

SANCTUARY LIGHT

Forever Faithful. Always Illuminating.



The Official Newsletter of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana

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The Parable of the Talents



One of my 96-year-old father's favorite programs is America's Got Talent, which he faithfully watches on his computer. At 96, he has mastered enough technology to navigate YouTube on his own — proof that we are never too old to learn and grow. What fascinates him most is watching ordinary people courageously step forward to share the gifts they have been given, despite the risk of being judged by others. Their willingness to use their talents rather than hide them away brings to mind the Gospel of Matthew and the Parable of the Talents.

In the time of Jesus, a "talent" was not an ability or skill as we think of it today, but an enormous sum of money entrusted to a servant for safekeeping and growth. Yet over time, the meaning of the word evolved to represent the gifts, abilities, and opportunities entrusted to each of us by God. In the parable, the servants

who wisely invested what had been entrusted to them were praised not simply for earning a return, but for being faithful stewards who used their gifts responsibly and fruitfully.

This message speaks powerfully to the work of wise investing within a Catholic foundation. At the Catholic Legacy Foundation, investing is viewed not merely as a financial exercise, but as an extension of stewardship and mission. The resources entrusted to us represent the faith, sacrifices, and hopes of donors who desire to strengthen the Church for generations to come. Prudence requires that these assets be managed carefully and professionally, but also morally and in alignment with Catholic values.

In today's world, not every investment opportunity reflects the dignity of the human person or the principles of our faith. Catholic investing calls us to something higher — to seek financial growth without compromising moral integrity. One of the blessings of partnering with the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana is the true win-win it offers in God's talent show: investment performance that competes strongly with, and often outshines, secular counterparts, while remaining firmly grounded in the timeless teachings and values of the Catholic faith. The Parable of the Talents reminds us that stewardship is measured not only by what we gain, but by how faithfully we manage what God has entrusted to us.

Shining Brightly

Preserving the Legacy of Faith for Future Generations



When Father William Blanda, VF, and the parishioners of St. Peter's Parish established a Preservation Fund through the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana, they did so with a clear vision: to ensure that the sacrifices of previous generations would continue to bear fruit for generations yet to come.

For Father Blanda, the decision was about more than simply setting aside money. It was about creating a sustainable vehicle for stewardship and long-term care of the Church's sacred spaces.

"If we didn't have a preservation fund, then there's no vehicle to carry these bequests into the future," Father Blanda explained. "It has to be placed somewhere, and we chose to put it in our Catholic Legacy Foundation because we know that it's going to be well managed and the best interest of the Church is considered in the decisions that are made."

That confidence in the Foundation's mission and management gives parish leaders assurance that gifts entrusted today will remain available tomorrow. "We can be confident for the long haul that we'll have that money available and that it's being managed well," he said.

The preservation fund is especially important as many parishes throughout the Diocese of Lafayette face the ongoing challenge of maintaining aging facilities. Churches, parish halls, and schools require constant care, and without dedicated resources, needed repairs can be delayed for years.

"Our buildings in the Diocese of Lafayette were constructed by the hard work and sacrifice of people that preceded us," Father Blanda noted. "It's so easy to get to the point where there are other priorities, and maybe money is not as available, that we wind up accumulating so much deferred maintenance in our facilities."

A well-endowed preservation fund can help prevent those challenges, particularly in smaller communities where resources may be limited. More importantly, Father Blanda sees the fund as a way of honoring the faith and generosity of those who came before us.

"We benefit from beautiful churches, parish halls, and schools because of people that had a vision and a dedication that came before us," he said. "It's a way of preserving and being good stewards of the facilities that have been handed on to us."

Stewardship, he believes, is not only about caring for today's needs but also about planning responsibly for the future. The preservation fund allows parish communities to maintain their buildings, protect their heritage, and ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities to worship, learn, and gather in places that reflect the faith of those who built them.

Ultimately, the preservation fund is an investment in both legacy and mission. It safeguards the physical structures that serve as centers of Catholic life while continuing the vision of those whose sacrifices made those facilities possible.

By establishing and supporting preservation funds, parishioners help ensure that the treasures entrusted to today's Church will remain vibrant and welcoming for generations to come.

Planned Giving Primer: Bring a Legacy Giving Seminar to Your Parish

Have you ever wondered how your faith can continue to make a difference for your family, parish, and Catholic community long after your lifetime? The Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana offers parish seminars that help Catholics understand how thoughtful planning can reflect faithful stewardship and create a legacy.

If you would like to see a Legacy Giving Seminar offered at your parish, please let your pastor know of your interest. Pastors and parish leaders are also encouraged to contact the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana to learn how a seminar can be tailored to meet the needs of their parish community.

Legacy Planning Seminars



CLFA seminars equip individuals, families, and parishes to make thoughtful financial and legacy plans that honor God and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

These informative presentations cover topics such as:

- The Impact of End-of-Life Decisions
- Legal Basics of Wills and Trusts
- Giving Instruments Outside of Probate
- Bioethics
- Living Wills
- Your Catholic Funeral



Partner With Us Today
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Let's Build a Legacy of Faith Together

Together, we can help ensure that the blessings God has entrusted to us today continue to bear fruit for future generations. Contact Miranda Landry at 337-243-3758 or advancement@clfainc.org.