

Planned Giving News

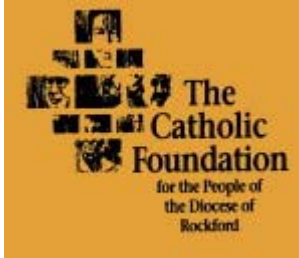
Catholic Diocese of Rockford

April 2008



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**From Greg Urban,
Diocesan Director of
Planned Giving**



Dear Greg :

If you follow the financial markets, you know it has been a difficult quarter for investors. I have included an article this month that highlights some of the economic struggles and provides suggestions on how we might weather this most recent "storm."

Best wishes for a continued blessed Easter season.

P.S. Remember to place the enclosed "blurbs" in your

Pope's Gratitude for the Help of the Papal Foundation courtesy of VIS

Did you know that the Pope has a foundation account? Take a look below at a recent news release on the *Papal Foundation*. The Holy See has received \$41 million since 1990 in earnings distributions on invested funds. Think of the benefit to your parish or organization by consciently promoting and building *your* Foundation account(s).

Vatican City, 4 APR 2008 (VIS) - Today in the Vatican, Benedict XVI received 150 members of the Papal Foundation, an organization based in the United States that was created to provide the Holy See with a stable source of income, which each year presents the Pope with a check that represents the accrued interest of investments.

The Holy Father expressed his gratitude to this institution, headed by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, for the "generous support the Papal Foundation offers through aid projects and scholarships which assist me in carrying out my Apostolic Ministry to the universal Church".

The Pope then recalled the story of the disciples at Emmaus and emphasized that their encounter with the Risen Lord "turned their sorrow into joy, their disappointment into hope". "Their testimony of faith instills in us the firm conviction that Christ lives in our midst, bestowing the gifts that empower us to be messengers of hope in the world today".

"The very source of the Church's service of love, as she strives to alleviate the suffering of the poor and weak, can be found in her unwavering faith that the Lord has definitively conquered sin and death; and that in serving her brothers and sisters, she serves the Lord himself until he comes again in glory".

Since its foundation in 1990, the Papal Foundation has delivered over 41 million dollars to the Pope.

Is It Ever a Bad Time to Invest?

When the markets seem scary, individuals are often tempted to wait for a "better" time to invest. History suggests this may be a mistake.

Market timing requires one to make decisions that even professionals find difficult.

Most people feel nervous about making a commitment to the stock market. There are always economic clouds on the horizon, and no one wants to see their investment take an immediate loss. But trying to "time

bulletins or newsletters!

Keep planting seeds!

Ministry Quicklinks

[Rockford Stewardship web](#)
[Catholic Foundation web](#)

the market" by waiting for a more opportune time to invest may be a mistake. The markets historically have tended to reward long-term investors, no matter when they begin investing.

These are highlights from an interesting paper authored by Neuberger Berman, one of the nine Catholic Foundation money managers. To review the entire paper, mouse click [more...](#)

Time for Budgeting

This is the time of year many parishes and schools do budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year. To assist you in this process I have included the Foundation results as of March 31: *Growth Fund: QTR down 9.8%, YTD down 9.1%; Balanced Fund: QTR down 5.9%, YTD down 3.0%; Income Fund, QTR up 3.1%, YTD up 10.4%*. These results are generally consistent with the market. While the stock market is up since the end of the quarter, at this point how the market will end this final quarter of our fiscal year is anyone's guess. Please plan accordingly. In times such as these are when holding a retained earnings cushion in your Foundation account proves to be a prudent decision.

Bulletin Blurbs

The following messages can be appropriately inserted into your weekly bulletin:

MOTHER'S DAY

A mother's love is eternal. By making a planned gift to our endowment in your mother's name, you create a perpetual remembrance of her love. Honor MOM this Mother's Day and pass on the faith that was so important to her by making a gift in her name to our endowment.

ASCENSION

When it's our turn to join our Heavenly Father, what will we leave behind? Through planned gifts to our endowment, we can give a lasting gift. Call _____ for more information.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Be an angel this Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brought the early Church alive by giving individuals gifts that would sustain the Church, but there was a catch -- THEY HAD TO BE SHARED. By sharing the gifts you have been blest with you can keep the Church alive for years to come.

The following can be inserted anytime...

LIFE INSURANCE: A GREAT GIFT!

A common "hidden asset" for giving is a life insurance policy on which you are still paying premiums but is no longer needed for its original purpose. Let's assume that your children have grown and that there is no longer a real necessity for retaining a \$50,000 policy purchased many years ago. The policy has a cash value of about \$20,000. You can make your parish or school the owner and beneficiary of the policy and continue to pay the premiums. You'll gain an immediate tax savings of \$6,600 (a \$20,000 deduction at an assumed 33% income tax rate). You'll also gain additional tax deduction savings for the premiums you pay in future years. The full \$50,000, with no reduction for the estate tax, will come to our parish or school to benefit future generations. Another option -- if the policy is

already "paid up" -- is to simply transfer ownership of the policy to the parish. The gift would equal the cash value of the policy, with a similar immediate income tax deduction as described above. We would liquidate the policy and use the cash value for whatever purpose you choose, which could include adding to our parish or school endowment or establishing an endowment in your family's name. To make a life insurance gift, ask your insurance company for forms that will change the beneficiary and ownership designations, and send us a copy of the policy. Always consult your professional advisors before making a gift of assets. May God bless you for your generosity!

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