



**The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida**

Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.



**July
2020**

**The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida
Newsletter**

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With the summer upon us, the sun's warmth helps many aspects of nature to flourish and experience a season of fast growth. Similarly, our Catholic community continues to grow this summer - despite the challenges of the coronavirus - as we successfully adapt to the pandemic by helping and serving each other in new ways. Our parishes have reopened for public mass, mass is livestreamed for those who watch from home, and many generous donors are stepping up to offer extra financial support to sustain our faith community. Meanwhile, at the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, our board of directors has also experienced blessed growth this summer: We recently added a new board member, David Ramos, who has more than 40 years of accounting experience. And this month, Pope Francis appointed one of our Founding board members - Father Stephen D. Parkes (Annunciation Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs) - to become Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah (Georgia). We are so proud!

*You fixed all the limits of the earth;
summer and winter you made.
Psalms 74:17*

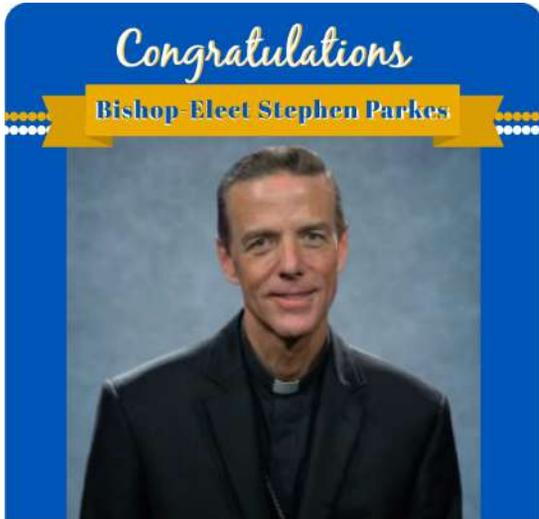
In This Month's Newsletter:

- **Congratulations Bishop-Elect Stephen Parkes!**
- **Welcome David Ramos!**
- **Supporting Our Priests**

- Donor Impact at St. Teresa Catholic School
- Returning Safely Back-To-School
- Catholic-Compliant Investing
- Supporting Our Parishes Through Online Giving

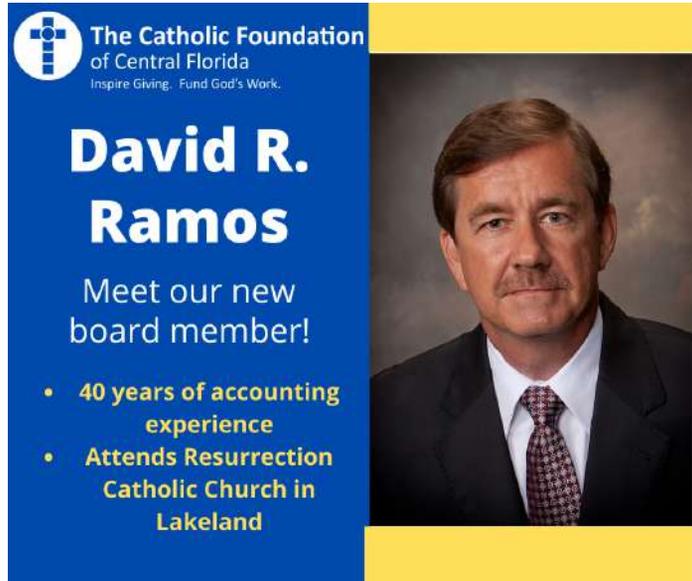
...and more...

Congratulations Bishop-Elect Parkes!



Founding Board Member: The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

New Board Member: Welcome David Ramos!



[Please click here](#) to learn more about David and our other board members.

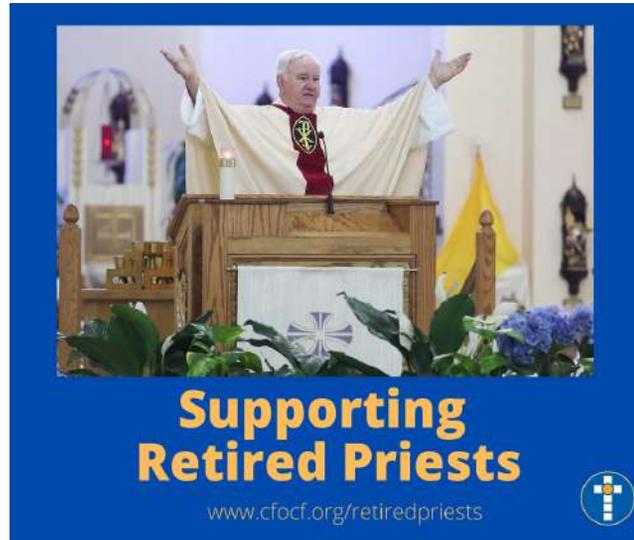
Supporting a New Generation of Priests



Left photo: Bishop-Elect Stephen Parkes and Kimberlee Riley
Right photo: Fr. Thomas Pringle, Bishop John Noonan, Fr. Adam Marchese

Kimberlee Riley, President & CEO of The Catholic Foundation, and Bishop-Elect Parkes assisted this month with the Ordination to the Priesthood of Father Marchese and Father Pringle.

Caring For Those Who Cared For Us



We are thankful for our priests, whose lives embody the essence of giving. They have dedicated decades of their lives to be at our side for life's sacred moments: baptism, communion, marriage, and when we are called home to the Lord. Given the uncertainty surrounding our nation's Social Security finances, the retirement outlook is precarious for many seniors, including our diocesan priests. As a result, our request is for you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Priests Retirement Endowment to help ensure that these faithful men receive a comfortable and dignified retirement, with modest housing, basic living expenses, and access to medical care. [Please click here](http://www.cfof.org/retiredpriests) to make a gift. God bless you!

*Presbyters who preside well deserve double honor,
especially those who toil in preaching and teaching
1 Timothy 5:17*

Donor Generosity Elevates Learning Experience at St. Teresa Catholic School The Boland Family Learning Center Offers Tech Tools For Modern Era



Donor generosity is impacting lives and modernizing education by creating a new learning space at St. Teresa Catholic School in Titusville. The Boland Family Learning Center is a 2,400-square-foot remodeled space showcasing modern learning tools including a 75-inch touch screen, robotics, 3D printers, science kits, books, and a modular layout that adapts to student needs. It also includes wi-fi, workstations for iPads and Chromebooks, as well as a "green screen" where students can record video announcements often broadcast on the school's Facebook page. The new space will offer classes including computer programming, website development, robotics and 3D design.

The learning center was made possible by a generous gift from the Boland family, which runs the general contracting firm, David Boland Inc., in Titusville. David Boland is a University of Florida civil engineering graduate. St. Teresa students will gain full access to the learning center when the school year starts on August 26 with new safety and social-distancing protocols in place. The student body includes a young member of the Boland family.

“Supporting St. Teresa Catholic School is both important and meaningful to me because I strongly believe that one of the most important and beneficial gifts that we can give our children is a quality education based upon moral values,” David Boland says. “By doing so, we prepare our children to develop their full potential and to be responsible and productive members of society. The achievements of St. Teresa Catholic School’s alumni are a testament to the school’s success at providing a quality education and the learning center will be a resource to facilitate the continuance of that success.”

The Boland Family’s gift, which fully funded the Learning Center, deepens their philanthropic legacy, says Mary McCrory, Principal at St. Teresa Catholic School. “The Boland Family has always been a huge supporter of St. Teresa Catholic School,” she says. “Generations of Bolands have attended and continue to attend St. Teresa, so the family is personally invested in the school and parish. Over the past several years, the Bolands have made significant contributions to the school community that continue to make an impact for future students. Beyond funding 100% of the Boland Family Learning Center remodel, an endowment was established in order to ensure future generations can continue to afford a St. Teresa education.”

The Boland Family Learning Center is part of St. Teresa’s goal to become a STREAM–certified school. “STREAM” stands for science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and mathematics. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops oversees STREAM certification, which encourages holistic learning fostered by facts, faith, flexibility and learning from each other. It’s a teaching model well-suited for a modern era that emphasizes collaboration, idea adaptation and technical acumen, says Ms. McCrory, the school’s Principal.

“STREAM lessons provide students with the ability to use discovery, trial-and-error, and exploration which are skills students need to have as they move through life and into the “real world,” ” she says. “Students learn through experiences rather than just memorizing facts. St. Teresa Catholic School is located in Titusville (Florida), the center of the space industry. We have engineers, designers, and out-of-the-box thinkers all around our area. The skills our students will learn while utilizing the new learning space will tap into skills used daily by these very same people. The Boland Family Learning Center enables St. Teresa to maintain our reputation as a strong educational institution.”

For decades, Catholic schools throughout Central Florida have provided a rigorous religious-and-academic education to students regardless of religion, race, gender or disability. To learn more about how to support our Catholic schools, which nurture the intellectual, physical and spiritual development of children, please contact Madelyn Weed, The Foundation’s Chief Donor Services Officer, at mweed@cfocf.org or 407-246-7188. God bless you!

Back-To-School 2020: Student Safety



[Please click here](#) to see a health-and-safety video message from Henry Fortier, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Orlando. He explains how our Catholic Schools are adapting to the coronavirus in various ways, including buying new technology to livestream classes to virtual students who will learn the same material from home as their peers attending school in-person. Your gifts provide vital resources to Catholic schools as they continuously adapt to the pandemic to ensure learning and that students and staff are safe. [Please click here](#) to support your local Catholic school.

What is Catholic-Compliant Investing?

Catholic-compliant investing helps us to be good stewards of our financial gifts beyond simply increasing the value of those gifts. As Catholics, we are called to return our gifts to God with increase and to avoid benefiting personally from investments in companies engaged in work that opposes Gospel values.

The U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has provided concrete [guidelines](#) for Catholic investors on what socially responsible goals we should seek to promote and which practices must be avoided. These strategies are based on the moral demands posed by the virtues of prudence and justice.

Specifically, Catholic investment portfolios should:

Protect Human Life

Promote Human Dignity

Reduce Arms Production

Pursue Economic Justice

Protect the Environment

Encourage Corporate Responsibility

These socially responsible goals provide a guide for what to invest in as well as a list of morally illicit activities to avoid. Businesses in which Catholics must not invest in are those engaged in abortion, contraception, embryonic stem cell research, racial and gender discrimination, pornography, arms production or other morally offensive business activities.

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is blessed to work in a strategic partnership with our investment advisors, The Concord Advisory Group LTD., who have more than 25 years of experience assisting clients in designing socially responsible investment programs which match their values and can be practically implemented for investment growth.

Concord engages best-in-class market managers to accomplish socially responsible investing with target returns. Some of these managers include State Street Global Advisors, Dimensional, and PIMCO. Investments held by The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida are regularly monitored to achieve returns while respecting our social values with the current portfolio 99.5% fully Catholic-compliant.

Our Catholic-compliant investment portfolio offers a host of opportunities at many giving levels to support what is on your heart and assist you in fulfilling your philanthropic goals:

- **\$20,000 or more to establish a new [Endowment](#) (perpetual) OR [Reserve Fund](#) (3-5 or 5+ year growth timeline) to support a parish, school or ministry.**
- **\$10,000 or more to establish your [Donor Advised Fund](#) to support ministries or organizations in compliance with Catholic social teaching.**
- **Any gift amount to an [existing Endowment](#) supporting parishes, schools and ministries.**

Investing in The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida allows you to return your gifts to God with increase while supporting our Catholic values. To learn more about socially responsible investing or how you can impact your favorite parish, school or ministry through a Catholic-compliant Endowment, Reserve or Donor Advised Fund, please contact Madelyn Weed at mweed@cfocf.org or 407-246-7188.

Planned Giving Advisory Council Expands Throughout The Diocese



Wendy Mara

Wendy Mara has served in the Diocese of Orlando for years, first as a language arts teacher at Father Lopez Catholic High School in Daytona and then at Prince of Peace teaching religious education, serving as a lector, and assisting with altar services. After becoming an attorney and opening her practice Mara Law, P.A. that assists people with estate planning, Wendy was asked to serve once again. Appointed as the Eastern & Southern Deaneries Planned Giving Advisory Council Chair, she is working to grow the Council throughout Brevard and Volusia Counties.

The goal of The Catholic Foundation's Planned Giving Advisory Council (PGAC) is to partner with a network of estate and financial planning professionals to support our community in realizing the impact of their philanthropy. The PGAC provides educational and networking opportunities to support Central Florida planned giving professionals with incorporating distinct services that will help their clients realize the philanthropic impact they can accomplish through their giving and connect them to resources to further their philanthropic journey with their parish, parish school, or ministries they support.

"I am looking forward to reaching out to our community of active Catholic parishioners in the planned giving field (legal, financial, accounting, and insurance industries) to join our Council and support our parishes," Wendy says. "My hope is to have one member on the Council from each of our parishes."

If you are a professional in planned giving in the Diocese, please contact Janet Caramello at jcaramello@cfocf.org for more information. If you are in the Brevard or Volusia County, contact Wendy Mara at wamara@maralawpa.com. [Please click here](#) to learn more about our Planned Giving Advisory Council.

Community Services:

Walking Together in Faith and Philanthropy

Our parishes lives blossom and thrive when parishioners have opportunities to integrate their faith into every aspect of their being. Through a spiritually sound program called Offertory Enhancement Initiative The Catholic Foundation's Community Services team walks with pastors, parish staff and lay leaders so their parishes can secure the resources they need to sustain and grow their work while reconnecting the faithful with the joy of ministry and the calling to a stewardship way of life. This initiative is launched in the Fall and those parishes who launched in Fall 2019 enjoyed an average 16% increase in offertory giving in their first three months.

However, this past year has been different from all others before it. The COVID-19 pandemic which hit in March has made changes to the way we come together for Mass celebration, leaving a lot of empty pews and changes to how we practice our Sacraments, meet for Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparations and much more. Accordingly, parishes have been left to connect with their faith community virtually and through other means of communication including social media and email, as well as phone and direct mail.

We know the difficulties many parish families have experienced as a result of the pandemic due to loss of work, illness, and loneliness because some of our board and staff have experienced this as well. We also know some of the hardships our pastors, parishes and schools have and continue to endure amid these distinctly different times.

For much of our giving and even bill paying – many of us have used mail, online options and even text-to-give. However, with our stewardship and giving for our Church and its ministries, most of us have always relied on being present, having envelopes and waiting for the baskets to get passed. In an effort to adapt to the changed needs of both parish and parishioners, it is time for us all to consider how we can continue helping our parishes through our faith-inspired charity with *online giving*.

Online giving is a critical component of parish/diocesan fundraising now and will continue to be in the future.

Online giving, as we have likely experienced in a similar way with online banking and online shopping, is both safe and easy. Online giving is a way during these unprecedented times for parishioners to continue to share their gifts of treasure to support the good works of the Church without being present, using envelopes or baskets. According to a recent PR newswire report: “92% of donors said they will continue to donate primarily online and on mobile after the pandemic ends and 94% of faith leaders believe online and mobile giving is here to stay.”

One key advantage to online giving is the data security of payment information provided to parishioners– which also takes a heavy and important burden off the parish. During the pandemic, our Community Services team engaged with pastors, parish staff and lay leaders across the diocese to assist and provide information about how they can launch a user-friendly online giving portal if they didn’t already have one. For those who already had online giving options, our team provided messaging to improve awareness about this option from the pulpit and other means of communications. We have seen many of our parishes implement or improve their online giving services, providing their parishioners with an alternative and convenient way to return their gifts to God.

Online giving offers the parishioner a yearlong and lifelong way to commit to missionary discipleship.

For parishes that do not have online giving and are not yet in the position to take on the task of providing this service themselves, The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida has provided a webpage for any donor to give online to their church or mission of choice at <https://tinyurl.com/GiveToChurch>.

Through the implementation of the key spiritual elements of the initiative and with online giving increasing over the last few months, while still apart from most of the church body, many parishioners have been able to re-engage with a spirit of giving. Even with the impact of the pandemic, some of the parishes who launched Offertory Enhancement Initiatives in Fall 2019 have experienced increases to their offertory and, on average from March to June 2020 all parishes participating in this initiative have seen a 115% increase in online gifts.

Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church in Ocala first implemented their online giving in the Fall of 2019 when they began the initiative and agreed that this has been a helpful way to receive offertory gifts. As they continue to maintain social distancing during the pandemic, “ushers point people to the offertory baskets (no longer being passed) and they also inform them of other ways of giving,” says John Sherman, Director of Operations, Director of Liturgy and Music for Our Lady of the Springs. He also stated that the parish continues to promote online giving in their e-bulletin, parish website and Facebook page.

Despite these unforeseen and unprecedented times, the collaborative efforts of every pastor and their devoted parish staff members and lay leaders have helped to preserve parish vitality. We are grateful to the generous donors who make this possible!

*Let us not grow tired of doing good,
for in due time we shall reap our harvest,
if we do not give up. - Galations 6:9*

For all those impacted by the pandemic from illness or loss of job, we continue to pray for comfort, hope, healing and restoration. For those who have not been impacted and are able to continue stewarding the Church at this time, if you haven’t considered online giving, we invite you to continue your offertory giving by setting up a payment for your parish through your online banking or by taking the next step with your parish’s online giving portal.



ONLINE Giving BENEFITS



PARISHIONER BENEFITS QUICK EASY SECURE



Give anytime, anywhere, from any mobile device.



Give even if you're unable to attend services.



Say goodbye to checks! There's no need.



Easily make changes to your contributions any time.



PCI/SSL compliance means your info is secure & confidential. No need to share your info with parish staff; enter it directly into the Online Giving secure site.



PARISH BENEFITS ECONOMIC EFFICIENT SECURE



Stabilizes giving and allows for more accurate revenue forecasting.



Accommodates special collections.



Reduced expenses with no check fees and fewer envelopes.



Provides electronic donation summary for tax time.



Eliminates parish staff's concerns regarding security of sensitive data.



The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida

Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

Online Giving helps parishioners fulfill their discipleship & stewardship intentions

For more information contact your parish office or visit your parish website.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

*O Blessed Virgin Mary,
you carried the Son of
the eternal Father.*



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT,
AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS,
THERE IS FREEDOM
2 Corinthians 3:17



In the 12th century, hermits withdrew to Mount Carmel and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as patroness of the Carmelite Order. This month, we celebrated the principal feast day of the Carmelite Order.

This month, we celebrated our nation's independence and our religious freedom.
God Bless America!

OUR MISSION: To inspire and increase giving, to prudently invest the resources entrusted to us, and to capably steward those charitable gifts to support the spiritual and corporal needs of the community of the Diocese of Orlando.



Stay Connected with Us Every Day!



The Catholic Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation committed to fostering and stewarding philanthropy to address community issues and meet the spiritual and corporal needs of our community year-round. As a proven trustworthy philanthropic organization to give to and give through, we have received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Fully endorsed by the Diocese of Orlando and its Bishop, we work extensively with Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations aligned with Catholic social values to help inspire giving and secure resources needed to further their long-term goals.



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