



We Believe...

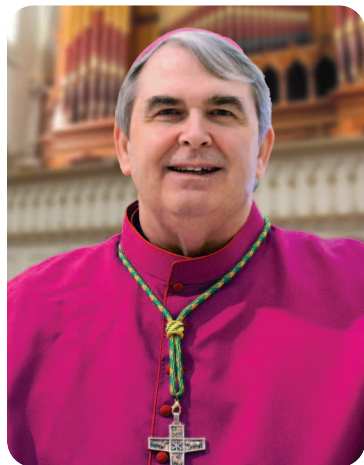
Stewardship Report 2025



THE
FOUNDATION
OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

We Believe...

Bishop Michael Fisher Message Foundation Stewardship Report



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are so pleased to present We Believe, our Stewardship Report for The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. Through the very generous donations of our benefactors, we are able to provide crucial support to the priorities of the Catholic Church.

This important support, and resultant work, is highlighted on the pages of this report with stories that reinforce the three pillars of the Foundation's work which are Catholic Education, Formation and Human Services.

My personal thanks for as we stand together, we carry on the important mission of the Church. I sincerely appreciate our donor support, and all of the time and effort expended by our volunteers, our Foundation trustees and our staff who toil to ensure the continuing mission of the Church.

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

We Believe...

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that the Board of Trustees for the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo shares the 2025 Stewardship Report with you, "We Believe." Though we have navigated some turbulent waters this past year, the Board of Trustees remains committed to you and to all of our donors. We take stalwart stewardship very seriously, and our pledge to uphold it is our promise to you.

Thank you so very much for placing your trust in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. Rest assured that your gift to one of the three pillars: Catholic Education, Formation or Human Services, is a designated gift that is treated with the utmost respect reserved only for your intended purpose.

This past year, the Foundation awarded nearly one million dollars in scholarships and tuition assistance to families for Catholic Education. The struggles are very real living in our post-Covid world and requests for help are coming in at an exponential rate. Your gift helps so many of these families in need making the tremendous sacrifice to send their child to a Catholic school. We are so very grateful to every one of you for your generosity.

Thank you to all our Trustees who dedicated countless hours this past year working on behalf of your interests. We are also very grateful to our professional staff that works tirelessly each day to raise the much-needed funds for all the ministries that the Foundation supports. Wishing you and your loved ones only the very best in 2025.

Gratefully,



Martha Lamparelli
Martha Lamparelli
Vice-Chair
Board of Trustees



Nancy J. Gugino
Nancy J. Gugino
Executive Director, The Foundation
of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo



2025 FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

VICE CHAIR

Martha Lamparelli

TRUSTEES as of 2025

Reverend Peter Karalus
Diocese of Buffalo, Vicar General

Melissa Potzler
Diocese of Buffalo, Chancellor

Reverend Monsignor Siepka
Christ the King Seminary Representative

Deacon Stephen Schumer
Catholic Charities of Buffalo, CEO

Kristin Bauer
Community Volunteer

Kevin Brayer
Catholic Charities of Buffalo

James Contino
Phillips Lytle LLP

Domenic Cortese
Cortese Construction Services Corp.

David Gaulin
White & Case LLP

Anthony Habib
Habib Family Foundation

Richard Heist, retired
OLV Homes of Charity, CEO

Chris Hugar
Niagara University

Nicholas Knab
OneBridge Benefits

Kalie Mackenna-LaBarber
Venture Forth Outreach Specialist

Jeanne Deck-Magavern, retired
Bristol Myers Squibb

Michael McFarlane

Charles Mendolera, retired
Diocese of Buffalo, CFO

James Muffoletto
CPA

Gina Roblin
Community Volunteer

Connor Rosenecker
Jensen, Marks, Langer & Vance, LLP

Edward Schneider, retired
University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc.,
Executive Director

Laurie Syta
WNY Asset Management

Kellie Ulrich, Esq.
Magavern Magavern Grimm, LLP

Robert Wunsch, retired
Certified Financial Planner

STAFF

Nancy J. Gugino
Executive Director

Dennis Schaeffer
Legal Counsel



Raised in a very busy and bustling home, Luca was the youngest of four boys. He felt that his years growing up were pretty typical - playing sports, spending time with friends, listening to music, and going to prom were just a few things he remembers fondly. When asked about his calling, Luca stated *"It came in a very subtle way, very quiet, gradual and gentle. There was no major moment just a seed that kept growing slowly and firmly."* He looks forward to the journey ahead and fully understands that discernment is his greatest priority. If asked today, 'Will you continue to pursue this path despite all the challenges?' the answer would be a resounding YES!"

Luca is enjoying his first year in seminary very much. When asked to lead us through a typical day, he said that the day begins with prayers followed by Mass and breakfast. The morning is dedicated to classroom time with a main formator and director leading the class. He finds the theology and philosophy classes engaging, with lively discussions that challenge the seminarians to think critically and develop logical reasoning. Luca went on to say that *"Something else of great importance is the brotherhood I am experiencing with my seven fellow propaedeutic classmates. This is a new family for me and one that I am happy to be a part of! We do everything together- we eat, pray, play games... everything!"* Luca's classmates span quite an age range from 18-45 years old.

When asked the question regarding how difficult the initial "technology fast" was, Luca felt it was good to take a break from his cell phone and all the social media. The difficulty for him was not being able to text his mom and dad and his family support system. However, three weeks came and went and the "fast" was over. Luca was excited to say that his parents and grandmother were able to visit him at St. Mary's Seminary

and they had the opportunity to stay right on campus with him in the guest house. A three-week break at Christmas when all the propaedeutic seminarians were able to go home and be with their families was very much treasured by all!

After this propaedeutic year, Luca will attend Gannon University in Erie, Pa. to earn his bachelor's degree, a prerequisite before entering seminary. Upon graduation, he will return to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, which will be a 7-9 year process of discernment and education.

Please keep Luca and all our seminarians in your prayers. Your support is so important to them while they discern if God is truly calling them to the priesthood. Just knowing you are there supporting and praying for them means the world to Luca and all the seminarians!



FORMATION OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE Luca Lanasa

Luca Lanasa is one of the youngest seminarians at just 19 years of age! He is in the process of completing his propaedeutic year in seminary, and his enthusiasm and joyfulness are contagious to all he meets. Luca came from a very Catholic family and was inspired at a young age by his mother who, he stated, was always very devout. He attended St. Peter's in Lewiston where he began serving Mass and has continued doing so ever since. Luca said, *"My inspiration comes from the Mass and being on the altar serving God which gives me great joy!"*

HUMAN SERVICES

RESPONSE TO LOVE CENTER Sr. Johnice Rzadkiewicz

Sr. Mary Johnice is a Felician nun who has devoted her entire life to education! When she was studying for a Masters degree in Philadelphia, she had the rare privilege of meeting Mother Teresa who happened to be seated at her table. Sr. Johnice told Mother Teresa *"Mother, we have a building and I would like to work with the poor but I don't know how. Can I come... can I come to Calcutta with you and learn?"* Mother Teresa responded, *"No. Go back to your neighborhood and find Calcutta."* Sr. Johnice persevered, *"But Mother, how do I do that?"* Mother Teresa responded *"They will come. And when they do, you look them in the eyes and you will find Jesus. These will be your people and they will be the ones that you serve."*

Though Sr. Johnice could have continued with teaching children in Catholic elementary schools, she started a new mission mid-life. This new merciful mission of serving the poorest of the poor, inspired by faith and love for the less fortunate, improves the lives of so many across the Western New York community. Sr. Johnice and her Team lovingly address basic human needs while helping those they serve to become more self-sufficient. The Response to Love Center, located on Buffalo's East side, serves a multicultural community with a food pantry respecting the diverse choices and taste preferences of all those who enter seeking food, clothing, and education. Warm and nutritious daily meals are served to feed the hungry, a daunting task but not so for the many enthusiastic volunteers who emulate the spirit and love that Sr. Johnice demonstrates daily. The Response to Love

Center is a beacon of hope for those not just feeding the body but also their souls and giving them hope for better days to come. Hope through food and clothing, hope through education opening doors to each person's future, and hope through spirituality and faith that a better day lies ahead.

Sr. Johnice firmly believes that her role as an educator continues at the Response to Love Center, though in a different way. She now educates those less fortunate. As she feeds the hungry each day, she is a light in the darkness for those who have nowhere to turn. *"There but for the grace of God go I,"* is something that Sr. Johnice lives daily. Each day, she opens the doors to the Response to Love Center and, with a warm and welcoming smile, she changes lives by treating those she serves with dignity and love. Her gentle, caring, and compassionate way assures those going through challenging times that God is good and that there is hope for a brighter day.

Sr. Johnice told Mother Teresa *"Mother, we have a building and I would like to work with the poor but I don't know how. Can I come... can I come to Calcutta with you and learn?"* Mother Teresa responded, *"No. Go back to your neighborhood and find Calcutta."*



Sr. Johnice Rzadkiewicz
Response to Love Center



Eleanor Daigler



“The Daigler family foundation has helped so many children receive a Catholic education who otherwise would not have the opportunity to do so.”



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

A FUTURE FILLED WITH HOPE Eleanor Daigler

Eleanor Daigler was born into a very large and loving Catholic family. She was the oldest of nine children and was instrumental not only in the care of her siblings but also in all the tasks at home involved with raising a large family. Eleanor took her responsibility as oldest very seriously and helped her mother daily with cooking, cleaning and household chores. She and her siblings all attended St. Mary's of Swormville, a thriving Catholic elementary in East Amherst to this day. Eleanor's mother and father were both Catholic and Eleanor fondly remembers how important the daily rosary was to her father. He would lead all nine children nightly by saying the rosary, a time of the day that was very important and special to Eleanor, and a daily prayer that she has done all her life!

The Daigler family was a family of strong advocates of Catholic education. Their family foundation has helped so many children receive a Catholic education who otherwise would not have the opportunity to do so. Eleanor's appreciation for strong academics as well as values such as honesty, respect, compassion, and responsibility are pivotal in her family's support. Though her family could not afford to send her to college, Eleanor was determined to earn a degree. At 42, she attended night school while working full-time. She loved to learn and she is very proud of earning her degree later in life, a dream that finally came true!

The Daigler Family Fund at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo was set up to support young children most in need. When asked why she and her family are so committed to this she stated *“I have a firm faith which has carried me through my entire life. I want children to have this exposure while they are very young so that when life's challenges come their way, their faith foundation is firmly in place.”*

Life challenges for Eleanor were many during her single life. She credits here strong faith for offering her strength while going through her personal life challenges. Her zeal for wanting to help young children by providing them with the special gift of a Catholic education is her way of giving back to those less fortunate than she.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo is so very grateful to the Daigler Family for all their support as well as to all our benefactors of Catholic education. The Trustees treat their responsibility with utmost respect providing trusted stewardship that satisfies our donors' intentions while meeting the needs of our Catholic Community.

2024 FINANCIALS

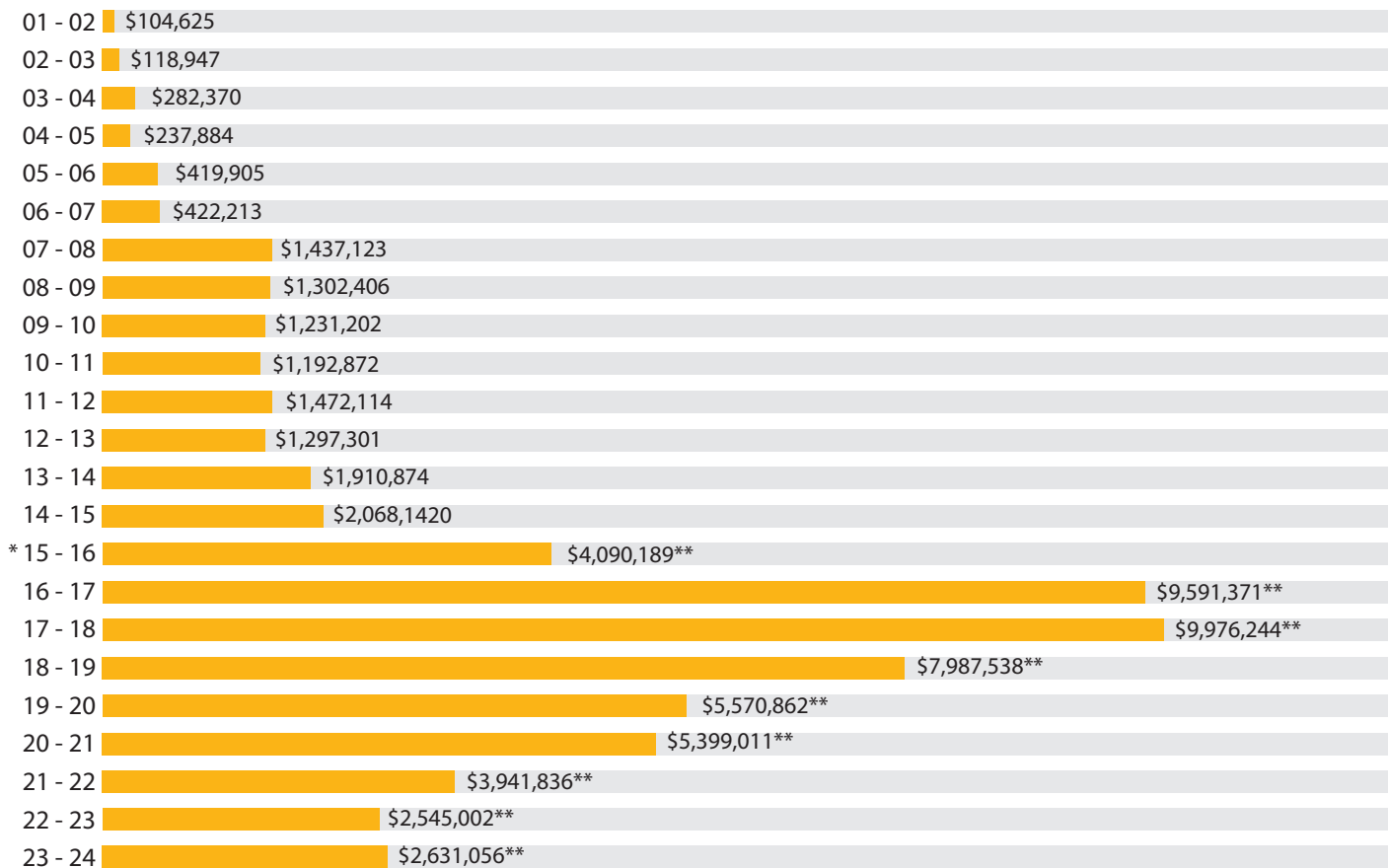
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - AS OF AUGUST 31, 2024 & 2023

ASSETS	2024	2023
Cash	\$727,306	\$490,008
Accounts Receivable	19,674	12,469
Pledges Receivable - Net	269,817	400,183
Investments - At Fair Value	69,758,161	61,701,741
Cash Value of Life Insurance/Other	97,627	99,122
TOTAL ASSETS	\$70,872,585	\$62,703,523
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$225,348	\$181,578
Deferred Revenue	109,428	111,923
Grants Payable	985,040	750,727
Charitable Gift Annuities	130,472	133,418
Upon This Rock Payable	659,294	358,804
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,109,582	1,536,450
TOTAL NET ASSETS	68,763,003	61,167,073
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$70,872,585	\$62,703,523

TOTAL ASSETS BY YEAR YEARS ENDING 2002 - 2023

01 - 02	\$3,981,380
02 - 03	\$4,393,743
03 - 04	\$9,829,849
04 - 05	\$12,961,081
05 - 06	\$15,887,925
06 - 07	\$13,497,447
07 - 08	\$15,384,563
08 - 09	\$19,431,596
09 - 10	\$20,337,142
10 - 11	\$22,207,414
11 - 12	\$22,433,911
12 - 13	\$23,426,254
13 - 14	\$26,538,359
14 - 15	\$28,998,141
15 - 16	\$57,350,567
16 - 17	\$85,723,457
17 - 18	\$80,844,818
18 - 19	\$72,663,210
19 - 20	\$70,064,474
20 - 21	\$71,527,050
21 - 22	\$59,594,857
22 - 23	\$62,703,523
23 - 24	\$70,872,585

GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY YEAR YEARS ENDING 2002 - 2023



* REPRESENTS BEGINNING OF UPON THIS ROCK CAMPAIGN
 ** REPRESENTS INCLUSION OF UPON THIS ROCK GRANT & PARISH DISBURSEMENTS



“As Christian stewards we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them, with increase to the Lord.”

(Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, USCCB)

Our Catholic Faith provides the purpose and foundation by which we live. Through it we find God as the source of all our blessings, the answer to all our needs. In gratitude, we are called to serve God to the best of our ability. Supporting your faith and your church provides a meaningful way to give back to God for all he has bestowed upon you.

Your Support for the Foundation makes a real difference

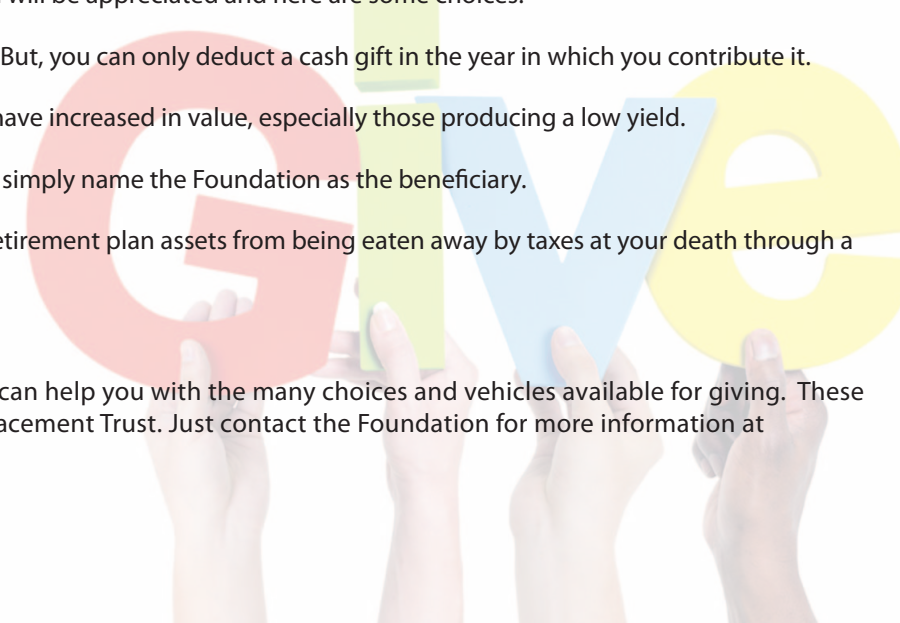
What Can I Give?

Whatever you give, your thought to support the Foundation will be appreciated and here are some choices:

- **Gifts Of Cash** - This of course is the simplest way to give. But, you can only deduct a cash gift in the year in which you contribute it.
- **Gifts Of Stock** - The best stocks to donate are those that have increased in value, especially those producing a low yield.
- **Gifts Of Life Insurance** - You can either give the policy, or simply name the Foundation as the beneficiary.
- **Gifts Of Retirement Plan Assets** - You can protect your retirement plan assets from being eaten away by taxes at your death through a carefully planned charitable gift.

What Ways Can I Give?

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo can help you with the many choices and vehicles available for giving. These include a bequest, a Retained Life Estate, or a Wealth Replacement Trust. Just contact the Foundation for more information at devoffice@buffalodiocese.org





The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, guided by Gospel values, raises funds, manages assets, and makes grants to serve the educational, pastoral, and human service needs of the Diocese of Buffalo

795 Main Street | Buffalo, NY 14203
716-847-8370