

Planned Giving News

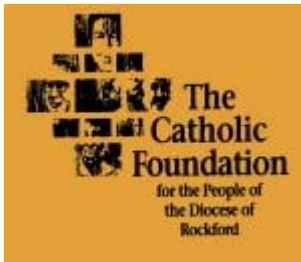
Catholic Diocese of Rockford

May 2008



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From Greg Urban, Diocesan Director of Planned Giving



Dear Greg :

I am pleased to report to you that the financial markets have recovered nicely from their recent lows. This indeed is good news. Let's pray that this trend continues through June 30, the end of our fiscal year.

I have included an article in this newsletter on St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center. Quite honestly, until recently I didn't

Around the Diocese

Karen Carlson from St. Elizabeth Center provided the information below. Karen states that "*many services provided by the Catholic Church and Catholic agencies tend to go unnoticed. Sometimes I think it's because we've been taking care of people for so long that we just forget to scream it from the roof tops!*" Well, I'm too old to climb onto a roof, so here's some information for you about the center distributed in a more technologically advanced medium. I hope this information gives you a better insight into the good work done for the people of our community through this center.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center - Rockford

St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center has been in the business of helping families and individuals in need in our community since 1911. For many years, we have assisted people with basic needs such as food and clothing. Our Emergency Services program includes a Food Pantry, a Soup Kitchen and a Clothes Closet. Our pantry is open 5 days per week and provides about a 3 day supply of food for approximately 7,500 to 8,000 people per year. Our soup kitchen is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and serves approximately 6,500 hot noontime meals each year. Our clothes closet is open Monday through Thursday mornings and provides free clothing to approximately 2,200 families annually. We also provide general emergency assistance for expressed needs such as furniture or household items, new baby/infant necessities, school supplies for children, assistance with paperwork to access services like public aid or social security, or assistance with preparing resumes for job searches. The requests for assistance that we receive are varied in nature and complexity. If a request is outside the scope of our ability to provide assistance, we make an effort to link the individual to an agency or entity that may be able to help them.

In addition to our Emergency Assistance programs, we also help local families on a daily basis by providing childcare for children ages 3-12. The vast majority (about 91%) of our families are low income. We network with the state of Illinois and Child Care Solutions to help families access subsidized child care. This ensures safe, affordable child care while allowing the parents to work and earn a living wage for their families.

Another way we help families in need involves computers and access to technology. Because so many of our kids and families are low income, we started a program about two years ago to help bridge the digital divide and level the playing field with students of greater financial means. Our Crossing Bridges Program allows us to provide a computer to every family in the Center to increase the the children's learning potential at home. Last year, we expanded the program to allow low income families from the general public to access this service. The computers we provide are completely refurbished, internet ready, and loaded with software to meet the specific needs of the family.

There is an endowment account in the Foundation which directs its earnings to the Center. You may contribute to this existing account by

know a lot about the center or how many people it serves every year. The numbers are quite impressive.

P.S. Remember to place the enclosed "blurbs" in your bulletins or newsletters!

Keep planting seeds!

Ministry Quicklinks

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

mailing a check to the Catholic Foundation, or if you'd like, you can send direct assistance right to the Center. For more information, please call Karen at 815-969-6526.

Is the Market Down or Up?

I last reported to you that in the quarter ending 3/31/08 the Foundation Growth Fund experienced a market loss of approximately 10%. This was due to many factors, including the continuing saga of the sub-prime loan crisis and the softness of the economy in general. Today, I have some good news to share with you. As of this writing the market has recovered most of this loss! The Foundation Growth Fund now stands about flat for the fiscal year to date. The Balanced and Income Funds are now well into the black. I say this with the usual caveat: there is no guarantee of where the market or the Foundation funds will end this final quarter of the year. However, I am pleased to report to you that our portfolio is holding-up well in this adverse investment environment. I say this based upon a comparison with our policy benchmarks, which for the year we are beating handily. The Foundation Board and our advisors have worked hard to build an investment portfolio that produces good upside results while softening the downside risk experienced when the market declines. I hope this news brightens your day a little, even if it only applies for this moment. That said, I continue to encourage you to consider holding adequate reserves in retained earnings in your accounts so that distributions may be made to you in years when the stock market performs poorly. Some may call this "good stewardship!"

CGA Rates to be Lowered

If you're interested in giving a gift to the Church or your favorite charity, but can't do without the current income from your savings to live on, you might consider a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) offered by the Catholic Foundation. Our CGAs pay you a fixed amount every quarter for the rest of your life. The annuity rate is often much higher than offered by a bank CD and the payments are guaranteed by the Catholic Foundation and the Diocese. CGAs also offer you an immediate and continuing tax deduction. The face amount of the CGA policy (the gift) is invested in the Catholic Foundation. Lifetime payments come to you from both the annuity policy earnings and principal. When you pass to eternal life, the balance of the policy is distributed to those charities you specify when the policy is written. You win with lifetime current income and the charity wins with your eventual gift.

If you are interested in this opportunity, now might be a good time to act. The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) has decided to lower suggested payout rates (annuity rates) beginning July 1, 2008. You can see a comparison of the current and new rates by downloading a chart which can be found on our web site at www.stewardshiprockford.org/pg/pdf/ACGALowersRates.pdf. If you or your parishioners would like a no obligation written proposal, please contact me.

Foundation Offers New "Donor Advised Funds"

The Catholic Foundation has recently inaugurated a new way to give: Donor Advised Funds (DAF). These new funds allow a donor to give one lump sum, say at the end of December, getting an immediate tax deduction, then advise the Foundation at their leisure to what charity and how much to distribute. The funds, available to individuals only, are invested in the Catholic Foundation and compound earnings until distributed.

The Foundation offers two types of Donor Advised Funds: Endowed and Provisional. With an endowed DAF, only the invested earnings can be distributed. With a provisional DAF, both earnings

and principal can be distributed.

For more information and an application, please call the Foundation office.

Bulletin Blurbs

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

FATHER'S DAY

Create a very special remembrance of a very special father: a planned gift to our endowment. Your gift provides permanent, ongoing financial support. Learn how you can give a planned gift that enables him, through his remembrance, to keep passing on the faith that he tried to instill in you. Contact the parish office for details.

USE APPRECIATED STOCK TO FULFILL YOUR DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Gifts of Stock Avoid Capital Gains Tax! If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish or diocese rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value of the stock, avoid the capital gain tax and make a substantial gift. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good. If you need instructions on how you might do this, go to our web site at www.stewardshiprockford.org and click on the "Stock Donations" tab, or contact Deacon Greg Urban at our Catholic Foundation at 815-399-4300.

GIFT ANNUITIES

Charitable Gift Annuities that eventually benefit our parish (or school) offer better rates than many CDs, give you a tax deduction, and are excellent ways to pass on your Catholic heritage. To learn about all they offer and for a confidential discussion to help you meet your financial needs and goals, call Deacon Greg Urban at our Catholic Foundation at 815-399-4300.

Contact Info

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