



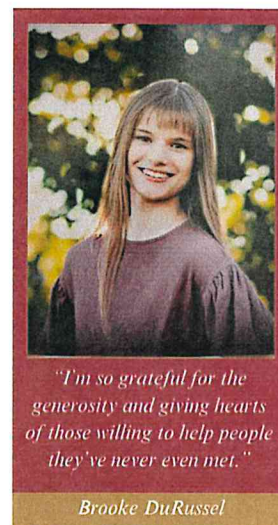
Fr. Robert G. Navarre Scholarship

Beginning in 2009, Fr. Robert G. Navarre created a scholarship fund to support Catholic School graduates enrolled in accredited colleges or universities to help fund their higher education. In 2023, twin sisters Brooke and Laken DuRussel were recipients of the Fr. Robert G. Navarre Scholarship.

Laken DuRussel, a 2022 graduate of Millington High School and former graduate of St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School, is currently enrolled as a sophomore at Michigan State University majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Agronomy. A rural mid-Michigan native, Laken has ambitions to begin a career in animal nutrition or crop and soil sales after graduation.

Thanks to the generosity of the Navarre Scholarship, Laken has been able to focus on her studies and take advantage of numerous professional opportunities throughout her time at MSU. Notably, she has been a member of the MSU Dairy Judging Team, winning 2nd place with her team at the Ireland Clonmel Agricultural Show, and 1st place in the Individual Brown Swiss Class at the World Dairy Expo.

Outside of her studies, Laken has also pursued her passions through a sustainability internship at the Star of the West Milling Company, and currently works part-time at the MSU Mason Research Farm. She credits the Navarre Scholarship with allowing her the opportunity to devote herself fully to her academic and professional goals, stating, "It means so much that people are willing to support students like me and invest in my future."



Brooke DuRussel, also a Millington High School and St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School graduate, is also a MSU sophomore where she double majors in Physiology and Human Biology and minors in Health Promotion. She aspires to become an ophthalmologist after graduation and has been able to receive hands-on experience in the ophthalmology field by working as a tech at the Great Lakes Eye Institute in Saginaw.

Alongside her studies, Brooke is equally passionate about giving back to her community through service. She volunteers on the med-surg floor of Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, as well as with MSU's Adaptive Sports Program to assist individuals with physical and mental disabilities. To put her faith in action alongside her medical school aspirations, Laken also serves as a sacristy intern at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Lansing, and states, "I know that no matter where I am, my Catholic Church family is supporting me."

Fr. Robert G. Navarre (1919-2008) served as the pastor of numerous parishes across Michigan, including St. Felix (Pinnebog), St. Roch (Caseville), St. Denis (Lexington), Sacred Heart (Bad Axe), St. Helen (Saginaw), St. Cecilia (Clare), St. Michael (Maple Grove), and St. Mary (Albee). His years of service to the Church earned him seats on the Diocesan Finance Board, Senate of Priests, Pastoral Administrators Commission, and Ministry to Priests Board, as well as the role of Diocesan Dean and Territorial Vicar.

In 2009, Fr. Navarre began a scholarship, one of the largest donations of his estate, to help provide financial assistance to practicing Catholics seeking higher education degrees after graduating from Catholic School. His generosity has inspired numerous others to support this endowment, leading to over \$128,000 gifted to students over the past 13 years.



\$1.97 Million in 2023 Donations

\$22,000 in year-end gifts and
Giving Tuesday donations

\$1.4 Million in Grants

120 local grantees throughout
the 11 counties of the diocese

\$93,000 in Scholarships

48 students received financial
support for their education

Your gift changes lives.

Thanks to the generous donations of community members **just like you**, the Foundation was able to provide financial support and empowerment to over **150** local grant and scholarship recipients in 2023.

Your gift, no matter the size, creates a Christ effect throughout our community.

Give today at <https://ccfmm.org/>

Join us for our 2024 Investment Forum!

Join the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan for our annual FREE Investment Forum! Here you can learn more about:

- **Building endowments** for a sustained commitment to Catholic causes
- **Socially responsible investing** to ensure all financial gifts are screened according to the objectives and values of our shared Catholic faith

*Register in advance
by scanning this code!*



May 8, 2024



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM *Lunch included*



Horizons Conference Center
6200 State St, Saginaw, MI 48603

Seeking New Committee Members

To inquire about Board of Trustees positions, please contact Executive Director, Kristin Smith, at Kristin.Smith@ccfmm.org

Are you passionate about putting your Catholic faith into action? Do you want to play an active role in supporting the future of your parish, Catholic school, diocese, or favorite ministry?

**Consider joining one of the
Foundation's committees!**

