



# The Found Coin

November 2024

## CGSUSA Philanthropy News

Banner artwork by Dana, age 9

**“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

We are so grateful for your generosity this past year and throughout our 40-year history. As we continue to grow, CGSUSA is committed to providing you, our valued donors, with transparent communication regarding the impact of your gifts and why philanthropy matters to CGSUSA. For that reason, we would like to re-introduce CGSUSA's quarterly philanthropy newsletter, The Found Coin, as a way of sharing the impact of your philanthropy so you can see it “in action” throughout the association.

The Found Coin was founded and written by many of our past board members and donors. As with other things...the world got busy and it went by the wayside; however, it never lost its value and purpose as a tool of recognition and information. While rejoicing in our 40th anniversary this year, we recommitted to you, our generous donors and members, and returned to our roots of celebrating what makes us possible. We hope this quarterly newsletter will make you proud of your support and offer inspiration to continue, renew, and increase your giving throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy the return of The Found Coin!

In this newsletter you can expect:

About the Found Coin

40th Anniversary Spotlight

Pearls & Donor Testimonials

The Lilly Endowment Inc: A Transformative Opportunity

The Value of Philanthropy at CGSUSA

## Are you a philanthropist? YES YOU ARE!

Many people assume philanthropy is about giving large gifts and having buildings named after them. Well...those donors are philanthropists, but so are those that give much less.

Did you know: the definition of a philanthropist doesn't reference dollars?

The Greek root of the word “philanthropy” is “philo” (love) and “anthrōpos” (humankind) - literally, the love of humanity.

Thank you for loving God's creatures well through your philanthropic gifts to CGSUSA!



## Between Memory and Hope: CGSUSA's 40th Anniversary

The beginning of 2024-25 was especially exciting as CGSUSA celebrated its 40th Anniversary! Many philanthropic gifts were given in recognition of this remarkable milestone. More than 200 donors and members supported our Between Memory and Hope 40th Anniversary Celebration by attending the four-day event in Phoenix, AZ, and over 300 more participated in watch parties and via livestream across the United States.

The ability to celebrate at this national level was largely made possible by the generosity of many donors and sponsors. **Examples of philanthropy in action at the 40th Celebration include:**

- 54 complimentary tickets, 40 of which were scholarships;
- Watch party sponsorship in two regions;
- The HeART of the Child exhibition, thanks to grant support from the Lilly Endowment Inc.;
- The technology platforms and communication systems that made the event accessible for catechists across the United States.;
- The countless hours of time, expertise, and dedication provided by the Board and volunteers to plan and execute this very successful celebration.

Thank you to all those who donated to the 40th Anniversary and made this celebration possible.

### Philanthropy Corner

- Recurring donors are some of the most valuable supporters of any nonprofit.
- Recurring gifts allow donors with less capacity to still make an impact by giving larger contributions over time.
- Recurring donors enable an organization to be more efficient as predictable fundraising helps budget planning.
- Recurring donors allow an organization to spend more time getting to know donors rather than spending time asking for gifts.
- Recurring giving is more convenient for donors and reduces their "check writing" time and attention .

*Look for a "relaunch" of CGSUSA's Recurring giving program to offer opportunities that meet your budgetary planning and in turn provide CGSUSA with sustainable gifts we can plan on for services and support.*



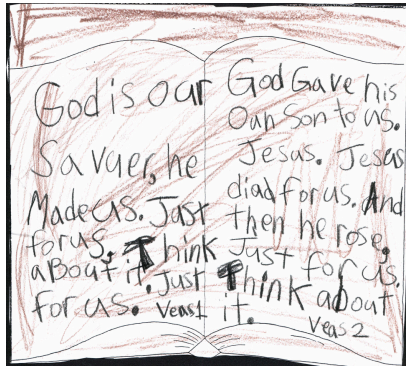
# Pearls of Wisdom

Prayer of Balance  
(Darkness and Light)



Dear God, you are so wise, for the balance that you created in the world is equal. The light and dark are the same, for they are both lit with your shining radiance.

A.M.E.N



**Pearls: Sophia, 10**

**Pearls: Bess, 8**

Dear God, you are so wise, for the balance that you created in the world is equal. The light and dark are the same, for they are both lit with your shining radiance.

Sofia, 10, Tacoma, WA  
2023 CGSUSA Journal

God is Our Saviour, he made us. Just for us. Think about it. Just for us. (Verse 1)

God gave his own Son to us, Jesus. Jesus died for us. And then he rose. Just for us. Thank about it. (Verse 2)  
Bess, 8, Cincinnati, OH  
2013 CGSUSA Journal

## From our donors

### Casey Purcell

*I feel called to support CGSUSA because I believe in their mission to nurture children's spiritual growth through hands-on experiences and a deepened understanding of faith. The CGS approach creates a peaceful, reflective environment that respects each child's unique journey with God.*

Casey Purcell, Dayton, OH

### Jenny Gargac

*Our son received his early faith formation and sacramental preparation in the Atrium, and this has been a huge blessing for our family. Even though we moved and are now at a parish without CGS, it is a joy to see the seeds planted then continue to grow. We continue to financially contribute to the mission of CGS so that many others can receive this gift.*

Jenny Gargac, Ada, Ohio

### Did you know...

- Membership dues only make up around 24 percent of CGSUSA's income? (FY 23-24)
- Formation and E-store income make up about 32 percent of CGSUSA's income? (FY 23-24)
- Over 70 percent of CGSUSA's expenses go toward our mission, vision and purpose, with around 30 percent being spent on administrative costs





The Toddler atrium environment prepared at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024

## A Transformative Opportunity: CGSUSA's Partnership with the Lilly Endowment Inc.

In 2022, CGSUSA, was privileged to receive a \$1.3M grant from the [Lilly Endowment](#) Inc. – a private foundation that has been making significant philanthropic investments since 1937. Having appropriately stewarded their gifts and developed a strong relationship of trust and mutual vision, CGSUSA was honored to be invited by the Lilly Endowment Inc. to apply for an additional transformative grant. This grant initiative, Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer, aims to support creative endeavors that help children come to know and love God and grow in faith.

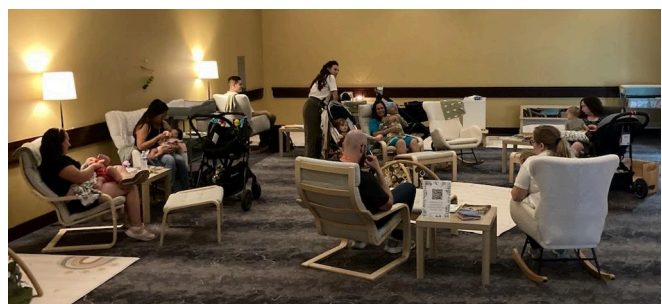
**This is, of course, exactly what we do at CGSUSA.** The Lilly Endowment Inc. would like to fund our proposal to reinvigorate and streamline the Formation Leader Discernment process, recognizing that children come to know God and grow in faith thanks to the nurturing support of the well-prepared adult.

In the process of reviewing our most recent application, the Lilly Endowment noted that another significant grant from them could potentially impact our eligibility as a public charity. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, at least 33 1/3% of our revenue must come from private donations. With multiple years of our private support stalled or declining our, a six figure grant could impact our private donation threshold.

Through our ongoing partnership with the Lilly Endowment Inc., our Board and staff are learning the vital importance of public support to our association as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Grantors and other donors look at the history and long-term sustainability of private donations as an important indicator in their decision making...and you can help.

**YOUR ANNUAL GIFTS ARE NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.** Your philanthropic contributions **today** build a strong foundation of capacity, practice, and programs to sustain CGSUSA **tomorrow** and 40 years from now.

With the end of the year and the holidays in sight, this is a great opportunity to consider where CGSUSA fits into your philanthropic giving. ***What legacy do you want to leave for the next generation of children, catechists, formation leaders and families in our communities?***



Caregivers and infants enjoying the CGSUSA Nido environment at the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress



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# The Value of Philanthropy at CGSUSA

Philanthropy plays a critical role as “enrichment dollars” and helps to raise the bar for exemplary service to children, families, catechists, formation leaders and the many communities served by CGSUSA. This private support is not about “filling the operations budget” that membership and other CGSUSA revenue sources does not provide. It allows for those opportunities that help bring CGS from good to great, adapt to the needs of our ever-changing world and is crucial to maintain CGS’s margin of excellence in serving families.

Private philanthropic support ensures CGSUSA has the capacity to fund member resources vital to our service – today and in the future. Charitable gifts ensure CGSUSA continues to thrive in its commitment to children and families.

Philanthropic gifts help us meet the increasing requests for program development, conference and convention attendance, scholarships, formation, and other benefits without having to substantially raise the fees to meet the rising economic costs related to these activities.

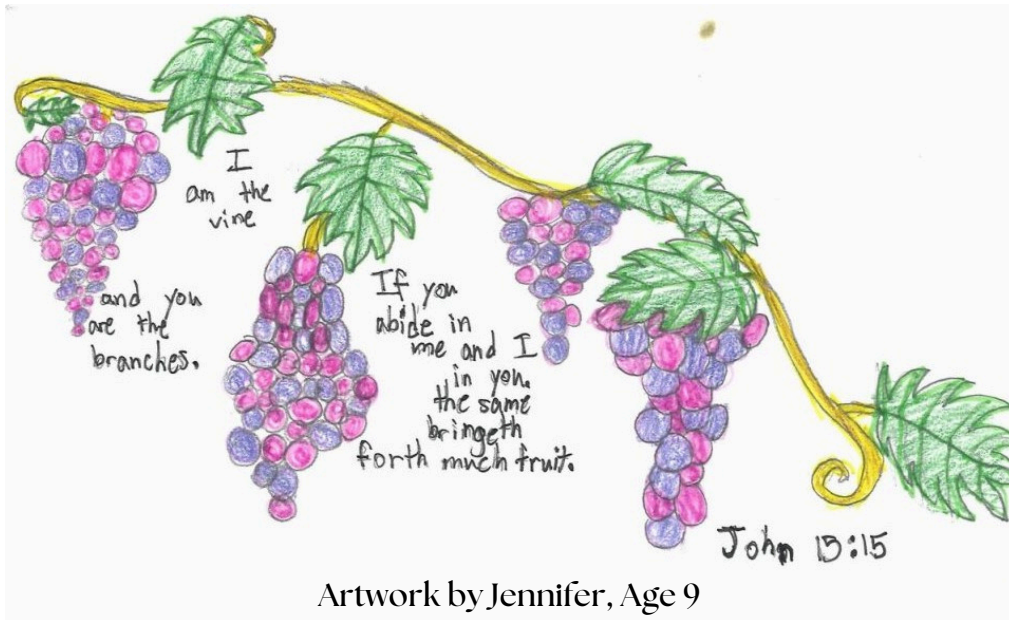
CGSUSA members who chose to make philanthropic gifts beyond their membership dues are men and women who are passionately committed to transforming religious formation through their support.

These contributions represent the confidence of our members in ensuring long term sustainability and impact. This, in turn, gives CGSUSA the credibility and leverage to invite significant intellectual and financial investments from other donors and funding organizations. When members give above and beyond the cost of their benefits...it truly reflects the importance of CGSUSA in their lives.



The 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church - (L-R) Fr. John Schaefer, Catechist and Board member Margaret Schaefer, Catechist and Board Member Davette Himes, and Ex-Bambina Sarah Himes. CGSUSA was able to be present at the convention thanks to our generous donors.

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Artwork by Jennifer, Age 9

## CGSUSA Annual Appeal: Between Memory and Hope

This year, we seek to raise:

- \$140,000 to support CGSUSA's mission, vision and purpose
- \$15,000 to support the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund
- \$5,000 in tribute gifts, honoring catechists, formation leaders, and members
- \$5,000 in memorial gifts honoring those who have gone on to eternal life
- \$80,000 in celebration of our 40th Anniversary, Between Memory and Hope

Philanthropic support to enhances our impact in the following areas:

- Catechist Formation
- Technology
- Formation Leader Discernment, Training and Continuing Education
- Outreach and Atrium Development
- Infant/Toddler Formation
- International Resources and Support for Religious Communities
- Publications, Events and Educational Resources
- Mustard Seed Growth (support to dioceses, regional groups, etc)

*Thank you for reading!*

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