

Stella Maris “Star of the Sea” Endowment

On Sept 5, 2017 Stella Maris signed the necessary documents to establish an endowment. The endowment is intended to underwrite the cost of providing worship and music ministry into perpetuity in Northern Door County. This report provides a summary of the progress since the “Star of the Sea” Endowment was established.

Key steps taken in 2018, observations and results:

- Late in the fall of 2017, the parish established an Endowment Advisory Team which initially included more than 20 members. That team pursued two priorities: (1) Identifying and contacting potential lead off contributors to enlist their support and (2) Planning a “Going Public” campaign.
- Reaching our goal of contacting potential lead off contributors was a serious challenge because many people on our list are visitors or seasonal members who have contact information outside of Northern Door County. Although it did take most of 2018 to accomplish, we were able to make most of these contacts.
- The “Going Public” campaign kicked off in July 2018. Our goal of having a **“well informed parish”** was very well received. When we explained the purpose of the endowment and why we felt that we should and must do something now to better prepare our parish for the long term, the feedback we received was that an endowment for Stella Maris Parish made a lot of sense.
- As of January 31, 2019 the endowment fund has received \$641,883.78 and has a balance of \$630,411.93. Thus far, 102 participants have made financial contributions or pledges to include the parish’s endowment in their estates. We have seen large and small contributions, contributions from retirement accounts and appreciated stock and some contributors have chosen to make 5 year pledges. We welcome and are grateful for all forms and means of contributing to this important initiative.

The following table provides a summary of the transactions flowing through the parish’s endowment account for FY 2018 (which ended June 30, 2018) and for the first 7 months of FY 2019 (as of January 31, 2019).

| Description: | FY 2018 | FY2019 | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Contributions | \$437,309.51 | \$204,574.27 | \$641,883.78 |
| Net Investment Earnings (Loss) | 7,073.79 | (10,885.44) | (3,811.65) |
| Withdrawals | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Management Fees | 2,064.55 | 2,595.65 | 4,660.20 |
| Total | \$442,318.75 | \$191,093.18 | \$633,411.93 |
| Number of Contributors | 11 | 91 | 102 |

The contributions above do not reflect any values associated with deferred gifts via estate plans since we have no means to determine the value of these types of commitments.

The parish's endowment is being managed by the Catholic Foundation (CF) for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc. (a separate corporate entity) which manages hundreds of other endowments for parishes of the Diocese. Our endowment is managed in accordance with the terms of our endowment fund agreement. The parish pays a management fee which is based on our endowment fund balance. The fees and the returns on investment are comparable to those of other managed accounts in the industry. A distribution equal to 5% of the fund balance will be directed to Stella Maris Parish annually by the CF. In FY 2018 the parish declined a 5% distribution, since our endowment was newly established.

Our endowment goal is to build a fund that is sufficient to underwrite the annual cost of the parish's worship and music ministry indefinitely. To do this the fund would need to have a \$4 million balance. The parish's leadership is aware that achieving this goal will take considerable time. It is our intent to continue to promote the endowment going forward to provide everyone with a connection to this parish an opportunity to participate.

We are immensely thankful for the response to this important endeavor thus far, especially to the one hundred and two contributors who stepped forward and answered the calling. We look forward to hearing from additional people who choose to be part of this effort to ensure there will always be a Catholic presence in Northern Door County.

Endowment Advisory Team*

**Bart Ahern, Peg Berezewski, Bernie Freeman, Jim Frings, Chuck Germain, Mark Kunstman, Mark Loper, Terry McArdle, Joe Miller, Tom Mulligan, Becky Nash, Tom Polacek, Shirley Raasch, Jim Stollenwerk, Garey Bies, Doug Van Vorous, Walter Vail,*