

W. Chase Sanders

Director of Advancement & Mission

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Professional Profile

Catholic advancement and operations leader with a proven record of uniting mission, strategy, and stewardship across parish-school communities. Trusted advisor to pastors, principals, and governing councils in aligning advancement, finance, and facilities toward a cohesive vision of institutional health. Known for collaborative leadership, disciplined execution, and the conviction that in Catholic education, mission must always lead. Currently pursuing the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential to further formalize expertise in philanthropic leadership and institutional advancement.

Professional Experience

Director of Advancement & Mission

May 2024 – Present

Mary Immaculate Catholic School & Church, Farmers Branch, TX

- Serve as the institution's chief advancement officer and member of the Executive Team, partnering with the Pastor and Principal to align fundraising, communications, and operations with the parish-school's long-term vision.
- Guided the community to its first-ever \$1 million year in annual giving, achieved through North Texas Giving Day and collaboration among the Pastor, Principal, and faculty.
- Lead a one-person advancement office, directing all development functions—including the Annual Fund, major gifts, planned giving, donor relations, grants, and communications—while coordinating volunteer committees and managing donor-stewardship initiatives; prepare advancement and financial reports for the Pastor, Finance Council, and School Advisory Council.
- Oversee and project-manage multiple capital initiatives—including the Parish Hall renovation, sanctuary and chapel lighting modernization, Dining Hall Courtyard transformation, and campus-wide security upgrades—from concept and fundraising through diocesan approval, vendor coordination, and completion.
- Implemented and optimized Blackbaud Raiser's Edge NXT, serving as the first user on campus; developed custom reporting and analytics to strengthen prospect tracking, stewardship, and long-term advancement planning.
- Supervise a five-member facilities team, integrating stewardship and hospitality into daily operations across a 14-acre campus.
- Established the Legacy Circle planned-giving program in collaboration with The Catholic Foundation of Dallas, creating a pastoral and practical pathway for families to include Mary Immaculate in their estate plans.
- Implemented an AI-enabled maintenance-management system (UpKeep) to improve asset tracking, vendor accountability, and long-term stewardship.
- Champion a culture of hospitality and excellence, recognizing that the condition of the campus and the quality of every encounter communicate the values of the Gospel.

Director of Youth Ministry

June 2023 – May 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Grapevine, TX

- Directed catechetical programs, retreats, and service experiences for middle- and high-school youth, fostering discipleship and community engagement.
- Led sacramental preparation, adapting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program for teenagers, and collaborated with volunteers and families to communicate diverse opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

Business Development Manager

Aug. 2022 – June 2023

Hulcher Services Inc, Fort Worth, TX

- Managed multimillion-dollar client portfolios across Class I and short-line railroads, consistently ranking among the company's **top five revenue producers during tenure.**
- Expanded regional territory and cultivated long-term client relationships through strategic on-site engagement and consultative sales.
- Coordinated complex, time-sensitive projects requiring 24/7 responsiveness, reinforcing adaptability, communication, and operational precision.

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug. 2021 – Aug. 2022

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

- Worked under the direction of Department of Neurosurgery professors, completing research in pursuit of a Ph.D. with primary research centered on optimizing drug delivery systems for the treatment of lethal brain tumors.
- Developed skills in project design and management, data collection, analysis, and communicating results.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Jan. 2019 – June 2021

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

- Collaborated with graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and senior scientists in the College of Medicine, gaining hands-on experience in a research-intensive environment focusing on therapeutic treatments for Alzheimer's Disease and cancer.

Education

B.S., Chemistry, Cum Laude – *University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY*

Professional Formation

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- **University of Dayton – Institute for Pastoral Initiatives** (*Online – Dayton, OH, Fall 2025*)
Currently enrolled: *The Cadence of Catholic School Development/Advancement: Connecting the Dots* — a for-credit professional-development course offered in partnership with the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD).
 - **ISPD Summer Development School 2025** (*New Orleans, LA – June 2025*)
Advanced formation in Catholic-school advancement, major gifts, and strategic development planning.
 - **Advancing toward Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential**
Working toward professional certification to formalize expertise in philanthropic leadership and institutional advancement.