

SANCTUARY LIGHT

Forever Faithful. Always Illuminating.



The Official Newsletter of the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana

September 2025

Nurturing Vocations: A Call for Every Catholic



The Diocese of Lafayette annually publishes a poster with the faces of each person currently enrolled in the seminary. I had never seen this poster until I started working in the Chancery building 6 years ago. Each year, as the new poster came out, I made a point to post one in my office. I loved seeing those smiling faces, and I often wondered what had led them to the moment of decision to attend the seminary.

The call to the priesthood is a mystery of God's grace—yet it does not happen in isolation. Vocations grow in the rich soil of faith-filled families, vibrant parishes led by encouraging pastors, and communities that recognize the value of the priesthood. Every Catholic plays a part in ensuring that young men hear and respond to God's call.

Praying for vocations is essential, but our responsibility doesn't end there. By encouraging young people, supporting parish life, and witnessing to the joy of our own faith, we help create the environment where vocations can flourish. Just as a garden needs tending, vocations need prayer, encouragement, and tangible resources to thrive.

While annual giving to the Diocese covers a portion of the costs, the rest comes from endowments and burses established long ago. The Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana now has care of endowed funds for

seminarians and seminarian burses. Through estate and planned gifts, the Foundation ensures that funds are available for generations to come to support seminarian education, parish ministries, and the spiritual formation that nurtures vocations. Your endowed gifts to the Foundation are seeds planted in fertile ground—investments in the future of our Church and in the priests who will one day shepherd our communities.

When we give from our blessings, we are helping answer the Lord's command: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Together, through prayer, encouragement, and stewardship, we ensure that the Church will always have shepherds to guide and serve her people.

Shining Forth: Thank You for Joining Us



We are grateful to all who attended the recent Foundations of Faith Prayer Breakfast, where we introduced the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana and what legacy giving is all about. The video linked here was part of the presentation, should you wish to share it with others, or perhaps have not yet seen it yourself.

[Link to Acadiana Legacy Video](#)

Your presence and prayers made the gathering a true celebration of faith and fellowship. One attendee remarked afterward: "I am excited to know that I can do something now to impact the future of my church parish." To learn more about how the Foundation is building a lasting resource for our parishes, schools, and ministries, please visit [\[insert website link\]](#) or contact our office at [\[insert phone/email\]](#).

Planned Giving Primer: IRA Beneficiary Designation

Designating the Catholic Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA is a simple yet powerful way to support the future of our Church. By naming the Catholic Legacy Foundation of Acadiana as a beneficiary—specifically for the benefit of the Centennial Seminarian Educational Endowment—you can always be part of preparing the next generation of priests. Making this gift is as easy as requesting a beneficiary designation form from your IRA administrator and updating the Catholic Foundation of Acadiana as the beneficiary for the portion you wish to give. Because IRA distributions left to qualified charitable organizations are not subject to income tax, your gift can make a greater impact for vocations while preserving other assets for your loved ones. It is a

meaningful way to join in the Church's mission, whether it's for fostering priestly vocations or for other Catholic ministries close to your heart.

Making a gift through your IRA is simple and can be done at any time. Here's how:

1. Request a Beneficiary Designation Form from Your IRA Administrator
2. Decide on the Gift Amount or Percentage
3. Complete the Beneficiary Form

On the form, list:

Catholic Foundation of Acadiana, Inc.

Federal Tax ID: 99-4679427

Purpose: Centennial Seminarian Education Endowment

4. Return the Form to Your IRA Administrator
5. Inform the Catholic Legacy Foundation