

THE PAPAL FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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The Papal Foundation Introduces New Leadership; Announces More than \$12.5 Million in Grants and Scholarships

Organization names first lay President of the Board of Trustees - Funds support more than 100 programs and projects on five continents, and 95 students from 35 countries

The Papal Foundation, whose mission is to serve the Holy Father and the Roman Catholic Church through faith, energy and financial resources, has announced a new leadership structure, along with its most recent grants and scholarships totaling \$12,640,000.

Eustace W. Mita has been named the first lay President of the organization founded in 1988 as a collaboration of laity and clergy within the Church. In addition, the Board of Trustees, which manages The Papal Foundation funds, is now comprised of six American Cardinals who reside in the United States and serve as ex-officio members, two lay trustees who also serve as ex-officio members, three Archbishops, two Bishops, and 21 elected lay people from across the country.

“The laity is playing an increasingly important role in the Church, including at The Papal Foundation, where we collaborate with clergy and Church leadership to extend charity to those in need,” said Mita. “In union with the Holy Father, our entire Board of Trustees is committed to openness and accountability as we focus on what’s most important – educating, feeding, housing, and healing people around the globe.”

Since its founding and through the deep generosity of benefactors known as the Stewards of St. Peter, The Papal Foundation has awarded over 1,900 grants in 121 countries. The organization’s most recent grants have been used to help people suffering from trauma and food insecurity; build Churches and retreat centers for youth development; save the lives of newborns in need of urgent medical care; minister to individuals with disabilities; and promote human rights around the globe.

“The Papal Foundation’s grants uplift people all over the world,” Mita added, “in particular the needs of the Church that are of significance to the Holy Father.”

Grant requests are made to the Secretary of State Office of the Holy See through Apostolic Nuncios and local Bishops from around the globe. Once these are processed and reviewed, the Holy Father requests funding for grants from The Papal Foundation. The Papal Foundation Board of Trustees then considers these requests and offers final approval.

In addition to grants, The Papal Foundation funds the Saint John Paul II Scholarship Program, which was the vision of St. John Paul II to ensure seminarians, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and laity from developing countries have the opportunity to study at Pontifical Universities in Rome. To date, the Fund has provided more than \$11 million in scholarships to more than 1400 individuals, known as Saeman Scholars. This past year, 95 students from 35 countries earned this opportunity.

For more information about The Papal Foundation, its grants and scholarships, visit thepapalfoundation.org.

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