

Roman Catholic Foundation distributed \$2.37M to 45 local parishes

- By The St. Louis American staff
- May 12, 2016



Helen Bailey and Dee White and, parishioners, with Fr. Tim Cook, pastor of Saints Teresa and Bridget, and Abby Cole, Beyond Sunday campaign field director

Dozens of St. Louis Archdiocesan parishes have more than 2 million reasons to be grateful this spring, thanks to the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri and its Beyond Sunday campaign.

As part of the campaign's first wave, the Roman Catholic Foundation recently distributed \$2.37 million to 45 local parishes across the St. Louis Archdiocese. Led by the Roman Catholic Foundation, Beyond Sunday, with a goal of \$100 million, is the largest St. Louis Archdiocesan fundraising campaign ever undertaken.

"We're thrilled to be able to return more than \$2.3 million to the first block of local parishes participating in our Beyond Sunday campaign," said Mark J. Guyol, President and CEO of the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri. "It is gratifying to see tremendous support provided by so many Catholics for the campaign and that momentum is building."

Beyond Sunday seeks to strengthen parish communities and transform Catholic school education throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Each parish receives 40 percent of the funds raised

through their parish campaign to address their own local needs. The remaining 60 percent goes toward the Beyond Sunday Education Fund, which will provide scholarships to children of middle-income families and investments in Catholic schools by way of innovation grants and STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Arts, and Math) curricula grants .

With a successful campaign, parish distributions will total more than \$40 million over the 5-year pledge redemption period. The foundation will make distributions twice a year to the parishes, which will use their shares for the areas of greatest need – for example, to improve parish infrastructure, support faith formation programs and parish ministries, or create a parish or school endowment program – as outlined in their written case statements.

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Catholic Church in Florissant received \$19,000 as its first Beyond Sunday parish distribution. St. Rose Philippine Duchesne is planning to use its share to increase parish savings, strengthen its parish endowment fund, and invest in school technology upgrades, accessible bathroom renovation, facility upgrades, and youth ministry and spiritual development programs.

“We’re looking to Beyond Sunday distributions as a key way to enhance our parish, primarily by strengthening our financial stability and addressing some key upgrade and maintenance needs,” said Reverend Thomas W. Wyrsh, pastor of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne. “We’re excited about the possibilities that the campaign has afforded us and look forward to realizing our goals.”

As part of the recent foundation distributions, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in South St. Louis County received \$54,000. This and future parish distributions, totaling \$350,000, will go toward establishing an endowment fund for St. Francis of Assisi and toward multiple projects, including technology upgrades for its elementary school, church ceiling repairs, switching out old church lighting to LED lighting, and repairs and upgrades to the parish center.

“Our campaign is a landmark initiative to ensure a lasting legacy for the people of St. Francis of Assisi and Catholic education for the St. Louis Archdiocese,” said Rev. Anthony Yates, pastor. “Our parishioners have always answered the call to support the parish and, with the assistance of the Roman Catholic Foundation, I’m confident that we will have a successful Beyond Sunday campaign.”

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cottleville received \$171,000 as its first distribution of Beyond Sunday campaign funds. St. Joseph, with expected parish distributions of \$1.2 million over the next 5 years, plans to use its funds for a new parish hall, including purchasing property, and building and furnishing the facility.

“We have a wonderful parish already, but the addition of a new parish hall will allow us to serve our parishioners even better,” said Monsignor James Callahan, pastor at St. Joseph. “We greatly appreciate the assistance of the Roman Catholic Foundation. In fact, because Beyond Sunday will raise ample funds, we will not need to do a separate capital campaign at St. Joseph for the hall.”

According to Guyol, while Beyond Sunday is about strengthening local parishes and transforming Archdiocesan Catholic schools, it’s really about much more. “The campaign is about our faith, our salvation, and, ultimately, the future of our local Catholic church,” he said. “Our parishes and Catholic schools must be vibrant to prepare and nurture the next generation of Catholics.”

For a full list of recent Beyond Sunday parish distributions, visit <http://rcfstl.org/beyond-sunday/>.