



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



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**Newsletter**



**MAY  
2026**

### ***A Month with Mary, Our Heavenly Mother***

May is a month that gently invites us to reflect on the gift of motherhood and the enduring example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, that invitation was echoed in the heartfelt reflections submitted for our Fr. Frank Zammit Marian Essay Contest, each offering a glimpse into the faith and love inspired by our Heavenly Mother. In her quiet “yes,” we see a model of faith, humility, and self-giving love that continues to guide us.

As we celebrated Mother's Day on Sunday, I felt especially grateful for my own mother, who so beautifully models the gift of time, talent, and treasure to her five children and now her grandchildren. She has taught us through both word and example that all we have belongs to God, and that we are called to share those gifts generously in service to others, including through financial support as we are able.



This month, I invite you to join me in praying a daily Hail Mary in gratitude for our Blessed Mother and for all the mother-figures who inspire us to grow in faith, hope, and charity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madelyn".

Madelyn T. Weed, CFRE, CAP®

President & CEO

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***Congratulations to Our 2026 Marian Essay Contest Winner!***



The Catholic Foundation's annual Fr. Frank X. Zammit Marian Essay Contest continues to inspire middle school students to deepen their devotion to the Blessed Mother and reflect on their faith. This year, nearly 400 entries were submitted, each sharing thoughtful reflections on Mary as our Heavenly Mother.

Congratulations to Annabelle W. of St. James Cathedral School, this year's first-place winner.

[Click here](#) to read Annabelle's full essay.

### *Welcoming Brittany Skynar*



We are blessed to welcome Brittany Skynar, our new VP–Chief Donor Services Officer, to The Catholic Foundation team. We look forward to the leadership and experience she brings in serving our donors and advancing our mission. [Click here](#) to learn more about Brittany.

### *Celebrating Staff Promotions*



We are pleased to recognize Lisa Oliveras, from Legacy Gifts & Grants Coordinator to Planned Giving Specialist, and Clara Melo de Paula, from Services & Communications Coordinator to Marketing & Digital Engagement Manager. [Click here](#) to learn more about them and the rest of our team.

Monthly Legacy Reflection

# How does your family history inform your giving?



## *Philanthropy Moment: Tell Your Family Story*



Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP® President & CEO explores how sharing your story and values can help shape a lasting legacy for future generations. Click here to watch. [Click here](#) to watch.

## *Women's Giving Circle Grants at Work: Apply Today!*



Our [WPGC Grant Impact video series](#) highlights how grant recipients are using funds to make a meaningful difference in our community. The WPGC is now accepting 2026 grant applications. [Click here](#) to apply!

# Central Florida Catholic Mercy Fund



*\*As we monitor the turn of events throughout the world  
we are reminded of our common humanity...\**

## Did You Know?

Fundholders have entrusted CFOCF with the investment management of more than \$150 million in assets dedicated to charitable purposes in the Diocese of Orlando.



**The Catholic Foundation**  
of Central Florida

*Faces of Philanthropy: Meet PGAC  
Member Garrett Burke*

*Hearts of Philanthropy: Peace of Mind  
and Soul*



Garrett is a dedicated Private Wealth Advisor with Merrill Private Wealth Management, specializing in helping business owners and multigenerational families navigate complex financial landscapes [Read more...](#)



In this *Hearts of Philanthropy* Q&A, fundholders reflect on how their Catholic faith brings peace of mind and purpose to their giving, ensuring their impact continues for generations. [Read more...](#)



# CFOCF Trivia:

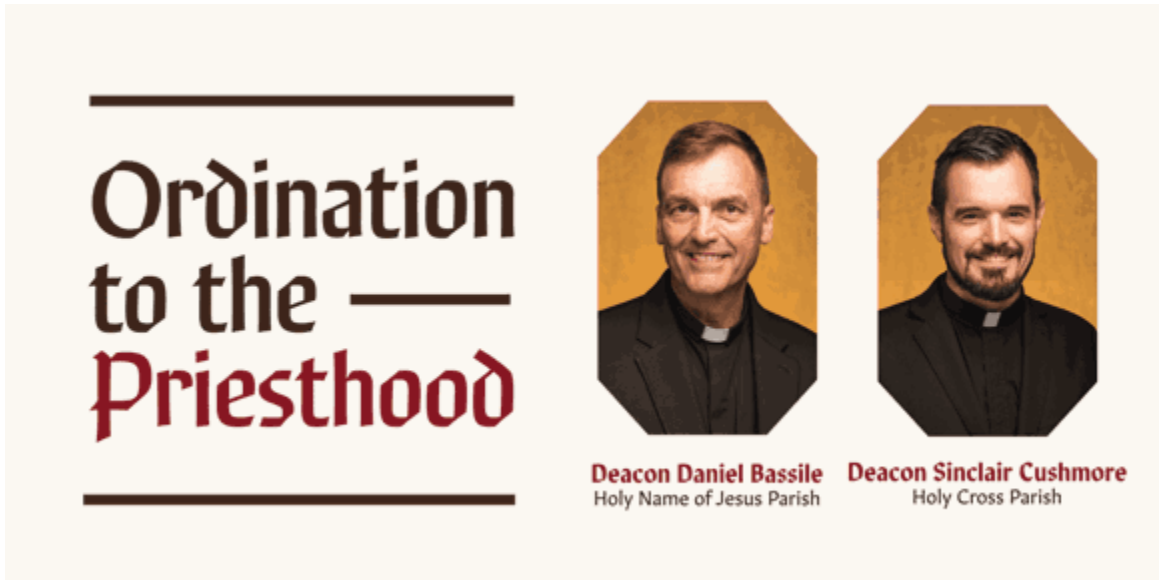
What is a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) best described as?

- A) A type of endowment fund
- B) A giving vehicle where donors can recommend grants over time
- C) A type of loan from the Foundation
- D) A fund only for parish building repairs



B : a giving vehicle where donors can recommend grants over time

*Ordination to the Priesthood - May 23, 2026*



Join Bishop Noonan for the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacons Daniel Bassile and Sinclair Cushmore on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m.–noon at St. James Cathedral. We offer heartfelt thanks to all those generous donors whose faithful support of seminarian education and formation helps make moments like this possible. [Read more...](#)

*Thank You for Attending St. Mary's Legacy Planning Event*



*Blessed to Sponsor Events Throughout Our Diocese*



The Foundation and St. Mary Rockledge hosted a Legacy Planning Seminar for parishioners. Thank you to Michelle Rivera of Overstreet Law, Fr. Joe Shaute, and all who joined us for an evening of learning and faithful stewardship. Visit our [Legacy Seminar](#) page to learn more.

Through our Event Sponsorship Grants, The Foundation is grateful to support diocesan organizations and their events across Central Florida. These gatherings bring communities together in faith while advancing the mission of the Church. Visit our [Event Grants](#) page to learn more.

***Market Highlights from Our Trusted Partner The Concord Advisory Group, Ltd.***

***"Mega IPOs"***

**APRIL 2026 MARKET HIGHLIGHTS**

**Mega IPOs**

The three largest initial public offerings (IPOs) in history could occur in 2026. SpaceX is targeting a June listing of \$75 billion in stock at a \$2 trillion valuation. OpenAI and Anthropic could also have IPOs later in 2026 with estimated valuations of \$1 trillion each. Due to their enormous size, these three companies would be entering the public markets as mega cap stocks, where index ownership is typically 35 to 45% of shares outstanding.

Some major index providers are considering rule changes to allow fast entry for these companies into the major indices. For example, S&P is reportedly considering waiving the current 12-month listing and 4 quarters of positive earnings requirements for SpaceX. Fast entry into indices such as the Nasdaq 100 or S&P 500 could create a supply-demand imbalance where there are too many index funds required to buy and not enough shares of these low-float new issues. Harvard researchers found that IPOs fast tracked into the CRSP indices raised 6% more capital than their non-fast-tracked counterparts.<sup>1</sup> This effect could be even larger for an IPO with fast entry into the S&P 500 or Nasdaq 100.

For investors, the arrival of these companies into public markets is an unusual event. Unlike the other mega cap companies in the S&P 500, the wealth creation from these new market entrants has occurred so far in private markets, meaning that most investors did not participate.

Investors and their managers should be aware of the uncommon dynamics at play in equity benchmarks, while remaining hopeful that these offerings prove mutually beneficial with companies gaining access to deep pools of capital, and investors gaining an opportunity to participate in the long-term growth of transformative technology.



1. Chris Murray, Marco Sammon, Primary Capital Market Transactions and Index Funds, The Review of Asset Pricing Studies, 2026;, raaf013, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rapstu/raaf013>

The three largest initial public offerings (IPOs) in history could occur in 2026. SpaceX is targeting a June listing of \$75 million in stock [Read more...](#)

[Share Your Thoughts On This Month's Newsletter](#)



[Learn more about joining the 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. [here](#).

**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***



*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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