Our Catholic Church is called to be a missionary. And that includes being a missionary to all the teens – Catholic or not – in our community. As a missionary, we look to grow our Church and deepen the faith. The Pew Research Center says that 1/3 of those raised Catholic are no longer Catholic, that’s 10% of the US population. When they studied those that changed their religious affiliation, they found that over 70% of those who leave the Catholic Church do so before age 24. That is approximately 22 million Americans losing their Catholic faith in their teens or college years. Dynamic Catholic states that 85 percent of Catholic young adults stop practicing their Faith in college (most of them within their first year of leaving home). Curtis Martin, the founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) thinks that 85 percent is conservative, and that the Catholic Church is losing more than 90 percent of Catholic young people by the end of their college years. You might think that if they’re losing their faith before 24, we need young adult ministries. And you would be right. We do. In Young Catholic America, Christian Smith points out that the number one determining factor for faith practice in someone’s 20s and 30s is faith practice in their teens. Someone may abandon the label “Catholic” later in life but if they do so, they usually abandon the practice when they were a teenager. He also gives statistics to show that the percent who come back to a practice of the faith when they get married or have kids is very small.

This is not only a national issue but also one for our own diocese. Many of our parish pastors struggle with this very issue and so it is no surprise that our own Pastors Advisory Council identified this issue as one of the most pressing needs in the Columbus Diocese. As a result, they suggested funding youth ministry positions to help address this problem and asked The Catholic Foundation to help in this initiative. Fortunately, an incredibly generous
Dear Friends,

In this Winter Blessings, I invite you to review the many grants awarded throughout our Catholic diocese and community in our Responsive Grants cycle, totaling over $1.1 million. Every year the amount we grant has increased, but the needs in our diocese continue to outpace our granting. In fact, since 2010 the amount being requested by our parishes, schools and ministries for grants has increased over 110%.

Among those grants, we have highlighted Youth Ministry in our cover story. These grants have helped fund 19 youth ministry positions since 2018. Youth ministry helps young people learn what it means to follow Jesus Christ and to live as his disciples today, empowering them to support others and to work toward a world built on the vision and values of the reign of God. Our young people experience the Catholic community of faith at home, in the parish (especially in youth ministry programs), in Catholic schools, and in other organizations among youth. We recognize the importance of each of these faith communities in helping young people grow in faith as they experience life in community and actively participate in the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.

As I reflect on an outstanding year of many blessings, I would like to extend my gratitude to you for your continued support of our Catholic faith through The Catholic Foundation. We touched countless lives thanks to your generosity, and we hope it is evident that your gifts are igniting transformational change. We have begun our new fiscal year, and we anticipate making even greater strides in furthering our Catholic mission. I encourage you to consider how best to support your parish or Catholic organization, and the role that the Foundation can play in your planned giving. With your help and with Christ as our guide, The Catholic Foundation will continue to be a resource for the future of our faith and our diocese.

May God bless you,
Loren Brown

OBITUARY

Kimberly Owens (1956 – 2019)

On October 17th God took to Himself, Kim Owens, a woman of grace. A great blanket of sadness covers the parish family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, where Kim had served in the finance office for many years. Not feeling well, Kim left the office Friday telling everyone she would see them Monday. Within days an infection ravaged throughout her body, and with family and friends gathered around her in love and prayer, Kim took her first breath of celestial air. With that first breath we believe, with Jesus on one side and the Blessed Mother on the other side, she ran into the arms of her loving husband, Bob. Family and friends knew Kim longed for that great reunion since Bob’s tragic death in Cambodia while on a mission trip in May of 2016. From that time on Kim continued Bob’s passion for helping the orphaned children of Asia’s Hope. Kim was such an example of faith, courage and selfless love with a heart that surrendered to doing whatever God would ask of her. With great dedication, Kim served her parish family as a lector and as a Eucharistic Minister. She supported the work and mission of The Catholic Foundation and worked tirelessly on the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. We tip a glass of wine to our friend and commit ourselves to letting her joy be our joy.

The Pastors’ Advisory Council really laid out the vision for the creation of the youth ministry program. “This is true blessing to our deacon and bishop. We are so grateful to The Catholic Foundation and the generous donor who gave this grant,” said Megan. “Honestly this grant has allowed us to do so much more than just work with youth. It’s allowed us to stay in Portsmouth and really develop roots here and build relationships.” Megan and Paul could tell you many stories of how youth ministry has touched more than just the kids participating in the program. One family had a daughter in the youth ministry programs and she now goes to Franciscan University. The rest of family converted to Catholicism and the mother is now running her own bible study. Lives are changed and families are made stronger with programs like these. Megan and Paul have both said more than once that you can see these people on fire and in love with Jesus – its a beautiful and touching thing to witness and be a part of.

“Every year The Marthas gather together to learn about different organizations doing wonderful work in our community. This year ten organizations will have ten minutes to share their mission, how they serve the needs in our community, and volunteer opportunities that might be available for any interested Marthas.”

The Marthas for more information.
RESPONSIVE GRANTS

2020

The Catholic Foundation offers a grant cycle with a unique structure of funding opportunities, including three types of grants: Mission Grants, Purpose Grants, and Vision Grants.

MISSION GRANTS

The largest mission category, Mission Grants, is designed to help ministries with capital or program-related needs and has funding up to $10,000.

PURPOSE GRANTS

Purpose Grants provide funding for situations in which a partnership is needed in a larger investment for program or capital needs and has grants ranging from $10,000-$25,000.

VISION GRANTS

A limited number of ministries will receive Vision Grants, which includes capital and program grants for programs that exemplify great thought to sustainability of the project and are of $25,000 or more.

CATHOLIC PARISHES

67

SCHOOLS

25

MINISTRIES

37

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

56

SOCIAL SERVICES

36

PARISH LIFE

31

VOCATIONS

6

2020 RESPONSIVE GRANTS

$1,160,740

throughout the 23-county Diocese of Columbus, Ohio for its 2020 Responsive Grants
Every quarter the Board of Trustees of The Catholic Foundation meet to have their regularly scheduled board meetings. However, on December 18, 2019 the board had a special board meeting hosted at St. Vincent Family Center (SVFC). Members of the board spent the day at SVFC packing and organizing gifts for families for Christmas.

Each year, SVFC serves thousands of children and families living in our most disadvantaged neighborhoods in central Ohio. And each holiday season, many of these families are unable to provide their little ones with the gifts and memories that make this time of year so special. Debra Huff, Development Manager, said that SVFC was able to provide over 300 gifts and memories that make this time of year so special. Debra Huff, Development Manager, said that SVFC was able to provide over 300 gifts and memories that make this time of year so special. Debra Huff, Development Manager, said that SVFC was able to provide over 300 gifts and memories that make this time of year so special.

SVFC’s mission is to make good kids better by providing pediatric behavioral healthcare within a learning community to change the lives of children and families.

To learn more and see how you can support St. Vincent Family Center’s mission, please visit www.catholic-foundation.org/svfc.

Is there anything more noble, more sacred, more impactful to the world than to save a child’s life?

For over 12 years, Women’s Care Center has been in the business of saving the lives of unborn children in Central Ohio. When they first came to Columbus in 2008, they opened two centers — both near abortion clinics. One right next to the largest Planned Parenthood in our state. Since then, their centers have saved over 15,000 babies from abortion.

By the grace of God and through the loving support and generosity of friends and neighbors like you, this ministry served over 3,500 women in 2019.

This results-driven ministry has been recognized nationally for using the most effective approach to the nation’s most difficult issue. This better way focuses exclusively on what works, namely unconditional love and tangible support for women facing this most important decision. They focus on the joy of motherhood, and on the heart and soul of each brave, young woman who walks through their doors.

And it really works. 1 in 9 babies born in Columbus now start with a heart that could have been saved by Women’s Care Center.

They promise to provide unconditional love and support to all who come to the Women’s Care Center. This promise is one they hold sacred: the center will always be ready, willing and able to love and serve the next woman who walks through their doors, and to help her choose life. They are able to keep and sustain this promise because of partners like you.

We, as a community, must assure that this promise will always be kept... from this generation to the next.

To learn more and donate to the Women’s Care Center fund at The Catholic Foundation, please visit www.catholic-foundation.org/womenscarecenter.
In Christ, The Catholic Foundation inspires giving and assists donors to provide for the long-term needs of the Diocese of Columbus.