



#### MISSION

The mission of the Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation is to provide tuition assistance for students attending K-8 Catholic schools in the Central and Eastern Kentucky counties encompassed by the Diocese of Lexington.

#### VISION

The Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation will grow future servant-leaders strong in values, academics, and the Catholic faith.

## 2025 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

In 1994, my husband and I moved our young family to Lexington. He and I had grown up in Northern Kentucky and were blessed to have attended Catholic school for twelve years. Imagine our shock when we were told that there were not enough seats in any of the local Catholic elementary schools for our oldest son. That issue has been addressed by the Diocese of Lexington. We have space.

Today we face a different challenge. We have open seats in our schools, and we have families who are unable to pay the tuition and fees. Founded in 2018, the Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation (CEOF) works to meet the needs of those families – through YOUR donations. Approximately \$200,000 has been distributed to the 12 elementary schools in the Lexington Diocese over the past 5 years. Those distributions come from our current \$2 million in assets with an annual distribution of 3-5% each year.

As a vital part of their local community, Catholic schools are service oriented while also building a strong academic foundation. The supportive environment for children of all faiths emphasizes the development of strong moral character. CEOF has a vision to grow future servant-leaders strong in values, academics, and the Catholic faith. Please join us in that vision.

CEOF can accept donations of all kinds, including public company stock, land, and IRA distributions. You will find a list of other opportunities in the Ways to Give section in this newsletter or by visiting our website: <https://www.ceoflex.org>. Thank you for considering a donation to make a difference in the life of a child.

*Dr. Carol Steltenkamp*





**LUMINARIA 2025  
DISTINGUISHED  
EDUCATOR  
AWARD**

*Tracy Cupolo*



**LUMINARIA 2025  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNUS  
AWARD**

*Fran Riddell*

## *Luminaria 2025 Winners*

Congratulations to the 2025 Distinguished Educator Award winner, Tracy Cupolo, and the Distinguished Alumna award recipient, Fran Riddell.

For nearly three decades, Tracy Cupolo has devoted herself to the education, personal well-being and spiritual growth of hundreds upon hundreds of students who have been in her charge. Whether in the classroom or at the extended day program at Christ the King School, students from preschool to middle school count on her energetic attitude and contagious smile as they navigate through their own day. Parents will tell you that perhaps Tracy's most remarkable trait is her ability to show compassion when working with them and their children.

Fran Riddell proves that lifelong connections in our Catholic community can happen with a mere stroke of a pen, a quick wink of humor, and a sprite-like smile. Fran's devotion to her God-given talent as an artist and her servant heart to share that gift in many classrooms throughout the Diocese of Lexington makes her the perfect recipient for her award. She never misses the chance to use her gifts and talents to bring joy to others.



We are pleased to welcome Mr. Faustin Weber as the keynote speaker for Luminaria 2026. Faustin joined Prince of Peace School in Plano, Texas, as President in 2022. He grew up in Mobile, AL, a product of the K-12 Catholic schools, then graduated from the University of Notre Dame.

Faustin began his career teaching, then moved into administrative positions serving as Principal and President of several different schools before moving to Plano. Asked to explain his lifelong commitment to Catholic education, he is direct:

*"I believe the future of our schools is the future of our Church. In a world that too often settles for what is easy, shallow, or fleeting, Catholic schools call young people to what is bold, deep, and everlasting. Our students not only learn how to solve equations or to craft essays – they learn who they are: sons and daughters of a King, called to holiness, made for greatness!"*

## *Luminaria 2026*



A Celebration of  
Catholic Education

# *Luminaria*

April 23, 2026

Dinner and Awards Ceremony with Guest Speaker

Mr. Faustin Weber

President, Prince of Peace School, Diocese of Dallas

The Campbell House  
Lexington, Kentucky

[www.ceoflex.org](http://www.ceoflex.org)





## Golf Scramble



## Stallions, Sips, & Savories



The 2nd annual Stallions, Sips, & Savories was held September 27th at Coolmore America's Ashford Stud. Guests visited with friends old and new while bidding on unique silent auction items as they enjoyed delicious food and refreshing cocktails. The highlight was touring the farm and meeting two Triple Crown winners, American Pharoah and Justify.

Proceeds from this event benefit the CEOF Equine Fund, established in 2022 thanks to the generosity of the Clay family of Runnymede Farm.

## SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE FOUNDATION

Christ the King, Lexington  
 Good Shepherd, Frankfort  
 Holy Family, Ashland  
 Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary, Lexington  
 Our Lady of the Mountains, Paintsville  
 St. Agatha, Winchester

St. John, Georgetown  
 St. Leo, Versailles  
 St. Mark, Richmond  
 St. Mary, Paris  
 Sts. Peter and Paul, Lexington  
 Seton Catholic School, Lexington



## OUR BOARD

Back Row; Left to Right:  
 John Stewart, David Bowling,  
 Dan Bork, Fr. Dan Noll, Don Lloyd,  
 Bill Hoskins, Kyle Lee

Middle Row  
 Bishop John Stowe,  
 Dr. Beth McNulty, Kim Thompson

Front Row  
 Dr. Carol Steltenkamp,  
 Julia Taylor



Bill Hoskins, CEOF President  
 Partner, Jackson Kelly; Parishioner, St. Leo

Dr. Carol Steltenkamp, CEOF Vice President  
 External Chief Medical Officer, UK HealthCare;  
 Parishioner, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Dan Bork, CEOF Treasurer  
 Leadership KY Treasurer  
 Parishioner, Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary

Fr. Dan Noll, CEOF Secretary  
 Vicar General, Diocese of Lexington

Kim Thompson, CEOF Executive Director  
 Parishioner, Christ the King

David Bowling  
 Retired businessman; Parishioner, St. Leo

Julia Taylor  
 Accountant; Parishioner, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

John Stewart  
 Retired businessman; Parishioner, Holy Family

Most Reverend John Stowe, OFM Conv.  
 Bishop of Lexington

Dr. Beth McNulty  
 Associate Professor, Otolaryngology-Head and  
 Neck Surgery, UK HealthCare  
 Parishioner, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Donald Lloyd,  
 President/CEO, UK St. Claire HealthCare  
 Parishioner, Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church

Dr. Kyle Lee  
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Parishioner, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Dr. Andy Moore, CEOF Leadership Council Liason  
 Retired Surgeon, Surgery on Sunday, Founder and Chair  
 Parishioner, Christ the King

Lauralee Estill, CEOF Leadership Council Liason  
 Businesswoman; Parishioner, St. Paul

## CEOF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2025

Adam Bowling  
 Jennifer Brennan  
 Ann Bryant  
 Tim & Anna Cambron  
 Lauren Cambron  
 Angie Beavin Carney  
 Mathilda Carter  
 John David Christman  
 Kelly Colliver  
 Tracy Cupolo  
 Katelyn Dauer

Will Deaton  
 Sara DeMuth  
 Robert & Mariah Dence  
 Angie DiMeo  
 Chris & Diane Evans  
 Fr. Andy Garner  
 Rachel Gerrald  
 Stephanie Hall  
 Kara Heissenbittel  
 Linda Hollembeak  
 Linda Hume

Jay Ingle  
 Julie Klein  
 Julie Kleir  
 Larry McGinnis  
 Marlene McLaughlin  
 Leah O'Meara  
 Missy O'Mera  
 Scott Osborn  
 April Perry  
 John Pica  
 Julie Preston

Joshn & Katie Ruggles  
 Scott Schuette  
 Tara Suetholz  
 Kelly Taylor  
 Mark Taylor  
 Brian & Alissa Tibe  
 Mindy Towles  
 Mary-Alicha Weldon

## LEAVE A LEGACY

We are pleased to offer planned giving as an additional way to support our mission in providing tuition assistance for families with low-to-moderate income. Your legacy gift will ensure Catholic education is accessible for children for many years to come.

Leave A Legacy gifts help ensure that the Catholic Education Opportunities' goal of enabling children of any faith background to have access to a great Catholic education can be met for years to come.

Please contact Kim Thompson, [kthompson@ceoflex.org](mailto:kthompson@ceoflex.org) or 859-303-9555 for more information.



## WAYS TO GIVE

The demand for tuition assistance has never been greater among our Catholic schools. You can help fund scholarships for low-income students this year in many ways.

Contact us to discuss any of the gifts below, or visit

**VISIT [CEOFLEX.ORG/WAYS-TO-GIVE/](https://ceoflex.org/ways-to-give/)**



You can support the Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation with gifts including:

- Gifts by cash, check or credit card
- Gifts of stocks or bonds
- Gifts from an IRA – such as your Required Minimum Distribution or Qualified Charitable Distributions
- Distribution from your Donor Advised Fund
- Real estate, property, vehicles, etc.
- Gifts from bequests/wills, trusts or estates
- Matching gifts from employers
- In memory of a loved one
- Honor an alumnus, class teacher or priest

### FINANCIAL CORNER



Year to Date information through September 2025

Revenue	\$385,872
Investment income	\$269,060
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$654,932</b>
General expense	\$97,937
Scholarship distributions	\$70,772
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$168,709</b>

**Total net assets September 30, 2025 \$2,086,386**



**Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation**  
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The Catholic Education Opportunities Foundation is committed to raising funds for tuition assistance for Catholics and Non-Catholics in grades K-8 to attend Catholic school in the Diocese of Lexington. The Diocese of Lexington was established in 1988, from parts of the Archdiocese of Louisville and the Diocese of Covington. The Diocese of Lexington serves not only the "Horse Capitol of the World" in Fayette and surrounding counties, but also the 40 Appalachian counties of Eastern Kentucky, where 74% of children live below the poverty line. The Diocese of Lexington is designated as a mission diocese within the United States.



[www.ceoflex.org](http://www.ceoflex.org)



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