

# SANCTUARY LIGHT

*Forever Faithful. Always Illuminating.*



The Official Newsletter of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana

May 2026

## *The Joy of New Beginnings*



May has always felt like a threshold—a quiet but powerful turning of the page. Across our communities, we see young men and women stepping forward at graduation, closing one chapter and beginning another. It is a season filled with hope, anticipation, and the reminder that every ending is also a beginning.

For us as Catholics, this sense of new beginnings carries a special anticipation as we look ahead to the priestly ordinations that will take place in early June. This is a time of prayerful preparation for the men who are about to offer their lives in service to the Church, and for all of us who will be blessed by their ministry.

As a lifelong Catholic, it was only about six years ago that I first attended an ordination. Witnessing the laying on of hands—an unbroken line back to the Apostles—filled me with a profound sense of awe. In that moment,

I came to better understand both the sacred commitment being made and the living legacy of our apostolic Church.

This is where the work of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana finds its quiet but enduring purpose. Through the Diocesan Seminarian Endowment and its individual burses—many lovingly named in memory or honor of others—we participate in that same legacy. These funds are more than financial resources; they are expressions of faith, tangible signs that we believe in the future of our Church. They help ensure that those preparing now will be ready to serve when their moment arrives.

As we move through May, may we embrace both the joy of new beginnings and the opportunity to be part of something enduring—supporting the future of our Church through prayer, generosity, and the legacy we leave behind.

### **Shining Brightly**




Don and Bella Hernandez  
Memorial Burse




Kathy Hernandez and her sister, Pam Rigsby, have created a lasting tribute to their parents, Don and Bella Hernandez, by establishing a burse in their memory—an act that beautifully reflects the faithful stewardship their parents lived each day. Don and Bella were deeply committed to their faith, serving as Eucharistic Ministers and faithfully bringing Communion to residents at Village du Lac and Ochsner’s University Hospital and Clinics. Bella led efforts in the pro-life ministry, while Don held a special devotion to seminarians, regularly writing letters of encouragement to those in formation. Through this memorial burse, Kathy and Pam not only honor their parents’ legacy of service and love for the Church, but also extend that legacy forward, supporting future priests who will continue to shepherd our diocese.

### Planned Giving Primer: Giving that Honors Priests and Seminarians

  
**BURSES**  
A GIFT FOR A LIFETIME OF  
*Priesthood*  
Celebrate the sacred call to  
priesthood with a gift that will be  
carried in every Mass, every day.

PERFECT FOR  
*Ordination  
Gifts*  
A MEANINGFUL WAY  
TO HONOR HIS  
VOCATION.

Through your gift to a burse,  
the call to the priesthood is nurtured for generations.  
GIVE A BURSE. HONOR HIS CALL.

 **CATHOLIC LEGACY**  
FOUNDATION OF ACADIANA  
*Forever Faithful*

As we look ahead to the ordinations in June, a meaningful way to participate in this moment of grace is through a gift to the St. John Vianney Perpetual Burse, which honors all priests and supports those called to serve for generations to come. For those who feel a personal connection to one of the five men to be ordained, there is also the opportunity to begin a named burse in his honor—a lasting tribute that supports future seminarians.

Gifts of any size may be made to the Perpetual Burse, while named burses can be established with contributions of \$1,000 or more, including combined gifts from family and friends. In each case, these acts of generosity become part of a living legacy—strengthening the future of our Church and supporting the men who will carry its mission forward. For more information, visit

<https://www.catholiclegacyfoundation.org/vocations> or contact 337-261-5642 for how to make your gift.