



## OUR CATHOLIC

# Heritage

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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 help donors connect their support to ministries and services that lift up the Church in Northeast Ohio.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio

## Fr. Tom Johns Plans On Giving Beyond His Lifetime



“The Catholic Church means a lot to me,” says Fr. Tom Johns. “I was born and raised a Catholic and have been a priest for 43 years. I love the Catholic Church, and I want to do good for the Church, even beyond my life here.”

Next year marks Fr. Johns’ 25th year as pastor at St. John Vianney Church in Mentor. “I tell people in the parish that they should strive to give 10% of their income to charity, so that is in my plan,” explains Fr. Johns.

Specifically, Fr. Johns has named St. John Vianney parish in his estate plan. “This is a way to continue to minister to the people of this parish and help them grow as Catholics,” he says.

Fr. Johns has also included Catholic Charities, which he has supported throughout his priesthood. And, in gratitude for his formation at Borromeo and Saint Mary Seminaries and his time on the Borromeo faculty, he has chosen to leave a gift for the seminaries.

In addition to the parish and diocese, Fr. Johns also believes in supporting the greater Church. “I have always tried to support the Propagation of the Faith,” says Fr. Johns. “When I was a student in the seminary, I had the chance to serve in El Salvador, so I have always had that connection and have tried to support the missions.”

Fr. Johns grew up in Willowick as one of six children and attended St. Mary Magdelene Catholic School. At the time, the grade school did not charge tuition. “When I went into the seminary, I know my pastor helped my parents,” he remembers. “I’ve always been grateful for my Catholic education and all the people who have made that possible,” he says while mentioning his support of Catholic education.

“My aim is to pay it forward. People have been so good to me throughout my life, and people continue to be good to me here at the parish. I want to help them and help other people after I am gone,” he remarks. “I hope to leave a good example for people. That is probably the biggest thing I want to do.” ■



**PATRICK GRACE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

When we reflect on the difference we make in the lives of others, we can consider the ways in which we can make an impact now and in the future.

The new Angel Scholarship Fund is a great example of making an impact now. Through the Angel Scholarship Fund, you can now contribute funds that will provide tuition assistance for students to attend our Catholic schools, and you will receive a 100% Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 against your 2022 state tax liability. In other words, the state of Ohio allows you to “spend” some of the state income taxes you must pay anyway to provide tuition assistance for students seeking an education in our Catholic schools.

Thinking of the future, we can consider what kind of plans we can make that will continue to build our Church, for generations to come. In this issue, we learn more about Fr. Tom Johns’ legacy gift. As a member of the Heritage Society, Fr. Johns has shared with us how he would like his estate plan to make a difference in the lives of others, including our future seminarians.

As always, we remain grateful for your generosity, whether it is through gifts you make now or the future plans in your estate that you have shared with us. May the joy of the Easter season be with you as we give thanks for the growth around us.

Sincerely,

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

Executive Director

## Bishop Cosgrove Center Provides Hope for Samuel

Suffering two strokes this year. Fighting for his disability income. Homeless for nearly two years. Isolated from his 17-year-old daughter and missing his deceased parents. These are the hardships Samuel faces every day. Released from incarceration in early 2020, he describes the mental strain of “coming home to no one and nothing.”

Samuel is 48 and was living in a men’s shelter in Cleveland. He relies on Catholic Charities Bishop Cosgrove Center for breakfast and lunch, hot showers, and human kindness. “Especially with this virus around, I can’t even find the words to say what a blessing this place has been.”

With help from Catholic Charities’ partnership with FrontLine Service, Samuel recently got his own place to live. “Right now, I just have a mattress. But the Cosgrove Center is helping me with furniture. When you have nothing, that’s a blessing. I am grateful for anything. Now I’ve got a room, I’ve got a key.”

Recovering from the loss of his right arm due to a stroke, Samuel says the hot meals at Cosgrove and having his own place will help him heal and help rebuild the relationship with his daughter. “They relieved a lot of the stress that you go through in a shelter. I’ve been out of my child’s life, and I want that back. When you have nothing, that makes it harder. She’s all I have. But now I have more than just hope that I will reconnect with her. I am going to make that happen. I’m grateful for supportive people at Cosgrove Center who have made my life much better.”

Samuel wants people to know how much their support is needed. “I’m not the only one. A lot of people are going through hard times. To get this help is unbelievable. I am thankful.”





## Angel Scholarship Fund: Make a No Cost Gift to Support Catholic Education

**A new program that allows Ohioans to receive a 100% tax credit for up to \$750 in cash donations to certified scholarship granting organizations opened a new door for supporting tuition assistance to Catholic school students in the Diocese of Cleveland.**

The Catholic Community Foundation established the Angel Scholarship Fund to accept donations that qualify for the new state of Ohio scholarship tax credit, beginning with the 2022 tax year.

The new program allows donors to choose how they will “spend” up to \$750 of their 2022 Ohio income tax liability. The Angel Scholarship Fund will prioritize scholarships for low-income families (under 300% of the poverty threshold) that seek high-quality Catholic education opportunities for their children. Contributors to the Angel Scholarship Fund will have the option of making a contribution that supports schools and students across the diocese based on financial need, or making a designated contribution to benefit students at a specific Catholic school. Students in all Catholic elementary and high schools across the eight-county diocese are eligible for these scholarships.

“Catholic schools serve their communities, and the Angel Scholarship Fund is a new opportunity for the community, in turn, to support students to attend a Catholic school. This program holds tremendous potential for keeping irresistibly Catholic, academically excellent education as widely available as possible throughout our diocese,” said Frank O’Linn, superintendent of Catholic schools. The Diocese of Cleveland Catholic schools comprise the largest school system in Ohio and the sixth-largest Catholic school system in the country. Currently, Catholic schools serve 38,312 students in Northeast Ohio.

Students from every Catholic school in the diocese can apply for scholarships by completing a scholarship application form. Applications will be processed by the Diocese of Cleveland Office of Catholic Education. The Catholic Community Foundation anticipates beginning

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to award scholarships as soon as the fall of 2022.

More information about the Angel Scholarship Fund, including an online donation portal, can be found at [www.catholiccommunity.org/angel](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/angel) or by calling Fred Roberts at 216-902-1312.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

***Can my gift be directed to the school of my choice?***

While low-income families will be prioritized, the intent of the Catholic Community Foundation is to offer donors the option of making:

- An undesignated gift that supports schools and students across the Diocese of Cleveland based on financial need; or,
- A gift that is designated to benefit students at a specific Catholic school.

***May I designate my payment to a specific student?***

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Catholic Community Foundation does not accept tax contributions designated for specific students. However, you may direct your tax credit contribution to students of one or more Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. You can find a list of schools at [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/schools](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/schools).

***Who can contribute to the Angel Scholarship Fund?***

Any Ohio taxpayer, single or married, with an Ohio tax liability.

***Is the amount I claim a tax deduction?***

Angel Scholarship Fund donors will receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit up to \$750 (\$1,500 for married couples filing jointly), which is different from a tax deduction. Tax deductions reduce your taxable income. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar credit against the taxes paid to the state of Ohio. The funds are directed to the Angel Scholarship Fund rather than the state.

\*This information is general in nature and is not intended to be used by anyone as tax advice. Please consult a tax professional that is aware of your personal tax situation about this credit and your potential use of it.

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THE  
ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

- Directly impacts a family's ability to afford a Catholic education
- Helps provide a high quality Catholic education to more students
- Can be directed to any Catholic school in the Diocese of Cleveland
- Allows you to choose what your tax dollar supports



**ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Turning taxes into tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation*

**TO LEARN MORE**



We invite you to learn more about the Heritage Society. Please contact me or return the enclosed reply card to schedule a confidential conversation about planning a bequest or other gift that will make a lasting impact.



**Jean Ann Montagna, Planned Giving Relationship Manager**

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