



# Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund

Q3 2017  
Investment  
Commentary

For the three months ended September 30, 2017, the total return on the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund (AVEDX) was 3.86%, compared to 4.48% for the S&P 500® Index. The returns for the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund compared to its benchmark as of September 30, 2017 were:

|                                | Year to |        |         |         |          | Since       | Prospectus    |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-------------|---------------|
|                                | Date    | 1 Yr.  | 3 Yrs.^ | 5 Yrs.^ | 10 Yrs.^ | Inception^* | Expense Ratio |
| Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund | 9.49%   | 13.26% | 7.21%   | 12.23%  | 8.22%    | 9.12%       | 0.93%         |
| S&P 500® Index                 | 14.24%  | 18.61% | 10.81%  | 14.22%  | 7.44%    | 8.70%       |               |

^ 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.** Performance data reflects certain fee waivers and reimbursements. Without such waivers, performance would have been lower. Call 1-866-AVE-MARIA or visit [www.avemariafunds.com](http://www.avemariafunds.com) for the most current month-end performance.

When it comes to financial markets, almost anything can happen over short time frames. Right now, it's difficult to relate fears of North Korea, domestic terrorism, three hurricanes and Congress' failure to get things done, with the fact that the stock market is having a blow-out year.

Two economic sectors most negatively affecting the Fund's relative performance during the quarter were healthcare and information technology. Positively affecting relative performance during the quarter were consumer discretionary and consumer staple stocks.

During the first nine months of the year, non-dividend-paying stocks significantly outperformed dividend-paying stocks. Our Fund is principally comprised of companies that pay dividends and increase them with regularity. While dividends have added meaningfully to performance over longer periods of time, they are alternately in and out of favor over shorter time frames. When times are good and risk seems far away, the income and the cushion dividends provide in a down market seems like unnecessary insurance. There are always flashier names that seem to have unlimited upside. And nothing succeeds like success. A rising stock price draws more interest and dollars, which generates a further rise in prices, which draws more interest... a virtuous cycle until it ends. And it invariably does.

In managing the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund, we continue to stick to our knitting, focusing on companies that have demonstrated a history of increased sales and earnings, along with the ability to generate a rising stream of dividends. That entails a careful analysis of the financial strength of companies, as well as an assessment of their prospects.

Over time, we fully expect our portfolio of companies to continue compounding their intrinsic value leading to higher share prices. Importantly, the portfolio is comprised of companies that don't violate the moral screens established by our Catholic Advisory Board.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Ave Maria Rising Dividend Fund.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

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® 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, 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.