

IMPACT Report 2024



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio

CELEBRATING

25

YEARS





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A LIFELONG INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

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The mission of the Catholic Community Foundation is to foster faith-based stewardship in the community for the spiritual, educational and charitable needs of all. We support the advancement of the work of the Church in Northeast Ohio, ensuring that our investments and grant recipients are in alignment with the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. We help donors continue the mission of Jesus to transform the world by connecting their support to ministries and services that lift up the Catholic community as well as the entire community. Our public trust is earned through the integrity of our work and strength of our partnerships. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) with a Board of Directors that includes religious and community leaders.



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Patrick Grace, Catholic Community Foundation Executive Director, and William J. O'Neill, Jr., first Chairman of the Board and Honorary Board Member

FAITH IN ACTION: *Celebrating 25 Years of Impact*



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This year marks a milestone for the Catholic Community Foundation as we celebrate 25 years of faithful service and generosity. Your commitment has strengthened the three essential pillars of our shared mission: Catholic Charities, Catholic Education, and Worship and Priestly Formation. Through your support, the Church in Northeast Ohio continues to bring Christ's love to those in need, form the next generation of faithful leaders, and prepare men for a lifetime of priestly service.

It is also a historic and hope-filled year for our Church, both locally and world-wide. We rejoice in the ordination of eight new priests for our diocese – men sent forth to be living signs of Christ's mercy in a world longing for meaning and renewal. I encouraged them with these words: *"Be ambassadors of this good news. Be ambassadors of Jesus Christ."*

Also close to home, I released my first pastoral letter, *A Flourishing Apostolic Church*, inviting every Catholic in our diocese to rediscover the joy of prayer, the beauty of worshipping God, the call to be evangelists, and the need to serve others with love.

In Rome, we witnessed the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from the United States. A missionary at heart and an Augustinian friar, he brings deep pastoral experience and a global vision for the Church's future.

Thank you for your continued faith and generosity. You are helping to build a Church alive in Christ and flourishing in hope.

May God bless you and those you love.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward C. Malesic".

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL
Bishop of Cleveland

Dear friends,

As we celebrate 25 years of the Catholic Community Foundation, we pause with gratitude to reflect on the faith and generosity that have sustained our mission and transformed countless lives across the Diocese of Cleveland.

Your unwavering support continues to strengthen vital ministries – empowering Catholic Charities to meet urgent needs in our communities, advancing Catholic education through scholarships that open doors for young people and equip the teachers who guide them, and supporting both parishes as vibrant centers of faith and priests at every stage of their vocation – from seminarians in formation to active priests and pastors to retired clergy.

Within this Impact Report, you will find inspiring stories that illustrate the real difference your generosity makes, including: Catholic Charities parish collaborations delivering essential services to families in need, donors whose faith-filled commitment ensures students receive quality Catholic education, and seminarians preparing with dedication to serve and lead our Church.

This year's report also reflects on our Foundation's rich history, milestones, and many blessings that have marked this remarkable journey. As we commemorate this milestone, we look back with gratitude and forward with hope and renewed commitment. Together, we have built a strong foundation rooted in faith, hope, and stewardship – one that will support the Church's mission for many years to come.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your generous spirit. Because of you, we can continue this vital work with the confidence that our shared mission will flourish in the years ahead.

May God bless you abundantly and continue to guide our journey together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Grace".

Patrick Grace
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Rebholz".

Andy Rebholz
Board Chair



CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND PARISH PARTNERSHIPS

Changing Lives *Together*

For more than a century, Catholic Charities has been a vital expression of the Church's mission in Northeast Ohio – walking alongside individuals and families in times of need. Rooted in parish life since its founding, Catholic Charities has long relied on the strength of parishes to reach those in need of assistance. Today, that tradition is being renewed with fresh energy as parishes rediscover how their unique gifts – space, volunteers, and presence – can directly serve their communities through deeper partnerships with Catholic Charities.



Jim Mullen, President & CEO of Catholic Charities pictured in front of the Good Shepherd Family Center, supported by St. John of the Cross and Ss. Robert and William Parishes

Much of this work is made possible by the generosity of donors to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, conducted by the Catholic Community Foundation. In 2024, the Annual Appeal raised an inspiring \$15.5 million to support the outreach, staff, and infrastructure that enable parishes to extend Christ's love in practical ways.

Jim Mullen, President & CEO of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Cleveland, sees this happening across the eight-county diocese. Whether it's an urban parish with deep neighborhood roots or a suburban community with energy and resources to share, Jim believes the future of Catholic

Charities lies in relationships – and parishes are at the heart of it.

"What we're seeing today isn't a new direction," Jim says. "It's a deepening of what's always been true. Catholic Charities has always worked hand-in-hand with parishes. The support of pastors and parishioners, in combination with the diocese, the Catholic Community Foundation, and Catholic Charities – all under the leadership of Bishop Edward C. Malesic – has always been foundational."

The Good Shepherd Family Center, located on the campus of St. John of the Cross in

Euclid, is a prime example. Supported by both St. John of the Cross and Ss. Robert and William Parishes, the center offers a wide range of wraparound services – from Head Start classrooms and behavioral health care to a food pantry, baby ministry, and senior outreach. But Jim sees it as one piece in a much larger and deeply rooted mosaic.

"You look at a place like Good Shepherd, and yes, it's a multi-service campus. But then you look at a parish like St. Joseph in Avon Lake – they prepare and serve one meal a week at our St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain. That's just as meaningful. It's all impactful. It's all ministry."

For Jim, that's the beauty of parish partnerships with Catholic Charities: there is no one-size-fits-all template. Each collaboration reflects the unique character of the parish and the needs of its surrounding neighborhood. "What matters most is presence," he says. "Being there. Building trust. Walking with people right where they are."

Catholic Charities' embedded presence in neighborhoods – whether through longstanding family centers like Fatima Family Center in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, supported by St. Agnes – Our Lady of Fatima Parish, or newer initiatives like Good Shepherd – has helped overcome one of the biggest barriers to care: access.

"You can't do everything from Main Street," Jim explains. "Most folks don't have the

luxury of driving across town for services. That's why having programs located right in their own neighborhoods – on parish campuses – is so powerful. We're meeting people where they already live, work, and raise their families."

"When you walk onto a campus like Good Shepherd and see life – cars in the parking lot, children in our early learning and Head Start programs, people coming and going – it gives you a sense of hope," Jim says. "You see what's possible when we invest in places that matter. We're not managing decline. We're reigniting mission."

That mission is rooted in the Church's commitment to human dignity. "The most important thing," Jim says, "is that every person who walks into one of our sites feels respected and heard. We may not be able to solve every issue on the spot. But if someone

leaves feeling more seen, more understood – that's a success."

It's not just about the services offered – it's about how people are treated. "Restoring dignity has always been central to Catholic Charities," Jim says. "Even if someone just receives a bag of food or learns about a preschool program they didn't know existed, the bigger impact is that they felt cared for – by the Catholic Church."

While Catholic Charities serves people of all faith backgrounds – most are not Catholic – Jim is eager for parishioners to appreciate how essential the Annual Appeal is to the mission's success.

"We're so grateful for the generous donations to the Annual Appeal," he says. "None of this important work would be possible without it. In addition to

2025 CATHOLIC CHARITIES PARISH COLLABORATIONS

SHARED CAMPUS

Blessed Trinity (Akron) – hot meals, rent & utilities assistance, counseling and case management

Our Lady of Angels (Cleveland) – houses Catholic Charities Disability Services and Job and Career Training Services

St. Agnes/Our Lady of Fatima/ Fatima Family Center (Cleveland) – senior program, youth mentoring, after school program, summer camps, case management

St. Ambrose (Brunswick) – Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB initiative), counseling

St. Augustine Hunger Center (Cleveland) – hot meals, holiday meals

St. Bridget of Kildare (Parma) – Head Start

St. Ignatius of Antioch (Cleveland) – Head Start

St. John the of Cross/Good Shepherd Family Center (Euclid) – day care, senior program, foster care & adoption, supported visitation

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Wooster) – counseling and case management, Help Me Grow

St. Vincent de Paul (Elyria) – counseling and case management, youth mentoring, Help Me Grow

St. Wendelin (Cleveland) – *Head Start/Early Learning Programs administrative offices*

Visitation of Mary (Akron) – hot meals

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Blessed Trinity (Akron) – hot meals, emergency assistance (rent & utilities)

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (Cleveland) – largest supporter of Cosgrove Center- donate clothing, hygiene items, bus tickets, volunteer days, monetary donations, host and pay for a Juneteenth celebration at Cosgrove (food, beverage and music for clients)

St. Aloysius (Cleveland) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

St. Ambrose (Brunswick) – provide hundreds of PB&J sandwiches at Cosgrove and St. Augustine Hunger Center

St. Augustine (Cleveland) – St. Augustine Hunger Center (food, clothing, emergency funding, furniture, appliances)

St. Catherine (Cleveland) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

St. Gabriel (Concord Township) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

St. John of the Cross/Good Shepherd Family Center (Euclid) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

St. Michael the Archangel (Cleveland) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

St. Stephen (Cleveland) – Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network allocation recipient

Visitation of Mary (Akron) – hot meals

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Divine Word (Kirtland) – Refugee Housing and Clothing Bank through Joseph House of Cleveland

Holy Angels (Bainbridge) – Funding for household items


Immaculate Conception (Cleveland) – Refugee Housing and Clothing Bank through Joseph House of Cleveland

St. Albert the Great (North Royalton) – Donation Drive

that support, there are over 50 active partnerships between parishes and Catholic Charities. These relationships are vibrant and ongoing, giving back to communities in real, tangible ways every day.”

“My job is to keep reminding everyone – Catholic Charities doesn’t exist on its own,” Jim says. “We’re the health and human service arm of the Diocese of Cleveland, serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. And we are only able to do that because of the generosity of donors across the diocese.”

What gives him hope?

“It’s the people,” he says. “The volunteers, the staff, the donors – the ones who choose, every day, to care for their neighbor. In a time when it’s easy to feel overwhelmed or isolated, they show up. They remind us that small actions, multiplied across a community, can truly change lives. 

“*What matters most is presence. Being there. Building trust. Walking with people right where they are.*”

JIM MULLEN, PRESIDENT & CEO, CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Senior exercise class at Fatima Family Center, supported by St. Agnes - Our Lady of Fatima Parish

St. Ambrose (Brunswick) – Refugee Housing Setups and Ukrainian Welcome Circle

St. Colman (Cleveland) – Refugee Resource Center Cleveland

St. Columbkille (Parma) – quilts, hats and gloves

St. James (Lakewood) – Advent Giving Tree for gift cards and household items

St. Leo the Great (Cleveland) – Funding for household items

St. Luke (Lakewood) – Refugee Mentor Volunteers

St. Mary of the Falls (Olmsted Falls) – Refugee Mentor Volunteers

St. Paul Croatian (Cleveland) – Refugee Housing and Clothing Bank through Joseph House of Cleveland

St. Vitus (Cleveland) – Refugee Housing and Clothing Bank through Joseph House of Cleveland

Transfiguration (Lakewood) – Funding for household items

UKRAINIAN WELCOME CIRCLE

Church of the Resurrection (Solon)

Holy Spirit (Avon Lake)

Our Lady of the Lake (Euclid)

Sacred Heart (Oberlin)

St. Casimir (Cleveland)

St. Christopher (Rocky River)

St. Clarence (North Olmsted)

St. Dominic (Shaker Heights)

St. Francis de Sales (Akron)

St. Hilary (Fairlawn)

St. Joseph (Strongsville)

St. Joseph (Avon Lake)

St. Julie (North Ridgeville)

St. Noel (Willoughby Hills)

St. Peter (North Ridgeville)

DISABILITY SERVICES & MINISTRIES

Center for Pastoral Leadership (Wickliffe) – camp and various events

St. Bartholomew (Middleburg Heights) – National Catholic Partnership on Disability mentorship project

St. Bernadette (Westlake) – sensory Mass

St. John of the Cross (Euclid) – Journey to Bethlehem Mass

St. Ladislav (Westlake) – Friends of Jesus group

St. Mary Seminary (Wickliffe) – classes and part of the seminarian/Catholic Charities collaboration

St. Michael (Tremont) – ASL interpretation

St. Rita (Solon) – National Catholic Partnership on Disability mentorship project

Ss. Robert & William (Euclid) – camps

MATT TALBOT RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

St. Anthony of Padua (Parma) – Easter Mass, Christmas for Others Mass

St. Charles Borromeo (Parma) – Easter and Christmas Mass

St. Dominic’s (Shaker Heights) – provide donations, meals, Christmas gifts, St. Dominic School students provide service, attend educational sessions

St. Francis of Assisi (Gates Mills) – annual Christmas celebration

St. John Neumann (Strongsville) – provide service



Richard Barone, a successful Cleveland investor, has made Catholic education a cornerstone of his charitable legacy. Inspired by his own upbringing and the financial sacrifices his family made for his Catholic schooling, Richard has spent decades quietly funding scholarships for students who might otherwise be forced to leave school due to financial hardship.

<< *Richard Barone with some of his favorite pieces of American porcelain, housed at his Museum of American Porcelain Art – a reminder that beauty, like education, is a lasting investment.*

A Lifelong Investment in Catholic Education:

Richard Barone's Mission TO KEEP STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Long before he became one of Cleveland's most respected investors, Richard Barone was a headstrong young boy in South Euclid – bright, determined, and not quite ready to follow the rules.

"I was born in the Cleveland suburbs," he recalls. "When it was time to start first grade, I flat-out refused to go to public school. The next year, a new Catholic school – St. Margaret Mary – opened just a few blocks away, but they wouldn't take me because of my 'record.'"

However, after being tested, he was placed in the second grade at Green Road School.

A year later, St. Margaret Mary accepted him into third grade, and his path in Catholic education began.

"At that time, because Catholic school tuitions were so low, parents felt obligated to send their children there," Richard says. "It was part of living out your faith. And that message stuck with me."

What followed was an extraordinary academic journey – first to Gilmour Academy, where his family stretched their finances to afford the tuition, aided by a modest but meaningful scholarship.

"My mother cried when the tuition went from \$500 to \$600," he remembers. "Gilmour gave me \$100 to help, and that made the difference."

“

It's not about the numbers or the recognition. It's about making sure kids who want to finish their Catholic education have the chance to do it.”

RICHARD BARONE, MAPA FOUNDER AND BOARD CHAIR

Richard went on to complete the course work for a master's degree in economics at Georgetown University in just four years. He was accepted into the PhD program at the University of Chicago where he was to study under Nobel laureate Milton Friedman – until the Vietnam War draft redirected his life's course.

He quickly made his mark in the investment world, entering the field at age 23 and founding the firm Maxus Investment Group in 1973. It became the first independent investment advisory firm in Cleveland, employing nearly 100 people before he sold it in 1999. He later founded Ancora Advisors, which experienced similar success.

By the end of his active career in 2020, Morningstar had ranked Richard as the only single manager in its database to earn a five-star rating over 10 years for both equity and income portfolios. Many of his partners and clients became multi-millionaires – but his greatest investments were still to come. In the 1990s, a friendship with Father James Grandillo of Holy Redeemer Parish in Cleveland reignited Richard's connection to Catholic education.

“Father Grandillo came to me and said, ‘We have families here who want to send their children to Catholic school, but they simply can't afford it,’” Richard says. “We started by helping Italian American families from the parish, but we both agreed that if we were going to do this as Catholics, we couldn't limit who we helped.”

Through the Archeagle Foundation, which Richard had created to help small Cleveland nonprofits build endowments, the two men

established a scholarship fund for Holy Redeemer families. That fund still exists today – more than two decades after Father Grandillo's passing.

In 2003, Richard learned of a student at Lake Catholic High School who was about to enter his senior year but was unable to return due to financial hardship. His family was going through a divorce, and no one would step forward to pay tuition.

“It just didn't seem fair,” Richard says. “This kid had done everything right. He wanted to graduate with his friends. So I paid it.” That quiet act of generosity sparked something bigger. Word spread. More calls came – from other Catholic high schools, especially St. Joseph Academy. Richard began helping students one by one, focusing on those who needed not just financial aid, but emotional stability and hope.

“I decided I would focus on students going into their junior or senior year – those who were close to finishing, but who were likely to drop out without help. I wanted to help students who truly needed that support to stay grounded, academically and emotionally.”

Between 2008 and 2012, during a time of national financial stress, Richard's impact expanded to Magnificat High School. Working with the school president, he created a model of shared responsibility: parents would pay at least \$1,000, the school would provide a 20% tuition discount, and Richard would pay the rest.

“I didn't want to just write checks,” he says. “I wanted it to be a partnership.”


Approximately 30 students graduated from Magnificat with the help of that arrangement.

In recent years, Richard has extended his reach by sponsoring students through the Catholic Community Foundation's Fund A Dream program, which provides \$2,500 scholarships to Catholic school students. Through Fund A Dream, Richard supported students at Holy Name, Villa Angela–St. Joseph, Elyria Catholic, and more. He also sponsors the CCF's Alleluia Ball, which raises funds to provide tuition assistance for students in need throughout the diocese.

Most recently, he generously hosted a Catholic Community Foundation event in his Museum of American Porcelain Art – the nation's only institution dedicated to American studio porcelain. The event brought donors together in support of Catholic education in the months leading up to the next Alleluia Ball.

Through the years, Richard has provided substantial support in the form of individual Catholic education scholarships. He has also funded Catholic school tuition for his own children, grandchildren, and extended family – an impact that spans generations.

Now in his 80s, Richard continues to give – though his time is shared with other passions, including the Museum of American Porcelain Art. He remains active through the Archeagle Foundation and his personal foundation.

What began as a scholarship and a sense of duty has become a legacy. 



THE GRACE OF SLOWING DOWN: *A Year of Listening and Growth at* Borromeo Seminary

In a world overwhelmed by noise, speed, and constant connectivity, a group of seminarians discovers the transformative power of silence, simplicity, and presence. At Borromeo Seminary, the Propaedeutic Year offers a rare kind of immersion – one that removes young men from the pressures of the culture and invites them into a deeper encounter with themselves, with community, and with Christ.

This year-long experience could not come at a more critical time. Data shows a mounting mental health crisis among young people, exacerbated by the pandemic and fueled by digital overload. Anxiety and depression have doubled. Social media, for all its connectedness, often leads to deeper disconnection – from others, from ourselves, and from God. Fr. Mark Ott, who guides the propaedeutic program, describes it as “a step back from the culture” to examine how it shapes the men. “We fast from technology, from commerce, from media,” he explains. “When we do that, we experience the tremendous gift of time. We have to confront what comes up

in the silence – especially questions about our relationship with Jesus, our calling in the world.”

For seminarians like Brent Feorene, Andrew Herbst, Jacob Huzyak, Daniel Jordan, Steven Vasko, Stephen Vavro, and Andrew Vinson, the simplicity of life becomes both challenge and gift. Daily adoration, the Rosary, and Liturgy of the Hours structure the day. Cell phones are surrendered. The distractions that once dulled deeper questions are gone. Daniel Jordan says he is “just excited not to be part of everything that’s going on out there.” He explains, “When the Lord

brings something up in me that I’m scared to face, it’s easy to run to YouTube or the news. Not having that is going to purify a lot.” He adds that what surprised him most is how much more alive he feels and how present he’s been able to be.

Andrew Vinson shares that the silence is both freeing and a little frightening. “My phone was kind of a security blanket. But I’m discovering how much more I notice and appreciate without it.” The year is designed to lead the men into what the Church calls human formation – a slow, steady path of learning how to live with integrity, maturity, and joy. From eating

“

I don't need to rush it. I just need to sit in the silence with the Lord and let myself be loved by Him.”

DANIEL JORDAN, SEMINARIAN

better and exercising, to building friendships across age groups, to learning how to be comfortable in silence, the year is not just preparation for seminary. It's preparation for life. Steven Vasko said he was surprised by how much the program emphasized human wholeness. “It's helped me learn to eat better, work out, and relate with different people,” he said. “Even just getting more comfortable being myself.”

But perhaps the most powerful part of the experience comes midyear, during what Fr. Ott calls the Poverty Immersion. Seminarians are sent out in pairs, often to unfamiliar cities, with only a Greyhound bus ticket. No cell phone. No credit card. No backup plan. Their work is to serve the poor – and to come face-to-face with their own spiritual poverty. Andrew Herbst recalls being stranded in Pittsburgh overnight. “One problem after another,” he says. “But every issue just fell away with no explanation other than God wanted this to happen.”

Daniel Jordan reflects that when they were helping through service, he wasn't going out thinking he had something to give. “I went out wanting to meet Jesus.” Andrew Vinson adds that he got to hear firsthand from the homeless and the hurting – and realized their struggles weren't far from his own. Fr. Ott said the goal of the immersion is not success, but surrender. “They have to rely on Providence. The whole point is to encounter poverty – theirs and others' – and see Christ in it.” In the midst of uncertainty, they discover the constancy of Christ. “When I'm not turning to my bank account or technology,” Fr. Ott said, “the only one left is Christ.”


This year is about more than discernment. It's about healing – about letting go of the pressure to perform, to be liked, to grasp at identity. Brent Feorene says, “Before I walked in, I saw myself as a mechanic, an outdoorsman, a brother. But I didn't fully understand what it meant to be a son of the Father.” Stephen Vavro shares, “We live a very simple life, and we do it together. We pray together, we cook together, we study, we serve. All of that helps form our hearts. It's not about figuring everything out. It's about learning how to be present – to God, and to one another.”

Jacob Huzyak found help in the wisdom of St. Thérèse of Lisieux: “To remain small is to recognize our nothingness. And the beauty of that is, we get everything from our Heavenly Father. I don't have to grasp at identity – it's given to me.” The seminarians speak often



of silence, of slowness, of finally giving God space to work. Daniel Jordan says, “I don't need to rush it. I just need to sit in the silence with the Lord and let myself be loved by Him.”

Through this immersion, the words of Saint Pope John Paul II ring true: “When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ who gives you the meaning of life.” And that's what the Propaedeutic Year is ultimately about: not answers, but presence. Not pressure, but peace. Not noise, but listening to the loving voice of God.

The journey of these men is sustained by the prayerful and generous support of donors to the Appeal for Priestly Formation. We are so grateful for gifts that help ensure that the seminaries can continue to form men spiritually, intellectually, and pastorally, preparing them to serve the Church and its people for generations to come. 

At Borromeo Seminary, the Propaedeutic Year offers young men a transformative experience of silence, simplicity, and spiritual formation. Designed as a retreat from the noise and pressure of modern life, the year removes distractions like technology and social media to help seminarians reconnect with themselves, each other, and Christ.



Scan this QR code or visit

www.catholiccommunity.org/immersion to view a video about the Propaedeutic Immersion Year.

DONOR *Spotlight*



The Faithful Generosity of **RICK AND GINA MATIS**

Rick and Gina Matis have spent their lives quietly living the Gospel – faithfully, joyfully, and generously. Parishioners at Holy Family Parish in Parma for more than 30 years, they view financial stewardship as a natural expression of their deep-rooted Catholic values – values formed in childhood and lived every day since.

Both cradle Catholics raised in traditional families, Rick and Gina first met briefly through parish life – but it wasn't until a chance encounter while helping fellow parishioners that their relationship truly began. As part of the parish's social action outreach, Gina was assisting an elderly woman inside her home, while Rick – coincidentally – arrived to help the woman's husband with yardwork. A knock on the door, a request for a gas can, and a shared cup of coffee and donuts later, their lives were forever changed.

Incredibly, the priest who had delivered the homily that first nudged Rick toward deeper involvement in parish life – encouraging parishioners to offer more of their time and heart – was the same priest who would later officiate their wedding. That single invitation from the pulpit led Rick to the social action group, and ultimately, to Gina.

Over the years, their shared faith has guided everything from their family life to their finances. During a parish mission in the 1990s, missionary Fr. Larry Richards posed a simple but powerful question: “How many of you tithe?” That moment gave Rick and Gina pause – and it ultimately changed the way they gave. They began tithing intentionally, committing a portion of every paycheck and bonus to God. “You can’t outdo God in generosity,” they remember Fr. Larry saying. It’s a line they’ve carried with them ever since – and one they’ve proven true through a lifetime of giving.

Rick’s steady dedication and Gina’s compassionate spirit have fueled decades of service. Rick has served in the choir, the Knights of Columbus, helped with Mass livestreams, served on Parish Council and the Liturgy Committee, prayed the Rosary at wakes and taught eighth-grade PSR for 23 years. Gina has decorated the church, helped at Holy Family parish festivals and fish fries, been a member of the Divine Mercy Cenacle, served as a Eucharistic Minister for 40 years, and faithfully brought the Eucharist to the homebound. She also spent 25 years as a teacher’s aide at Holy Family School.

A daily rhythm of prayer grounds their lives. In 1984, while working at Republic Steel, Rick attended an Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist during his lunch break. The priest invited the congregation to attend one weekday Mass a week during Lent. Rick returned the next day – and never stopped. That practice continued through the decades and deepened during the pandemic, when Gina began watching daily Mass at home. Today, they attend daily Mass together.

Even in the face of professional transitions, they have never doubted God’s providence. Incredibly, Rick has never had a single day



“We’ve always believed the money we have isn’t really ours; it’s God’s money. We’re just stewards, trying to do the best we can and share God’s blessings with others.”

RICK AND GINA MATIS

without work. “When one door closed, another opened,” he says. Today, he serves as Director of Credit & Collection for Vibrantz Corporation, leading with the same faith and trust that has shaped their family.

Over time, their generosity has grown beyond weekly giving. In 2024, Rick and Gina were inducted into the Heritage Society of the Diocese of Cleveland – a special honor that acknowledges those who include the Church and diocesan ministries in their estate plans. It is one of the ways Bishop Edward C. Malesic and the diocese express gratitude to those who are helping ensure the Church’s mission will endure for future generations.

After first providing for their two daughters – Melissa (Jeff) and Holli (Tim) and their beloved grandchildren (Parker, Paige, Maximillian, and Lucia – expected in August), Rick and Gina made a decision to continue their giving beyond their lifetimes. Their estate will benefit the ministries they’ve supported for years – including Holy Family Parish, Catholic Charities’ St. Augustine Hunger Center, mission outreach through the Propagation of the Faith, WCCR

1260 AM The Rock, EWTN, Poor Clare Colettine Nuns, Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, and the formation of future priests at Borromeo and Saint Mary Seminaries.

“We’ve always believed the money we have isn’t really ours; it’s God’s money. We’re just stewards, trying to do the best we can and share God’s blessings with others.”

Their giving reflects a deeply biblical conviction: “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Matthew 6:21). Their treasure has always been with the Church, with others, and with God.

Rick and Gina are also proud supporters of Catholic education through the Angel Scholarship Fund, which allows them to direct a portion of their Ohio state tax dollars toward tuition assistance for families seeking a Catholic education.

Their story is one of faith in action, love expressed through service, and giving rooted not in obligation, but in joy. Through their planned gift, Rick and Gina are ensuring that their legacy of stewardship will continue to bear fruit – long after they’ve gone home to the Lord. [IR](#)

Guided by leaders like Patrick Grace (left) and William J. O'Neill, Jr. (right), the Foundation has prioritized trust, accountability, and transparency, ensuring that donations make a tangible difference in people's lives.





CELEBRATING 25 years!

Rooted in Faith, Built on Hope: Catholic Community Foundation

In the spirit of the Great Jubilee Year 2000 – a worldwide celebration marking the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ – visionary effort took root in the Diocese of Cleveland. With the encouragement and leadership of Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation – now known as the Catholic Community Foundation – was created to serve as a powerful engine for stewardship and a visible sign of the Church's commitment to Northeast Ohio.

The Foundation was born with a simple but profound mission: to continue the work of Jesus by fostering philanthropy, advancing stewardship, and building community by coordinating the fundraising efforts of the Diocese of Cleveland. Twenty-five years later, that mission endures as the Foundation continues to enrich lives by encouraging faithful philanthropy.

From the outset, the Foundation broke new ground. Few dioceses across the country had

comprehensive fundraising organizations, but in Cleveland, lay leaders and clergy united to build something extraordinary. Under the guidance of its first president, August A. Napoli, Jr., and inaugural board chair William J. O'Neill, Jr., the Foundation's Trustees built trust, established sound policies, and made personal financial commitments – totaling \$4.8 million – to launch the Catholic Community Fund, a lasting source of flexible support for emerging diocesan needs.

One of the Foundation's first initiatives – the 2000 launch of the Faith & Values Appeal – signaled its deep commitment to Catholic education. This inaugural campaign supported tuition assistance for families, a theme that has remained central to the Foundation's mission for a generation.

In 2001, just a year after opening its doors, the Foundation was named "Best Foundation" by the International Catholic Stewardship Council – a global recognition

of its early excellence in leadership and innovation.

Recently, Patrick Grace, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Foundation, sat down with William J. O'Neill, Jr., the Foundation's first Board Chair and Honorary Board Member. Now 91, Bill reflected on the Foundation's beginnings and what inspired him to help bring Bishop Pilla's vision to life.

"I thought the world of Bishop Pilla," he shared. "He was a personal friend and I would do anything for him. But he made the decisions."

Bill also emphasized the importance of trust, accountability, and transparency. "People want to see their donations managed well, they want to see them accounted for, and they want to see the impact of their

donations. We tried to quantify the totality of the impact in terms of human services, Catholic education, and the impact on the parish communities."

At the heart of it all, he added, "We were rooted in our faith, but we were building something for the future – a foundation of hope."

And he praised the Board's broad vision of service, "The Board cared about what the Church was doing for the community, and they weren't doing it just for Catholics in the community – they were helping everyone."

Through the years, the Foundation has remained true to its roots, expanding its reach without losing sight of its purpose. By the close of 2024, the Catholic Community Foundation had raised nearly \$700 million in support of ministries across the eight

counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. These gifts – large and small – have strengthened Catholic Charities, sustained tuition assistance, supported the formation of priests and seminarians, and helped parishes and schools remain beacons of hope in changing times.

But the Foundation's success is not only financial – it is deeply spiritual. It is seen in a mother who can send her child to a Catholic school. In a seminarian supported on the path to priesthood. In a family receiving compassionate care during a moment of crisis. It is seen in the dedication of lay and religious Board members, parish leaders, staff, volunteers, and faithful donors who give their time, talent, and treasure to carry forward the Church's mission.

Now, as we mark the Foundation's 25th anniversary in another Jubilee Year – 2025,

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

JANUARY 1, 2000

Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation officially established.



2001

Foundation named "Best Foundation" by the International Catholic Stewardship Council.



Foundation had raised more than \$100 million.

2004

2000

Launch of the Faith & Values Appeal, Foundation's first major campaign focused on tuition assistance.

MAY 31, 2000

First CDCF Board meeting held.


MAY 15, 2006

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla retired after more than 25 years of service to the Diocese of Cleveland.



a Holy Year themed Pilgrims of Hope – we give thanks for what has been accomplished and look forward with faith.

Bill O'Neill expressed his hope for the years to come in saying, "I hope to see the continuation of growth and the positive effect the Catholic Community Foundation has had on people in our diocese."

What began as a quiet leap in a Jubilee year has become a vital and enduring force for good in Northeast Ohio. Thanks to the generosity of past donors – and with the faith-filled support of future ones – the Catholic Community Foundation will remain a firm foundation upon which hope is built. Together, we are proving that generosity guided by faith can change lives – and shape the Church for generations to come. 

“*People want to see their donations managed well, they want to see them accounted for, and they want to see the impact of their donations. We tried to quantify the totality of the impact in terms of human services, Catholic education, and the impact on the parish communities.*”

WILLIAM J. O'NEILL, JR., THE FOUNDATION'S FIRST BOARD CHAIR AND HONORARY BOARD MEMBER



Scan this QR code or visit www.catholiccommunity.org/board to view a video of Patrick Grace and Bill O'Neill reminiscing about the Catholic Community Foundation through the years.

FOUNDATION *Milestones*

Bishop Richard Lennon attended his first Foundation Board meeting.



MAY 2006

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Bishop Nelson J. Perez installed as Bishop of Cleveland.



Foundation had raised \$500 million.

2020

2010

Name changed to Catholic Community Foundation.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Bishop Edward C. Malesic installed as Bishop of Cleveland.



2024

Foundation had raised nearly \$700 million in support of diocesan ministries.

GIVING TO PASS ON THE LEGACY OF FAITH

Members of the Heritage Society understand the importance of passing on the legacy of our Catholic faith to the next generation. By making plans for a bequest or other future gift to strengthen the ministries of the Diocese of Cleveland, these dedicated Catholics inspire others to help build God's kingdom on earth. We gratefully recognize and honor the individuals who have included their parish or a diocesan ministry such as Catholic Charities, Catholic education, or priestly formation in their estate plans.

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Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Anderson
Mrs. Eimer Anthony
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Mr. David Archihofsky
Miss Nancy Arida
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Reverend Joseph A. Bacevice
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Dr. Deborah Brindza
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Ms. Teresa Bruno
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		Ms. Margie A. Smith	Mr. Phil Zellhofer
		Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Snee	Ms. Madelyn Zone

FINANCIAL Highlights

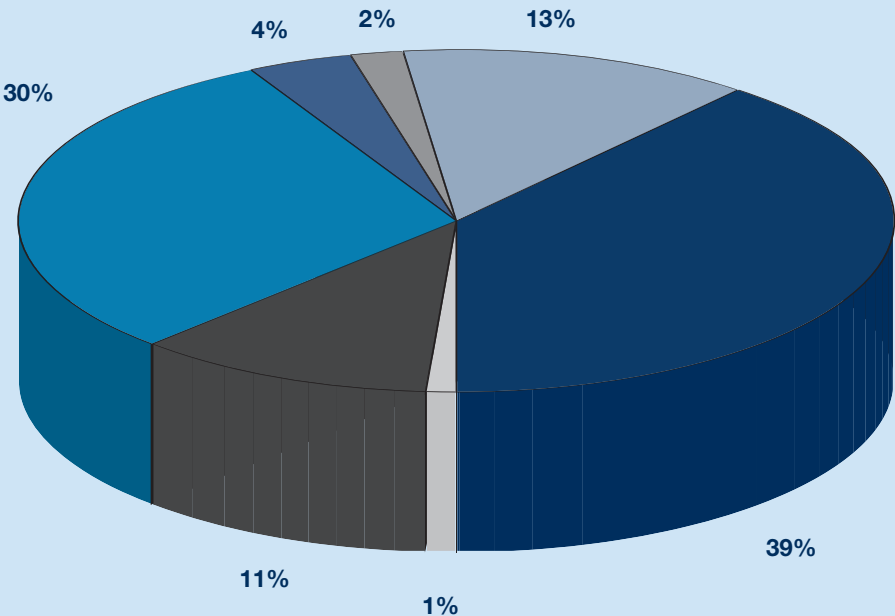
The following summary of financial information is derived from the audited financial statement of activities for the year ending Dec. 31, 2024. The full audited financial statement is available online at <https://www.catholiccommunity.org/financials>.

The Catholic Community Foundation’s long-term investments are held in a 60% equity/40% fixed income investment portfolio that is screened in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines for Catholic socially responsible investing (guidelines at www.usccb.org). The Foundation places great importance on risk reduction through strategic asset allocation and style diversification. The risk vs. return potential of 60% equity/40% fixed income asset allocation is consistent with the Foundation’s investment return, risk tolerance, and distribution guidelines.

2024	\$57,500,000
2023	\$38,700,000
2022	\$49,800,000

Fundraising Totals

Fundraising totals include unrealized revocable and irrevocable planned gifts which are not reflected in the audited financial statements.



2024 FUNDS RAISED (IN MILLIONS)

Catholic Charities	\$22.2
Other*	\$17.1
Catholic education (Includes Angel Scholarship Fund)	\$7.6
#weGiveCatholic	\$6.3
Parishes	\$2.5
Worship, formation & parish life	\$1.3
Heart of a Shepherd Campaign	\$0.5

TOTAL **\$57.5**

* Includes Donor Advised Funds, philanthropic funds, special initiatives and other designated funds.

Distributions

Monies from annual appeals, planned gifts, endowed and non-endowed funds as well as other fundraising events, initiatives, and campaigns.

TOTAL	
2024	\$51,900,000
2023	\$39,100,000
2022	\$52,300,000

2024 DISTRIBUTIONS (IN MILLIONS)

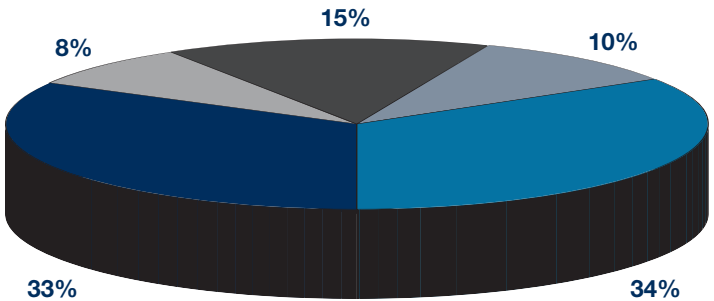
Catholic Charities	\$23.1
Other	\$11.1
Catholic education	\$10.7
Heart of a Shepherd Campaign	\$5.3
Parishes	\$1.0
Worship, formation & parish life	\$0.7
TOTAL	\$51.9

2024 OPERATING EXPENSES	
Fundraising <i>(includes Heart of a Shepherd)</i>	\$2,444,210
Other Operating	\$903,548
Administrative	\$314,436
TOTAL	\$3,662,194

RETURNS ENDING DECEMBER 31	2022	2023	2024
Catholic Community Foundation actual, net of fees	-13.62%	14.78%	11.76%
Blended benchmark	-13.35%	15.35%	11.9%
Difference	-0.27%	-0.57%	-0.14%

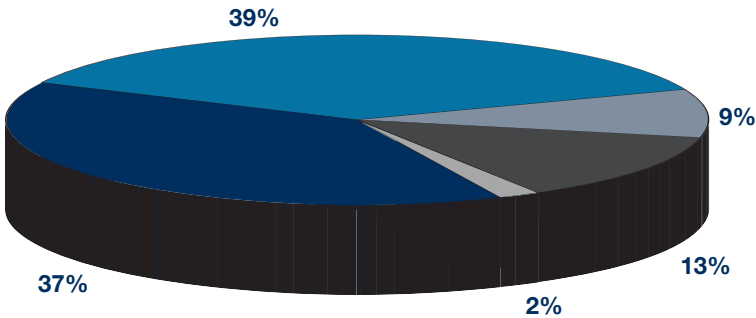
Managed Portfolio Asset Allocation

2024 (IN MILLIONS)	
Total Large Cap Equity	\$70.6
Total Small Cap Equity	\$19.9
Total International Equity	\$29.8
Total Cash	\$16.4
Total Fixed Income <i>(includes REIT)</i>	\$68.1
TOTAL	\$204.8



Managed Portfolio Program Allocation

2024 (IN MILLIONS)	
Catholic Charities	\$75.8
Catholic education	\$80.4
Worship, formation & parish life	\$3.7
Parishes & schools	\$26.2
Other <i>(i.e., Donor Advised Funds, Named Endowment Funds, etc.)</i>	\$18.7
TOTAL	\$204.8





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Bishop of Cleveland

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President, Dungannon, LLC

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Former Chairman,
Telefast Industries

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR:

Mr. Patrick J. Grace
Executive Director,
Catholic Community Foundation



BOARD *Spotlight*

Jack Lupica

Tell us a little about you and your family.

I am a born-and-raised Cleveland guy. I grew up on the south end of Parma and attended St. Albert the Great, where I served and played the piano for years. I then attended St. Ignatius High School, then continued with the Jesuits at John Carroll where I received my undergraduate degree in Theology & Religious Studies and Politics. I finished my education with a Master of Business Administration from John Carroll University. I now live in Strongsville, Ohio.

What is your work background?

I am a retirement plan consultant with the Retirement & Investment Solutions practice of CBIZ, Inc. I work with plan sponsors to help them meet their organization's retirement plan goals and manage the personal liability associated with being a fiduciary to a qualified plan. I provide consulting services to private and public companies, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

What are your interests/hobbies?

I love spending time with family and friends, playing the piano, reading, traveling to as many unique destinations as possible, and exploring new restaurants.


Who is your favorite saint?

My favorite saint is St. Joseph. He provides such a wonderful example of how to be a calm, humble, holy, and peaceful man. If more people lived like St. Joseph, our country would be a more peaceful and understanding place.

What is something readers should know about you?

Something important to know about me is that my relationship with Jesus Christ is at the core of who I am. My faith drives and informs every aspect of my life, giving me energy, direction, and purpose. Without it, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

What is your experience on the Catholic Community Foundation Board?

I first became involved with the Board under then-Archbishop Perez who invited me to serve on the Audit Committee. Since then, it's been both a pleasure and a blessing to continue serving. In 2023, I became a full voting member of the Board while continuing my work on the Audit Committee. I serve on the CCF Board because I have a deep passion for strengthening and growing our Church. The Holy Spirit is truly alive in the Diocese of Cleveland. We are blessed with a vibrant local Church and a holy Bishop, and it's an honor to serve the diocese through my service on the CCF Board. 



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio

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Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1722

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CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio

CELEBRATING

25
YEARS

We are celebrating our **25th anniversary!** Since its inception, The Catholic Community Foundation has raised nearly **\$700 million** to support Catholic Charities, education, priestly formation, and parish life across the Diocese of Cleveland. As the Church celebrates another Jubilee Year in 2025, the Foundation remains a **beacon of hope**, rooted in faith and committed to continuing its mission of service for generations to come.



PATRICK GRACE

Executive Director
216-696-6525 x5750
pgrace@catholiccommunity.org



MARY LOU OZIMEK

Assistant Executive Director
216-696-6525 x4070
mozimek@catholiccommunity.org