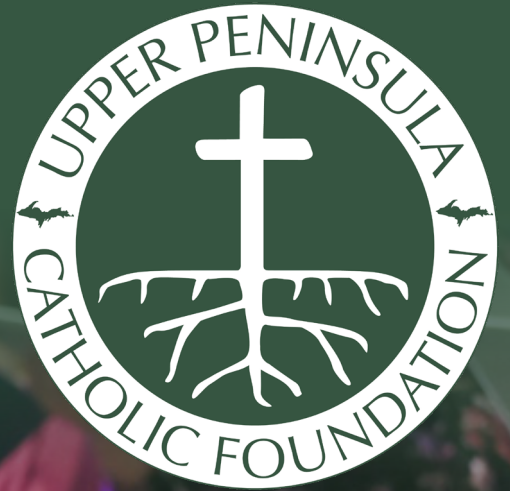


# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





## Greetings Friends,



I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. I am pleased to report that the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation (UPCF) is performing well, especially considering the very dynamic financial and political landscapes across the world. The Foundation continues to grow, expanding its support of Catholic ministries throughout the Upper Peninsula. We have successfully managed the organization to include 41 investment funds with an aggregate value of \$41.6 million.

Our combined success is a testament to the power of our faith in the Catholic Church and the unwavering support from our Catholic community throughout the diocese. Endowment funds are a powerful tool that help to ensure stable revenue streams for Catholic ministries to continue our important efforts into perpetuity.

We had some important administrative changes in February with Megan O'Connor being promoted as the new Executive Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Marquette and of the U.P. Catholic Foundation. Since joining the diocese in 2024, she has successfully spearheaded a number of initiatives leading to new growth opportunities, better organization, and development of a long-term UPCF program. Her leadership and enthusiasm can be felt throughout the organization. In addition, we welcomed William Mullett as our new Administrative Assistant to support our team. I would also like to recognize and thank the Diocesan Accounting and Finance team for their outstanding support overseeing our UPCF investments.

Bishop John Doerfler has also appointed two new team members to the UPCF advisory board, Deacon Bob Berbohm and Lilian Churchill. We are grateful for their willingness to serve on the board and look forward to their new perspectives.


As you read this annual report, I hope that you will be inspired by this past year's progress and the impact of our combined work. Please visit our website, [upcatholicfoundation.org](http://upcatholicfoundation.org), for the latest news, related stories, financial reports and more. Your continued support through prayers and financial gifts will ensure that we can continue our mission.

Thank you for your generous support.

**Jim Gray** | President

### UPCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jim Gray** | President, Our Lady of the Snows Mission, Hessel
- Joseph Rushlau** | Vice President, St. Albert the Great, Houghton
- Tom Kurkowski** | Secretary, Sacred Heart, L'Anse
- Fr. Dustin Larson** | Northern Michigan University Catholic Campus Ministry, Marquette
- Dcn. Bob Berbohm** | Holy Family, Gladstone
- Paulita Korby** | St. Christopher, Marquette
- Rebecca Lynch** | Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
- Lilian Churchill** | St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

  
**This year, the impact of UPCF's 41 funds supports:**


**47,000+**  
Catholics in the Upper Peninsula



**58 Active Priests,**  
25 Senior Priests,  
and 9 Seminarians




**93 Parishes and Missions,** four of which are only accessible by boat or plane

  
**9 Catholic Schools**  
with 15 UPCF funds supporting Catholic Education

**3 Catholic Campus Ministries**  
at LSSU, MTU, and NMU



  
**60 Legacy of Faith Grants**  
supporting Catholic Schools, Faith Formation, Catholic Social Services, and Catholic Action






# Grow & Fund Ministries for Generations

## THE UPCF IS ENTRUSTED WITH MORE THAN \$41 MILLION IN ENDOWED FUNDS,

each created by generous donors who desired their gifts to continue bearing fruit long into the future. Endowments are more than investments—they are acts of faith, ensuring that the Church's ministries, parishes, and schools will be sustained for decades to come. In a world where needs are immediate and resources often fleeting, endowments provide the stability and strength to build the Kingdom of God here and now, and for generations yet to come. *Through endowments, your generosity joins with that of countless others to form a living treasury of faith and resources—fueling the mission of the Church in the Upper Peninsula today, tomorrow, and always.*

### WHY INVEST IN AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment provides a stable base for permanent and consistent funding for our parishes and schools. Unlike annual giving, endowment gifts are invested rather than spent immediately—allowing compound interest to work over time. The interest can then be used for the chosen purpose for generations to come, providing long-term stability.

 <b>Establish</b> Donors work with the UPCF to establish an endowment for a school or parish, to be used as designated by the donor.	 <b>Grow</b> Once established, funds are invested and new gifts can be added. When the fund reaches \$50K, distributions may begin.	 <b>For the Future</b> With increased value and additional gifts, the endowment continues to provide self-sustaining funds in perpetuity.
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### HOW IS GIVING THROUGH ENDOWMENTS DIFFERENT?

On average, UPCF funds earn more than 7% annually. With a conservative spending policy that historically has distributed no more than 4.5% of the five-year weighted balance each year, the remaining earnings are reinvested. As shown below, a \$50,000 endowment gift can distribute over \$57,000 to the fund beneficiary in 20 years—while still growing to a value of more than \$80,000! Donors can contribute additional gifts at any time, further increasing the value and impact. Endowment funds are designed to last forever, providing support to U.P. Catholics for generations to come!

Year	Principal Amount	4.5 % of balance	2.5% reinvested	Balance
0	\$50,000	--	--	\$50,000
1	\$50,000	\$2,250	\$1,250	\$51,250
2	\$51,250	\$2,306	\$1,281	\$52,531
3	\$52,531	\$2,364	\$1,313	\$53,845
4	\$53,845	\$2,423	\$1,346	\$55,191
5	\$55,191	\$2,484	\$1,380	\$56,570
6	\$56,570	\$2,546	\$1,414	\$57,985
7	\$57,985	\$2,609	\$1,450	\$59,434
8	\$59,434	\$2,675	\$1,486	\$60,920
9	\$60,920	\$2,741	\$1,523	\$62,443
10	\$62,443	\$2,810	\$1,561	\$64,004
11	\$64,004	\$2,880	\$1,600	\$65,604
12	\$65,604	\$2,952	\$1,640	\$67,244
13	\$67,244	\$3,026	\$1,681	\$68,926
14	\$68,926	\$3,102	\$1,723	\$70,649
15	\$70,649	\$3,179	\$1,766	\$72,415
16	\$72,415	\$3,259	\$1,810	\$74,225
17	\$74,225	\$3,340	\$1,856	\$76,081
18	\$76,081	\$3,424	\$1,902	\$77,983
19	\$77,983	\$3,509	\$1,950	\$79,933
20	\$79,933	\$3,597	\$1,998	\$81,931
		\$57,475		

### HOW DOES THE UPCF BENEFIT PARISHES AND SCHOOLS?

Endowments are set up for a specific usage, as designated by the donor. A fund is eligible for an annual distribution once the value reaches \$50,000. Grant distributions are made directly to the school or parish, providing stable and consistent funding.

### ARE FUNDS INVESTED IN A WAY THAT AGREES WITH THE TENETS OF THE CHURCH?

Yes, the UPCF and its board of directors adheres to the socially responsible investment guidelines set forth by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more details, visit: [upcatholicfoundation.org](http://upcatholicfoundation.org)

# STEWARDSHIP THAT ENDURES

## Your Faith. Your Values. Your Catholic Legacy.

From the earliest days of the Church, the faithful have sought ways to pass on the gift of faith to future generations. Just as our ancestors built parishes, schools, and ministries that continue to bless us today, we too are called to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us.

A Legacy Gift is more than a financial decision—it is a prayerful act of love and hope. Through thoughtful planning, you can ensure that your support for the Church and the Catholic causes closest to your heart continues long after your earthly life. The UPCF exists to help you make that vision a reality, providing guidance so your generosity becomes a lasting witness to your faith.

### WHAT IS A LEGACY GIFT?

A Legacy Gift is made to an organization in the context of financial or estate planning. If carried out with discernment, a Legacy Gift becomes a beautiful expression of your deepest values and stewardship. With Legacy Gift Planning through the UPCF, you can plan to remember your favorite Catholic cause(s) and leave a legacy of faith for generations to come. Legacy gift planning is arranging for your gift to be received after your death. Planned giving is easy to do, and there are many current benefits to legacy gift planning, including tax advantages, securing sources of income, and the peace of mind that comes from providing for the people and institutions you care most deeply about.

### WHY CHOOSE US?

The UPCF ensures Catholics a way to leave their legacy uniquely aligned with their Catholic values and beliefs. Donors enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that their gift directly supports the Catholic organizations and causes that they choose.

### WHERE WILL THE IMPACT BE FELT?

The UPCF inspires giving and assists donors to provide for the long-term needs of the Church in the Diocese of Marquette, including ministries of Catholic organizations throughout the Upper Peninsula.

### HOW CAN I MAKE A LEGACY GIFT?

Legacy gifts take many forms. Below are some of the most common gifts that people choose:

- Gift from Will or Trust
- Gift of a Retirement Account
- Gift of an Insurance Policy
- Gift of Financial Accounts

For questions regarding Legacy Gift planning through UPCF, contact Megan O'Connor at [moconnor@dioceseofmarquette.org](mailto:moconnor@dioceseofmarquette.org) or (906) 379-5057. *As with all legal and financial matters, we recommend you consult with your personal legal, tax, and/or financial advisors.*



# Faith at Home

## Domestic Church Fosters Discerning Hearts



Fr. Ben Rivard



Dcn. Tyler Rivard

As Jim and Michelle Rivard grew their family, they felt a deep call to immerse themselves more fully in their Catholic faith and heritage. In the process of passing that faith on to their children, they gained a renewed love and appreciation for its beauty and truth. This conviction shaped their approach to parenting, as they sought to instill values and practices that would help their children become the saints God was calling them to be.

Determined that their children's faith would be more than an outward practice, Jim and Michelle wove Catholic devotion into the fabric of daily life.

Over the years, they gradually incorporated various spiritual practices into their family routine. Jim would read Bible stories to the children before bed. In the evenings, they would pray a decade of the Rosary, eventually working up to a full Rosary as the children grew older. They also began attending daily Mass and frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These practices were not mere obligations but ways of centering their home around Christ and keeping the faith alive in their daily lives.

A particularly impactful aspect of the Rivard family's faith formation was the intentional relationships Jim and Michelle fostered with priests and

seminarians in their diocese. Their home was always open, and it was common for seminarians and priests to join them for meals and conversation. Jim and Michelle wanted their children to see firsthand that priests were not distant figures but spiritual fathers and role models. By welcoming them into their home, they reinforced the idea that a vocation

*At the heart of their parenting was the conviction that every person is called to be a saint.*

to the priesthood or religious life was not a foreign or strange calling but a real and noble path to holiness.

At the heart of their parenting was the conviction that every person is called to be a saint. Whether through the priesthood,

religious life, or marriage, Jim and Michelle taught their children the importance of discerning how God was calling them to holiness. This emphasis on discerning every vocation led their eldest sons, Benjamin and Tyler, to pursue priestly formation.

Benjamin entered seminary in January 2015. After six years of formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, he was ordained a priest on June 4, 2021. His younger brother Tyler entered seminary a few years later. Although he stepped away from formation for a time, earning a master's degree in special education, he resumed his priestly studies in 2022. Tyler was ordained a transitional deacon in



May 2025 and, God willing, will be ordained a priest in 2026.

Seminary formation requires significant financial resources. While the Rivard family was responsible for a portion of the undergraduate philosophy education, the majority of Benjamin and Tyler's seminary formation was made possible through the UPCF.

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners throughout the Diocese of Marquette, essential expenses such as tuition, room and board, and pastoral formation programs were covered. Without this support, the financial demands of seminary formation could have presented a major obstacle for families like the Rivards.

In addition to funding seminarians, the endowment funds have also helped sustain the priests who played an important role in the Rivard's faith journey.

The very priests who celebrated the sacraments, offered spiritual guidance, and encouraged vocations had themselves been educated and formed through UPCF-funded programs. This diocesan initiative ensured that young men could enter seminary without financial hindrance and that the faithful across the Upper Peninsula could continue receiving pastoral care from well-formed clergy.

Jim and Michelle created an environment where their children could grow in holiness. Their legacy continues, not only in their own family but also in the wider Church, as their sons serve the Church in the U.P.

Through continued support of the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation, the diocese ensures that future priests are formed and supported—allowing the work of building faithful disciples to endure for generations to come.

### CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE SEMINARIAN FUNDS

Four seminarian education funds exist within the UPCF which directly offset the costs of seminarian education. You can give online (visit [tinyurl.com/upcfcgiving](https://tinyurl.com/upcfcgiving) or scan the QR code), or learn more at [upcatholicfoundation.org](https://upcatholicfoundation.org).



### WHAT DOES IT COST TO EDUCATE A SEMINARIAN?

Preparing men for the priesthood is both a spiritual and financial investment. Seminary formation typically lasts 6–8 years, and the Diocese of Marquette is committed to ensuring that money is never a barrier for a man discerning God's call. Costs listed below are approximate, based upon annual averages. Specific cost per seminarian depends on several factors, including previous collegiate experience and length of formation.

**Annual Cost Per Seminarian**  
(tuition, room/board, health insurance, formation programs)  
\$72,000-\$76,000

**Lifetime Cost Per Seminarian**  
\$465,000

The diocese currently has 9 men in formation, with an approximate annual cost of **\$667,000**.

#### 2025 Funding Sources

\$148,000 - UPCF Endowments  
\$150,000 - Yoopers for Seminarians  
\$50,000 - National Grants  
\$319,000 - UPCS (approx.)  
**Total: \$667,000**

Funds from UPCS cover the remaining balance, after other funding sources are utilized. This year, approximately \$319,000 of UPCS funds will benefit seminarian education.

Additional funding to the endowments would allow UPCS funds to be redirected to other priorities.



# Opening Doors

## A New Fund for Father Marquette Catholic Academy

When a family desires a Catholic education for their child but struggles with tuition, it can feel like a closed door. This year, the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation (UPCF) is helping open that door wider with the creation of a brand-new endowed fund: the Father Marquette Catholic Academy Tuition Assistance Fund.

This fund was established to ensure that students—regardless of financial background—can access the faith-filled, values-driven education offered at Father Marquette Catholic Academy in Marquette. With each gift, donors are planting seeds that will grow for generations. The principal of

the fund remains untouched, while investment income provides annual tuition support for families in need.

“The Second Vatican Council says that all students have the right to Christian education, yet Catholic schools can be expensive, making it difficult for some families to afford the tuition. Our tuition assistance fund is an incredible gift because it helps make Catholic education more accessible to our Father Marquette families,” said Melissa Pillifant, Father Marquette Catholic Academy principal. “Donations to that fund help ensure children have the opportunity for an education centered in Christ that truly forms the whole child - mind, body, and soul.”



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDS

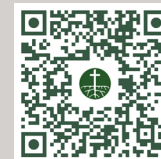
This new fund joins a growing family of tuition assistance endowments that support students in our nine Catholic schools across the U.P., including:

- Bishop Baraga School Tuition Assistance & Building Fund (Iron Mountain)
- Mose & Leah Theoret Holy Name Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund (Escanaba)
- St. Francis de Sales School Tuition Assistance Fund (Manistique)
- Mose & Leah Theoret St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund (Manistique)
- Holy Name Catholic School Tuition Angel Endowment Fund (Escanaba)
- St. Mary’s Catholic School Todd Holt Memorial Scholarship Fund (Sault Ste. Marie)

To explore these funds and the impact they’re making, see pages 14-17 of this report.

If you feel moved to support one of these existing tuition funds, you can give online or mail a check.

To give online, scan the QR code or visit: [osvhub.com/upcatholicfoundation/giving/funds](https://osvhub.com/upcatholicfoundation/giving/funds)



Or, mail a check:  
Megan O’Connor  
Diocese of Marquette  
1004 Harbor Hills Drive  
Marquette, MI 49855

*(Please note the fund you wish to donate to in the memo line.)*



# Your Generosity, Our Future: Gifts Reach Catholics in all Vicariates of the UP



## THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

*Camping in the Keweenaw*

Thanks to a Legacy of Faith grant, eight boys attended the Baraga Youth Fraternity Camping Trip. Led by Fr. Corey Litzner, the retreat took place at Companions of Christ the Lamb. Boys and chaperones from St. Ann (Baraga), Sacred Heart (L'Anse), Holy Name of Jesus/St. Kateri (Assinins), and St. Ann (Houghton) participated in tent camping, prayer, faith discussions, and the sacraments—surrounded by God's creation. The \$400 grant helped cover travel, meals, and supplies, making the experience more accessible for families.

## ST. PETER CATHEDRAL

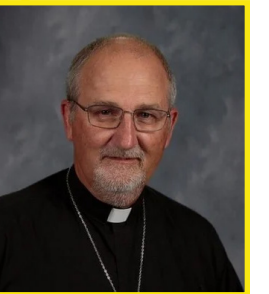
*LOF Supports Days of Reflection*

Legacy of Faith helped bring nearly 100 men and women together at St. Michael Parish (Marquette) for two Days of Reflection. The Men's Day, led by Fr. Ryan Ford, focused on the Eucharist as the heart of Christian life. "What is given to us in the Eucharist is not something but someone," he shared. The Women's Day featured Melanie Coddington, who reflected on spiritual hospitality, encouraging balance between doing and being.

## ST. JOSEPH & ST. PATRICK

*A Servant Leader in Faith Formation*

Deacon Bob Berbohm, a new UPCF Board member, serves at Holy Family (Gladstone) and teaches middle school religion at Holy Name Catholic School (Escanaba). Alongside his wife, Karen, he's active in parish life and brings a deep spirituality to ministry. "I most profoundly experience Jesus in prayer and through reading Scripture," he says.



## ST. MARY ROCKLAND

*Expanded Faith Formation*

The Our Lady of Peace Faith Formation and Evangelization Endowment Fund in Ironwood was recently rebranded and expanded through UPCF. Originally, the Ironwood Catholic Education Fund was solely focused on Catholic school education. Recognizing broader needs, the fund now supports faith formation and evangelization for all ages at Our Lady of Peace Parish. This change allows investment in adult formation, retreats, youth ministry, and outreach—helping more parishioners grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ. The expanded mission reflects the Church's call to form missionary disciples in every generation.



## ST. MARY NORWAY

*Expanding the Mission Movement*

The Office of Evangelization partnered with parishes in Harvey, Iron River/Caspian, Escanaba, Perkins/Rapid River, and Ontonagon to form parishioners in the "evangelical Catholic life." Through coaching and sessions, lay leaders embraced prayer, community, and mission—taking ownership of their discipleship. The next year will expand to additional parishes while strengthening the original teams to sustain and multiply groups.



## HOLY NAME OF MARY

*Cooking Up Catholicism*

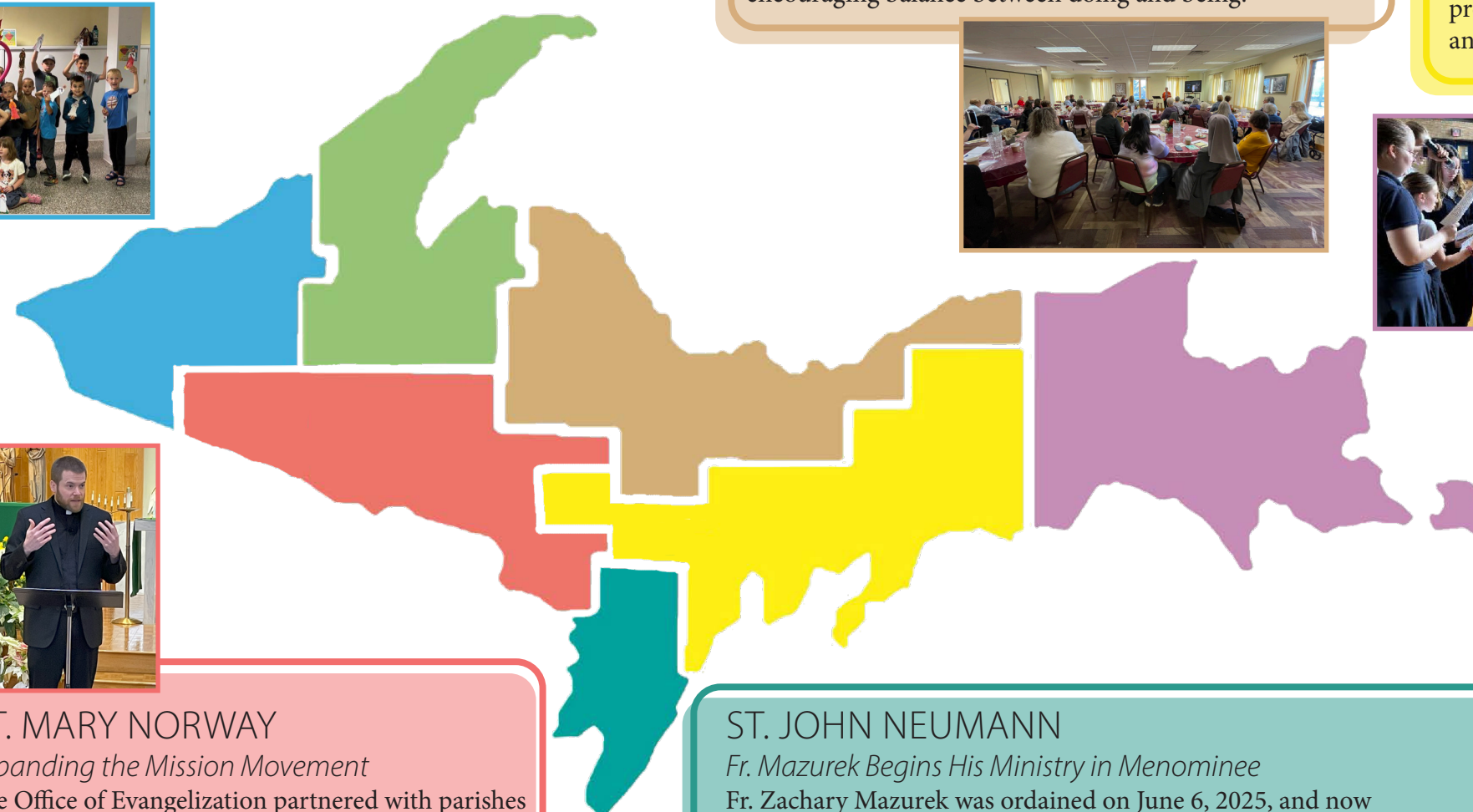
At St. Mary's Catholic School in Sault Ste. Marie, over 100 students thrive in a faith-based environment supported by a Legacy of Faith grant. Students attend Mass regularly, study a classical curriculum, and engage in arts and sciences. They also learn Spanish and explore art rooted in Catholic social teaching. A highlight is Wellness Wednesdays, focusing on hygiene, safety, and nutrition—plus a popular cooking class that teaches lifelong healthy habits.



## ST. JOHN NEUMANN

*Fr. Mazurek Begins His Ministry in Menominee*

Fr. Zachary Mazurek was ordained on June 6, 2025, and now serves as associate pastor at Resurrection and Holy Spirit parishes in Menominee. His priestly call became clear in 2018 during an ordination Mass, where he felt God say, "I want this for you." Fr. Mazurek looks forward to offering the sacraments and serving God's people. His seminary education was supported by UPCF's Seminarian Endowment Funds, including the Suda, Vignetto, and Vukelich Funds, making his vocation possible.



# LEGACY OF FAITH

THE LEGACY OF FAITH (LOF), the second largest UPCF fund, is dedicated to ensuring the long-term financial support and growth of Catholic education, faith formation, Catholic Social Services, and other initiatives within the Diocese of Marquette. By establishing a permanent endowment, LOF aims to provide stable funding that aligns with Catholic beliefs and supports the community's needs both now and in the future. It's designed to be a sustainable way to invest in the Catholic faith and social services in the Upper Peninsula.

## Youth Encounter Christ at Steubenville Conference

Thanks to a generous grant from the Legacy of Faith fund, a group of 32 young people and chaperones from the Eastern UP Regional Youth Group were able to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio.

The \$1,350 grant helped offset the cost of the conference fees, making it more affordable for families and allowing more youth to experience this life-changing opportunity. The total cost of attendance included \$260 per participant for the conference, as well as nearly \$9,000 for transportation via charter bus.

From the moment they boarded the bus, participants began forming bonds and preparing spiritually for the experience ahead. Once at the

conference, they were immersed in a vibrant environment filled with dynamic speakers, powerful music, joyful fellowship, and deep prayer—especially during Eucharistic Adoration, which many described as transformational.

Acknowledging the importance of the Legacy of Faith grant, the group made sure that the youth, their families, and parish communities all understood how this funding helped make the trip possible. The group is deeply grateful for the support, and they wholeheartedly recommend the Steubenville Conferences to other parishes and youth ministries looking to ignite faith in the next generation.

*Above: Steubenville Conference; Below: U.P. attendees*



## 2024-25 LOF Grant Awardees

### FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES: \$41,801.92

FORMED	St. Mary & St. Joseph, Iron Mountain	\$1,303.50
FORMED	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Bay Mills	\$824.00
FORMED	St. Gregory, Newberry	\$550.00
FORMED	St. Anthony, Gwinn	\$1,500.00
FORMED	St. Mary, Norway	\$1,725.00
FORMED	St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette	\$754.00
FORMED	St. Joseph, Rudyard	\$950.00
FORMED	St. Joseph, Perkins	\$1,500.00
FORMED	All Saints, Gladstone	\$1,700.00
FORMED	St. Louis the King, Marquette	\$825.00
FORMED	Immaculate Conception, Watersmeet	\$1,000.00
FORMED	St. Michael, Marquette	\$495.00
Adult Enrichment - Little Books	St. Gregory, Newberry	\$416.25
Little Books	St. Christopher, Marquette	\$1,000.00
Adult Enrichment - The Word Among Us	St. Gregory, Newberry	\$667.50
The Word Among Us	St. Joseph, Perkins	\$365.00
MagnifiKid! Issues	St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette	\$4,000.00
Magnificat	St. Agnes, Iron River	\$356.25
Flocknote	St. Christopher, Marquette	\$1,500.00
Flocknote	All Saints, Gladstone	\$140.05
Our Eucharist	St. Issac Jogues, Sault Ste. Marie	\$695.50
Be My Disciples	Holy Family, Barbeau	\$434.88
Religious Education Textbooks	St. Anthony, Gwinn	\$450.00
RCIA Catechism books and guides	Holy Name of Jesus/Blessed Kateri, Baraga	\$600.00
Books for Spiritual Reading	Sacred Heart of Jesus, L'Anse	\$600.00
Books for Spiritual Reading	St. Ann, Baraga	\$700.00
One Bread One Body Devotional	St. Ann, Baraga	\$1,958.74
Holy Name of Mary Parish Religion Ed Program	Holy Name of Mary, Sault Ste. Marie	\$1,435.00
Blest Are We... Religious Education Resources	Our Lady of Peace, Ahmeek	\$446.25
YDisciple	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$100.00
High School Resource YDisciple	St. Joseph, Rudyard	\$3,000.00
FOCUS Digital Campus Program	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$4,000.00
FOCUS Digital Campus Visit	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$670.00
We Are Pilgrims of HOPE	Our Lady of Peace, Ahmeek	\$1,500.00
Inspiring Others through Venerable Frederic Baraga	Bishop Baraga Association, Marquette	\$440.00
Catechetical Faith Formation Resources	St. Joseph, Perkins	\$450.00
Prepare & Enrich Pre Marital Assesment	St. Louis the King, Marquette	\$2,000.00
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	St. Anne, Chassell	

### SUMMER PROGRAMS: \$34,458.08

Baraga Youth Fraternity Camping Trip	Holy Name of Jesus/Blessed Kateri, Baraga	\$400.00
Transportation for Totus Tuus	Sacred Heart, Calumet	\$1,500.00
VBS	All Saints, Gladstone	\$200.00
Catholic Summer Camp 2025	Diocese of Marquette	\$3,100.00
Totus Tuus 2026	Diocese of Marquette	\$28,865.08
Escanaba Catholic Faith Formation (VBS)	St. Anthony of Padua, Wells	\$393.00

### EVENTS, RETREATS, CONFERENCES, PILGRIMAGES: \$25,315.00

Steubenville Youth Summer Conference	Precious Blood, Stephenson	\$15,000.00
Youth Encounter Christ	St. Mary & St. Joseph, Iron Mountain	\$315.00
Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion	St. Paul the Apostle, Calumet	\$2,500.00
Steubenville Youth Conference	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$1,500.00
SEEK-Making Missionary Disciples Track	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$250.00
Fall Campus Ministry Retreat	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$750.00
Steubenville Youth Conference	St. Joseph, Rudyard	\$500.00
Spring Campus Ministry Retreat	St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie	\$750.00
Parish Retreat	Holy Family, Barbeau	\$2,100.00
Marquette Catholic Families Retreat	St. Louis the King, Marquette	\$1,650.00

### TECH UPGRADES/HARDWARE: \$8,292.00

Religious Education Laptop	St. Anthony, Gwinn	\$315.00
Media Room Equipment	Sacred Heart of Jesus, L'Anse	\$375.00
Catechetical Center Update	St. John Neumann, Spalding	\$6,502.00
Listen WiFi	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Bay Mills	\$1,100.00



## A Vision Realized: OCIA in Keweenaw

In our 2024 Annual Report, we shared the exciting news that St. Paul the Apostle Church in Calumet was awarded a grant to support a growing local interest in becoming Catholic. Just one year later, we're happy to share how that vision has come to life.

Thanks to Legacy of Faith, the Keweenaw Catholic Community successfully launched a new Adult Catechesis and OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. The grant allowed the parish to purchase essential resources, including Echoing the Mystery (used as the foundation of the curriculum), 12 New American Bibles (NABRE), and 12 Catechisms of the Catholic Church. These materials gave participants direct access to Scripture and Church teaching—tools that are already bearing spiritual fruit.

Over the course of the program, 24 individuals were impacted, including OCIA candidates preparing to enter the Church and parishioners seeking to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. Together, they explored the richness of Catholic teaching and developed a deeper relationship with Christ through group instruction and community prayer.

Because of the generosity of Legacy of Faith, this program is more than a one-time offering—it's a growing ministry that will continue to form disciples in the Keweenaw for years to come.

# Financial Stewardship

This report is unaudited. For the audited version, please visit our website at [upcatholicfoundation.org/financials](http://upcatholicfoundation.org/financials) after January 2026.

## Statements of Financial Position

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 104,283	\$ 233,452
Accounts Receivable	-	1,138
Investments	41,944,982	38,646,372
Pledges receivable, net	-	-
Other assets	22,415	20,109
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 42,071,680</b>	<b>\$ 38,901,071</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 940	\$ 11,141
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 940</b>	<b>\$ 11,141</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	238,736	190,858
With donor restrictions	41,832,003	38,699,072
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>42,070,739</b>	<b>38,889,930</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 42,071,680</b>	<b>\$ 38,901,071</b>

## Statements of Activities\*

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>			
Contributions	\$ 38,950	\$ 921,424	\$ 960,374
Investment return	14,424	3,701,150	3,715,574
Net assets released from restrictions	1,489,644	(1,489,644)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>1,543,018</b>	<b>3,132,931</b>	<b>4,675,948</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services <sup>1</sup>	1,358,179	-	1,358,179
Supporting services;			
Management and general	83,891	-	83,891
Fundraising	53,069	-	53,069
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	<b>136,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>136,960</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,495,140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,495,140</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>47,878</b>	<b>3,132,931</b>	<b>3,180,809</b>
Net assets at beginning of year	190,858	38,699,072	38,889,930
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>238,736</b>	<b>41,832,003</b>	<b>42,070,739</b>

<sup>1</sup> Program Services includes all grants and distributions.

\* For endowments under \$5 million, UPCF administrative fees are 0.55% a year (55 cents for every \$100). Once an endowment grows above \$5 million, the fee drops to 0.10% a year (10 cents per \$100). Most organizations charge 1% or more.

# UPCF Funds & Distribution Report

View a listing of the 41 funds (as of June 2025) with a short description of each fund on pages 16-17.

FUND NAME	Invested Asset Balance	24-25 Distribution	25-26 Distribution
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>			
Reverend Thomas J. Anderson Mass Stipend Fund	\$120,891	\$4,628.79	\$4,654.43
Reverend Conrad A. Suda Seminarian Fund	\$362,697	\$13,887.11	\$13,964.13
Lay Ministry Endowment Fund	\$66,148	\$2,530.27	\$2,545.01
William A. Vignetto Seminarian Fund	\$387,310	\$14,829.48	\$14,911.73
Peter M. Vukelich Seminarian Scholarship Fund	\$134,782	\$5,162.06	\$5,189.42
Bibbianne Bessette College Scholarship Fund	\$122,107	\$4,675.31	\$4,701.24
Seminarian Endowment Fund <sup>1</sup>	\$2,182,289	\$70,897.97	\$77,243.61
Legacy of Faith <sup>2</sup>	\$9,923,593	\$392,233.85	\$399,648.92
Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula Endowment Fund	\$725,262	\$27,235.40	\$27,603.67
Diocese of Marquette Evangelization Endowment Fund	\$474,192	\$17,899.24	\$18,171.82
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Endowment Fund	\$59,933	\$2,130.47	\$2,237.10
Bishop Baraga Association Endowment Fund	\$57,912	\$2,130.47	\$2,202.76
Diocesan Ministries Endowment Fund	\$17,528,096	\$690,679.88	\$719,360.90
<b>School Funds</b>			
Anonymous Donor Bishop Baraga School Tuition Assistance & Building Endowment Fund	\$1,063,992	\$40,738.64	\$40,963.91
Mose & Leah Theoret Holy Name Catholic School Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund	\$123,263	\$4,214.63	\$4,631.45
Holy Name Catholic School Staff Support Endowment Fund	\$321,074	\$12,214.46	\$12,326.72
Diocese Catholic School Endowment Fund <sup>3</sup>	\$44,913	\$-	\$-
Father Marquette Catholic Academy Endowment Fund	\$244,687	\$5,329.01	\$6,382.56
St. Francis de Sales Tuition Assistance Fund	\$135,354	\$5,182.85	\$5,211.43
Sacred Heart School Faith in our Future Fund	\$159,372	\$5,869.42	\$6,036.93
Holy Spirit Catholic School Legacy Fund	\$135,688	\$5,193.78	\$5,223.10
St. Mary Catholic School Staff Support Endowment Fund	\$420,612	\$14,236.22	\$15,046.35
St. John Paul II Catholic Academy Parsek Trust Fund	\$1,878,674	\$7,192.25	\$7,228.43
Bishop Baraga Catholic School Legacy Fund	\$135,706	\$5,194.14	\$5,223.63
Holy Name Catholic School Crusader Loyalty Endowment Fund	\$1,220,548	\$28,319.81	\$37,242.91
Holy Name Catholic School Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund	\$117,807	\$3,799.72	\$4,065.50
Holy Name Catholic School Crusader College Fund <sup>3</sup>	\$37,252	\$-	\$-
St. Albert the Great Evangelization Endowment Fund	\$930,318	\$10,815.41	\$19,216.25
Mose & Leah Theoret St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund	\$110,785	\$4,210.78	\$4,250.39
Father Marquette Catholic Academy Teacher/Staff Support Fund	\$121,443	\$3,899.35	\$4,266.56
Sault St. Marie Todd Hold Scholarship	\$74,234	\$2,734.44	\$2,857.13
Father Marquette Catholic Academy Tuition Assistance Fund	NEW FUND!	\$-	\$-
<b>Parish Funds</b>			
St. Peter Cathedral Fund	\$246,526	\$4,375.85	\$5,939.60
Catholic Campus Ministry – Northern Michigan University Endowment Fund	\$429,116	\$4,270.73	\$8,367.58
Ironwood Catholic Education Fund	\$645,115	\$5,221.22	\$10,169.33
St. Anthony Parish Endowment Fund, Gwinn <sup>4</sup>	\$175,063	\$-	\$-
St. Joseph Church Food Pantry Endowment Fund	\$50,129	\$-	\$1,854.79
St. Anthony Parish Eastern U.P. 4 Parish Community Endowment Fund	\$57,563	\$-	\$1,892.65
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$39,342,447</b>	<b>\$1,422,933</b>	<b>\$1,500,832</b>

<sup>1</sup> Fund investments balances include funds held in the NCIP and the Catholic Extension Mission Diocese Fund, LLC.

<sup>2</sup> Fund has additional endowed investments, not included above, held at two local Community Foundations, Marquette and Escanaba, from which annual distributions are received.

<sup>3</sup> Fund does not have the required minimum balance (\$50,000) for distribution.

<sup>4</sup> Fund has specific restrictions on distributions.

\*Amounts shown are net of fees. Fundholders may choose not to receive a distribution in any year, generally in the interest of growing the fund at a faster rate.

# UPCF FUND DESCRIPTIONS

## SCHOOL

### BIBBIANNE BESSETTE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Provides financial support to attend educational institutions beyond high school. Determination is based on scholastic ability rather than need.

### BISHOP BARAGA SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE & BUILDING FUND

Provides financial support to Bishop Baraga School in Iron Mountain for the purpose of assisting students with financial need and maintain and/or replace buildings, as necessary. 25% of the distributable amount is allocated to tuition assistance and 75% is spent on building maintenance and/or replacement.

### MOSE & LEAH THEORET HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Provides financial support to Holy Name Catholic School in Escanaba for the purpose of assisting those students with financial need to meet its tuition requirements.

### HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF SUPPORT FUND

Provides financial support to the Holy Name Catholic School in Escanaba for the purpose of supplementing teacher salaries and professional development for its teachers.

### DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUND

The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support in equal portions to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Marquette.

### FATHER MARQUETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY FUND

Provides financial support to the Father Marquette Catholic Academy in Marquette.

### FATHER MARQUETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Provides financial support to the Father Marquette Catholic Academy in Marquette for the purpose of assisting those students with financial need to meet its tuition requirements.

### ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Provides financial support to the St. Francis De Sales School in Manistique for the purpose of assisting those students with financial need to meet its tuition requirements.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL FAITH IN OUR FUTURE FUND

Provides financial support to Sacred Heart Catholic School in L'Anse.

### HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEGACY FUND

Provides financial support to the Holy Spirit Catholic School in Norway.

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF SUPPORT FUND

Provides financial support to St. Mary Catholic School in Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of supplementing the teacher salary and professional development funds budgeted for its teachers.

### ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ACADEMY PARSEK FUND

Provides financial support to St. John Paul II Catholic Academy in Menominee.

### BISHOP BARAGA CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEGACY FUND

Provides financial support to Bishop Baraga Catholic School in Iron Mountain.

### HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL CRUSADER LOYALTY ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support for the operation of a proposed expansion of the school to serve high school students.

### HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ANGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support to the school for the purpose of assisting its high school students with financial need to meet its tuition requirements.

### HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL CRUSADER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Provides financial support to the graduates of Holy Name High School for the purpose of assisting those students with high academic success and/or financial need to meet their tuition requirements.

### MOSE & LEAH THEORET ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Provides financial support to the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School in Manistique for the purpose of assisting those students with financial need to meet its tuition requirements.

### FATHER MARQUETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY TEACHER/STAFF SUPPORT ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support to supplement teacher/staff salary and professional development.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TODD HOLT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Provides tuition assistance for students attending St. Mary Catholic School in Sault Ste. Marie.

## DIOCESE

### REVEREND THOMAS J. ANDERSON MASS STIPEND FUND

Provides support for Mass intentions being requested of poor parishes within the Diocese of Marquette, specifically Mass intentions for the repose of the soul of Reverend Thomas J. Anderson, for deceased parishioners from parishes of the diocese, deceased priests and bishops of the diocese and the repose of the souls in Purgatory.

### REVEREND CONRAD E. SUDA SEMINARIAN FUND

Provides financial support for the education of seminarians in the Diocese of Marquette.

### LAY MINISTRY ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support for the development of lay ministers and lay spirituality in the Diocese of Marquette.

### WILLIAM A. VIGNETTO SEMINARIAN FUND

Provides financial support to the seminarians in the Diocese of Marquette for the purpose of assisting needy students to meet their tuition and educational expenses.

### PETER. M. VUKELICH SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Provides financial support for the education of seminarians in the Diocese of Marquette.

### SEMINARIAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Income generated from the Seminarian Endowment assists in educating men in formation for the priesthood to serve the Diocese of Marquette.

### LEGACY OF FAITH

A permanent endowment to preserve and foster the Catholic faith in the Upper Peninsula. 50% of the annual distributable amount is allocated to Catholic Schools, 30% for parish faith formation, 10% to Catholic Social Services of the U.P., and 10% for new and emerging Catholic ministries.

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE UPPER PENINSULA ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support to Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula, Inc.

### DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE EVANGELIZATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support to the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan for the purpose of supporting evangelization programs and initiatives. This is a priority for bringing more people into the Catholic Church, as well as helping those who are already Catholic, gain a deeper understanding and share their faith with others.

### DIOCESAN MINISTRIES ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support for the operations and ministries of the Diocese of Marquette.

### U.P. CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GENERAL FUND

A non-endowed fund to help support foundation operations.

## PARISH

### ST. PETER CATHEDRAL FUND

Provides financial support for the general operations and maintenance of St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette.

### ST. ANTHONY PARISH GWINN ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support for the general operations and maintenance of St. Anthony Parish in Gwinn.

### ST. JOSEPH CHURCH FOOD PANTRY ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support for the food pantry in Sault Ste. Marie.

### EASTERN UP 4 PARISH COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides financial support to Our Lady of the Snows in Hessel; St. Stanislaus Kostka in Goetzville; Sacred Heart in Detour Village; and St. Florence in Drummond Island.

### OUR LADY OF PEACE FAITH FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION FUND

Provides financial support for faith formation and evangelization purposes of the people of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Ironwood.

## OTHER

### CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY FUND

Provides financial support for Catholic Campus Ministry – Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

### ST. ALBERT THE GREAT EVANGELIZATION FUND

Provides financial support to the St. Albert the Great Parish in Houghton for the purpose of supporting existing and expanded ministry to students in perpetuity.

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY FUND

Provides financial support to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Marquette.

### BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION FUND

Provides financial support to the Bishop Baraga Association in Marquette. The association is responsible for:

- creating and distributing promotional material (prayer cards, novenas etc.)
- providing educational presentations to church and community groups
- translating and publishing works written by Venerable Bishop Baraga that have never been translated before
- creating new exhibits for the Baraga Educational Center and Museum (BECM),
- maintaining the BECM and prayer gardens

All of this while teaching others about the life and labor of this saintly man while working on his Cause for Canonization.

# MEET THE UPCF STAFF

**MEGAN O'CONNOR**  
*Executive Director of Stewardship and Development*



Megan O'Connor is the Executive Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Marquette and the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation. She began serving the Diocese in February 2024 as Director of Missionary Stewardship and transitioned into her current role in February 2025.

Deeply rooted in her faith and community, Megan has been active in parish life—particularly at St. Peter Cathedral—where she served in the choir and as a cantor for Masses, weddings, and funerals from 2019 to 2024. She strives to lead a prayerful and peaceful life, often attending Mass at St. Peter Cathedral or St. Michael the Archangel in Marquette, or St. Francis de Sales in Manistique when visiting family. Megan cherishes time spent with her newly wed husband, Jack, and extended family across the Upper Peninsula.

*Connect:* (906) 379-5057; moconnor@dioceseofmarquette.org

**WILLIAM MULLETT**  
*Administrative Assistant*



William Mullett is a lifelong Catholic and proud Marquette native. He attended Spring Arbor University on a soccer scholarship, which gave him the opportunity to pursue both his academic goals and his passion for athletics.

In April 2025, William joined the Diocese of Marquette's Stewardship & Development Department as an Administrative Assistant. "I'm grateful to be part of a team that values purpose, service, and community," he shared. "I look forward to growing in this role and contributing meaningfully to the mission and work of the department."

William met his wife, Kaci, in 2020, and the two were recently married in June 2025. They now share a joyful and lively home—made even more vibrant by their two punctual dogs who never let them forget when it's time for breakfast or dinner.

*Connect:* (906) 227-9156; wmullett@dioceseofmarquette.org

## OUR MISSION

In Jesus Christ, The U.P. Catholic Foundation connects faith with charitable giving through long-term support for the future needs of Catholic ministries in the Diocese of Marquette.

## OUR VISION

To build up the ministry of Christ in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan through long-term, sustainable support to parishes, Catholic schools, diocesan ministries, and other Catholic charitable causes serving the Diocese of Marquette.

## WHY UPCF

By giving through the UPCF, you are helping to sustain and grow the U.P. Catholic community through endowment building:

- Parishes and schools can enjoy stewardship of endowed funds without the work of endowment administration
- The UPCF handles all endowment administration, investment and spending policy, gift acceptance, and fund agreements
- By shouldering the administrative burden, UPCF makes it easy to establish endowments, which in turn will strengthen the financial stability of parishes, Catholic schools, and other entities in the Diocese of Marquette
- Responsible investment policy that upholds Catholic Teaching
- Perpetually governed by Catholics

# Tomorrow's Legacy Today

Much like our Catholic faith, the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation (UPCF) encourages planting seeds today to bear fruit that will benefit generations to come. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." (John 15:16)

As the UPCF looks toward our ten-year anniversary in 2026, we are charged with continued education surrounding legacy giving, ease of online resources, and the importance of living our lives with love for God and our neighbor. We are led by our bishop, Most Rev. John F. Doefler, with a special emphasis on the following funds in the near future:

- **Seminarian Endowment Fund:** Assists in the education costs of men in formation for the priesthood to serve the Diocese of Marquette.
- **Catholic Social Services of the Upper**

**Peninsula Endowment Fund:** To support the mission of CSSUP to nurture, stabilize, and strengthen the diverse families of the Upper Peninsula by providing mental health care, child welfare, and recovery services, guided by God's universal love.

- **Diocese of Marquette Evangelization Endowment Fund:** To provide financial support for evangelization programs and initiatives.

All that we have is from God. We are reminded to share with a grateful heart, and our rewards will be abundant. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:8) Through faithful stewardship, we can cultivate a legacy of compassion, ensuring that our beautiful faith community in the U.P. will thrive in faith, hope, and love for generations to come.

## Your Gift Matters!

MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

*Give to an existing fund, or establish a new fund!*

**Give online:** <https://tinyurl.com/upcfcgiving>

**Or by mail:** U.P. Catholic Foundation

1004 Harbor Hills Dr  
Marquette, MI 49855

\*Make checks payable to the fund you wish to benefit.

Undesignated gifts are directed to the UPCF General Fund.



## DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS

To donate stock, real estate, or other appreciated assets, contact Megan O'Connor at moconnor@dioceseofmarquette.org.

## IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

If aged 70 ½ or older, a gift of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account through a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows you to direct your RMD tax-free.

## BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Designate the UPCF as the primary or secondary beneficiary of your IRA, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or bank account.

## LEAVE A LEGACY: PLANNED GIVING

Leave your legacy through a bequest in your will, charitable gift annuity, trust, or other planned giving vehicle. Learn more at: [dioceseofmarquette.planmygift.org](https://dioceseofmarquette.planmygift.org)

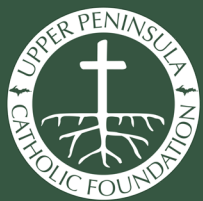
## BISHOP'S AMBASSADORS

As Catholics, we have been given Christ's great commission to share the Gospel in our homes and places of work, among our friends and neighbors, and throughout our nation and the world. Select members of our Diocesan Church are being called to help achieve this by joining together to serve God and neighbor by accepting the invitation to become a member of the Bishop's Ambassadors. If you would like to learn more, visit:

[upcatholicfoundation.org/bishops-ambassadors](https://upcatholicfoundation.org/bishops-ambassadors)



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT!



**Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation**  
1004 Harbor Hills Drive  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 227-9108 | [upcatholicfoundation.org](http://upcatholicfoundation.org)

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