



Stella Maris Parish “Star of the Sea” Endowment Fund
“Tomorrow depends on the steps we are willing to take today....it’s our turn now”.

Case Statement

Concept

*“When Catholics come to Northern Door County, they expect to find a Catholic Church where they can go to Mass....seasonal members and visitors participate in the church and Stella Maris Parish needs to be there to serve them.”
(Jim Frings, parishioner and longtime resident of Jacksonport, WI.)*

Thus, was born the idea of a parish endowment fund built on the premise that we can do something today to ensure that there will be a Catholic presence in Northern Door County to serve residents and visitors tomorrow.

History

Door County, throughout its history, has been and will continue to be a vacation destination. For over a century, Catholics who have traveled to Northern Door County have found Catholic churches where they have been able to attend Mass on the weekends and on Holy Days of obligation.

In 2005, Stella Maris Parish (“Star of the Sea”) was formed through the merger of five Catholic churches. These five, historic church buildings, some dating back to the late 1800s, contribute to the beauty and unique part of the fabric of the communities in which they are located. Countless numbers of families have made sacrifices over the years to build these churches where we now gather to celebrate the sacraments, participate with committees that further the ministries of the parish, and, attend social functions.....sharing in activities that engage us and help us grow in faith.

Now, it is our opportunity to step forward and make a lasting contribution and “water the seeds already planted”. The “Star of the Sea” Endowment Fund will provide a perpetual income stream to enable Stella Maris Parish to continue its mission in Northern Door County of serving people as disciples of the Lord.

Case for an Endowment*

Stella Maris Parish has been fortunate to have a full-time priest to serve the spiritual needs of the parish community. In addition to the one pastor, retired priests enable the parish to have Mass at the five historic churches and at the mission site of Washington Island during the summer and early fall. Mass attendance during these peak months often exceeds 2,000 weekly.

To maintain and upgrade the parish churches, Stella Maris Parish relies on annual parishioner contributions, estate gifts, and periodic investment gains. All expenses associated with Worship and Liturgy at Stella Maris, including the priests’ salaries, are the responsibility of the parish. The “Star of the Sea” Endowment Fund will provide an ongoing source of income to Stella Maris for everything connected with its Worship and Liturgy.

The endowment works this way: anyone can contribute to the Stella Maris Parish “Star of the Sea” Endowment Fund. The Fund will be managed and administered by the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc. The principal of the “Star of the Sea” Fund will be preserved and, each year, up to 5% of the value may be returned to Stella Maris Parish. Parish leadership will determine how the money will be used to benefit the parish community.

Bottom Line

It could take several years to build the principal of the Endowment Fund. However, a \$4 million endowment with an annual transfer of up to 5% would provide meaningful financial resources to ensure that the spiritual needs of Stella Maris Parish would be augmented in perpetuity.

*Supporting data available upon request

“Give, and it will be given to you.” Luke 6:38