



August 2021

Dear Parishes,

Gratitude and generosity are divinely interwoven in the souls of Catholics. Giving connects us, and we are called to gratefully receive God's gifts and generously share them in service to one another.

One way to be a steward of His blessings is through estate planning. Effective estate planning helps donors give smarter *now* while meeting *long-term* giving goals even after their lifetimes. **However, nearly 70% of Americans do not have an updated estate plan.**

In order to help your parishioners connect giving back with a deeper spiritual motivation, the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) has developed a new resource for you: the Lifetime of Generosity Digital Legacy Seminar. The first of its kind, this 30-minute interactive seminar leads viewers through video teachings and workbook prompts as they discover what leaving a Catholic legacy means to them. The seminar can be accessed at any time or at any place, all your parishioners need is a computer or smart device. It can also be enjoyed individually or as part of a group by your Men's Club, Rosary Guild, Altar Society, and more.

Through the development process, we realized that one barrier facing donors when writing their legacies is the ability to capture this information in a legal document. As part of the digital seminar, CCF is excited to share a **free**, accessible will-writing tool with viewers, courtesy of our relationship with FreeWill.com. By using this no-cost estate planning resource, your parishioners can protect their families and the blessings God has given them while ensuring that their spiritual home, your parish, is sustained for future generations... in an additional 20 minutes *or less!*

How do you get started? If you would like to actively push out the Lifetime of Generosity Digital Legacy Seminar and free will-writing tool to your parishioners, we have compiled a webpage with general resources and a parish-specific toolkit. For more information, please visit www.ccfnola.org/freewill-toolkits. Not the best time to start a campaign? Your parish will remain an option for donors to choose when designating a gift in their wills. Additionally, we will have a Lifetime of Generosity module available to add for all parishes with eCatholic sites.

We are always here to continue a deeper philanthropic conversation about your parish's needs. Please feel free to email or call me at chowat@ccfnola.org or 504.527.5778. If you have specific questions about the FreeWill.com resource, please contact Pamela Richard at prichard@ccfnola.org or 504.596.3044.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cory J. Howat'.

Cory J. Howat
Executive Director