Founded In Christ

Important Dates

Advisory Board Meeting Dates for 2019

February 4, 2020 May 26, 2020 October 27, 2020

Annual Board of Directors Meeting

August 3, 2020

We want to hear from you!

Have any questions? Give us a call!

How has your endowment helped you?

Let us share your story with others!



1615 W. Washington Street Springfield, IL 62702-4757 (217) 698-8500 www.foundationforthepeople.org



Another Piece of the Puzzle...

One of the biggest objections we hear for not wanting to start an endowment is the money generated is not enough to meet various needs on its own. That may be true initially, but in time and with some planning your endowment can start meeting more and more needs. With periodic investments your fund can grow quickly and pay more in yearly distributions. One parish school in our Foundation utilizes a monthly envelope to build up its endowment. This has allowed them to grow their fund at a steady rate. It may take time to grow, but consider the Foundation is an investment for the long haul, so any funds invested will still be there years from now.

Perhaps the best analogy for investing in the Foundation is to look at it like a retirement plan. Few people rely on any one source to fund their retirement. Taken as individual components, Social Security, pensions, retirement savings and even part-time employment are usually not enough fund one's retirement needs. The more options you have for income the better—the same is true for our parishes and schools.

The Sunday offertory may be meeting a parish's needs for now but what of the future? Particularly in rural areas we see parishes consolidating; this compounds the need for financial resources. Take for example cemeteries. As parishes consolidate often the successor parish will pick up multiple cemeteries that all will need care. Excess church buildings can be sold, but cemeteries will always need to be maintained. An endowment fund can help make sure funding is available to serve all of a parish's needs.

Contact the Foundation today to either start a new fund or grow an existing one. You will not regret it!

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Eastern Illinois Newman Center

Most of our beneficiaries are parishes or schools in the diocese. Our Newman Center at Eastern Illinois University is not a parish or a school but bridges a gap to minister to Catholic students attending the university. A recent study from St. Mary's Press showed that some youths cease to identify as Catholic as early as the age of 13. While regular family attendance at Mass plays a huge factor in whether a young person identifies as Catholic, a sense of community also plays a role. Certainly moving away from home to attend college provides yet another opportunity for young adults who may already be wavering, to abandon their faith.

Our campus ministry program strives to keep our young people engaged in their faith by providing a sense of community and opportunities for faith growth. Since the EIU Newman Center is not a parish, its sources of funding are limited and it relies on subsidies from the diocese to operate. In recent years, development efforts have helped to fund this ministry and the Foundation for the People of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has been there to assist them.

In recent years the Newman Center has started two endowments to help meet its financial needs and improve its ministry. The first one we have written about before, the Lauren Bovis scholarship fund. This scholarship was started to help one student attend the yearly Alternate Spring Break (ASB) service trip. ASB is a service-oriented mission trip which unlike the classic college spring break trip focuses on the needs of others. This endowment has grown significantly and now allows two students to participate in this great program every year.

The Dr. Julian Hamerski Leadership fund is the latest endowment the Newman Center has started. This fund is a leadership award and can be used to pay for educational expenses.

Roy Lanham, the director of campus ministry for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois had this to say about the Foundation," We are grateful here at the Newman Center for all of our supporters who help us to form our students in true Christian discipleship. We are also very thankful for our investments in the Foundation for the People of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Because of these endowments we have a perpetual source of income to assist us in our mission of formation."

The EIU Newman Center has found another piece to the puzzle to fund their ministry. To see how you can support the EIU Newman Center, contact them at (217) 348-0188. To discuss starting an endowment for your organization contact our offices today!