

SANCTUARY LIGHT

Forever Faithful. Always Illuminating.



The Official Newsletter of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana

June 2025

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Welcome to Sanctuary Light, the official newsletter of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana. Inspired by the ever-burning sanctuary lamp and our commitment to remain Forever Faithful, this publication shares the enduring impact of faith-filled giving. Each edition will shine a light on the people, parishes, and priorities you help sustain—from seminarians answering the call to vocations, to parish communities growing in mission and fellow Catholics who are leaving a legacy. Thank you for keeping the light of faith burning brightly across generations

A New Foundation: Changing the Landscape of Catholic Philanthropy in Acadiana

Founded this past October, the Catholic Legacy Foundation provides a channel for faithful Catholics to make legacy (or planned) gifts to the causes and institutions that have shaped their lives—their church parishes, Catholic ministries and Catholic schools, and other non-profits aligned with Catholic values. Typically, these gifts come from assets accumulated over a lifetime, and are often made through a bequest. But you can also make gifts, for example, through beneficiary designations of life insurance policies or retirement accounts. We're here to listen and to share all the options that are available to you. There are so many!

Whether you establish an endowment or a donor advised fund or designate your gift to an existing fund at CLFA, rest assured that your gift will be shepherded through faith-consistent investments managed by financial experts. Integrating the Church's social and moral teachings into the management of 100% of its financial assets is the hallmark of the Foundation.

Forever the Fire of Faith

Fire is a powerful image of our Church. We see it at Pentecost as it empowers the apostles to take on the Great Commission of Christ: to make disciples of all men. We see it in the sanctuary lamps that burn brightly in every Catholic Church, reminding us of a Jesus who is forever faithful. That's why the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana has a sanctuary lamp as its symbol. To us, it represents all that we as an organization aspire to be: faithfully tending the legacy gifts entrusted to us just as the sanctuary lamp is carefully tended in every Catholic Church. If you believe like we do that

the institutions and ministries that best demonstrate true Catholic faith should live forever, then let us help you build a giving plan whose intentions will be honored for all the generations to come. We invite you to create a forever faithful legacy in partnership with the newly formed Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana. Call us at 337-261-5642 to discuss the possibilities or email mtrahan@CLFAinc.org.

Shining Forth

When it came to formulating his last will and testament, retired pastor Harold J. Trahan knew that he wanted to express his love and appreciation to the predominantly African-American church parishes where he had served during his years as a parish priest. He had been welcomed with open arms, and the friendships made were not forgotten.

“When I celebrated my 25th anniversary as a priest, I had spent half of my years as a priest serving as pastor of four African American church parishes. After years of serving in these parishes, I realized how blessed I was to have had that opportunity. They helped me to be a more compassionate pastor because of their friendship and all that I learned from them,” says Fr. Harold. He also adds that “I became committed to the Catholic principles of social justice” through their influence.

With this in mind, Father Harold has established through a bequest the Rev. Harold J. Trahan and Friends Scholarship for African American Catholics. This scholarship is aimed at post-secondary education, be it trade school, community college, or a regular university. The Foundation assisted him with thinking through the details of his intended gift and will publicize and manage the scholarships when the time comes.

Like all funds at CLFA, anyone can donate to them, and Father Harold welcomes your participation in his scholarship fund.