

## Jazz Night Celebrates Friends of the Foundation



Supporters of The Catholic Foundation gathered in late May to enjoy fellowship and live music by The Vernon Hairston Trio. Lang Conference Room was converted into an old-school jazz club where the smooth sound of the trumpet filled the Broad Street building. The evening featured an array of delicious bites with guests sipping on an Old Fashioned or Sazerac, a whiskey cocktail straight from New Orleans.

Loren Brown, CEO of The Catholic Foundation, addressed guests with words of gratitude: "This evening is simply about coming together to enjoy music and each other's company. It also allows me an opportunity to thank you for all you do to support the mission of The Catholic Foundation. Through your stewardship, you're sharing God's gifts with those who need it most in our Columbus Catholic community."

## GIVING FROM THE HEART

Catholic Men's Ministry recently debuted a new format to their electronic newsletter, *Called and Sent*, featuring interactive, video-based content tailored for busy lifestyles. Going from written to video allows the information to be presented in a condensed, easy-to-listen-to format. While the way in which you receive the information has changed, the inspiration behind the circulation remains the same: to enhance men's faith and give them an opportunity to learn more about the many things happening in the Catholic community throughout our 23-county Diocese.

The Catholic Foundation is honored to be a part of this new format with a feature called "Giving from the Heart." In each issue, someone from our development team will outline the ways you can give to the causes that matter most to you. Whether it be opening a donor advised fund or making your gift intentions known through a bequest, we will cover all the questions that are commonly asked about charitable giving.

The Catholic Men's Ministry is a Catholic lay apostolate primarily serving the Diocese of Columbus. The mission is to bring men closer to Christ through the understanding that they are called to be saints, live a life centered on Christ, and be inspired by St. Joseph.

Please visit [www.catholicmensministry.com](http://www.catholicmensministry.com) to get *Called and Sent* delivered to your inbox.

**Thank you** to our outgoing board members who dedicated their time and talent for the past nine years. The Catholic Foundation has grown from your contributions and is forever blessed by your service.



Meet Genevieve Steffy  
MARKETING EXTERN

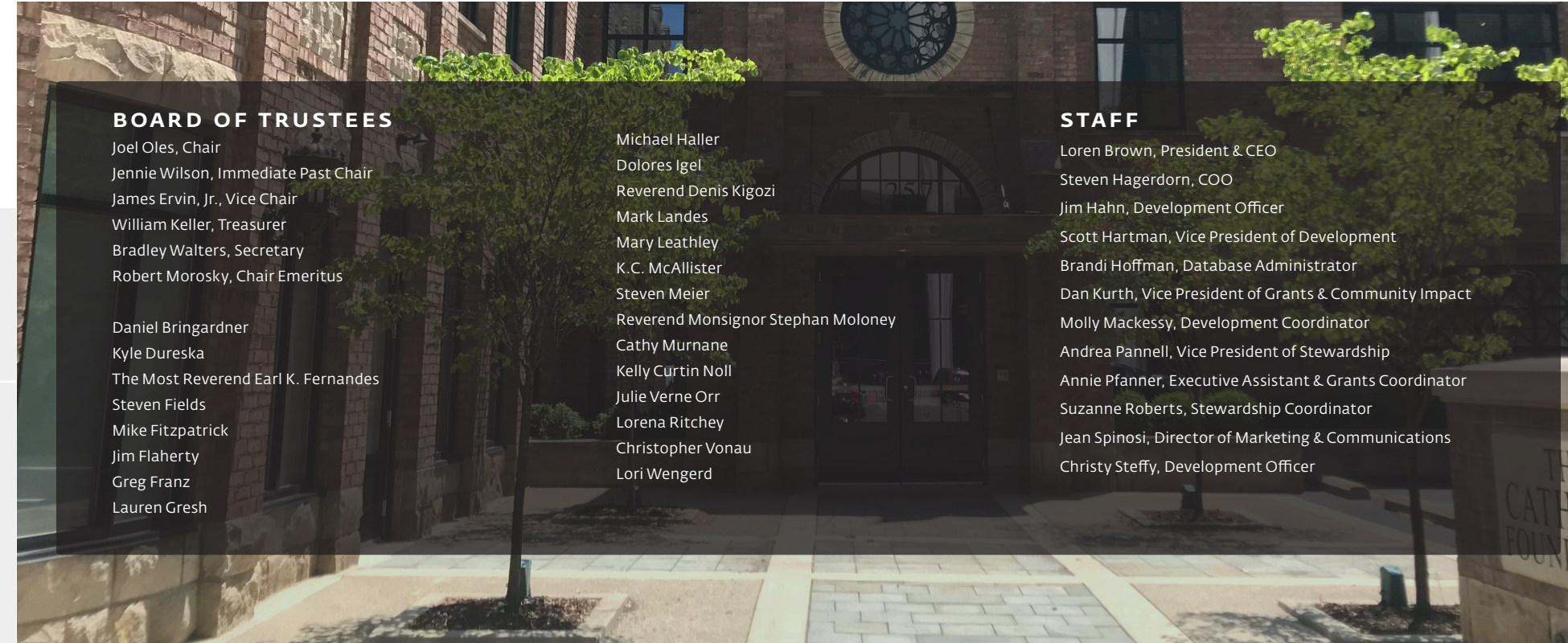
The Catholic Foundation is blessed by the presence of our summer marketing extern, Genevieve Steffy. An externship is an opportunity for a college student to get a better understanding of their field of interest by combining job shadowing with hands-on experience. Genevieve is a rising sophomore at Miami University's Honors College in Oxford, Ohio. She is majoring in digital marketing and social media and is immersed in courses offered at the Farmer School of Business.

"I've always enjoyed creating content and have the opportunity to hone my skills further, plus I genuinely enjoy learning about marketing strategies" says Steffy of her decision to major in marketing. "I am grateful to have this externship opportunity to get more hands-on marketing experience before I delve deeper into my major coursework. It's a bonus that it involves my Catholic faith, which is something that is extremely important to me."

Genevieve is involved in Greek life and writes for her sorority's mental health blog. She attended Bexley High School and is a parishioner at St. Catharine Church.



In Christ, we inspire generosity to invest in the future of parishes, schools, vocations, and ministries in our Catholic community.



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SUMMER 2022

# Blessings



SUMMER 2022

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

catholic-foundation.org

## Fernandes Family Establishes Fund for Columbus Bishops

On May 31, 2022, our Catholic community witnessed the ordination and installation of Reverend Earl K. Fernandes as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. Over 350 bishops, priests and deacons gathered to watch this monumental moment which took place at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Westerville. At 49, Bishop Fernandes is the youngest Roman Catholic Bishop to lead a U.S. Diocese as well as the first Indian American priest to be appointed to the episcopate.

Soon after Fr. Earl Fernandes was appointed bishop-elect by Pope Francis, his brothers, Dr. Karl Fernandes, Deacon Trevor Fernandes, Dr. Ashley Fernandes, and Dr. Eustace Fernandes, reached out to The Catholic Foundation to create **The Thelma R. and Sydney O. Fernandes Bishop's Ecclesiastical Attire, Adornment and Devotional Fund**. Dr. Ashley Fernandes spoke to the Foundation about the significance of establishing this endowment in their parents' names.

**TCF: What inspired you to establish The Thelma R. and Sydney O. Fernandes Bishop's Ecclesiastical Attire, Adornment and Devotional Fund?**

**AF:** My parents grew up in Mumbai India, in strong Catholic families. For a time, my late father was a Jesuit seminarian there, until he discerned out into a life of marriage and a vocation of healing as a physician. His approach to Catholicism was ostensibly intellectual, pushing his five boys to read, study, defend, and analyze our faith in a secular age. My mom, though very educated in her own right, took an approach of incessant prayer and piety. It was a true blessing to have parents who embodied the dual faces of our faith.

We were overjoyed to hear the news of our brother Earl's appointment as Bishop of Columbus. We were also a bit taken aback to discover, almost simultaneously, that the attire, adornments, and other devotionals of Bishops across the United States are typically paid for, out of pocket, by the appointed priest himself!



SCAN ME!

Bishop Fernandes, age 5, dressed as St. Francis Xavier, and Dr. Ashley Fernandes, age 6, as St. Raymond Penafort. Their father, Sydney, hand-made their costumes for a saint's parade at school.

These adornments are works of art and reflect the glory and tradition of the Church—and rightly so. However, all beautiful art comes at a staggering price.

Inspired by "the lilies of the field" (Matthew 6:25-34), we had the idea to create a special fund to help future bishops of Columbus from here till the end of days defray the cost of coming to our Diocese and be able to choose special items that have profound meaning for them and their faith journey. My parents would be very proud and appreciate this as a gift from our family to Columbus' bishops, and to the Church that sustains us all. Through my own work with the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio, I have come to know and love The Catholic Foundation for its excellence in financial management, grants, and donor funds. There is no place better to house this fund.







## A Message From Our CEO

LOREN BROWN

Dear friends in Christ,

A lot has happened since our last edition of Blessings! It is with immense joy that I welcome Bishop Earl K. Fernandes to our Diocese and to The Catholic Foundation's Board of Trustees. We share a common thread of being Toledo-natives with faith and family occupying the core of our upbringings. I wasn't surprised when his four brothers approached me to open a fund in their parents' names to help their newly appointed brother - as well as future bishops of Columbus - cover the costs of ecclesiastical attire, adornments, and devotional items. I encourage you to learn more about the sentiment behind The Thelma R. and Sydney O. Fernandes Fund in our cover story.

As I reflect on the events of Bishop Fernandes' ordination and installation, I'm reminded of the importance of gatherings and sharing experiences - large and small - together as a Catholic community. The Catholic Foundation hosted a Jazz Night in May which encompassed all my favorite things: great music, delicious food, and a lively mix of conversation from supporters of our Foundation. Spirits were high and a great time was had by all!

The team and I are especially grateful to be back to in-person meetings interacting with donors, pastors, and parishioners. Through parish gatherings, we personally spread the mission of The Catholic Foundation and remind our fellow Catholics that we are called to be stewards of God's gifts. It is through this act of charitable giving that we will perpetuate the future of our faith by sharing the treasures we've been blessed with during our lifetimes. We were made to be together, working as one Catholic community for the benefit of God's glory. Summer sets the perfect stage for gathering. Vacations, backyard BBQs, and parish festivals are wonderful ways to connect with those who bring you joy. My team and I are always at your service. If you need assistance with your planned giving, please contact us at 614-443-8893.

May God bless you,

*P.S. Stacey and I became grandparents for the first time in April. Mylo William is a true gift from God!*



### COVER STORY CONTINUED

**TCF:** I'm sure you have many stories growing up in a household with five boys! Is there a childhood memory that captures your family unit and highlights the relationship you share with your brothers?

**AF:** Every family has a story about torturing the youngest sibling. In ours, my youngest brother Eustace (age five) was always being left out and begging to be included in our games. One day, I as the ringleader (age seven) and Earl (age six) as my willing accomplice, decided we were going to play "Jesus," and invited Eustace to play. He was thrilled to discover that he would get to be the main character—Jesus! What he did not know, is that we were enacting the Passion. I played the narrator, Pontius Pilate, and the crowd, while Earl was the Roman soldier. You can only imagine the fun we had at my youngest brother's expense! My poor pious mom would hear this racket from upstairs and call down, "What are you all doing down there?!" To which Earl and I replied, "Playing Jesus, Mom!" She was probably beaming thinking we were this devout!

**TCF:** What are your wishes for Bishop Fernandes as he begins his role as shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus?



Celebrating Thelma & Sydney's 30th Wedding Anniversary  
Photos courtesy of Ashley Fernandes

### Plan a Gift from Your Will or Trust

Become an eternal steward of the gifts God has entrusted with you. Name in your will, trust, or beneficiary documents an amount to your parish endowment, a Catholic high school endowment, or an endowment supporting your favorite ministry. A confidential bequest form can be found at [www.catholic-foundation.org](http://www.catholic-foundation.org) (click on Open a Fund under Giving) to provide The Catholic Foundation with your intentions.

Please contact Scott Hartman, VP of Development with questions at 614-443-8893 or [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org).

**AF:** Our wish for our brother is that he is constantly prayed for by the faithful of the Diocese—not just during the normal recitation at Mass—but in spare moments throughout the day. We hope Earl can bring the same level of energy, vibrancy, youth, humility, integrity, and holiness he has brought to his previous roles as a pastor, teacher, academician, and diplomat to this new leadership role. Knowing him as we do, we believe he can — but only with the incessant prayers of the faithful.

Bishop Fernandes' mother, Thelma, is 83 years old and resides in their hometown of Toledo. Along with his four brothers, his immediate family includes four sisters-in-law and 15 nieces and nephews. There are an impressive 14 graduate degrees between the original seven members of the Fernandes Family.

The Catholic Foundation is grateful to Dr. Ashley Fernandes for sharing memories of his childhood and the inspiration behind The Thelma R. and Sydney O. Fernandes Bishop's Ecclesiastical Attire, Adornment and Devotional Fund. If you would like to contribute to the Fund, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/planned-giving/funds/](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/planned-giving/funds/) or scan the QR Code on the cover page. Please contact Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893 or [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org) with any questions.

## ST. VINCENT HAVEN Where Hope Grows

Pope Francis is an active "tweeter" on the social media platform Twitter. His messages are often in response to world events or nudges to Catholics on how we should be living our lives to emulate Christ. His Holiness recently shared this reminder: "To love like Christ loves means to put yourself at the service of your brothers and sisters, especially those in the greatest need, as we are and with what we have." St. Vincent Haven answers Christ's call to help those in need day in, day out. Inspired by the mission of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, the 26-bed facility serves as a transitional home for men 18 and older who are homeless in Licking County. At The Haven, residents are given love and support - free of judgement - as they are equipped with the necessary skills to position them for success. Beyond shelter, case managers work with the men to address mental and physical health, addiction, budgeting, and other education needs.

Johnnie had lived a relatively privileged life, attended college, and worked while living with his godmother. After her death, he found himself homeless and The Haven welcomed him. However, Johnnie turned to alcohol to medicate his grief so that even when he was able to find housing, he was unable to sustain it. He returned two more times - each time resulting in a despair-motivated decision to exit voluntarily - before finally realizing he couldn't maintain a productive life without help.

With staff guidance, Johnnie found a good job and developed an action plan. After saving money, he was able to buy a reliable car and rent an apartment. And he returned to school, working on his degree in nursing. When asked about the impact of The Haven, Johnnie replied, "All the resources you need to be successful are there, especially help with getting a job and transportation." In the next five years, Johnnie wants to buy a house, finish his degree, and start a nursing job, get married and have a family. He also plans to volunteer at The Haven and give back to the place that gave him a new beginning.

Executive Director, John Paul Munhall, fervently believe this is Jesus' work. Mr. Munhall says, "It is only in Him, through Him, and with Him by which they bear fruit in this work. Our team feels blessed that so much fruit has already been borne by Him, through our hands as His tools, for His greater glory and the growth in holiness for us and the residents we serve."



For more information on St. Vincent Haven, please visit [svdphaven.org](http://svdphaven.org) or contact John Paul Munhall at 740-670-0822.

### The Marthas Set a Record High for Granting

St. Martha Giving Circle set a record high in granting raising over \$60,000 for local organizations! Grantees included Freedom a la Cart, Mommies Matter, Bishop Griffin Resource Center, Dominican Learning Center, Bottoms Up Diaper Drive, Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, St. Mary's Prison Ministry, OpenDoor and SPICE.

St. Martha Giving Circle is an initiative dedicated to bringing Catholic women together to raise awareness and funds for organizations in the Diocese of Columbus. Money awarded is raised through annual membership dues. Along with the joy that



comes from granting, there are opportunities to serve and socialize throughout the year.

Upcoming events include mass and lunch to celebrate St. Martha's Feast Day (July 29th), The Marthas Grow Event (September 8th) and Wine & Cheese with Bishop Fernandes (November 3rd).

For more information on joining this dynamic group of Catholic women, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas).

# GOOD T KNOW

### Giving Together through a Family Endowment

Most families don't give a second thought about doing things together: celebrating, vacationing, dining, and worshiping. You could add "giving" to this list. Giving strengthens a family's bond by bringing everyone together toward a shared goal of helping others. Chances are, many family members are already giving to charity, so working together will make a bigger impact on a favorite Catholic parish, school, or ministry.

A Family Endowment is a great way to set the stage for a tradition of charitable giving while simultaneously securing a legacy of stewardship. An endowment is structured to provide an annual source of funding to an organization of your choice. This type of fund

is designed to function in perpetuity, making it possible to ensure long-term financial support to the cause(s) you care most about. Once established, anyone can make additional contributions to the fund in any dollar amount (think: children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, friends, etc.).

Along with making cash contributions, you also have the option of growing the fund balance by directing the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement accounts to your family endowment fund each year. A fund holder can take advantage of employers who offer matching gift programs. There are a variety of ways to contribute to an endowment fund utilizing your current set

of resources or making a bequest when you no longer need your assets.

I recommend you consider a Family Endowment if you want to (1) honor or memorialize a loved one; (2) seek to establish a legacy of faith and giving for your family and generations to come; (3) wish to support your chosen organization or cause in perpetuity.



Questions about opening an endowment in your family's name? Please contact Scott Hartman at [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org) or 614-443-8893.