

*We are one diocesan faith family, children of God,
Christ-centered, and Spirit-led
working together to build the Kingdom of God in Central Florida.*



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



September
2021

The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida
Newsletter

Dear friends in Christ,

September is devoted to The Seven Sorrows of Mary, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. Sorrow is a sadness full of love and our Lady's cooperation in the redemption of the world gives us insight to her grace. She is the perfect model for our lives as we understand our discipleship journey will have challenges and even sorrow, but Mary's faithfulness teaches us to keep our focus on her Son and remember He is always with us. This month we hosted the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) conference in Orlando where locals received recognition including Monsignor Patrick Sheedy of Blessed Trinity Parish in Ocala and The Catholic Foundation. Several of our diocesan faithful shared their expertise at the conference. Annual distributions or grants from endowments are made this time of year providing support for our Central Florida community. We are pleased to welcome a new Chairman for our Planned Giving Advisory Council and a new Board of Director member this month.

Reflection: *Ponder the Mother of God's heart and the sword that pierced her heart. Strive to understand her perfect love which loved her Son and those who persecuted Him. Seek her intercession to imitate her love and for her love for you and our world.*

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Orlando Hosts the International Catholic Stewardship Conference (ICSC)



We were privileged to host the 2021 **International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) Conference** held at the Hyatt Regency Orlando from **September 12-15** this year for their first in-person conference since the beginning of the pandemic. The 59th annual ICSC conference — themed ***“Restore Our Joy”*** offered attendees networking opportunities and more than **100 stewardship-related sessions** focusing on new ideas, innovations, strategies on coming back from the pandemic as together we bring our Church throughout the world to its fullness of charity.

More than 500 professional lay and clergy serving Catholic dioceses and foundations across the country gathered for the conference to take part in the opportunities to learn how Christian stewardship enhances the lives of Catholic Christians as missionary disciples and prepares them to minister and offer leadership in their communities to build up the Body of Christ. At the conference each year ICSC recognizes individuals and organizations for their excellence in stewardship.

The Reverend Patrick “Father Pat” Sheedy was named the 2021 recipient of the Christian Stewardship Award by the board of directors of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC). The award was presented to Father Sheedy during ICSC’s plenary breakfast session on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

Father Sheedy has served as pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish in Ocala, Florida since 1988 but his priestly ministry has spanned close to 60 years. He grew up on a farm in Cooraclare, Ireland, the fourth of 12 children. He and his brother, Michael, both attended the famed Carlow College Catholic seminary in Ireland where, in 1965, they were ordained to the priesthood. It was soon thereafter that Father Sheedy journeyed to the United States where he served in several parishes and schools in the Dioceses of St. Augustine and Orlando.

For a time he served a pastoral appointment at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. After having been assigned to Blessed Trinity Parish, Father Sheedy began teaching the importance of embracing Christian stewardship as a way of life to the parishioners of the parish. Under his pastoral leadership, participation at Mass grew, adult faith formation and Catholic education programs soared, and Perpetual Adoration became popular. Ministry to the poor, the elderly, the imprisoned, and refugees has been a hallmark of Father Sheedy's priestly life. The parish community serves the underprivileged and homeless through the Brother's Keeper ministry. Father Sheedy also established the La Guadalupeana Mission medical and dental clinic which serves the local migrant worker population. As a person who believes deeply in a Christ-centered education, Father Sheedy played an instrumental role in founding and building Trinity Catholic High School, located in Ocala. He reveals a profound missionary impulse as well. Father Sheedy travels to Uganda every year, where he has helped build more than 30 Catholic churches and 17 schools.

Additionally, the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida awarded **10 scholarship grants** to **pastors and parish staff/leaders** to attend the conference. The goal of this grant was to support the professional development of all those involved with **advancing the stewardship of their parish in the Diocese of Orlando**.

IGSC GROWING YOUR STEWARDSHIP PARISH SCHOLARSHIP GRANT AWARD WINNERS

NAME	PARISH	ROLE
Andrew LoFaro	St. Joseph, Lakeland	Business Administrator
Easter Byrne	St. Peter, DeLand	Business Administrator
Richard Peterson	St. Peter, DeLand	Finance/Next Gen Stewardship Committee
Deacon Stephen Floyd	Blessed Trinity, Ocala	Deacon
Rev. Derek Saldanha	St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Cloud	Pastor
Rev. Thomas Connery	St. Theresa, Bellview	Pastor
Gregory Stevens	Blessed Trinity, Ocala	Finance Committee Chair
Rev. Stephen Ogonwa	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Pastor
Susan Lanier	Blessed Trinity, Ocala	Stewardship Staff
Tracy Conroy	St. Joseph, Palm Bay	Stewardship Staff
David Vodelpohl	St. John Vianney	Stewardship Committee, CCM Advisory Committee, Vivos Christi Member (future DAF endowment)



The Catholic Foundation was also recognized with three awards this year at the ICSC conference. The Excellence Award and an Honorable Mention in various categories recognize those dioceses and foundations making the most impact the past year engaging the faithful in inspired charity with charitable giving vehicles and strategies that help them achieve their philanthropic aspirations, return their gifts to God and support the future of our Church.

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida was selected to receive the following category awards:

1. **Excellence Award for Total Foundation Effort**
2. **Excellence Award for Total Planned Giving**
3. **Honorable Mention for Total Annual Appeal**

Marta Sweeney, Vice President, Chief Community Service Officer of The Catholic Foundation, and ICSC Board of Directors member said, *"These awards highlight our collaborative team efforts as well as our harmonization with donors and our partners, especially the Office of Communications with their support of the Annual Appeal video. It is an honor to be recognized by our international peers and a privilege to serve our Bishop and the Diocese of Orlando."*

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Thank you to our regional professionals who shared their time and expertise in presentations given for those attending the ICSC conference:

- Madelyn Weed CAP, Vice President, Chief Donor Services Officer, The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida
- Marta Sweeney, Vice President, Chief Community Services Officer, The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

- Jose Sola, Director of Digital Philanthropy, The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida
- Amanda Livermore, Vice President, Bishop Moore Catholic High School
- Kevin Casey, Chief Financial Officer, Diocese of Orlando
- Michael Zirkel, Vice President , Diocese of Orlando
- Kevin Shaughnessy, Partner, BakerHostetler and Counsel to Diocese of Orlando
- Very Reverend Joseph Waters J.C.L., Judicial Vicar, Diocese of St. Petersburg
- Carlos E. Bernard Jr., Director of Youth Ministry / Pastoral Juvenil, Secretariat for Laity, Family, and Life



Protecting Your Legacy Through Donor Intentions

Donor intent refers to how an individual, family or business making a charitable contribution intends the money to be used. Donors and their intentions are protected by civil law and for donations benefitting a Church entity or ministry, they are also protected by canon law. It is important for any organization receiving charitable contributions to honor a donor's intent to ensure ethical practice and to maintain a relationship of trust. This trust is critical for the organization, donor, and for the future of philanthropy in general. The responsibility to honor a donor's intent applies equally to foundation funds whether the fund is an endowment, reserve, or donor-advised.

At The Catholic Foundation, we document donor intentions in our fund agreements to ensure proper management and use of the funds over time. These intentions are checked each year at the time of endowment annual distributions or as funds are requested for reserve or donor-advised funds. Our Donor Services team also serves as a liaison for donors and the beneficiary organizations or ministries to keep donors updated on the impact their gifts have made.

Follow these steps to clearly define your intentions with your charitable giving:

- **Define your personal values using the 'Five Ps' guide. These Five Ps are what matters most to you and will serve as the anchors to ground your approach to giving.**
 1. **People**
 2. **Places**
 3. **Problem**
 4. **Pathways**
 5. **Philosophies**
- **Write a personal mission statement that guides your giving. Review your mission statement over time and update as needed.**
- **For large and/or planned gifts define not only who the gift will benefit or serve but also how the gift can be used (operations, capital, etc).**
- **Request a copy of the Gift Acceptance Policy to understand what types of gifts are accepted by an organization and to ensure that your (potential) gift is compliant with the policy.**
- **For long-term impact consider eventualities and identify alternative uses or beneficiaries if needed in the future.**
- **Get professional guidance from appropriate advisors (legal, financial) to ensure your gift is maximized.**
- **Request documentation for your gift (gift agreement or letter of intent) to ensure your intentions are clear and understood.**

The Catholic Foundation enables donors to advance their donor intent and multiply their impact through strategic giving. We provide fee-free philanthropic advisory services, briefings on current trends, and connections with other donors who share your principles and priorities.

Power of Non-Cash Giving

While tax advantages are nice they are not the only reason why donors give. Donors give to causes that have impacted their lives. However, tax advantages can help donors give more. Often individuals liquidate assets to increase cash on hand. When doing so they may pay transaction fees as well as capital gains taxes. Non-cash charitable gifts are not recognized by the IRS as cash and include securities such as stocks and bonds, vehicles, real estate, jewelry, antiques and even stock in privately-held companies. Non-cash gifts can be made by transferring ownership of these non-cash items. Non-profit organizations quickly liquidate these non-cash gifts to support their critical mission work while the donors save on fees and taxes. Considering non-cash gifts allow donors to make more of an impact than their cash flow would allow them to make.

Non-cash gifts can be made to Donor Advised Funds increasing the amount available to give to charity or can be used to establish endowment and reserve funds.

Start a Donor Advised Fund Today

As Catholics when we transfer ownership of non-cash items, we are returning our gifts back to God to support His work.

To learn more about making non-cash gifts to support the Catholic organization or ministry on your heart please contact Madelyn Weed at: (407) 246-7188 or mweed@cfocf.org.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Rob Thomson, CPA, PFS, AIF, MBA
Council Chair

★ **Planned Giving** ★
Advisory Council

*"...this was an opportunity to
bring together my faith and
my work for a greater good."*



President and Chief Investment Officer
Trivergent Trust Company, Winter Park
Parishioner at St. James Cathedral

Rob began his career as a Certified Public Accountant with Arthur Andersen in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before moving to Orlando in 1994. He is the President and Chief Investment Officer at Trivergent Trust Company in Winter Park. In addition to monitoring and selecting investment portfolios for clients, his work includes developing and implementing interfamily ownership transactions, chairing trustee meetings, serving as a liaison with other professional advisors for clients, serving on 401(k) investment committees, and completing annual accounting and tax reporting for dozens of legal entities.

Rob graduated from the University of Notre Dame with Accounting and MBA degrees and remains active as a Director and Past President of the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Greater Orlando. Rob served as the Chairman/Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Foundation from 2016-2019. Rob has served multiple times and is a current officer of the Florida Family Office Forum, a consortium of peer wealth advisors.

Why did you join The Catholic Foundation's Planned Giving Advisory Council (PGAC)?

To learn more about the Foundation and how I could help it grow in our community. I have some experience in planned giving and with foundations but this was an opportunity to bring together my faith and my work for a greater good. Also, some successful Catholic community leaders who I really admire (the Orosz and Chandler families to name a couple) have been instrumental in the formation and growth of the Catholic Foundation.

What do you hope to bring to the PGAC as Council Chair?

I would like to continue to plant more seeds and grow what our Founding Chair, Garrett Burke, put into motion, by adding some more engaged professionals to the Council, increase awareness of the Foundation, and support our priests and parishes.

What do you like most about the work you do at Trivergent Trust?

Being able to take the emotion out of investing for our clients who trust us with their earned or inherited wealth. The markets can be emotional roller coasters, but with a repeatable and disciplined process of planning, investing, monitoring and rebalancing, our clients trust us and we take that responsibility very seriously.

What advice do you have for people interested in joining the PGAC?

There is a lot of wealth that has been or is being transferred from generation to generation, and you never know when there may be an opportunity to help “do good” for our community with that wealth. It doesn’t have to be your own wealth. The time and talent can be yours, but helping advise on someone else’s treasure can have significance in many lives.

Which of The Catholic Foundation’s organizational values connect best with you? (*Faith-filled Passion, Collaboration, Stewardship, Transparency, Servant Leadership, Impact*)

Probably servant leadership, since I started my early school life in Catholic schools and it was reinforced during my time spent at Notre Dame.

What three words best describe The Catholic Foundation?

Diocesan ~ Faith ~ Family

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

The historical stewardship appeals of time, talent, and treasure live on. I wish I had more treasure to give, but with two children in Catholic school, for the time being, I need to focus on my time and talent to make an impact! I also hope my children and family learn from my example of doing my best to leave something or someone in a better place or condition than when you first encountered it or them.

What’s a fun fact most people don’t know about you?

That I’m up for an athletic challenge, even though I may not look like it! I recently completed my first duathlon, I have completed a dozen half marathons, and that even at my advanced age I am still playing baseball on Sunday afternoons and in weekend tournaments at major and minor league baseball stadiums. Although someday soon I may retire from baseball and start to play pickleball!

***Please join us in welcoming another new member
to our Board of Directors!***

Elisha González

We welcome Elisha González to our Board of Directors. Elisha is an



Educator and Public Affairs Executive and represents FAIRWINDS Credit Union nationally as the vice president of Government Affairs and Community Relations and executive director of the FAIRWINDS Foundation. She has been recognized for her leadership, business acumen, and her commitment to community and has been active in the community throughout her career, committed to making it a great place to live,

work and play. She is a member of St. James Cathedral community and is also stepping up to serve as the Chair of their Finance Council.

[Learn More About Elisha & Our Entire Board](#)

Annual Endowment Grants

We are honored to serve our diocese with investment management services. These services include endowed, reserve, and donor-advised funds.

Our endowed funds are designated by donor intentions to benefit specific organizations and ministries and managed to preserve the principal into perpetuity and provide an annual income to these beneficiaries. These funds, as all our funds, are invested in Catholic-compliant options.

Our Board of Directors has established an investment spending policy that allows for a 3-5% distribution or grant each year from the endowment fund to allow for growth.

Each year we work with donors, pastors, and other fundholders to inquire about their current needs and provide them options within the investment spending policy to determine their annual grant amount. Fundholders may choose to take an annual grant or to reinvest their grant providing additional growth for future income.

The table below represents eligible grant amounts within the investment spending policy for this fiscal year. Some of the grants are still being finalized and may be reinvested. Final grant amounts for the current fiscal year are expected to exceed \$2 million.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 GRANTS

Scholarship/Tuition Assistance	33	\$828,745
Parish Support	51	\$645,191
Ministry Support*	5	\$438,144
<small>*includes Bishop Grady Villas, Bishop Dorsey Endowment, and more...</small>		
Catholic Charities of CF	2	\$194,426
Priest Retirement	1	\$102,923
Catholic Campus Ministry	2	\$60,959
Polk County Charity	1	\$58,772
Seminarians	3	\$7,278
TOTAL	98	\$2,336,438

The Catholic Foundation offers several options to establish endowments. If you are interested in establishing an endowment fund for a ministry or organization on your heart please visit www.cfocf.org/endowmentfunds or contact Madelyn Weed at: (407) 246-7188 or mweed@cfocf.org.

**Establish an
Endowment
Fund**

Happy Anniversary to Bishop Stephen Parkes!

We celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of The Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes as the Fifteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah.

Bishop Parkes chose Philippians 4:4 for his motto:

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

Bishop Parkes served as a founding board member and the first Spiritual Director of The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida from 2009-2019.

He also chose to support Catholic Campus Ministry at UCF through an endowment which was established in his name.



Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) is an evangelization ministry very close to Bishop Parkes' heart where he served as Spiritual Director and Campus Minister at the University of Central Florida from 2004-2011 and was instrumental in the expansion of the ministry during a time when UCF was the fastest-growing university in the U.S.

Donate to the Bishop Stephen D. Parkes Endowment Fund

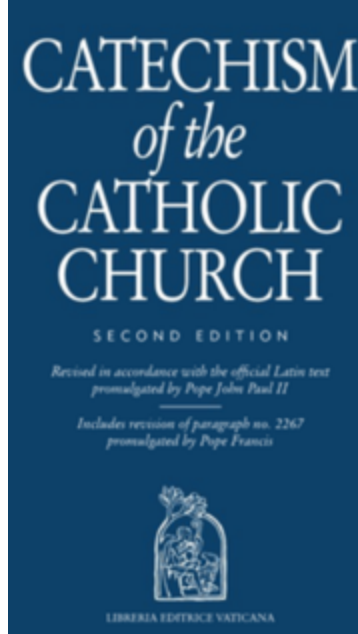
Donations to the Bishop Stephen D. Parkes Endowment Fund will provide for the perpetual needs of CCM. These resources are necessary as the ministry expands to support students in their transformational encounter with the Catholic faith and a lifelong mission of discipleship, continuing Bishop Parkes' legacy in Central Florida for generations to come.

Family Discipleship

When it comes to our families faithfulness, not perfection, is our goal. Parents are the first and primary teachers of faith.

The catechism of the Catholic Church states parents are "the first heralds of the faith".

In today's world, it is hard to find the time with maintaining the house, appointments, school activities, sports, and other seemingly endless demands on our family members. While we can't always juggle everything, consistency is helpful. Weekly Mass in person, or spiritually when illness prohibits participating in the church building, allows our families to be nourished by the bread of heaven.



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"Catechesis is an *education in the faith* of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life."⁸

.....

Creating family traditions is a great way to plant seeds of faith. Our children may not always appear to be paying attention but they are listening in their own way and the experiences will be recalled later in their lives.

Incorporate prayer into your daily lives as often and in as many ways as possible. Prayer before our meals reminds us that God has provided for us. During challenging moments throughout the day, a prayer for the Holy Spirit's gifts to be bestowed upon us or perhaps an intercessory prayer to a Saint can help us overcome the challenge. A short prayer in the morning inviting Jesus to walk with us through the day and reflecting prayerfully at the end of our day can start and end our days with purpose. Prayers can also be incorporated into our busy lives – the rosary can be played from an app while your family is in the car driving to an event.

Our prayers can be traditional ones or can be ones we share from our hearts. Reading scripture and having each family member reflect on it can also engage families in rich conversations. Remembering the age of our children and adapting as needed for their attention span and ability as well as engaging senses can be effective ways of creating traditions. Using candles, holy cards, rosaries, holy water, and music help to keep interest and enhance the experience. Making the sign of the cross is a short prayer and can be used before and after other prayers, when entering a church or chapel, after receiving Holy Communion, in the presence of the Holy Eucharist, when an ambulance goes by, or any time of need throughout the day.

Our discipleship journey is about our relationship with Christ and stewarding the Church He started. Showing our children how to encounter Jesus in our daily lives will help them develop their relationship with Him while we continue to develop our own relationship with Him. Living as a disciple helps to give our lives a decisive direction and an eternal perspective.

6 Simple Ways to Celebrate Sacred Time as a Family

1. Teach your children to start each day with prayers.

A good prayer to teach them is a morning offering...

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of the Sacred Heart, in union with the holy Catholic Church throughout the world and the communion of saints.

Amen.

2. Put a saint-of-the-day calendar on your breakfast table.

Reading the passage of the day gives you the chance to teach your children important lessons about holy people whose example we can emulate, and it also conveys a sense that our days have meaning and worth.

3. Celebrate ethnic holidays and feasts—even if it's not your ethnic group.

Make shamrock pancakes on [St. Patrick's Day!](#) The growing number of Hispanics in the U.S. is enriching our culture with traditional feasts for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Charity, and Los Posadas. There are countless ways to spice up the calendar year with special celebrations. They convey without words that all the days are special. The whole year is bathed in holiness.

4. Make birthdays special.

Celebrating a person's birth is a central way to convey a sense of time's sacredness. The point of celebrating is to convey how much you cherish this child. Find a time to sit together with your child and share a special message just from you. It might be about the day he or she was born, about how much you were looking forward to having this child. Or mention traits of this child that bring you joy.

5. Make more of your time in the car together.

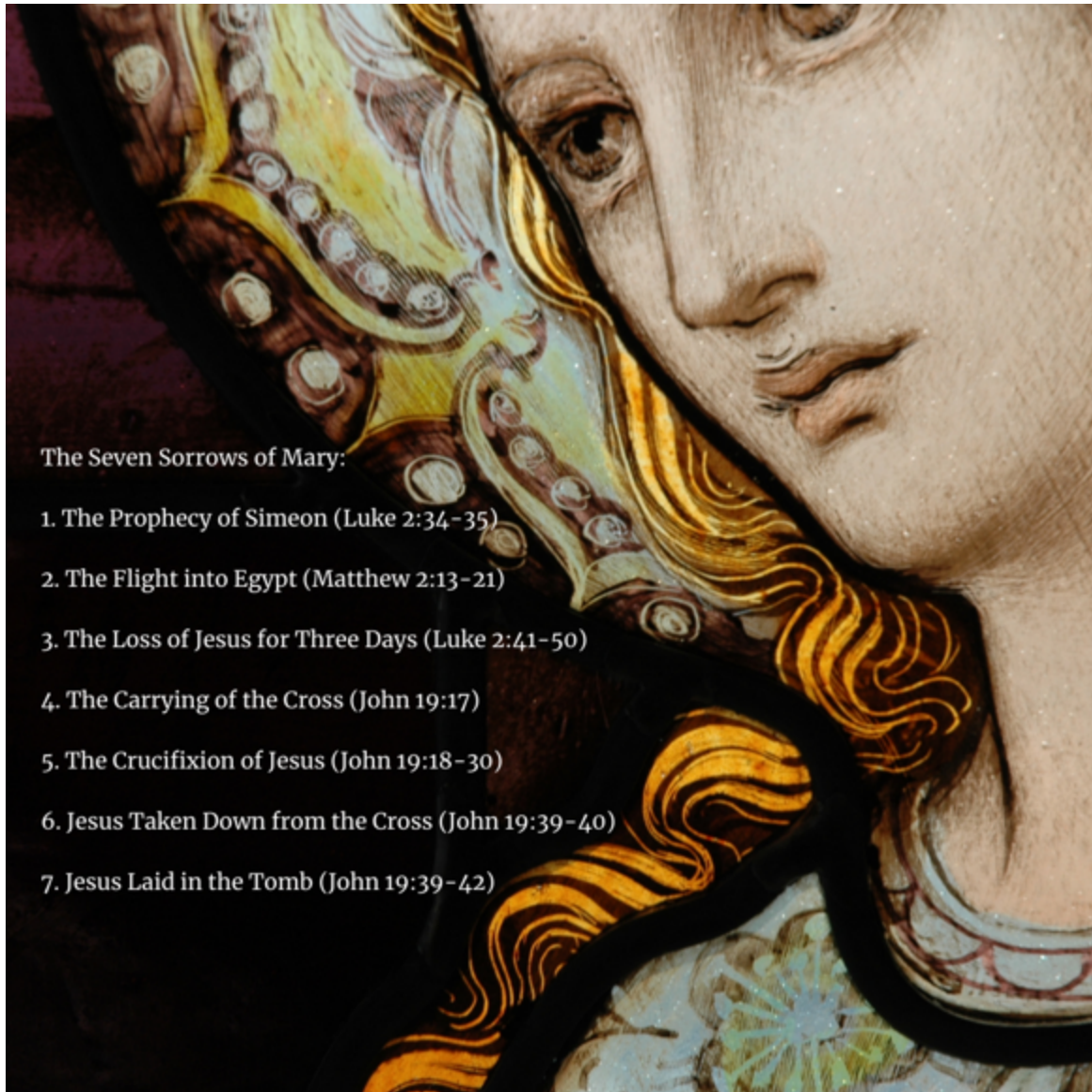
If you're alone with your children, let them take the initiative. You can ask something leading: "Have you got any questions about life that are on your mind?" Then sit back and listen. Your listening attitude can draw your children out. The more listening you do, the more you'll find out, and the closer you'll become.

6. Make Saturday night special.

As the week segues from business-as-usual to the restful experience promised by observance of the Sabbath, mark this special time with your children by helping them switch gears. You can prepare your family to get more out of church by shaping what goes on in your home during the hours beforehand. There's no one set formula. Find a routine that works for you; then be faithful to it.

The Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother

Devotion to the sorrows of Mary is a favorite among Catholics. It is sanctioned by the Church and in the Missal and Breviary. Many Saints have cherished a love for Mary as the Mother of Sorrows. St. Ignatius Loyola wore an image of the Sorrowful Mother on his chest. St. Alphonsus Liguori made the sorrows of Mary the subject of his daily meditations. St. Bridget said that Our Mother once requested her to not forget her and to consider how much she suffered. St. Basil said that the sorrows of Mary surpass all the tortures of the martyrs as her martyrdom was lifelong. While she suffered throughout her life for love of her Son and for us, the Church chose seven of her sorrows for the mysteries of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows.



The Seven Sorrows of Mary:

- 1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)**
- 2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)**
- 3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)**
- 4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)**
- 5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)**
- 6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)**
- 7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)**

Devotion to Mary's sorrows is a source of grace and consolation for all Christians. St. Bernard says that He is at the disposal of those who meditate on the suffering of His Mother. This Rosary consists of seven groups of seven beads with each group preceded by a medal. On the medal, we say the Our Father and on each bead the Hail Mary while reflecting on one of the sorrows. At the conclusion, three Hail Marys are said.

Seven Promises to those who meditate on Our Lady's Seven Sorrows: The Blessed Virgin Mary grants seven graces to the souls who honor her daily by meditating (i.e. mental prayer) on her seven sorrows. The Hail Mary is prayed seven times, once after each meditation.

1. "I will grant peace to their families."
2. "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
3. "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
4. "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
5. "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
6. "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death. They will see the face of their Mother."
7. "I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolours, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy."

About The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

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.



Donate Online



Leave a Legacy



Make an Impact

Stay Connected With Us Everyday!



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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