



**FEBRUARY  
2024**

### Courage of a Disciple

In Lent we reflect upon our invitation to grow closer to God and our Saviour sent to redeem us. Our Lenten season provides us the opportunity to grow closer in distinct ways as we each are unique creations of God and in different phases of our discipleship journey. The Church gives us guidelines for creating a prayerful and meaningful Lenten season which allows us to grow in our faith and deepen our relationship. We also have the opportunity to determine what sacrifices are most appropriate for us based upon where we are in our own journey, or perhaps what we need to increase.

Praying the rosary might be part of your discipleship journey and perhaps during Lent, some of us strive to pray the rosary more and I invite you during this time of year to reflect upon the third sorrowful mystery which focuses on the fruit of moral courage. The root of the word courage is 'cor' which means heart in Latin. In the secular world today most associate courage with something heroic. However, courage in the early days and in our Church has had more of a meaning of speaking from our heart.

In this third sorrowful mystery we meditate on the Roman soldiers who mock Jesus and crown Him with thorns. In Genesis God shares with Adam the curse that he and Eve will bear because of their sin which includes thorns and thistles. Interestingly, the Roman soldiers choose thorns to hurt and mock Jesus while they were not aware that in a matter of days, His resurrection would overcome this curse.

As descendants of Adam and Eve we bear the curse and being a disciple of Jesus, does not make us immune to the difficulties of life on Earth – the moral and physical dangers or the physical and emotional pains. We are however, not alone when facing these difficulties. The Gospel of Matthew shares with us that before departing from His disciples Jesus says, "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the

age". This is the source of our courage – knowing that Jesus is always with us. He gave us an example of moral courage as He accepted His role in Salvation and with patience and fortitude He was obedient to our Father. He remains with us to give us strength in our own ability to stand up for and practice our beliefs even when challenged.

I pray that your Lenten season is prayerful and deepens your relationship with our Father and Saviour. As this relationship grows, I wish for you a lightheartedness in facing your thorns as you recognize His presence and look beyond the trials of life and trust in the prosperity that God has planned for us.

*Kimberlee Riley*

**Kimberlee Riley, CAP®**  
President & CEO

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

[\\*Ash Wednesday "Lent Begins"](#)

[\\*Happy Birthday Bishop Noonan](#)

[\\*Are We Prepared for Retirement?](#)

[\\*Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle Kick off Mass & Luncheon](#)

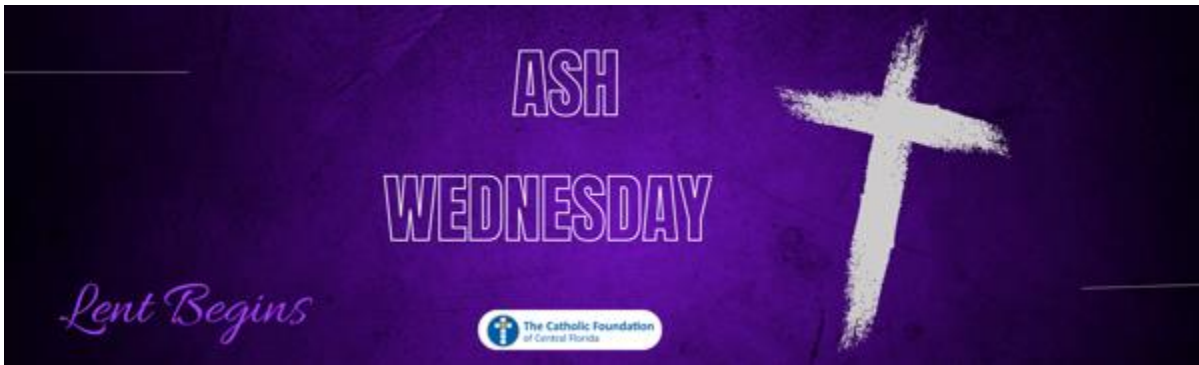
[\\*St. Mark Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund](#)

[\\*Our Catholic Appeal: Did You Know?](#)

[\\*Philanthropy Moments: Sarah Pinto covers Update Your Estate Plan After Big Life Events](#)

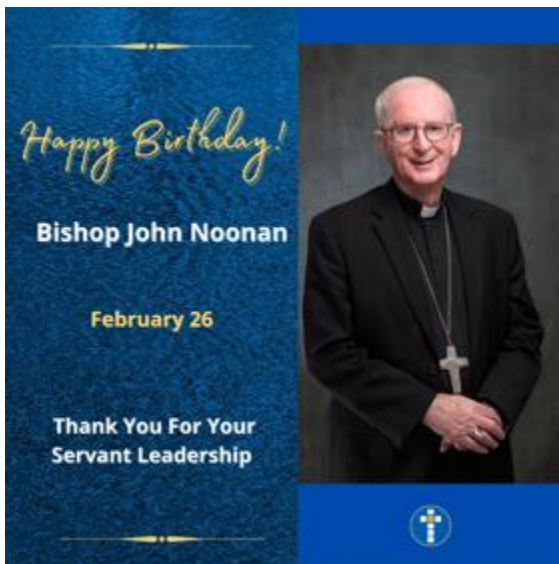
[\\*St. Katharine Drexel Feast Day](#)

[\\*DAF "Increase Your Impact with a 10% Match"](#)



[Birthday Bishop Noonan](#)

[Are We Prepared for Retirement?](#)



Join us in celebrating Bishop John Noonan's birthday this month! To honor Bishop on his birthday consider a contribution to the Shepherd's Fund. [Click Here...](#)



Understanding the relationship between financial literacy & asset levels is a basis for us to be prepared in retirement so that we can take care of ourselves. [Learn More...](#)

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**Our Mission**  
 To altruistically serve with purpose, impact, connection and joy strengthening our community through values-based strategic, engaged and collective philanthropy. Taking inspiration from Mary, mother of our Savior, we proclaim "Yes" to God's call to active works of charity as witnesses of faith and hope.

*Join us for the 2024 Kickoff Mass & Luncheon*

**Friday, March 8th**

Bishop John Noonan will welcome our 2024 members and share his vision for the diocese and some of the greatest areas of need.

**Mass at 12:10 PM**  
**St. James Cathedral**  
**215 N Orange Ave, Orlando**

We invite members as well as those who are interested in learning more about the how the WPGC brings together charitable-hearted women to strengthen our community in the Diocese of Orlando through engaged and collective philanthropy!

**Luncheon at 1:00 PM**  
**Chancery**  
**50 E. Robinson St., Orlando**  
*(Adjacent to St. James Cathedral)*

RSVP is required by March 1st: [www.cfcf.org/givingcircle](http://www.cfcf.org/givingcircle) or contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP at [mweed@cfcf.org](mailto:mweed@cfcf.org) or (407) 246-7188.

*Join Today!*  
*Scan to learn more*



[St. Mark Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund](#)

[Our Catholic Appeal: Did You Know? Catechist & Lay Formation](#)



St. Mark the Evangelist    St. Mark the Ascetic    St. Mark I, Pope & Martyr

Announcing a NEW Donor-Designated Fund benefiting



**St. Mark Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund**

Supporting Foundation operations so it can continue its charitable initiatives, serving the spiritual and corporal needs of the community, as well as its work to provide philanthropic guidance to donors and the Catholic parishes, schools and ministries throughout the Diocese of Orlando.

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida  
*Improve lives. Transform hearts.*

CATECHIST & LAY MINISTRY FORMATION

*Did You Know?*

YOUR GIFTS TO OUR CATHOLIC APPEAL HELP CATECHISTS AND LAY VOLUNTEERS PREPARE AND TRAIN FOR MINISTERIAL ROLES

OUR CATHOLIC APPEAL

Announcing the new St. Mark Catholic Foundation Fund, which supports CFCOF operation, providing philanthropic support to the Diocese of Orlando. [Read more...](#)

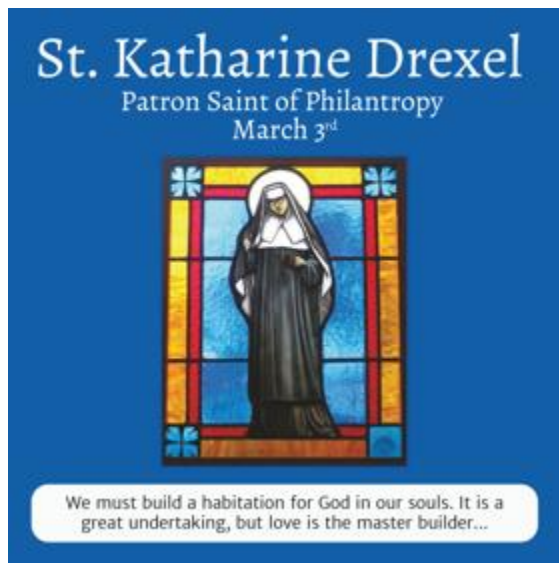
Our Catholic Appeal supports catechist & lay ministry formation and more to do God's work in our diocese. [Learn more...](#)

[Philanthropy Moment](#)



Update Your Estate Plan After Big Life Events [Watch here...](#)

[St. Katharine Drexel Feast Day](#)



Join us to celebrate Saint Katharine Drexel feast day. [Read more...](#)

**LIMITED OFFER**

**Increase Your Impact with a 10% Match**

of your contribution to a new or existing Catholic-compliant donor advised fund at The Catholic Foundation!

**HOW DOES THE DAF MATCH WORK?**

MAKE A DONATION TO A NEW OR EXISTING DONOR ADVISED FUND AT THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

WE WILL DEPOSIT AN ADDITIONAL 10% OF THAT AMOUNT INTO YOUR DAF ACCOUNT

USE YOUR DAF TO MAKE GRANTS OVER TIME TO CATHOLIC-COMPLIANT CHARITIES ON YOUR HEART!

Generous donors have set up a Donor Advised Fund Match! You can receive matching dollars into your own new or existing DAF which you can then grant over time to the Catholic-compliant charities on your heart!

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

Visit CatholicDAF.org for more details or contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP at 407-246-7188 or mweed@cfocf.org to claim your 10% Match today!



[Learn more about joining St. Katharine Drexel Society](#)



St. Katharine Drexel is the patron saint of Philanthropy. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida strives to emulate her work by enhancing philanthropic impact which serves those who are most in need in nine counties 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.

*Returning God's Gifts*



**The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida**

Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

*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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[The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida](#)  
[www.clocf.org](http://www.clocf.org)