



# AVE MARIA RISING DIVIDEND FUND

## Q4 2022 COMMENTARY

For the three months ended December 31, 2022, the total return on the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund (AVEDX) was 11.95%, compared to 13.59% for the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Value Index. The returns for the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund compared to its benchmark as of December 31, 2022 were:

	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.^	5 Yrs.^	10 Yrs.^	Since Inception^*	Prospectus Expense Ratio
Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund	-5.27%	8.13%	8.95%	11.03%	9.34%	0.90%
S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Value Index	-5.22%	6.26%	7.58%	10.86%	7.87%	

^ Annualized \* Since Inception date is 5-2-2005

***Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value are historical and may fluctuate so that redemption value may be worth more or less than the original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than what is quoted. Call 1-866-AVE-MARIA or visit [www.avemariafunds.com](http://www.avemariafunds.com) for the most current month-end performance.***

For the year, the Fund's strongest contributors were from the Energy, Consumer Staples, and Industrials sectors. Texas Pacific Land Corporation (royalty income – oil and gas) up over 91%, Consumer Staples finished the year up 2.4%, driven by Coca-Cola Europacific Partners PLC (carbonated soft drinks). The Industrials sector was up 2.3%, with strong returns posted by Lockheed Martin Corporation (defense), up 65%, and newcomer to the portfolio A.O. Smith Corporation (commercial & residential building equipment) up 16%.

The weakest performers were the Technology, Real Estate, and Health Care sectors. Technology was down nearly -22% collectively, with only one company, Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. (financial transaction processor) posting a positive total return for the year. Real Estate was -21%, due to weakness in our holding in Equinix, Inc. (data center REIT). Health Care posted a -11% return, with Medtronic, PLC (medical devices) dragging down overall performance, due to its -23% total return.

In the fourth quarter, the Fund added three new positions, A.O. Smith Corporation (commercial & residential equipment), Fastenal Company (industrial equipment & supply wholesaler) and S&P Global, Inc. (credit agency). These companies all have strong balance sheets, operate with competitive advantages, and consistently produce above-average cash flow and dividend growth. We purchased shares of each of these companies when they were undervalued in our opinion.

We appreciate your investment in the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund.



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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

As of 12-31-22, the holding percentages of the stocks mentioned in this commentary are as follows; Texas Pacific Land Corporation (6.3%), Coca-Cola Europacific Partners PLC (1.9%), Lockheed Martin Corporation (3.4%), A.O. Smith Corporation (1.2%), Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. (2.5%), Equinix, Inc. (2.7%), Medtronic, PLC (2.9%), Fastenal Company (1.0%) and S&P Global, Inc. (1.1%). Fund holdings are subject to change and should not be considered purchase recommendations. There is no assurance that the securities mentioned remain in the Fund's portfolio or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The Fund's top ten holdings as of 12-31-22: Texas Pacific Land Corporation (6.3%), Chubb Corporation (4.7%), Pioneer Natural Resources Co. (4.4%), Chevron Corporation (4.0%), Chemed Corporation (4.0%), Texas Instruments, Inc. (4.0%), Lockheed Martin Corporation (3.4%), Mastercard Incorporated (3.3%), Lowe's Companies, Inc. (3.1%) and Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (3.1%). The most current available data regarding portfolio holdings can be found on our website, [www.avemariafunds.com](http://www.avemariafunds.com). Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

**The Adviser invests only in securities that meet the Fund's investment and religious requirements. The returns may be lower or higher than if decisions were based solely on investment considerations.** The method of security selection may or may not be successful and the Fund may underperform or outperform the stock market as a whole. All mutual funds are subject to market risk, including possible loss of principal. The Fund's investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies could experience greater volatility than investments in large-capitalization companies. AVEDX invests primarily in dividend paying companies and it is possible these companies may eliminate or reduce their dividend payments.

The investment performance assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions. Performance data reflects certain fee waivers and reimbursements. Without such waivers, performance would have been lower. The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Value Index is a market-capitalization-weighted index developed by Standard & Poor's consisting of those stocks within the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index that exhibit strong value characteristics. The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is a capitalization weighted unmanaged index of 500 widely traded stocks, created by Standard & Poor's. The index is considered to represent the performance of the stock market in general. Indexes do not incur fees and it is not possible to invest directly in an index.

**Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or online at [www.avemariafunds.com](http://www.avemariafunds.com).** Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC.



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