



St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation
is pleased to announce the

FATHER AL LUDWIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Fr. Al's journey of faith and his commitment to Catholic based education, the foundation will award annual scholarships as a continuation of his legacy. Three college/university scholarships will be awarded and two St. Mary's School scholarships will be awarded.

Fr. Al Ludwig

Father Al Ludwig was born on December 8, 1933, in Eden Valley, Minnesota. He was raised in rural Stearns County and went on to get his formal education at Saint John's University in Collegeville where he earned his bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Classics in May 1954. He remained at Saint John's and was ordained a priest and earned his Master of Divinity in Theology in June 1958. Father Al received a Master of Theology from the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, California in October 1975.

Father Al served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and earned the rank of Colonel. He served as chaplain at many locations throughout his career including: the 3380th Air Base Group at Kessler Air Force Base, Mississippi; Duluth International Airport, Duluth, Minnesota; Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; England Air Force Base, Louisiana with the 33rd Combat Support Group; Koran RTAB, Thailand during the Vietnam War; U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado; the Bitburg Air Force Base, Germany; the Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; and Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Upon retiring from the Air Force, Father Al served as pastor for St. Mary's Catholic Church from July 1, 1983 until his retirement during the summer of 2007. During his tenure the new church was built and paid for. This was followed by the total remodeling of and addition to the church/education space, as well as the completion of a new Parish Office complex. Father Al made substantial financial gifts to our parish and school throughout his tenure.

Father Al brought energy, vision, compassion and a large sense of Church, including the "small c" catholic or universal church. Father Al's life exemplified a life of service, inclusion and was an advocate for justice. Throughout his career he worked with and for minorities, lepers, those who were unchurched and those who had nothing. His motto "how can we best serve the people" sums up his life. He witnessed the poverty, violence, hunger, disease, segregation, war and senseless cruelty that are too often experienced by God's children. He saw firsthand the toll taken on those who suffer and inflict indignities. But he also saw the strength of the human spirit. So, without regard to a person's upbringing, station, race, history or even religion, Father Al's focus was to serve each member of the human family by whatever means at his disposal. He encouraged us to consider our neighbors as children of God and respect their dignity as human beings "from the womb to the tomb". This belief in service to the human family as service to God is the reason each homily ended with the absolute, unabated belief that if we do the best we can and treat each other with respect, that **"Someday, the whole human family will live in peace."**

We honor his journey of faith, his commitment to Catholic based education and his commitment to our parish by awarding these scholarships as a continuation of his legacy of giving.

Fr. Al Ludwig Memorial Scholarship - Award Criteria – College/University

AWARD:

- Annually
- Will be awarded for a single year or up to four (4) years per recipient
- Notification in May
- Minimum Amount \$1,000, up to \$5,000
 - 1 Student attending or enrolled at St. John's University, Collegeville MN
 - 1 Student attending or enrolled at the College of St Benedict, St. Joseph MN
 - 1 Student attending another Catholic University or College

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligible recipient or immediate family member of recipient MUST be a registered member of The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria MN
- University or College Applicants must be attending or enrolled in a Catholic University or College
- Renewable: Not automatic
 - * applicant must re-apply each year, minimum GPA 2.5
 - * existing college applicants need to provide college transcripts
- Scholarship Application Deadline: March 1
- Scholarship Application Process: Paper only
 - To be mailed or delivered to The Church of St. Mary Parish Office at 420 Irving Street, Alexandria MN 56308 or emailed to stmary@stmaryalexandria.org

ITEMS you will need to complete and submit with application:

Essay: Father Al Ludwig's belief in service to the human family, and service to God, is the reason why each of his homilies ended with the absolute, unabated belief that if we do the best we can, treat each other with respect, that **"Someday, the whole human family will live in peace!"**

- In 500 words or less please have your essay reflect on what Father Al's message means to you and how you have demonstrated this in your life.

List of Activities for:

- Community Service i.e. civic and church volunteer activities
- Extracurricular school activities i.e. school activities that are not graded
- Work experience

Other:

- Provide other information you would like the award committee to consider. (Optional)



Fr. Al Ludwig Memorial Scholarship - Application College/University

Please Type or Print

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1

Name of Applicant _____
(Note: applicant or immediate family member must be a registered member of The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria, MN)

Address _____

Student Phone Number _____

Student Email _____

High School or College/University currently attending

High School Graduation Date _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (registered member of St. Mary's)

Parent/Guardian Address (if different from student) _____

College or University you most likely will be attending _____
(Note: Must be a Catholic University or College)

Area of Study _____

Student Signature _____



St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation

St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 2015. It was created by, for and to the parishioners of St. Mary's. Through a Board of Directors, and with the assistance of CommunityGiving, through the Alexandria Area Community Foundation, St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation manages a portfolio of assets to support evangelization and catechesis of the next generation in a myriad of ways. In essence, it is really a continued call and tool to see "stewardship as a way of life."

What's a Foundation? A foundation is an entity formed to support charitable activities by making grants to unrelated organizations or individuals. This is done primarily by managing a portfolio of assets and using the interest income as the source of grants, while leaving the principal alone in continued management. Essentially delivering an annuity stream of grants for charitable causes.

Why a Foundation? First, St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation (Foundation) is a completely separate entity from the parish, the priest, or the diocese. Funds are not and cannot be used for any such purpose not approved by the Board, or by any outside agency. Fund security and protection is a key benefit of a foundation. Second, the Foundation gives a trusted place for legacy-type gifts from parishioners, in the form of bequests, insurance policies, stocks and retirement funds. The Foundation can also accept smaller yearly contributions, however the peace-of-mind to have a safe and secure place for larger donations is what the Foundation was really intended to provide. Collectively through these legacy-gifts from our parishioners there is significant fund growth over the years ("many hands make light work"), which adds to the sustainability and the power in which the Foundation can help facilitate even more charitable causes, evangelization and catechesis for the next generation, and the next.

Who Benefits? In short, the parishioners of St. Mary's. The Foundation focuses on four areas of giving in our community: 1) Vocations, 2) Facilities, 3) School & Faith Formation, and 4) Music & Liturgy. If a committee or organization needs help in any of these areas, a request can be sent in writing to the Foundation Board for review.

Who Has Been Helped? St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation has granted many requests since its inception. They have supported our St. Mary's youth on a Grenada mission trip and several National Catholic Youth Conferences (NCYC). They provided financial help for an African mission trip and the Diocese of Saint Cloud Hispanic Lay Leader program. They assisted with the upgrade of new interactive displays in the school classrooms and contributed towards the significant sound and audio visual project in the church. This past fall, they helped offset some of the cost for those furthering their education through the St. Mary's hosted Catechetical Institute.

After months of discernment and in continuation of our legacy of stewardship, the Foundation is honored and privileged to announce the creation of the **Fr. Al Ludwig Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Fr. Al left a legacy after his 24 years of service to our parish community. This is just a small way the Foundation can honor him and carry on his legacy of selfless sharing of our God given gifts.

