



Faces of Philanthropy

Meet Jody Romano!

What is your role at CFGP?

I am the Chief Advancement Officer for CFGP. My primary responsibility is helping to facilitate the creation of new funds to help donors support the Catholic organizations most meaningful to them. I also help promote the mission of our partner organizations so the entire Catholic community can learn about them and understand their work.

How long have you been with CFGP? In that time, what has been your favorite memory?

I have been with CFGP for six months, starting just four business days before Philadelphia closed due to the pandemic. My favorite memory to-date would be during one of my first Zoom calls with a partner organization when my cat, Amelia, decided to join us by jumping up on my lap. Everyone smiled and welcomed her to the call and we did not miss a beat. It was nice to see everyone share a funny moment in the midst of this "temporary reality" we find ourselves in.

Why do you choose to work in the nonprofit sector?

I work in nonprofit because I love working for a mission I believe in. I have been very blessed over the years to be connected to causes that are important to me.

If you could start your own charity, what would be its mission?

I would like to run an advocacy organization for eldercare. Too many seniors do not have the support they need when it comes to managing the very confusing terrain of their own care. Also, many families need help when trying to navigate these same pathways for someone they love. I would like to create an organization that helps these people so they can grow older with dignity, grace, and support.

Focused on Faith—Collaborating with the Office for the New Evangelization

The Office for the New Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has partnered with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) to bring their new Parish apostolate to our local Church. FOCUS began their parish work within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia last year with an initial grant from CFGP that enabled the ministry to begin their work, while this year's grant will help FOCUS continue to expand here over the next two years. To date, CFGP has granted nearly \$100,000 to FOCUS in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, with this year's grant totaling \$74,000.

FOCUS has been one of the Church's most impactful apostolates for evangelization. Their ministry has a proven track record of numerous conversions of young people on college campuses, many vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, and strong marriages. Currently, FOCUS is present on 153 campuses and has more than 800 missionaries. But while FOCUS began at universities, its recent work has expanded to parish communities.

During this second year of the partnership, a FOCUS missionary will begin service at St. Agnes Parish in Sellersville. In addition, FOCUS will host events and workshops for parish leaders to impart their highly effective model of discipleship to clergy, lay people and religious so that more and more parishes can implement the FOCUS model of missionary disciple-making. The bulk of CFGP's grant will fund the work of the parish missionary at St. Agnes Parish under the leadership of the pastor, Fr. Jeff Stecz.

"This is a particularly exciting endeavor because we are partnering with FOCUS at the beginning of their outreach to parishes. I sense that we are trailblazing alongside FOCUS in this new dimension of their ministry," said Meghan Cokeley, Director of the Office for the New Evangelization. "I am thrilled that the Church of Philadelphia can be a part of this new movement of the Lord. CFGP has made that possible, and I am so very grateful!"

In this issue...

A message from President Sarah O. Hanley

COVID-19: Physically distanced, spiritually unified

- Emergency Relief Fund
- Parish Support Initiative
- MOVING FORWARD: Parish Stewardship Renewal

Faces of Philanthropy

Grants and Newly Established Funds

Focused on Faith—Collaborating with the Office for the New Evangelization



To learn more about FOCUS in Philadelphia, visit:

FOCUS in Parishes
www.focus.org/what-we-do/parish-outreach

FOCUS on Philadelphia College Campuses
www.infocus.org/philadelphia/

NONPROFIT ORG
 US Postage Paid
 Philadelphia, PA
 Permit No. 7535

The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia
 100 North 20th Street, Suite 301
 Philadelphia, PA 19103-1454





At the start of 2020, no one could have imagined where we would end up in just a few short months. For many, the toll this year has taken has been unthinkable—loss of health, loss of jobs and loss of loved ones. But these times have also shown us what we are capable of when we trust in God, never give up hope, and remain strong.

Our faith, both in God and humanity, and our relationships with one another, are all stronger. If you need evidence of this, take a look around. How many strangers are feeding the poor and delivering food to high-risk groups? How many medical staff and essential workers are on the front lines of this pandemic every day, working to heal us and provide the slightest sense of normalcy? What about our priests, who continue to say Mass every day, anoint the sick, and celebrate funerals? And most importantly, how many miraculous recoveries have we seen, that can only be explained by God’s grace?

There is evidence of strength amid this tragedy all around us—strength in ourselves, strength in those around you, and strength in our faith.

To every medical and essential worker, including our priests, every volunteer, and every individual making a difference right now, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. At CFGP, we continue to pray for you, as well as all those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. May God continue to bless us and guide us, with His grace, through this difficult time.

Grants and Newly Established Funds

GRANTS

The CFGP Universal Charitable Fund held a summer granting cycle focused on Parish Life. The Fund was pleased to award grants to the following parishes:

Maternity BVM, Philadelphia - \$4,376
Door video and alarm system

St. Athanasius, Philadelphia - \$7,500
COVID-19 response for St. Athanasius School and Church

St. Laurence, Upper Darby - \$5,000
Capital improvements to improve parish safety

We also received several grant requests for live streaming capabilities. These applications are still pending, but please visit our website at www.TheCFGP.org in the coming months to review all recently awarded grants from the CFGP Universal Charitable Fund.

CFGP’s Education and Youth Development Fund also awarded a grant:

St. Lucy Day School for Children with Visual Impairments - \$20,000
Launching of a new CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment) Program, one of the leading causes of blindness in children.

FUNDS

Over the past few months, we have welcomed six new funds to CFGP!

The Rose Catholic Assistance Fund

The John and Lynne Ewell Family Fund

CFGP Emergency Relief Fund

Don Guanella and Divine Providence Endowment Fund

World Congress of Catholic Nurses Fund

The Devine Charitable Fund

Larry Perzan Vocational High School Scholarship Fund

Any individual, parish or Catholic organization can create a fund with CFGP. These funds secure bright futures for the missions you care most about.

To create a fund, or donate to any of our existing funds, visit www.TheCFGP.org/Giving.

COVID-19: Physically distanced, spiritually united



Emergency Relief Fund

As the world tried to grapple with this newfound coronavirus and the havoc it was wreaking across the globe, there was nothing we could do except watch it unfold. Before we knew it, businesses were shutting their doors indefinitely, offices were sending their staff home, a lock down was instituted across most of the country, and millions of Americans lost their jobs.

But despite the turmoil, we knew life had to go on, and that we had to do our part to pick up the pieces. We contacted our partners at Catholic Social Services (CSS), who are on the front lines of our region’s most vulnerable communities every day, and discussed the most critical needs of their clients. The verdict was clear, with the loss of jobs and in turn income, food insecurity was rising.

Our team gathered virtually and devised a plan to help CSS feed their rapidly growing client base. We set up a new fund as quick as we could, the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF), that serves as an urgent response to the needs of those impacted by the pandemic. The Fund was established, the need was immediate, all there was left to do was pray that the community would step up and help us—and you did.

The ERF launched less than one week before we were able to make our first distribution, a \$30,000 gift to St. John’s Hospice, a ministry that serves homeless men in Philadelphia. We and CSS were so grateful for the outpouring of generosity we were seeing from our community, and it only continued.

Today, the ERF has raised nearly \$270,000 and is still actively making distributions to the food pantries in the area. As the pandemic persists, so does the need for food, and so the ERF’s work continues.



Parish Support Initiative

In addition to those experiencing food insecurity, another community was also severely impacted by the pandemic—our parishes. With the temporary suspension of public Masses in the spring, their weekly offertories were severely impacted.

Again, our team assembled and discussed possible ways to help. We consulted leaders in our Archdiocese, as well as parishioners, to determine the best course of action. We evaluated the response and determined the most urgent need was to somehow provide an avenue for parishes to still receive a weekly offertory, even amid the suspension of public Masses. This spurred the launch of our second COVID-19 relief effort, the Parish Support Initiative (PSI).

The PSI was developed in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a response to the immediate needs of our faith communities. This initiative provided parishes with the additional stream of income they were missing. This opportunity was open to all parishes within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, provided guidance on how to participate during his livestream Sunday Masses.

CFGP provided a donation platform for every parish in the Archdiocese that was housed on our website. Parishes were encouraged to share the link with their parishioners so they could visit the site, select their home parish from a drop-down menu, and donate to it. Donors were also given the option to select “Parish Most in Need” from the menu, in which their gift was allocated to parishes that are facing extreme financial crises because of the pandemic.

To date, the Parish Support Initiative has raised more than \$173,000 for over 121 parishes.



MOVING FORWARD: Parish Stewardship Renewal

Our work continues as we navigate this new era of philanthropy, stewardship, and charity. So many things around us are changing, but our goal remains the same: to help as many people as possible. Our third and most recent COVID-19 relief effort, the Parish Stewardship Renewal, follows its predecessor in supporting Archdiocesan parishes impacted by the pandemic. But the Parish Stewardship Renewal will shift its focus to healing, growth, and hope for the future. This project, officially titled *MOVING FORWARD: Parish Stewardship Renewal*, offers parishes within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia an opportunity to participate in an individualized offertory restoration and enhancement plan customized for their parish.

To address both the short and long-term effects of COVID-19 on our parish offertories, we’re providing multiple phase opportunities and tailored options to address the individual needs of each parish community. We’re also offering this opportunity with our staff time waived, and for parishes in severe crises, assistance with printing and postage costs.

These three initiatives were created to spark hope. We want all those struggling in our communities to know we’re here for them, in good times and bad, and after seeing how you’ve stepped in to help, we know you’re here for them too. We can’t thank you enough for your support.

To learn more about CFGP’s COVID-19 response, visit www.TheCFGP.org.

