

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

The Catholic Foundation of West Tennessee



Growing today.
Strengthening the Catholic Church for tomorrow.



A Legacy of Faith

Our Catholic faith in West Tennessee has been built through generations of faithful people who gave generously of themselves, their prayers, their time, their service and their resources. Today, we have the privilege of continuing what they began.

The Catholic Foundation of West Tennessee helps Catholics care for the Church they love, both today and for generations to come. Through gifts entrusted to the Foundation, our parishes, schools and ministries can build lasting resources that continue supporting their mission year after year.

And we are seeing that generosity bear fruit.

Seminarians are being formed for the Priesthood. Retired Priests are being cared for. Young people are encountering Christ. Permanent Deacons are being prepared for lives of service. Catholic schools and ministries are planning confidently for their future.

Behind every fund is a story of faith.

Behind every gift is someone who believes in the future of our Church.

And behind every distribution is a ministry serving the people of God throughout West Tennessee.

“What a blessing it is to see the Catholic Foundation of West Tennessee continue to grow. Each new fund is an act of faith, a commitment to care for our Catholic Church and for those who will come after us. Through this generosity, we are planting seeds today that will bear fruit in our parishes, schools, and ministries for many years to come.”

— Most Reverend David P. Talley,
M.S.W., J.C.D.
Bishop of Memphis



Generosity is Growing

Something beautiful is happening through the Catholic Foundation.

More of our Catholic organizations are choosing to prepare for the future by establishing funds that can support their mission for years to come.

This year, we welcomed funds supporting Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, Catholic Schools and the Bishop's Burse.

Each represents far more than dollars invested.

They represent meals provided to a family in need. Children formed in the Catholic faith. Ministries strengthened. Vocations supported. And a Church preparing faithfully for those who will come after us.

Our Growing Catholic Family

Catholic Charities of West Tennessee

Providing hope, dignity and compassionate care to our neighbors throughout West Tennessee.

Fund Established: \$2,000,000

Current Value: \$2,175,676

Catholic Schools

Investing in the teachers who help our students grow in knowledge and faith, strengthening Catholic education for generations to come.

Fund Established: \$5,800,000

Current Value: \$6,309,460

Bishop's Burse

Providing lasting resources to support the mission and needs of the Church in West Tennessee.

Fund Established: \$3,934,000

Current Value: \$4,279,554

2026 at a Glance



7 total funds/accounts

3 new funds established in 2026

\$24,508,20 total assets under management

\$583,799 total distributed in 2026

\$1,081,854 total distributed since inception



United in Faith



Your Generosity is Bearing Fruit

The generosity of those who supported the United in Faith Capital Campaign continues to make an impact throughout our Diocese.

Investment funds established through the campaign provide annual support for four important areas of Diocesan ministry.

Seminarian Education

2026 Distribution: \$185,200

2025 Distribution: \$139,986

2024 Distribution: \$104,142

Your generosity helps provide for the formation, education, and spiritual development of the men discerning and preparing for the priesthood.

This year, our Diocese celebrated the ordination of two new priests and two transitional deacons, a joyful sign of God's continued call in West Tennessee. These four men have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and His Catholic Church through lives of faith, sacrifice, and ministry.

Your support of seminarian education helps make their journey from discernment to ordination possible.

**Two new priests. Two transitional deacons.
One Church rejoicing in God's call.**



Retired Priests

2026 Distribution: \$111,237

2025 Distribution: \$84,074

2024 Distribution: \$62,538

Caring for Those Who Have Cared for Us

For decades, our Priests have celebrated our sacraments, walked with families through moments of joy and sorrow, taught the faith and faithfully served the people of West Tennessee. In retirement, we have the privilege of caring for them.

This year, Foundation distributions provided \$111,237 toward the care of our retired Priests, helping provide the financial and healthcare support they need in retirement. The Diocese continues to care for our retired Priests through a comprehensive retirement program that provides monthly pension benefits, medical and prescription coverage, and dental care. Retired Priests also receive reimbursement for Medicare Part B and an annual \$7,000 medical expense benefit to help cover deductibles, co-pays, and other healthcare costs. These benefits help provide stability and security for the Priests who have devoted their lives to serving the Catholic Church in West Tennessee.

It is one small way we can say thank you to the Priests who have given so much of their lives to us and all the faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Memphis.



Youth, Campus & Young Adult Ministry

2026 Distribution: \$66,182

2025 Distribution: \$48,528

2024 Distribution: \$34,241

These funds help form the next generation of Catholics by supporting the dedicated people who walk alongside them in faith. Foundation distributions help provide salaries and benefits for those serving in youth, campus, and young adult ministry, including FOCUS missionaries who accompany college students and help them grow as disciples of Christ.

Janna Rodriguez recently joined the Diocese as Associate Director of Youth Ministry, bringing new energy and creativity to youth ministry across West Tennessee.

Through her new Shine Your Light video series, Janna is highlighting youth groups throughout the Diocese and sharing the many ways young people are growing in faith and community. These stories celebrate our young Church and remind us that the light of Christ is shining brightly in the next generation.

“Let your light shine.” — Matthew 5:16



Diaconate Formation

2026 Distribution: \$18,637

2025 Distribution: \$14,081

2024 Distribution: \$10,467

Called to Serve

Foundation distributions support the retreat fees allowing formation and ongoing education of permanent Deacons who serve through Word, sacrament, and charity in our parishes and communities.

This year, the Permanent Diaconate continues to grow and prepare for the future, as the Diocese works to build its next cohort of men discerning a call to serve.

At the same time, our permanent Deacons will begin receiving Spanish-language training, helping them better minister to the growing and diverse communities throughout West Tennessee.

Through formation and ongoing education, our Deacons are being equipped to serve the Catholic Church wherever they are needed most.



United in Faith



Your Generosity. Their Future.

One of the most powerful aspects of the Catholic Foundation is that a gift made today can continue serving the Catholic Church for generations.

What Do You Want Your Catholic Legacy to Be?

- Maybe it is the parish where your children were baptized.
- The Catholic school that helped form your family.
- A priest who changed your life.
- A ministry that brought you closer to Christ.
- Or simply the desire to make sure the Catholic faith remains strong in West Tennessee for generations to come.

Your Catholic Legacy can begin there.

Building a Catholic Legacy

The continued growth of the Catholic Foundation creates new opportunities for Catholics throughout West Tennessee to leave a lasting legacy of faith.

Gifts to the Foundation can be made during your lifetime or through your estate plan. Consider:

A Gift in Your Will or Trust

Remember a Parish, school, ministry, or the Catholic Foundation as part of your estate.

Retirement Assets

Name a Catholic organization or Foundation fund as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a retirement account.

Life Insurance

Designate a Catholic ministry or fund as a beneficiary.

Memorial or Tribute Gifts

Create a lasting expression of faith in honor or memory of someone important to you.

Establish a Fund

Work with the Catholic Foundation to create a fund or endowment that supports the Catholic mission most meaningful to you.

Supporting an Existing Fund

The funds and endowments that already exist within the Foundation can only grow with your help.

What We Build Today Becomes Their Inheritance Tomorrow

Thank you for believing in the future of our Catholic Church. Through your prayers, generosity and faithful stewardship, the Catholic Church in West Tennessee will continue to serve, teach, form and bring people to Christ for generations to come.

Faith. Generosity. Legacy.

What began with funds established to sustain important diocesan ministries is becoming a broader resource for the Catholic community of West Tennessee.

As new parishes, schools, ministries, and donors establish funds, the Foundation's ability to strengthen the Catholic Church grows with them.

Today we celebrate the impact already being made.

Tomorrow, we look forward to what these resources will make possible.

Together, we are building a stronger Catholic Church for generations to come.



Contact:
Allison Thron
901-373-1220
Allison.Thron@cc.cdom.org

cdom.org/cfwn