

June 2021

**The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida
Newsletter**

Honoring Fathers



Dear Friends in Christ,

This month we celebrate all the amazing fathers who love and care for their children and families, and the Year of St. Joseph, the foster father and provider for the Son of God. We are grateful to St. Joseph for serving as a model parent and all of the fathers in our community whose love and guidance for their children helps to form disciples of Christ. We are also grateful to Father John Bluett, Father Charles Deeney, and Father Barry Dowd who retired this month after decades of service in the Diocese of Orlando. We celebrate generous parishes and donors providing support for the ongoing progress of Emmaus, a residence for retired priests now under construction at the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center. We invite our community to support families impacted by the pandemic at risk of becoming homeless through a gift to the Mercy Fund, which is providing timely housing relief and other assistance to families affected by the Covid pandemic. We celebrate the story of Dominic Rego, a college senior who established his Catholic legacy through a planned gift for Catholic Campus Ministry. We share how The Catholic Foundation works with generous donors and our diocesan partners to multiply God's blessings and serve our growing faith community. And Diana Loayza Garcia, our Legacy Gifts & Grants Manager, discusses how her job at The Foundation was an answer to prayer in our new "Getting To Know You" feature.

*And I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.
- 2 Corinthians 6:18*




In This Month's Newsletter:

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- ...and more...



Congratulations Father Jorge Torres!

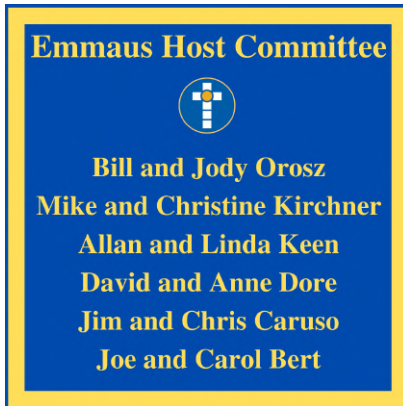
We congratulate Father Jorge Torres who this month was appointed as a specialist for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis in Washington. In his new role, effective July 12, he will help implement a planned multiyear National Eucharistic Revival. Father Torres is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Melbourne, Fla. We offer our prayers for Father Torres in his new appointment.

Blessings In Retirement		
		
Fr. John Bluett Pastor, St. Stephen Winter Springs	Fr. Charles Deeney, Pastor, St. Patrick Mt. Dora	Fr. Barry Dowd Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe Orlando

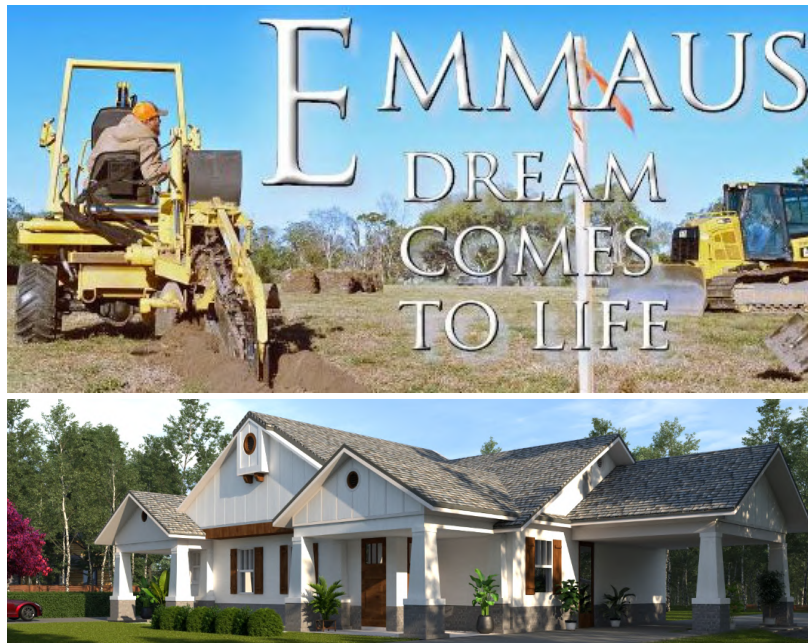
This month we honor the retirement of three priests who faithfully served the Diocese of Orlando community. Thank you Father John Bluett, Father Charles Deeney, and Father Barry Dowd for helping to Build His Kingdom. May God shower his blessings on the life awaiting all of you!

A Sanctuary For Our Retired Priests

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is blessed with the opportunity to work with Bishop John Noonan to make his Emmaus dream a reality! Emmaus is an independent living community for retired priests on the holy grounds of the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park. Emmaus will have 15 residences, each with 1,015-square-feet of living space, a porch and carport. There will also be a community center for fellowship with each other, friends and family. The cost to build this ministry of blessings is \$5 million and to properly care for this special place, we wish to create a \$1 million endowment (Emmaus Endowment Fund) to provide for ongoing maintenance, a source to support priests who are unable to afford the full monthly rental costs and a comprehensive care management program for its residents.



We are grateful to Bill and Jody Orosz who chaired a host committee to launch the "Road to Emmaus" campaign. The initial efforts have brought us more than halfway to our \$6 million goal. We thank the generous parishes and donors who have offered leadership gifts which have allowed construction on phase 1 to begin. The photo below shows the groundbreaking for the new Emmaus residence as well as the rendering of the exterior of the residence units. With construction underway, the hope is for priest residents to move into their new homes in early 2022.



[View our Emmaus video](#) and learn more about Emmaus through an [article published this month by Florida Catholic](#).

We invite you to join together with us out of love for our priests and prayerfully consider a contribution to support the "Road to Emmaus" at www.cfocf.org/emmaus.

Mercifully Assisting Our Neighbors



As hundreds of children and families in Central Florida face potential eviction at the end of next month, the book of Deuteronomy (15:7-8) shares the Lord's wisdom for our community: "If one of your kindred is in need in any community in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand against your kin who is in need. Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet that need."

The scripture provides a biblical framework when considering how to assist the thousands of people and families in Florida who could find themselves homeless when the federal eviction moratorium ends July 31. The federal order -- created in response to the Covid pandemic -- prevents landlords from evicting tenants for non-payment of rent if the tenant meets certain qualifications. While the federal moratorium has provided relief to renters, it does not release or forgive a tenant's obligation to pay rent, so their rent obligations have been compounding in the past year.

The moratorium has been a crucial aid for Florida's renters because there is no state eviction moratorium. By some estimates, the average Central Florida tenant is six months behind on their rent, creating a historic need for community aid. To be sure, many landlords have also suffered in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic through the loss of rental income.

The once-a-century pandemic has hit the Sunshine state especially hard: A recent study by AdvisorSmith Solutions said 15.6 percent of renters in Florida are at risk of eviction, the second highest rate in the U.S. Another recent study from Rent.com found the average rent in Orlando was 34.9 percent of the average monthly income, compared with the national median of 26 percent.

Anticipating Covid's pressure on our community, The Catholic Foundation's Board of Directors last year proactively established the Mercy Fund, which supports Central Florida's increased needs since the arrival of the pandemic for food, housing, utilities, and behavioral health assistance. The board approved an initial investment of \$10,000 to seed the Mercy Fund and an additional \$15,000 to match donations to this fund. In all, the Mercy Fund has raised a total of nearly \$80,000 through donor generosity that has helped to alleviate suffering among our neighbors.

Our community's compassion to alleviate suffering is visible at Catholic Charities of Central Florida. Since the arrival of the pandemic, Catholic Charities food assistance to our community is up five-fold, and housing and utilities assistance has increased as well. Donor gifts to the Mercy Fund provide Catholic Charities with the resources to meet our community's increased needs. With the federal eviction moratorium ending next month, hundreds of Central Florida families will need rental assistance to avoid homelessness. Preventing homelessness is the most affordable way for our community to reduce homelessness.

As the book of Deuteronomy lovingly teaches us, helping our neighbors by giving to the Mercy Fund provides the opportunity to "freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet" the needs of our brothers and sisters. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Mercy Fund at www.cfocf.org/MercyFund. God bless you.

*It is not that I am eager for the gift; rather,
I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account.
Philippians 4:17*

New Endowment Options Make Funding More Accessible

Establish Your Catholic Endowment Fund

Your Values. Your Legacy.

All endowments grow with 99.3% or more compliance with our Catholic values.

How does an endowment work?

ESTABLISH
A minimum of \$20,000 is required to establish your Endowment. We have several funding options available to allow you to establish now or over time.



GROW
Once your Endowment is established, the funds are invested in accordance with our Catholic values and begin to grow in value and impact.



IMPACT
Your Endowment is a permanent legacy that will continue to provide funds for your favorite Catholic parish, school or ministry in perpetuity.



www.cfocf.org/Endowment-Funds

Looking to establish an **Endowment Fund** over time or with a group?

Announcing three new Endowment funding options!

Virtual **Equity Building** **Pooled**

For more info, contact:
Madelyn Weed, CFRE
mweed@cfocf.org
(407) 246-7188



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

It's easier to make a specific, lasting impact with our three new options for establishing an endowment. An Endowment Fund provides a source of annual income to a Catholic organization of your choice. [Please click here](#) to learn more.

Building Capacity Together To Sustain The Kingdom Of God In Central Florida

\$82 million
Assets under management

\$8.9 million
Increase in offertory giving

\$52.8 million
Distributed from legacy gifts

\$15 million
Distributed from investment funds

171
Investment funds

\$324.3 million
Dollars collected for capital and
general advancement campaigns

\$5,900
Awarded to students for Marian
devotion

Serving The Multitude

Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs.

Today, the spirit of the risen Christ asks for the use of our hands and feet, hearts and minds, to continue serving God by serving our community. We are called to increase our capacity for receiving God's blessings and evangelizing His Word.

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida exists to help build His Kingdom by supporting the parishes, schools, ministries, entities, and community with opportunities that increase their capacity for sustainable growth.

Now more than ever in our post-pandemic world, it is crucial for all of us to reconsider the best strategies to multiply and share God's Word for a new time.

Adapting strategies can improve an organization's long-term effectiveness and sustainability in order to achieve the greatest impact. While we have provided capacity building since our inception, The Catholic Foundation has refocused and increased our services and outreach to enhance support for individuals and organizations in our community. As we are all building the Kingdom of God, our goal is to drive innovation and organizational growth so that we can enlarge the space for our tents and feed the spiritual needs of more people throughout Central Florida.

Capacity building services offered by The Catholic Foundation:

- Stewardship programs which deepen faith and engage the people of God in returning their gifts with increase.
- Strategic relationship building including donor relations and engagement guidance to improve donor experiences and

New Capacity Building Grants

\$3,500

Awarded to parishes, schools and ministries in Catholic Giving Tuesday grants

\$4,200

Awarded to Catholic parish leaders in ICSC Conference scholarship grants

\$1,000

Awarded to Catholic leaders for Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy partial tuition grants

strengthen relationships with professional advisors.

- Advisory board and council education on market trends and investment strategies.
- Investment management services leveraging charitable revenue with market return in Catholic-compliant investments.
- Internal operations improvement such as database integrity and transparent communications strategy for stakeholders.
- Grants for organizations and professional development for staff, volunteers and community leaders.
- Endowment and fund building strategies supporting donors' goals of passing on their values, establishing legacies and making a philanthropic impact by growing organizational revenue.

Our Foundation team is grateful to partner with generous donors and our diocesan colleagues to address our community needs and build the Kingdom of God in Central Florida.

College Student Establishes Catholic Legacy at CCM



Dominic Rego, a college senior at UCF and altar server at Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM), has made a planned gift to CCM.

Dominic Rego recalls his best memory with the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) community, which fosters faith among Central Florida college students. Dominic and a group of friends in the fall of 2020 drove from Orlando and spent the night at Cocoa Beach where Dominic practiced guitar, everyone sang praise-and-worship songs around a campfire, and the friends enjoyed a coffee-and-eggs breakfast the following morning as they watched the sun rise. At that moment, "I realized the people around me are like brothers and sisters," Dominic, 23, recalls.

So when Dominic enlisted in the U.S. Navy – while still attending the University of Central Florida (UCF) where he is currently a senior – he knew exactly who to name as a beneficiary of the life insurance plan that the Navy provides as part of his benefits. Dominic, who is scheduled to graduate from UCF in December and serve the Navy thereafter, named CCM as the sole beneficiary of his life insurance plan. By establishing a legacy gift for CCM, Dominic has become the youngest member of The Catholic Foundation's Vivos Christi Society, which honors those who have made a planned gift supporting a Church ministry or entity.

Dominic has two siblings who could have been named beneficiaries of the life insurance policy, so his parents asked: "What about your brother and sister?" Dominic told his parents that he would help his siblings in other ways. "I had been thinking for a while about how I could make a lasting impact on CCM and this was it," Dominic says of his planned gift. "If only one person can benefit from my gift to CCM the way I have benefited from CCM, it will be worth it."

Faith and altruism infuse Dominic's world view: "I want to bring Catholic ideas to the Navy. I want to serve my country," says Dominic, a math major. "I want the U.S. to be a global force for good. I want to help protect the

world. Hopefully, one day I'll earn a star on my shoulder as a Navy admiral."

The Church needs young Catholics to become dependable stewards, says Dominic, a self-described "cradle Catholic" who was an altar server as a child and has filled the same role at CCM. "College kids my age are the future of the Church. The Church will grow or shrink because of us. If we want it to do well in the future, we have to invest in it."

To learn how you can establish your Catholic legacy with a planned gift for your favorite parish, school, ministry or entity, please contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, Vice President and Chief Donor Services Officer, at mweed@cfocf.org or 407-246-7188.

God Answered My Prayers



In this month's newsletter, The Catholic Foundation begins a new occasional feature, "Getting To Know You," where we introduce you to team members who collaborate with each other and our donors and partners to impact lives across the Diocese of Orlando. In this feature, we introduce you to Diana Loayza Garcia, the Foundation's Legacy Gifts & Grants Manager. Diana's responsibilities include helping parishes, schools, ministries and entities in the Diocese of Orlando process planned gifts, assisting donors with the Foundation's online Fundholder Portal, and helping to process grants through The Foundation's Donor Advised Funds.

1. Why did you want to work at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida?

The opportunity to work at The Foundation was an answer to prayer. At the time, I was praying for God's guidance about how to find the right path for personal and professional fulfillment and as a leap of faith, the opportunity to interview with The Foundation came through. Covid-19 had just started spreading in our community, there was a lot of uncertainty, and everything was shutting down, but as scary as times were at the moment, it felt as if God had answered my prayers. It all felt like it was the right time for me to embark on a new professional journey. I wanted to be part of something great and impactful for our community and I knew that at The Foundation I would not only be finding the fulfillment I had been looking for, but more importantly, I would be working for an organization that centers its mission on God's love for the wellbeing of our Diocesan community. This opportunity has certainly been a gift from God.

2. How would you describe the work that you do? (What does a typical day or week look like?)

My workdays are very dynamic. I come to the office every morning motivated and ready to check off every task in my to-do list and ready for what new things the day will bring. Between working on projects to streamline or establish new processes and daily tasks, my dynamics change when we receive notice of an estate gift. My priority to complete goals for the day then temporarily shifts as I start working on processing estate gifts for a parish, school or diocesan ministry. The time to fully process estate gifts can take from weeks to months, depending on their complexity, and each is a different journey that I greatly enjoy. My purpose is to assist our parishes, schools, and ministries in the Diocese of Orlando in processing their bequests so that they do not have to worry about the paperwork and can receive their gifts in a timely manner as well as to honor and fulfill our donors' last wishes.

3. What do you like most about the role that you have?

I love being a witness to our donors' generosity and of the legacy that they leave to contribute to the causes they care most about during life and once they part. All our living and posthumous donors are an example of selfless giving, gratitude, care for the needs of others and love for God and their neighbor. At the end of my workdays, the most beautiful part of it are the lessons of generous giving that I learn from our donors. Working to fulfill a donor's intent so that our Church can continue to minister to the faith community is very rewarding.

4. What has been your favorite project so far and why?

My favorite project has been collaborating on the launch of our Donor Advised Fund program. It has been an enjoyable team effort in gathering and building our list of approved entities, fine tuning of our donor portal and establishing new funds. It is very rewarding to be part of this project as it is designed to provide individuals and families an easy-and-convenient tool to realize their charitable giving in a few clicks. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to a fresh and evolving program and I celebrate the charitable impact we are contributing to, the success that we have had thus far, and what is yet to come!

5. What do you enjoy most about The Catholic Foundation's culture?

Working with such a talented-and-strong team is very enjoyable for me. I find happiness in collaborating with my teammates and learning from them. I started working at The Foundation during the times of the pandemic's lockdown and even though I did not get to meet everyone in person until months later, from day one I felt included and everybody received me with open arms. Our office is full of smiles, talent, teamwork, and love for what we do - it is the perfect work environment!

6. What advice do you have for people considering working at The Catholic Foundation?

If you find fulfillment in making a difference in your community, pursue this opportunity, this will be the place for you. Come to work with an open heart and success will come your way!

7. Which of The Catholic Foundation's organizational values connect best with you?

Faith-filled passion.

8. What three words best describe The Catholic Foundation?

Evolving, impactful, faith-driven.

9. How do you hope your charitable giving impacts lives in our community?

I hope to be part of the response to the needs that our community faces through my talent and treasure and by continuing to serve God. I hope to give back to my community and to also motivate others to support the causes they care most about.

10. What's a fun fact most people don't know about you?

I love to read, especially Latin American literature related to Andean culture.

Let Diana know how she can assist you by contacting her at dloayza@cfocf.org. She's looking forward to getting to know you.

Thank You!



Thank you to our generous donors who are bringing our Church and world to the fullness of charity by giving to Our Catholic Appeal, which benefits every parish, school, ministry and entity in the Diocese of Orlando.

This Month We Observed...



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