



The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Diocese distributes \$123,000 for charitable outreach Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund extended during pandemic

KNOXVILLE--- Bishop Richard F. Stika has announced extended distributions of the Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund to assist parishes in the Diocese of Knoxville with charitable community outreach during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund, parishes are offered matching grants to support charitable programs through a single annual distribution. Due to the 2020 global health crisis, Bishop Stika extended the grant program this year to include two waves of distributions.

Parishes received a total \$123,000 this year.

“This has been a very unusual year and I felt like we needed to take unusual steps to meet the charitable needs of our communities by extending funding for programs that have historically benefited all East Tennesseans, not just those who are Catholic,” said Bishop Stika.

The diocese distributed \$55,000 to parishes in May 2020. Bishop Stika approved a second wave of distributions in June that totaled \$68,000.

A total of 24 parishes requested the matching grants.

“These grants offer parishes an opportunity to increase their charitable outreach at the community level. They help fund bread pantries, offer direct assistance to help people and families in need pay for household and transportation expenses, clothing, school supplies, and in some cases even medication,” Bishop Stika said.

In 2019, the Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund distributed \$51,500.

The Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund was created and is funded through the recent Home Campaign, a diocesan-wide capital campaign that benefited charity, education, priest retirement, parish projects, and the construction of the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund began offering matching grants to parishes in 2019.

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