



# Frequently Asked Questions: The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Green Bay

**Q. What is the Catholic Foundation?**

**A.** The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay was established in 1997. The Foundation benefits the areas of Catholic ministry, service and education throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. The purpose of the Foundation is “to promote the strength, vitality and growth of the Diocese of Green Bay; its parishes; its parishioners; its other entities and its financial support of the broader church and needy persons” (from the Catholic Foundation Articles of Incorporation).

**Q. How did the Catholic Foundation and the Diocese of Green Bay prepare for this Stewardship campaign?**

**A.** In April of 2005, Bishop Zubik briefed the Presbyteral Council (a Bishop’s advisory group) on the idea of having a diocesan wide stewardship campaign. Following that meeting the Bishop asked key leadership in the Catholic Foundation to adjust and refine the presentation from the feedback received from the Presbyteral Council.

- In May of 2005, Bishop Zubik presented the stewardship idea to all priests and parish directors throughout the diocese.
- After incorporating their feedback, over 600 lay leaders from across Northeastern Wisconsin were invited to offer feedback on the Advancing the Mission Stewardship Campaign.
- In September of 2005, the Diocese of Green Bay contracted with a national law firm to do a complete legal review of the Catholic Foundation and all other diocesan corporations.

The Catholic Foundation received a very strong rating from the law firm. Three important changes were recommended.

- The first recommendation was to conduct all diocesan-wide fundraising, including the annual Bishop’s Appeal, and this campaign through the Catholic Foundation.
- The second was for the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Green Bay to change its name to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay. This subtle change implies the Foundation is separate from the Diocese but supports the ministries of the Diocese of Green Bay.
- Finally, the Law firm recommended revisions to the wording of the articles of incorporation, by-laws, and endowment decrees. All of these changes have taken place.

All of the funds for the diocesan share of the campaign will be placed into separate donor-designated endowment funds. Each fund will have an advisory board. This ensures the money will be used for the intended purposes.