After nearly five years serving as the Executive Director of Stewardship and Development, I am delighted to take on the additional role of Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. In this new role, I will seek to inspire Catholic generosity to expand the permanent endowments to provide ongoing support to parishes, schools, and other ministries throughout the archdiocese.

For 55 years, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has strengthened Catholic services and communities through estate planning and one-time gifts. There are many ways to create a lasting legacy through the Catholic Foundation, and we want to help you with yours! If you have any questions or want to begin exploring legacy planning opportunities with the Catholic Foundation, please contact us at (405) 721-4115 or info@cfook.org

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Peter de Keratry, CFRE
Executive Director

I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE.

We turn to the Lord for strength, for support, for guidance, and for peace. The Annual Catholic Appeal funds ministries that help us turn to the Lord, especially in times of stress and uncertainty.

Faith formation and education programs help us draw strength from our faith as we grow closer in relationship with Jesus.

Marriage enrichment programs encourage and support spouses to model their relationship on the love of the Holy Family as they grow and adapt to new stages of life.

Vocational discernment programs guide young people to be attentive to the unique plan God has for each of their lives.

The Tribunal brings Christ’s peace and healing to individuals and families to help reunite them with their faith.

Your generosity will impact the lives and hearts of so many. Please consider making a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. You can make your gift by calling (405) 709-2745 or you can go to archokc.org/appeal.
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PARISH SUPPORT

Did you know when your parish reaches its goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal, 50% of all gifts received over the goal are returned for local parish ministry? Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City exceeded its 2020 goal and received a rebate for more than $13,000. Gifts from parishioners allowed for many updates to both the parish and school, including renovations to the Parish Activity Center, opening the choir loft, work on the ceiling, and new blinds and lighting. Not only do your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal help shared archdiocesan ministry, but you also can impact your parish directly.

CFO – PASTORAL MUSIC AND FINE ARTS GRANT

Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Perry was dedicated in 1923. The tremendous vision of the founding families included a set of “priceless” stained-glass windows. The church’s 38 windows were crafted by artists in the Munich Studios of Chicago. The nearly century-old windows have decayed from weathering over the years. To repair them in time for the centennial celebration of the church in 2023, a campaign was started to raise $144,000. Associated Crafts was selected to begin the restoration project. Their inspection revealed that the artistry and skill used to create the windows is rare.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma partnered with the Bobby Dean Little Trust to provide a Pastoral Music and Fine Arts Grant of $28,652 to kickstart the restoration. Additional gifts were made from many who love Saint Rose of Lima. The final cost of the restoration was nearly $160,000. Thanks to the generosity of so many, the truly priceless stained-glass windows of Saint Rose of Lima will be restored for the Jubilee celebration.
OCMD PARISH PROJECT

Through the funds raised in the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mangum has been able to address much-needed campus and facility improvements. These include repairs to structural issues with the parish hall, building foundation, termite damage, and repair and replacement of the front door. Fr. Swamy and the parish team have been hard at work in making these much-needed repairs and are looking forward to their completion.

Thank you to all those who supported the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mangum. To date, more than $57 million in gifts has been received. In addition to funding the construction of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, these funds have impacted Sacred Heart and all parishes throughout the archdiocese. Campaign updates can be found at archokc.org/campaign.

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER SHRINE

Construction continues at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine site at S.E. 89 and I-35 with the steel erection for the church near completion.

March 23, 2021, was marked with a Topping Out ceremony where the final steel beam was placed on the highest point of the north tower of the church. The beam was signed by more than 1,000 people who visited the shrine site for this monumental event. The next major event will be the placement of the dome on the church. The dome will be constructed on the ground, then lifted in one piece by crane and placed on the church. We anticipate this to happen sometime this summer. Visit the web camera at archokc.org/shrineconstruction to check out the progress of the construction and to view the live feed from the site. To learn more and to provide support for the shrine, museum, and pilgrim center, visit rothershrine.org.
Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, the Tax Credit Scholarship program had an incredible year. TCS surpassed its goal and raised more than $1.28 million, making 2020 the most successful year since the program’s inception in 2011. With two request letters mailed to more than 30,000 households and multiple in-person receptions at schools and parishes, the TCS program achieved major success in 2020.

Gifts to the TCS program created scholarships for 350 students in 19 schools across the archdiocese. 100% of those scholarships went to support financially disadvantaged families. For example, 22 scholarships went to students at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic School who are part of the Oklahoma Burmese Refugee Project.

For 2021, the TCS program is gearing up to raise more than $1.5 million with a goal to award 400 scholarships. To learn how you can direct your Oklahoma state income taxes to help low-income families gain access to a high-quality Catholic education, visit tcsok.org.

Just a few of the 22 students impacted by the TCS Burmese Refugee Project.

CFO – BRUNETTE FAMILY MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

Janie Brunette is grateful for the Catholic education she received at Saint James the Greater Catholic School. Her parents, who were one of the founding families at Saint James, believed in Catholic education. Janie, who made her career in hospital administration and as a clinical nurse specialist, attributes the professional success of herself and her six siblings to the sacrifice their parents made in sending them to Saint James and Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School. In honor of her parents, Janie and others started the Mildred and Clair Brunette Family Memorial Endowment in 2015 to help supply the school with books and other learning materials.

The endowment is managed by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma and makes an annual distribution of about $600 to Saint James. For the 2020-21 school year, this money was used to help with badly needed computer upgrades. Alicia Vazquez, principal at Saint James, is grateful for the annual contributions, and is hoping to use them for computer programs to keep up with online learning. Alicia decided to show the students how the gifts from the Brunette Endowment impact the school by using a special stamp to put the family name on books purchased from the distributions.
PLANNED GIVING

David and Sharon Trojan of Enid are grateful to be able to support the Catholic community in Oklahoma through their Donor Advised Fund with the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

Donor Advised Funds are one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to make charitable gifts to the Catholic community. Cash, securities or other assets can be contributed to a DAF, which has a minimum principal of $10,000. Funds invested in a DAF receive tax-free growth and donors can recommend grants to virtually any IRS-qualified public charity.

While serving as a board member of the Catholic Foundation, David became keenly aware of the many needs of Oklahoma’s parishes and schools and suggested creating a DAF. Sharon, who is a certified public accountant, agreed with the tax planning advantage of a DAF and the ability to provide grants as needs arise.

The Trojans have used their fund to support building and capital campaigns such as “One Church, Many Disciples,” Saint Joseph Catholic School in Enid, and Saint John University Center in Stillwater. They also have been able to give grants to Catholic Charities, the Archdiocesan Annual Catholic Appeal, the Catholic Relief Fund, and sponsorships for many other parish and school causes.
Thank you for your generosity!