A Legacy of FAITH
OUR LEGACY

As good and faithful stewards, we play a critical role in perpetuating Christ’s work on earth. As Catholics, we are called to care for one another and to use our unique gifts and talents for the good of the community and the world. We are called to share Jesus’ vision and model our lives after Jesus’ example of love.

We accomplish this in our daily lives through prayer, worship and charitable works. After our work on earth is complete, we can continue to share Jesus’ gospel message and help to build God’s kingdom here on earth through a legacy gift to the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan. Our legacy gift to the Church through the Foundation helps ensure that our local church and its many ministries will continue to flourish and serve for generations to come.

Mission

The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan is the primary vehicle for raising, managing, investing and distributing income from permanent endowments to benefit parishes, schools and ministries in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Foundation Overview

The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan (CFSM) was established by the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 2011 by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. It is a separately incorporated 501(c) 3, nonprofit corporation founded to provide and protect permanent endowment funds for its parishes, schools and organizations that have a charitable interest.
FOUNDATION ADVANTAGES

- The convenience of using a single source to support parishes, schools and Diocesan ministries.
- Expert assistance and advice tailored to donor’s personal needs and interests.
- Managed by independent investment managers through the National Catholic Investment Pool and administered by the Michigan Catholic Conference in Lansing, our local portfolio is invested only in socially and morally responsible securities in accordance with criteria established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Named Funds in the Foundation enable individuals or families to honor loved ones while building a lasting legacy of their faith.
- Earnings are available for distribution following valuation of the Foundation assets, per the Foundation’s Distribution Policy.
- Assets placed into a fund are held in trust by the Foundation and are no longer available for use by the donor.
- In addition to generating annual income for Diocesan parishes, schools and Catholic entities, the Foundation is a public testament to the Diocese’s commitment to ensure its future financial security.

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”
– Mother Teresa
The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan manages a variety of member funds available for all Diocesan parishes, schools and ministries.

Parish Funds
Permanent endowment funds help parishes sustain and strengthen their mission and ministries. An endowment fund can be established to support operations, capital improvements or a specific ministry.

Catholic School Funds
Permanent endowment funds for Catholic schools help ensure their viability for years to come. Funds designed for endowment purposes can be designated to support scholarship/tuition assistance, teacher salaries, capital improvements or other areas as designated by the donor.

Family Named Funds
Individual donors may create a named permanent endowment fund within the Foundation designated to a parish, school, Catholic organization or Diocesan ministry. Funds can be named in honor or memory of loved ones.

Organizational Funds
Catholic organizations within the Diocese of Kalamazoo are encouraged to establish their own named funds. With a minimum investment of $5,000, any Catholic agency/organization can establish a permanent endowment that will, in perpetuity, provide important on-going funding. Examples include Knights of Columbus Councils, cemeteries, social justice, etc.

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family.

– *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis, 2015, Chapter 5, #42
WAYS TO GIVE

During Your Lifetime
The Foundation welcomes outright gifts of cash, securities and other marketable assets. Donors who make their gifts during their lifetime enjoy the benefit of witnessing the immediate results of their generosity, along with the peace of mind in knowing their gift will continue to provide financial support in the future.

Legacy Giving
Many gifts to the CFSM are made through legacy gifts. Bequests may be made in cash or property. Provisions for gifts to the Foundation from an estate may be for a specific amount, a percentage or an estate’s remainder, after all other distributions and obligations have been satisfied.

A gift of life insurance can be made by naming the CFSM as owner and beneficiary. Premium payments for the policy qualify as charitable contributions for income purposes.

Gifts from retirement plans can benefit the Foundation and the donor. Current law allows donors who are 70-and-one-half years or older to make contributions to charities directly from their 401k with no tax penalty.

By naming the Foundation as the beneficiary, donors can avoid taxation while also benefiting the Church.

Establishing A Fund
Parishes, individuals, families, agencies and schools can create an endowment fund. The following are the basic policies and guidelines governing participation in the Foundation:

- Any Diocesan organization or parish may establish an endowment in the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan with a minimum initial contribution of $5,000 with distribution of earnings beginning immediately, per the Foundation’s Distribution Policy.

- An individual-named fund may be established with a minimum initial contribution of $5,000. Within three years, contributions to the fund must be equal to or greater than $25,000, at which time distributions will be made available.

- Donors may add any amount to existing endowment funds within the Foundation.

- All assets placed in an endowment fund are held in trust by the Foundation and are no longer available for use by the donating individual or organization. Distributions of earnings on the assets are governed by the Foundation’s Distribution Policy.

- There are two stages to establish an endowment: the first, initial preparation involves preliminary contact by the donor or organization with the finance and development offices of the Diocese and a discussion of fund purpose(s) and ongoing operations. The second, formal application includes completion of establishing documents by the donor or organization. Members of the Foundation Advisory Board review the application and the Board of Directors vote on approval.

- Endowment fund agreements for organizations other than parishes must specify what happens to the earnings should the benefiting organization or ministry cease to exist or operate.

- The Foundation’s funds are invested with the Michigan Catholic Conference’s Socially Responsible Investment Pool, which allows Michigan dioceses and related organizations to pool funds for investment in the fixed income and equity markets using socially responsible investment guidelines, minimizing portfolio expenses and optimizing returns.

- The Foundation will consider gifts such as cash, securities and other marketable assets; unusual gifts may require review before acceptance.

Lumen Christi Society
We understand the fiduciary responsibility to donors and the importance of minimizing administrative costs so that more of the donor’s funds go to the programs and ministries that they support. It is with this in mind that the Lumen Christi Society was created. Members of the Lumen Christi Society, led by their faith and desire to preserve our Catholic heritage, will support the operating costs of the Foundation so that 100% of donor funds will go to the designated cause.
What is the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan (CFSM)?
The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan (CFSM) is a separately incorporated, permanent endowment vehicle designed to provide for the financial stability and sustainability of Catholic parishes, schools and ministries in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

What is the purpose of the CFSM?
The Foundation serves to unite Diocesan entities in faith and solidarity, provide socially responsible investment of endowed funds and invite all Catholics into communion with others while becoming part of a much larger spiritual vision. It serves as a repository to maintain and pool endowed funds and provide opportunities to create new endowed funds, all of which are administered by the Foundation.

What are the benefits of working with the CFSM?
The Foundation handles all administrative management for individuals, parishes and schools with careful stewardship of endowed funds. By shouldering the administrative burden, the Foundation makes it easy for charitable entities and individuals to establish and benefit from endowment funds.

What is an endowment?
An endowment is a permanent fund from which earnings can be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor. The fund’s principle is never spent. The principle includes the initial contribution given to establish the fund, as well as any additional gifts to the endowment. The assets of the Foundation grow through sound and socially responsible investment policies and from additional gifts.

Why establish an endowment?
Excellent programs require substantial, consistent and permanent funding. An endowment provides a stable base for that funding. In general terms, by creating or giving to an endowment, an individual can take another step in living out a life of stewardship in gratitude for God’s many gifts to us. Stewardship is not a one-time act of giving, but rather a way of life. As good stewards, each of us plays an important role in perpetuating Christ’s work in the Church. Fulfillment of the Church’s mission is dependent on the sustained support of the faithful of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.