To the Stewards of Saint Peter of The Papal Foundation

It is a privilege for me as the Chairman of The Papal Foundation’s Board of Trustees to share my gratitude for all that you do on behalf of the Foundation.

For more than a decade as a member of the board I have watched the impact of your generosity extend to ever greater scale throughout the world. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to serve as your Chairman. Please know that I hold that responsibility with the utmost seriousness as I work closely with Eustace Mita, our inaugural lay President, to strengthen the Foundation.

As we begin a new decade of service it is my hope and prayer that we can deepen our commitment to our original mission and reaffirm our unity. Together, we can expand our lay participation, conduct all our activities with clarity and transparency, and share our vision with renewed energy.

Your response to the needs of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, support for the formation of wise, caring spiritual leaders, and priority for the future stability of our Church are a gift and blessing for all of us. With the help of God and one another may we go forward to witness Christ’s love throughout the world.

With gratitude for your service and the assurance of my prayers for you, your families and all your loved ones, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON

“Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.”

—St. John Paul II

IN 2018 we stand on the threshold of a new decade of service to the Holy Father. The Papal Foundation began during a time when the Holy See was facing steep financial challenges that were hindering its charitable outreach. Bishops from the United States, aware of the need, reached out to American Catholics for support, and The Papal Foundation became the resounding response.

The Foundation’s earliest Stewards of Saint Peter set a simple mission: To contribute faith, energy, and financial resources to serve the needs of the Church that are of particular significance to the Holy Father. That mission has served the Foundation well, and it remains strong and resilient today.

Because of your spirit of sacrifice and generosity, people of all ages receive spiritual, physical, and emotional care in far-flung communities around the world. Now, with humble gratitude, The Papal Foundation enters a new decade of service. Thank you for the support you have given so generously to make our continuing outreach in Christ’s name possible.

A 2018 Papal Foundation grant to the Alleanza Solidale Association in Rome helps refugees assimilate into Italian society through language programs and other assistance.
We Share Our Faith Through Your Generosity

Grants made possible by our donors help to impact the physical and spiritual wellbeing of God’s people wherever they live, whatever their nationality. During this past year the Foundation provided funds to build churches for indigenous communities in Brazil, purchase ultrasound equipment for a mission hospital in Kenya, establish a recovery center to treat drug addiction in Myanmar, and expand the Health and Sciences building at Bethlehem University in Palestine. In our three decades of service, The Papal Foundation has awarded a total of 1,832 grants to projects in 121 countries and 59 international Catholic organizations. A complete listing of awards for 2018 can be found on the Grants page of our website at www.thepapalfoundation.org.

The Holy Father and the Secretary of State for the Holy See review and recommend the grant requests that the Board of Trustees considers. Through this close collaboration with the Holy See, our Stewards of Saint Peter and all of our donors know they are making a great difference in many lives. Together, we are welcoming each person served as a precious sister and brother in the kingdom of God at “this moment of history.”

A generous donation from a family foundation created The Mission Fund: “Doing Small Things with Great Love” and was inspired by Mother Teresa’s work. This Fund helps distribute special assistance to care for the world’s most vulnerable people. Since 2011 the Fund has given over $13.2 million to projects of the Missionaries of Charity and other needs. This year the Fund provided $2,642,143 in support to projects in Peru, Kenya, India, Brazil, Tanzania, South Africa, Swaziland, and Albania.

ONE GRANT TOUCHES MANY LIVES IN VIETNAM

Food, shelter, and a place to worship God. Poor, rural farmers in the Diocese of Vinh are meeting these most basic needs in their community, thanks to the support they received from a Foundation grant. A portion of the money, matched with donations from families and local residents, has been used to build simple houses for six families. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thien is one of the recipients. This 38 year-old-widow now has a home where she can care for her three children and aging in-laws.

The diocese has used a second portion of the grant money to feed needy patients in hospitals. Partnering with local students from universities and a Dominican of the Good News group, parish members have helped to deliver over 25,000 rice bowl meals.

A third portion of the grant money has provided means to help the 1,200-member Phu Kinh parish build a new place to worship. Many parishioners have generously added their labor, materials, and finances to realize this dream. All of these projects “…nurture the faith of Catholics, and expose God’s mercy to non-Catholics,” says the Most Rev Paul Nguyen Thai Hop, Bishop of the Diocese of Vinh.

MINISTERING TO ROME’S REFUGEES

Because of civil war, famine, violence, and oppression, mass immigration has become a painful reality around the world. Millions of people are on the move, often under life-threatening circumstances. Immigration crises loom in many countries.

Italy received 130,000 asylum seekers in 2016 alone. With only six months of temporary support available from the Italian government, refugees often find themselves homeless, jobless, in culture shock, and ill equipped to deal with traumas from their pasts. A Foundation grant this year to the Alleanza Solidale Association in Rome helps children, women, and men from Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria assimilate and restore their lives far from home.

SUPPORTING AND EQUIPPING TEACHERS AROUND THE WORLD

The World Union of Catholic Teachers provides training and lectures for dedicated educators at a grassroots level and makes their voices heard in the international arena. The WUCT promotes education for all students. A grant from the Papal Foundation helped to fund projects in Georgia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Romania.
**STEWARDS**

**DREAMS BECOME A “BEAUTIFUL REALITY” IN LAS TUNAS, CUBA**

Having a residence for clergy has made an especially big impact. Father P. Alexander Ceboallo Roque, pastor of the parish, reflects that he is now able “to provide better spiritual and pastoral care not only to the members of the community, but to all those people, Christian or not, who come to ask, especially at the moment they need it the most. Now the faithful no longer have to wait for their priest to arrive, as he is always there waiting.” Once again, thank you — because yesterday was a dream. Today, with your generosity, you make a beautiful reality for many people.”

**ISTITUTO DERMOPATICO DELL’IMMACOLATA (IDI)**

Istituto Dermopatico dell’Immacolata (IDI) is a Rome-based hospital that provides treatment for cancer and diseases of the skin. The Papal Foundation’s Board of Trustees approved a request to help stabilize operations and ensure that IDI’s doors would remain open. Our Foundation faced disagreement between those who supported the grant and those who opposed it, and this has led to an extensive internal review of the Foundation’s processes and governance. The conversation continues. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation remain confident that good will and prudence will prevail as the Foundation exercises its commitment to assist our Holy Father in extending charity in the future.

**Grants from The Papal Foundation**

*make an impact at all levels—individual, family, community, and national.*

**We Invest Our Resources, Time, and Vision Together**

The Papal Foundation offers North American Catholics an opportunity to play a significant role in supporting the Holy Father’s international commitment to serve and care for others. Becoming a Steward of Saint Peter involves a pledge of financial resources, time, and vision. For many Stewards and their families, this experience moves faith and prayer to an unexpectedly new and broader level of service.

This year we welcomed four new Stewards of Saint Peter into The Papal Foundation. Stewards and their families enjoy two annual face-to-face events for spiritual renewal and relationship building. The annual pilgrimage to Rome is an experience of worship, reunion, and renewal in the heart of our Church. An incredible experience in the eternal city fills our days in Rome. The Foundation gathers again in Washington, DC, each autumn to conduct Board of Trustee business and spend time together in worship and dialogue with leaders of the U.S. Catholic Church and the Holy See.

**...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things, keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen. Then the God of peace will be with you.**

— Philippians 4:8-9
Grants from The Papal Foundation answer an amazing variety of requests. Our small grants may replace parish roofs, purchase library supplies, or provide lunches for orphaned children. Multi-year grants may build seminaries, fund international convocations, or install up-to-date medical equipment. The diversity of need is great, and our ability to respond has made a profound impact on many lives.

The bar chart at right shows the growth (in 5 year increments) of the Foundation’s annual grants program over the last 30 years.

The circular chart at left illustrates our primary project types and the proportion of total funding each has received.

The Papal Foundation’s grants program extends God’s love and care across the continents and builds the future of the church worldwide.
**Scholarships**

**We Build the Future of the Church Through Education**

Around the world, the Hope of Christ’s message compels men and women from many countries to commit their lives to serve the Church. The desire for access to formation and advanced studies in our vibrant worldwide Church community continues to grow, and the Saint John Paul II Scholarship Fund meets the need with eyes on the future.

The Fund was established in 1998 with a generous gift from John and Carol Saeman of Denver, Colorado, and matching money from the Foundation. The Fund has provided over $10.4 million in scholarships to more than 1,300 candidates. This year, 94 new scholars received funds for advanced studies. Priests, religious, and laypersons from Haiti, Mexico, Lebanon, Brazil, Poland and 25 other countries have joined the Foundation’s family of Saeman Scholars. They study at Pontifical Universities and Institutions in Rome with a commitment to return to serve their home dioceses upon completion of their studies.

A highlight of the Foundation’s annual pilgrimage to Rome is the face-to-face evening we share with our Saeman Scholars. Their devotion and dreams for service always are an inspiration for our Board of Trustees and Stewards of Saint Peter.

**Sr. Maryvonne Serves Faithfully Amidst Unrest and Violence**

Marie de Jésus Palessonga, Sr. Maryvonne, has been part of the Saeman Scholars family since 2013. She originally received a scholarship to study for her Doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Before her degree was completed, however, violent conflict broke out in the Congo, and her religious order called her home.

Sr. Maryvonne was able to resume her doctoral program in 2016 with additional scholarship support. Somehow she continues to find time to work on her thesis amidst the ongoing conflict and many duties at the chapter house. “Orphans and widows are everywhere,” she writes. Instead of celebrating her birthday with a cake, this year she found herself in a day of prayer for a local priest who had been murdered in the community. Reflecting on how her studies sustain her, Sr. Maryvonne says, “…there are many saints I met during my research. Two women were full of faith: Theresa from Avila and Mary Ward from Yorkshire (England) 16th century. Unknown, she is now my best friend. I met such saints through your help during my research.”

**Fr. Pawel Returns to Poland with Valuable Insights on Polish-Jewish Relations**

Fr. Pawel Rytel-Andrianik made an in-person visit to the Foundation’s office this fall during a trip to the United States. Our friendship with him began in 2003 when he first became a Saeman Scholar. At that time he was teaching religion at Wicenty Witos Agricultural High School in Ostrozany, Poland. With scholarship support from the Foundation, Fr. Pawel completed a Doctoral program at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome that also included studies in Jerusalem and Oxford. Today he serves as the spokesperson for the Bishops’ Conference in Warsaw, Poland, his home country.

The Foundation has walked with Fr. Pawel all the way, and over the years he has developed close relationships with Stewards and other scholarship recipients. Fr. Pawel speaks or studies 13 languages and has authored books and publications on Polish-Jewish relationships. He has a deep and abiding devotion to St. John Paul II, who was the inspiration for our scholarship program.

“At a meeting of the students of The Papal Foundation,” he comments, “one from India said that what he most appreciates is the fact that ‘the people of The Papal Foundation don’t give fish, but teach us how to fish.’” He goes on to say, “There are no words to thank all of you for what you are doing for the Church, what you have done for me, and what you are doing for all the students.”

“This is Christian hope: that the future is in God’s hands.”

—Pope Francis
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Our Mission

The mission of The Papal Foundation is to serve the Holy Father and the Roman Catholic Church.

We do this by gathering in a corporal and cooperative collaboration of laity, clergy and hierarchy within the Church, in witness to one another of our faith, and drawing strength from the witness of the Holy Father.

We bring and contribute our faith, our energy and our financial resources, to serve those needs of the Church that are of particular significance to the Holy Father, always with a commitment to work in union with the Holy Father and the Magisterium of the Church.