist with three rounds of reviewing, The Catholic Foundation engaged a diverse group of panelists representing many perspectives of our faith family, including clergy, religious, and Catholic lay leaders.

The Marian Contest Review Committee members were:

- Father Matthew Hawkins, St. James
- Carlos Bernard, Laity and Family Life Office
- Sister Maria Acosta, Sisters of the Pierced Hearts at Annunciation
- Ralph Gerena, The Catholic Foundation
- Doris Quinones, The Catholic Foundation
- Jordan Trejo, Laity and Family Life/St. John Vianney
- Father Adam Marchese, Annunciation
- Carolyn Ell, The Catholic Foundation
- Shana Coulthurst, The Catholic Foundation
- Diana Loayza, The Catholic Foundation
- Kaylee Osentowski, Basilica of the National Shrine, Mary Queen of the Universe
- Dr. Isabel Fernandez, Office of Schools
- Deacon Dave Camous, Parish Life Office
- Daniel Boyd, Laity and Family Life

"We want to congratulate all of the students who participated in this year's Marian Contest," said Madelyn Weed, Vice President and Chief Donor Services Officer of The Catholic Foundation. "The intention of the donor whose endowment established and funds this contest was to encourage a deepened devotion to Mary. The entries truly were an expression of our love for Mary, Our Blessed Mother and her most chaste spouse, in this Year of St. Joseph."

**75% Off. Special Offer**  
**Limited Time Offer for Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Philanthropists**

Discover the Benefit of Creating your

# Catholic DAF

with a Simple Transfer from your Existing Donor Advised Fund!

DEDUCTION

**DONOR PASSION**

DONATION

CATHOLIC COMPLIANT INVESTED DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

SCHOOL CHURCH CHARITY

- Invested for growth (tax-free) in socially responsible investments 99.3% compliant with Catholic social teaching.
- Provides access to a list of hundreds of pre-qualified Catholic & public (Catholic value compliant) non-profits in need of support.
- Allows you to pass along your Catholic values to the next generation & build a family legacy of faith-driven philanthropy.

[www.CatholicDAF.org](http://www.CatholicDAF.org)

Announcing Limited Time Offer for **Donor Advised Fund Philanthropists**

**75% OFF**

**Special Offer**

Open your Catholic DAF with a grant from your existing DAF for a low \$2,500 initial deposit (75% off our normal minimum) and deepen the joy experienced by giving from your Catholic heart!

For more info, contact:  
**Madelyn Weed, CFRE**  
[mweed@cfcf.org](mailto:mweed@cfcf.org)  
 (407) 246-7188

**The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida**  
Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

Open your Catholic DAF with a grant from your existing DAF for a low \$2,500 initial deposit (75% off our normal minimum) and deepen the joy experienced by giving from your Catholic heart! Visit [www.CatholicDAF.org](http://www.CatholicDAF.org) for details.

### Western Deanery Legacy Planning Webinar Series

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida has developed helpful Legacy Planning resources for parishioners of all ages in the Diocese of Orlando including the Legacy Planning Webinar Series. The most recent webinar series was held in partnership with Very Rev. Tim LaBo and the Western Deanery parishes and featured attorney Amber Jade Johnson of Amber Jade Johnson Law and certified financial planner Ty McCormack of Aksala Wealth Advisors. Both are members of The Catholic Foundation's [Planned Giving Advisory Council](#).

Webinar attendees received copies of a:

- 28-Page Wills & Estate Planning Guide
- Catholic Declaration on Life and Death (Living Will/Health Surrogate) and Understanding the Catholic Declaration on Life and Death
- Catholic Legacy Journal
- Guide to Creating a Family Mission Statement
- Guide to Creating a Catholic Legacy Video
- Attendees also received a free 1-hour consultation with an Estate Attorney, Financial Consultant or Philanthropic Advisor.



For more information about future webinars or to access our Catholic Legacy Resources, please email Madelyn Weed, CFRE at [mweed@cfcf.org](mailto:mweed@cfcf.org) or 407-246-7188.

### Nationally Renowned Speakers Joined Our Planned Giving Advisory Council (PGAC) Webinar

## Creating a Legacy of Discovery

**Mark Weber**  
 Author, speaker and philanthropic consultant.

**Robert D. Cabana**  
 Director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, former NASA astronaut, veteran of four Space Shuttle flights.

Central Florida financial advisors, estate attorneys and charitable gift professionals were treated to presentations from two nationally renowned speakers at the May Planned Giving Advisory Council (PGAC) webinar – Creating a Legacy of Discovery! The 29 attendees enjoyed hearing from Mark Weber, author of *The Legacy Spectrum*, who provided great direction on how to enhance conversations with clients and donors, in particular families, to help them achieve their philanthropic goals and further generosity in our community; while Robert Cabana, Director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, former astronaut and Divine Mercy parishioner, shared incredible insight into this exciting time for NASA, the Kennedy Space Center, our Central Florida community and the continued exploration of God's amazing creation!

If you are interested in learning more about our Planned Giving Advisory Council, please contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, Vice President and Chief Donor Services Officer, at [mweed@cfofc.org](mailto:mweed@cfofc.org) or 407-246-7188.



## Estate Planning For the Kingdom

### Becoming Kings Of Catholic Stewardship

As Psalm 24 teaches, "The earth is the LORD's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it." This is a fundamental principle of biblical stewardship for us as Catholics. God owns everything, we are called by Him simply as managers or administrators acting on His behalf.

During our baptism, we become disciples and followers of Jesus as the minister anoints and blesses us with the following words: "Just as Jesus was anointed priest, prophet, and king, so may you live always as a member of his body sharing everlasting life." Each one of us at our baptism was anointed like Jesus as priest, prophet, and king.

We are called as Jesus was to be benevolent kings to steward and share our assets during and after our lifetime with God's children and our Lord. Ideally, we establish a Catholic legacy that shares our values and returns our gifts with increase when we are called home to the Lord.

Stewardship expresses our respect for God regarding the managing of everything He has placed under our control, which is all encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of ourselves and possessions to God's service, recognizing that all we have is because of God. We will all be called to give an account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed all He entrusted to us, including our time, treasure and talent.

As Catholic stewards, we have the opportunity to create a will that expresses how the gifts received during our lifetime should be shared when we have passed on. A will helps us to share our Catholic values by sharing our assets with the ministries we deem close to our heart. A will allows us to establish our Catholic legacy by sharing our gifts in a way that builds His Kingdom by supporting our favorite parish, school, or ministry.

Without a will, we may burden our spouses, children, relatives, or the legal system with the challenge of discerning how our gifts should be distributed when our earthly life ends. This can lead to estate chaos that may not allow us to return to the Lord our gifts with increase, a foundational principal of Christian stewardship.

Leaving a legacy is as much about our values as it is about the size of our estates. The story of Prince Rogers Nelson, the singer and entertainer better known as Prince, illustrates the estate-planning pandemonium that can occur when someone passes without a will.

The Minneapolis-based musician, whose award-winning career spanned more than four decades, amassed millions of dollars in assets including property, investments, copyrights, and music-and-film royalties. Yet, the artist did not leave a will. Unmarried and childless, Prince's estate was thrown into chaos when he passed in 2016 without a will or clear line of heirs among his siblings and half-siblings.

By not having a will, Prince didn't exercise his right to determine who would and would not inherit a share of his estate or which shares his heirs would inherit. He also didn't select the executor of his estate. The executor, or administrator, often is key to determining how an estate is distributed and how much is available to distribute.

As a result, Minnesota courts will make decisions for Prince's estate. We will never know Prince's desire because he did not leave a will. Meanwhile, years have passed, and the estate still is involved in litigation to determine how it will be distributed- delays that have diminished some of the estate's income and assets.

When it comes to Christian stewardship, no matter our level of assets, the Lord wants us to be more than a Prince. He wants us to be priest, prophet, and king-- not to serve as a ruler with might and power and armies, but as one who serves others out of love. Jesus carried out his baptism through his public preaching, through the giving of himself every day, and ultimately laying down his life out of love for all of us. We are called to commit ourselves as fully as we can to follow Jesus as priest, prophet, and king. We are called to discipleship and stewardship that honors His kingdom and glory.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can establish a Catholic legacy that makes a lasting impact on your favorite parish, school, or ministry, please contact Madelyn Weed at [mweed@cfofc.org](mailto:mweed@cfofc.org) or (407) 246-7188.

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. -2 Corinthians 9:6*

## **St. Faustina Catholic Church Making Our Way Home**



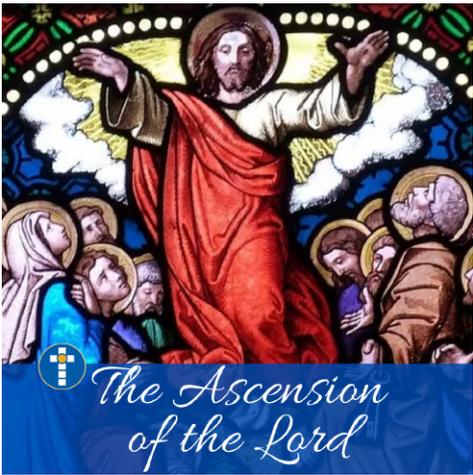
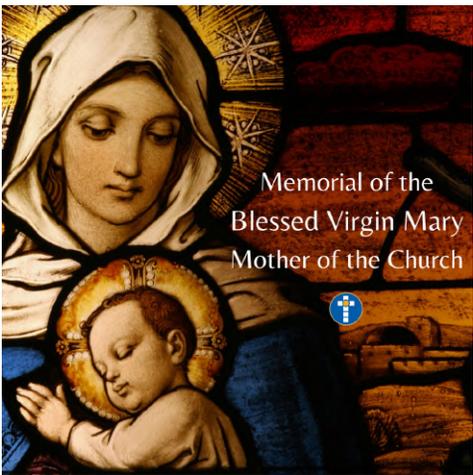
In 2006, then Bishop Thomas Wenski established a new parish in the Four Corners area and named it St. Faustina Catholic Church. After 14 years and four different locations, St. Faustina's parishioners are finally "Making Their Way Home" to a permanent location on a property on Highway 27 in Clermont. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the parish publicly launched their capital campaign.

To support its continued growth and secure their way home for the future of the parish, they embarked upon a capital campaign to raise an additional \$1.5 million needed for the project. These campaign funds, in addition to the building funds the parish has been collecting for many years, will allow them to develop the property on Highway 27 and build a church which will include meeting and office space.

The time has come for them to realize their dreams and the "Making Our Way Home" campaign will allow them to do that. By supporting the capital campaign, St. Faustina's parishioners will contribute in a meaningful way to the future of their church, thus leaving a legacy that will serve time and eternity. All parishioners are being asked to make a gift to the campaign, letting their faith be their guide. They know that generosity will follow. They want St. Faustina Catholic Church to be a beacon of Christ's Mercy in the Four Corners area.

The parish invites you to learn more about the "Making Our Way Home" campaign and how you may contribute by visiting [www.cfocf.org/stfaustina](http://www.cfocf.org/stfaustina).

**This Month We Observed...**





50 E. Robinson St., Orlando, FL 32801  
P.O. Box 4905 Orlando, Florida 32802  
Tel: 407.246.4889

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC. © 2021 All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update My Profile](#) | [\\_Donate](#) | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Visit our website](#) | [View in browser](#)