



BLESSED SACRAMENT LEGACY SOCIETY: SECURING OUR FUTURE

WHAT IS THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LEGACY SOCIETY?

The *Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society: Securing our Future* honors the stewardship of deceased parishioners who remembered the mission of our Catholic faith by leaving a planned gift from their estates to support our Parish or the Archdiocese. Additionally, it recognizes current parishioners who will provide for the future of our Parish and/or Archdiocese through a planned gift. Membership is open to those who plan to make a bequest to our Parish or the Archdiocese or any of its programs, agencies or organizations. Bequests may designate that funds be used to provide for general or specific needs of our Parish or Archdiocese, including the following:

- *An unrestricted gift to our Parish or School, providing support where the need is greatest*
- *Our parish programs or the future maintenance of our church or other facilities*
- *The Archdiocesan Vocations Program or Catholic Charities*

WHY MAKE A GIFT?

As Christian stewards, we are inspired by the example of our Lord Jesus Christ to view our many gifts as blessings from God. Each of us is called to wisely use the gifts we have received and return gifts to our Lord with increase. One way we can do this is to help our Parish or the Archdiocese meet the future needs of others with an estate gift. We may not know what the exact future needs, yet we are able to support the continued mission of our Church to teach the faith and care for those in need.

WHAT ARE WAYS TO MAKE GIFT?

The tax benefits to you and your heirs will vary depending upon the type of gift you choose and the assets in your estate. Please consult your financial or legal advisor before making any gift. Gift options include:

- *Bequests from your will or trust*
- *Beneficiary Designations from investment, retirement or life insurance accounts*
- *Charitable Gift Annuities*
- *Charitable Remainder Trusts*

WHAT IS THE RECOGNITION PROGRAM?

Any individual or couple who has included a gift in his/her estate plan for our Parish, our parish school or the Archdiocese of Washington and has informed us of such intent is welcomed into this special group of benefactors. Through membership in the *Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society: Securing our Future*, you join more closely in supporting the work of our Church. As a partner in our future, you will be further involved in activities of our Parish and the Archdiocese. These opportunities include:

- An invitation to the annual Thanksgiving and Memorial Mass which recognizes Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society members and remembers in prayer those deceased benefactors who have supported the needs of our Church.
- An invitation to Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society members includes ordinations, pilgrimages, tours or other events.
- A Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society Certificate of Membership.
- Mailings that include the annual *Pastor Blessings and Needs Letter*, summarizing blessings from the past year and reflections on future needs of our Parish.
- A remembrance in the prayer intentions of the Parish community and by our priests.
- A Memorial Plaque listing all deceased and living members will be created.

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH?

Planning for the Future of Our Church

Designating a gift from your estate is an effective way to sustain those programs run by our Parish or the Archdiocese, without reducing your current income or assets. Contributions made through a planned gift will strengthen future projects and ensure their continuation.

Parish Ministries and Buildings

Our Parish actively seeks to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ and we face ongoing financial needs. We worship together, teach others and care for those in need. Additional staffing could be used to minister to our parishioners. Future maintenance of our buildings, renovations or new improvements will require funding. Our Parish cannot do the work of Christ without adequate facilities or the people to continue our mission. *More to be added by the parish...*

Archdiocesan Program Needs

Our Archdiocese oversees many programs, offices and ministries that annually educate children in our faith or minister to those in need. There is often much more that our archdiocesan church could do with additional financial resources. There are students who need financial assistance each year to attend Catholic Schools and the work of Catholic Charities reaches out to those in need, whether it be homeless issues, counseling or other needs.

Remembering Our Parish or Archdiocese in Our Estate Planning

There are many ways in which you can support the works of the Church through a bequest. You may designate a specific amount of money or a percentage of the total value of your estate. Some people choose to give 5%, 10% or more of their estate to the Church. If you prefer, our Parish or school or the Archdiocese may be named a recipient of items such as real estate, retirement or investment accounts. Gifts through an estate may also include gift annuities, beneficiary designations through trusts, life insurance policies or bank accounts.

WHAT ARE WAYS TO MAKE GIFT?

Reflecting on Stewardship of Our Estate

Through the blessings of God received during our lifetime, we accumulate various worldly goods. As faithful stewards, we should consider the proper distribution of our assets that make up our estate. Among these considerations should be providing assistance to support our Church. This is a way that we testify to our faith in God and help teach our surviving family or friends that our Lord should always be remembered with gratitude. Even in death, we can respond in thanksgiving to His many blessings in our lives.

A will or trust is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. It enables you to direct, in a very personal way, how your belongings will be distributed after your death. Your will can be more than just a legal document relating how you want your possessions to be passed on after you are called home to God. It can also be a lasting prayer, responding to your faith with a gift to help hand on the legacy of our Catholic faith to others.

Bequests

It is becoming more and more common that a parishioner will make a bequest from his/her estate as a final act of stewardship. Bequests may designate that funds be used to provide for general or specific needs of our Parish, school, or the Archdiocese. A bequest may be included in a trust or will or added as a change to an existing will in what is known as a codicil.

Other Methods of Making a Gift

There are many ways to make a special gift to the Church, depending on your tax situation and personal circumstances.

Immediate Gifts – Cash, securities, real estate or personal property may be donated to the Church when it is deemed an asset that you wish to remove from your final estate.

Gifts of Life Insurance – A life insurance policy may be transferred, making the Parish, Parish school, or Archdiocese the owner and beneficiary.

Charitable Gift Annuity – You may make a gift and receive income for life with annual payments based upon your age when the gift is made.

Charitable Remainder Trusts – There are two types of trusts: An Annuity Trust pays a fixed income, while a Unitrust provides varying income based on a fixed percentage of the trust value.

An Overview of the Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society: Securing Our Future

The purpose of the *Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society: Securing Our Future* is to help ensure the continued growth of our Catholic faith carried out by the ministries and programs in our Parish.

The goals of the *Blessed Sacrament Legacy Society* include the following:

- To provide an opportunity for all parishioners to be given assistance and support to carry out proper personal and estate planning;
- To allow each parishioner to prayerfully consider a gift from his/her estate as a future act of Christian stewardship.