

## **Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan**

### THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN

The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan is a separately-incorporated, permanent endowment vehicle designed to grow the Catholic faith through endowment-building for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Endowment growth will provide the financial stability and sustainability of parishes, Catholic schools and other Catholic causes in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

### PURPOSE

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. Each fund is a component part of the Foundation with its own name and purpose, as established exclusively by the donor.

### BENEFITS

Individuals, parishes and schools can enjoy stewardship of endowed funds without the work of endowment administration. The Foundation will handle endowment administration, investment and spending policy, gift acceptance, and fund agreements. By shouldering the administrative burden, the Foundation makes it easy to establish endowments, which in turn will strengthen the financial stability of parishes and schools. Socially-responsible investment policy upholds Catholic teaching, perpetually governed by Catholics.

### ENDOWMENT

An endowment is a permanent fund from which income can be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor. The fund's principal value is not spent. The principle includes the initial contribution given to establish the fund, as well as additional gifts to the endowment. The assets of the Foundation grow through sound and socially-responsible investment policies and additional gifts. An endowment fund should not be confused with a capital fund, a reserve fund, the annual fund or other special project funds, all of which allow expenditures from principal.

## CASE FOR ESTABLISHING 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 gifts. 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 in-part on the sustained support of the people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

## INVESTMENTS IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan adheres to the policies set forth by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops. A capable and qualified group of Catholics who follow the tenants of our faith and serve as the foundation's Board of Directors ensures the funds will always be governed with strong Catholic values.

## ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND

[parameters/instructions forthcoming]

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION

The Board of Directors who are leaders in their parishes and in their communities and are accountable to both donors and recipients. A highly qualified group of professional investors and financial advisors make up the foundation's investment committee who recommend to the Board the proper investment of assets to the foundation. The Board is responsible for compliance with federal, state and canon laws. The Board is advisory to the Bishop.

## PARISH ENDOWMENTS

Parish endowments may be established by the parish or by an individual or family for the sole benefit of the parish. Once a parish fund is established, others may add to it at any time in any amount (so long as the establishing donor allows this). Distributions may be used only for the purposes documented in the fund agreement.

**For more information, please contact Mr. Tom Dowdall, Director, Office of Stewardship and Development, Diocese of Kalamazoo at (269) 903-0145 or [tdowdall@diokzoo.org](mailto:tdowdall@diokzoo.org).**