



The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

St. Katharine Drexel Society

Members of the St. Katharine Drexel Society provide annual financial support for the ministry of The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida helping us to elevate philanthropy to flourish our Church ensuring its future and the fruits of generosity in Central Florida.

St. Katharine Drexel's legacy of addressing needs through faith-filled Catholic philanthropy is the model for The Catholic Foundation's mission and vision. As a philanthropic organization, we strive to inspire giving to support the spiritual and corporal needs of our communities throughout the Diocese of Orlando.

St. Katharine Drexel

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, St. Katharine was impacted by the philanthropic legacy set by her parents who lived out their Catholic faith through charity, opening their home to the poor and distributing food and clothing.

She gave up her affluent lifestyle to enter religious life and used her inheritance to minister to the poor and oppressed. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, which provided for the physical and spiritual care for others through hospitals, shelters and educational institutions including over 100 schools that served Native American reservations and Southern African American communities.

Saint John Paul II canonized Katharine Drexel in 2000. In his homily during the canonization Mass, he said, "Katharine Drexel is an excellent example of practical charity and generous solidarity with the less fortunate, which has long been the distinguishing mark of American Catholics."

As the Patron Saint of Philanthropy, the love of mankind, St. Katharine's philanthropy was a sacred call living out her faith in service to others and to the Church. Through St. Katharine's loving sacrifice of time, talent and treasure, she personified Christian stewardship and the commitment to give back to the Lord with increase.

