

# Legacy SUNDAY TOOLKIT *for* PARISHES



**The Idaho  
Catholic  
Foundation**

Fostering the Health and Growth  
of the Idaho Catholic Church

**Margaret Hampton, Development Coordinator**

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE | IDAHO CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

1501 S. FEDERAL WAY, SUITE 400, BOISE, ID 83705

208-342-1311, EXT 5139

[WWW.IDAHOCATHOLICFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.IDAHOCATHOLICFOUNDATION.ORG)





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- Appendix B: *Legacy Sunday Brochure*
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- Appendix E: *Wills/Trusts and Estate Planning (online platform - Giving Docs)*



**NOTE 1:** After Legacy Sunday, please do not throw away printed materials (brochures, banners, posters). They are not dated and are intended to be reused. You can then just restock your brochures the following years.

**NOTE 2:** We recognize that each parish is unique. Please adjust the provided materials and language as appropriate to best reach and engage your parishioners.

*Thank you!*





## An Introduction to Legacy Sunday

### What is Legacy Sunday?

Legacy Sunday is a special day in the life of your parish dedicated to honoring the faithful stewards who have remembered the Church in their estate plans and encourage others to leave a legacy gift of faith through the Idaho Catholic Foundation to their parish/ministry. It's a time to reflect on the blessings we've received and consider how we can leave a lasting legacy of faith for future generations.

### Why Legacy Giving Matters

Your legacy gift is a powerful expression of faith. It ensures that your parish can continue its mission of worship, education, outreach, and service for years to come. Whether through a bequest in your will, a gift of life insurance, or a retirement account designation, your planned gift provides long-term support that helps sustain the Church's ministries beyond your lifetime.

### How Parishioners Can Leave a Legacy of Faith

On Legacy Sunday, we recognize current legacy donors and invite parishioners of all ages to prayerfully consider how they might support the future of your parish. By including the Idaho Catholic Foundation in your will, trust, or estate plan restricted for your parish, school, or favorite ministry, you ensure that your faith continues to bear fruit. The Idaho Catholic Foundation partners with individuals and families to create legacy gifts that support Catholic parishes, ministries, and missions throughout the Diocese of Boise.

### Legacy Gifts Can Include:

- A bequest in your will or trust
- Naming the parish or ministry as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy
- Establishing a donor-advised or endowment fund with the Idaho Catholic Foundation

### Why are we conducting Legacy Sunday in November?

- November is the month we pray to the Saints and remember our loved ones who have passed. It's a time for us to reflect on our own Catholic legacy—the **spiritual** and **material** impact we leave on this world.

- November is the month we reflect with gratitude on God's generosity as a nation.
- November is the beginning of the holiday season and when people gather with family and loved ones, providing an opportunity to talk about their Catholic legacy with them.

### Who are the key players in a successful Legacy Sunday?

- Pastor
- Staff or volunteer who work on stewardship directives
- Staff or volunteer who work on communications, including the bulletin, social media, and website
- A legacy liaison or donor who has made a planned gift (a gift made in a will/trust or estate plan)
- Staff or volunteer who are willing to coordinate the initiative





# Communications Timeline & Instructions for Legacy Sunday (LS)

## Three weeks prior

Add to your parish website “Legacy Planning” linking to Idaho Catholic Foundation ([www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org))

The Idaho Catholic Foundation “Giving” drop down menu includes Legacy Giving, Endowment Funds, Donor Advised Fund, Wills/Trust and Estate Planning. Also, there is a “Legacy Sunday” drop down menu that includes “Resources for Parishioners” and “Resources for Parishes”.

## Two weeks prior:

- Bulletin or e-news Ad #1: run *What Will Your Legacy Be?*
- Pulpit Announcement (2 options): read *What Will Your Legacy Be?*
- Social Media: post announcement *What Will Your Legacy Be?*
- LS Posters: display posters in visible places at parish

## One week prior:

- Bulletin or e-news Ad #2: run *Leaving a Legacy of Faith*
- Pulpit Announcement (2 options): read *A Legacy of Faith Begins with You!*
- Social Media: post announcement *A Legacy of Faith Begins with You!*

## Weekend of:

- Bulletin or e-news Ad #3: run *Legacy Sunday is Here!*
- Social Media: post announcement *Today is Legacy Sunday!*
- Display (optional) LS Banner in church foyer/entrance
- Make Legacy Sunday brochures and pencils available in pews
- Father’s homily reflects on Legacy Sunday: See *Homily Help*
- Parishioner(s) give testimonial: See *Lay Testimonial Talking Points*
- Collect any returned tear off reply cards from brochure and mail to Development Office for follow-up

## After Legacy Sunday:

- Bulletin or e-news Ad #4: run *Inspired by Legacy Sunday?*
- Pulpit Announcement (2 options): read *Inspired by Legacy Sunday? Take the Next Step!*
- Social Media: post announcement *Inspired by Legacy Sunday? Take the Next Step!*
- Mail and/or email: LS Follow-up Email/Letter from Pastor – *Were You Inspired by Legacy Sunday?*



# Legacy Sunday Bulletin or E-news Ads

## Bulletin Ad #1: Two weeks prior

### "What Will Your Legacy Be?"

Legacy Sunday is just around the corner! Have you considered how you can continue supporting our parish for years to come? Join us in two weeks to learn how a legacy gift to **[Parish Name]** through the Idaho Catholic Foundation can help preserve and grow our faith community.

## Bulletin Ad #2: One week prior

### "Leaving a Legacy of Faith"

Next weekend, we invite you to reflect on your Catholic legacy during Legacy Sunday. Your faith, love, and generosity can leave a lasting impact on our parish and future generations. Discover how you can ensure your values live on through a planned gift to **[Parish Name]** through the Idaho Catholic Foundation. Stay tuned for more details!

## Bulletin Ad #3: Weekend of

### "Legacy Sunday is Here!"

Today, we celebrate Legacy Sunday—a time to reflect on the spiritual and material impact we leave behind. Consider how you can make a lasting difference through a legacy gift to our parish. Your faith and generosity can continue to bless our community for generations to come. Learn more about planned giving for **[Parish Name]** through the Idaho Catholic Foundation today!

## Bulletin Ad #4: After Legacy Sunday

### "Inspired by Legacy Sunday?"

If Legacy Sunday moved you to think about your lasting impact, now is the time to take the next step. Leaving a planned gift to **[Parish Name]** through the Idaho Catholic Foundation ensures your generosity supports our parish for years to come. Contact us or the Idaho Catholic Foundation. Visit [www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org) to learn how to begin your legacy of faith!



# OPTION 1 - Pulpit Announcements for Legacy Sunday

## Two Weekends Before:

*“What Will Your Legacy Be?”*

[Parish Name] is looking forward to launching **Legacy Sunday on November [X-X]**—a time to reflect on the impact we leave behind for future generations. Each of us has been blessed with faith, family, and community, and we are called to be good stewards of those gifts. Have you considered how your faith can continue to make a difference even after your lifetime? Through a planned gift to our parish, you can ensure that your values endure, supporting our Church and its ministries for years to come. Please pray about the legacy you will leave. What mark will you leave on this work? Join us on **Legacy Sunday** to learn how you can leave a lasting Catholic legacy.

## One Weekend Before:

*“A Legacy of Faith Begins with You!”*

Next weekend, we will celebrate **Legacy Sunday**—a chance to consider the spiritual and material legacy we leave behind. As Jesus entrusted us with His legacy through the Eucharist, we too are called to leave a legacy of faith, love, and generosity. By including our parish in your will or designating a gift through the **Idaho Catholic Foundation**, you can make an impact that will last for generations. Next weekend, we will share more about how you can take part in this important opportunity. Please join us and prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to secure the future of our faith community.

## Weekend After:

*“Inspired by Legacy Sunday? Take the Next Step!”*

Last weekend, we reflected on **Legacy Sunday** and the ways we can ensure that our faith continues for generations to come. If you were moved by the message of **Legacy Sunday**, I encourage you to take the next step. A legacy gift to [Parish Name] through the **Idaho Catholic Foundation** ensures that your generosity supports our parish for years to come in a purposeful way. If you would like more information on how to begin planning your Catholic legacy, please reach out to us or visit [www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org). Thank you for your faith, generosity, and commitment to our parish.

# OPTION 2 - Pulpit Announcements for Legacy Sunday

## Two Weekends Before:

*“What Will Your Legacy Be?”*

In just a couple of weeks, we will gather together in reflection and discovery, initiating **Legacy Sunday**, set for November [X] and [X]. As we prepare our hearts for this weekend, I invite you to ponder a deeply meaningful question: What will your legacy be?

Each of you carries a unique story—a tapestry woven with moments of love, faith, and perseverance. Your life is not only a gift to be cherished but also a legacy waiting to be shaped. On this special weekend, we will explore the divine call to build a legacy that honors our families, strengthens our parish, and uplifts our community.

During Mass, we will discuss the powerful impact of our choices and how they echo through generations. The **Idaho Catholic Foundation** is here to support you in this journey, offering tools and guidance to help you, ensuring that your legacy of love and faith can flourish.

Let us come together to inspire one another, to reflect on the blessings we have received, and to commit ourselves to creating a lasting impact. Your legacy is a testament to your love for God and your family, and it can light the way for others long after we are gone.

Join us as we embrace this opportunity to plant seeds of hope and faith for the future. Together, let us discover the legacy that God has called each of us to build.

## One Weekend Before:

*“A Legacy of Faith Begins with You!”*

Next weekend, we gather to observe a special and meaningful occasion—**Legacy Sunday**. As we come together, I invite you to pause and reflect on a profound question: What will your legacy be?

In Scripture, we are reminded of the ultimate example of legacy that God has given us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He has gifted us the promise of salvation. But Jesus did not stop there; He entrusted us with His legacy through the sacred gift of the Eucharist, a testament to His love and sacrifice.

We are all called to leave a legacy. **Legacy Sunday** is an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual and material impacts we create in the lives of our loved ones, within our Church, and throughout our community. It's a time for each of us to consider how our actions, our faith, and our love can resonate for generations to come.

Join us on November [X] and [X] during Mass, as we explore how we can follow Christ's beautiful example and leave a lasting legacy for our families, our parish, and our community. Together, let us create a profound impact that will echo through time.

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OPTION 2 - Pulpit Announcements, continued

May we all strive to build a legacy that reflects the love of Christ, nurturing hope and faith for future generations.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Weekend After:

"Inspired by Legacy Sunday? Take the Next Step!"

As we gather this weekend, I want to take a moment to reflect on the inspiration that many of us felt during Legacy Sunday last week. It was a powerful reminder of the impact we can have on our families, our church, and our community—the legacy we leave behind.

If you were moved by that message and are considering how you can contribute to the future of our parish, I invite you to think about leaving a gift to our parish in your will through the Idaho Catholic Foundation. This generous act will ensure that [Parish Name] continues to be supported and thrives for years to come, long after we are gone. Your legacy can help sustain the spiritual home we all cherish, nurturing the faith of future generations.

To learn more about your planned giving options and how you can make a lasting impact, please reach out to us or the Idaho Catholic Foundation. They are ready to guide you through the process and answer any questions you may have. Visit [www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org) for more information.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to invest in the future of our parish. Together, let us build a legacy of faith, hope, and community that will endure for generations.

God bless you all.



Social Media Post Language

Two Weekends Before:

✨ "What Will Your Legacy Be?" ✨

Legacy Sunday is coming up on November X-X! This is a special time to reflect on the faith, values, and generosity we leave behind for future generations. Have you considered how your Catholic legacy can make a lasting impact? Stay tuned to learn how you can support our parish through a planned gift. #CatholicLegacy #LegacySunday

One Weekend Before:

❤️ "A Legacy of Faith Begins with You!" ❤️

Next weekend is Legacy Sunday—a time to reflect on the impact we leave on our parish and community. Just as Jesus left us His legacy through the Eucharist, we too are called to pass on a legacy of faith and generosity. Join us next weekend to learn how you can make a lasting difference! #LeaveALegacy #LegacySunday

Legacy Sunday Weekend:

🙏 "Today is Legacy Sunday!" 🙏

God has given us the greatest legacy through His Son, Jesus Christ. How will you pass on your faith and values? A planned gift to our parish through the Idaho Catholic Foundation ensures that your generosity continues to bless others for years to come. Visit [www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org) to learn more. #LegacySunday #CatholicGiving #FaithThatLasts

Weekend After:

🌿 "Inspired by Legacy Sunday? Take the Next Step!" 🌿

Last weekend, we reflected on the importance of leaving a Catholic legacy. If you felt called to take action, consider making a planned gift to our parish through the Idaho Catholic Foundation. Your generosity will support our faith community for generations to come. Learn more at [www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org](http://www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org). #FaithForGenerations #LegacyOfLove #LegacySunday



# Follow-Up Email from Pastor

**Subject:** *Were You Inspired by Legacy Sunday?*

Dear Parishioner,

I hope this message finds you well. This past weekend, we reflected on the importance of our own Catholic legacy—how we live our faith, the values we pass on, and the impact we leave behind for our family and our community.

It is my sincere hope that Legacy Sunday inspired you to think about how you can continue supporting our parish for generations to come. I want to personally invite you to prayerfully consider leaving a **legacy gift** to our parish through the **Idaho Catholic Foundation**. This is a meaningful way to ensure that the work of our parish continues long into the future, preserving our faith and serving others as part of your lasting impact.

A planned gift to **[Parish Name]** through the Idaho Catholic Foundation is tax-free for the parish and used only for the purpose you intend. The Foundation offers many resources and tools to make the process easy, allowing our parish to focus on its spiritual mission without additional administrative burdens.

If you would like to learn more about how you can leave a **legacy of faith and generosity**, please visit **www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org** or contact Margaret Hampton at the Idaho Catholic Foundation, directly. She can be contacted by phone at (208) 350-7539 or email **mhampton@rcdb.org**.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and generosity. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

In Christ,

**[Pastor's Name]**  
**[Parish Name]**

# Follow-Up Letter from Pastor

**[Parish Letterhead]**

**[Date]**

Dear **[Parishioner's Name]**,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the grace of God. This past weekend, we had the opportunity to reflect on the importance of Legacy Sunday and the impact we each have on the future of our faith, family and church community. I want to personally thank you for your presence and prayerful consideration of how you can leave a lasting Catholic legacy.

It is my hope that you were inspired by last weekend's message. I want to personally invite you to take the next step in ensuring your faith and values endure for generations to come. By leaving a legacy gift to our parish through the Idaho Catholic Foundation, you can make a meaningful and lasting contribution to our parish. Whether through a bequest in your will, life insurance, or retirement accounts, your thoughtful planning will continue to support our parish, its ministries, and those in need long after your lifetime.

One of the great benefits of giving to our parish through the Idaho Catholic Foundation is that your gift is used strictly for the purposes you intend and lives in perpetuity. Additionally, your contribution will remain tax-free for the parish, allowing your generosity to be fully directed to the mission and growth of our faith community. The Idaho Catholic Foundation also ensures a seamless process, handling the paperwork so that our parish can focus on its spiritual mission. They are our partners in faith.

I invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity and, if you feel called, to take the next step in securing your Catholic legacy. If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit **www.IdahoCatholicFoundation.org** or contact Margaret Hampton at the Idaho Catholic Foundation, directly. She can be contacted by phone at (208) 350-7539 or email **mhampton@rcdb.org**.

Thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and dedication to our parish. May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

In Christ's Peace,

**[Pastor's Name]**  
**[Parish Name]**  
**[Contact Information]**



# Homily Help for Legacy Sunday

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy

We are all building a legacy—whether we realize it or not. The question isn’t *if* we’ll leave a legacy, but *what kind* of legacy we’ll leave behind.

St. Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 15:58**:

*“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

The work we do for God—the way we love, serve, and give—echoes into eternity.

Each of us is here today because someone shared the faith with us. A parent, grandparent, friend, teacher, or priest passed it on. If they hadn’t, would we be sitting here? Christianity is always just one generation away from disappearing—and that’s why it’s our turn now.

We must pass on the most important truths: not wealth, achievements, or possessions—but **faith, hope, and love**.

1 Corinthians 13:13 says these three will last forever.

And how do we express them? Through **generosity**.

Did you know the word “give” appears in the Bible more than **2,200 times**—more than faith, hope, and love *combined*? Why? Because **generosity is faith in action**. It’s hope made visible. It’s love with hands and feet.

So, we must ask: *Is my legacy one of generosity?*

Scripture is full of legacy-builders—Moses, David, Paul. People whose impact lasted long after their lives ended. Take Moses: Deuteronomy says there was never again a prophet in Israel like him. Yet he didn’t just leave laws—he left behind a people prepared to follow God.

And that’s the invitation for us too. Not to be remembered for our titles or trophies, but for the people we formed, the faith we passed on, and the love we gave.

**Psalms 78:4** says:

*“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord.”*

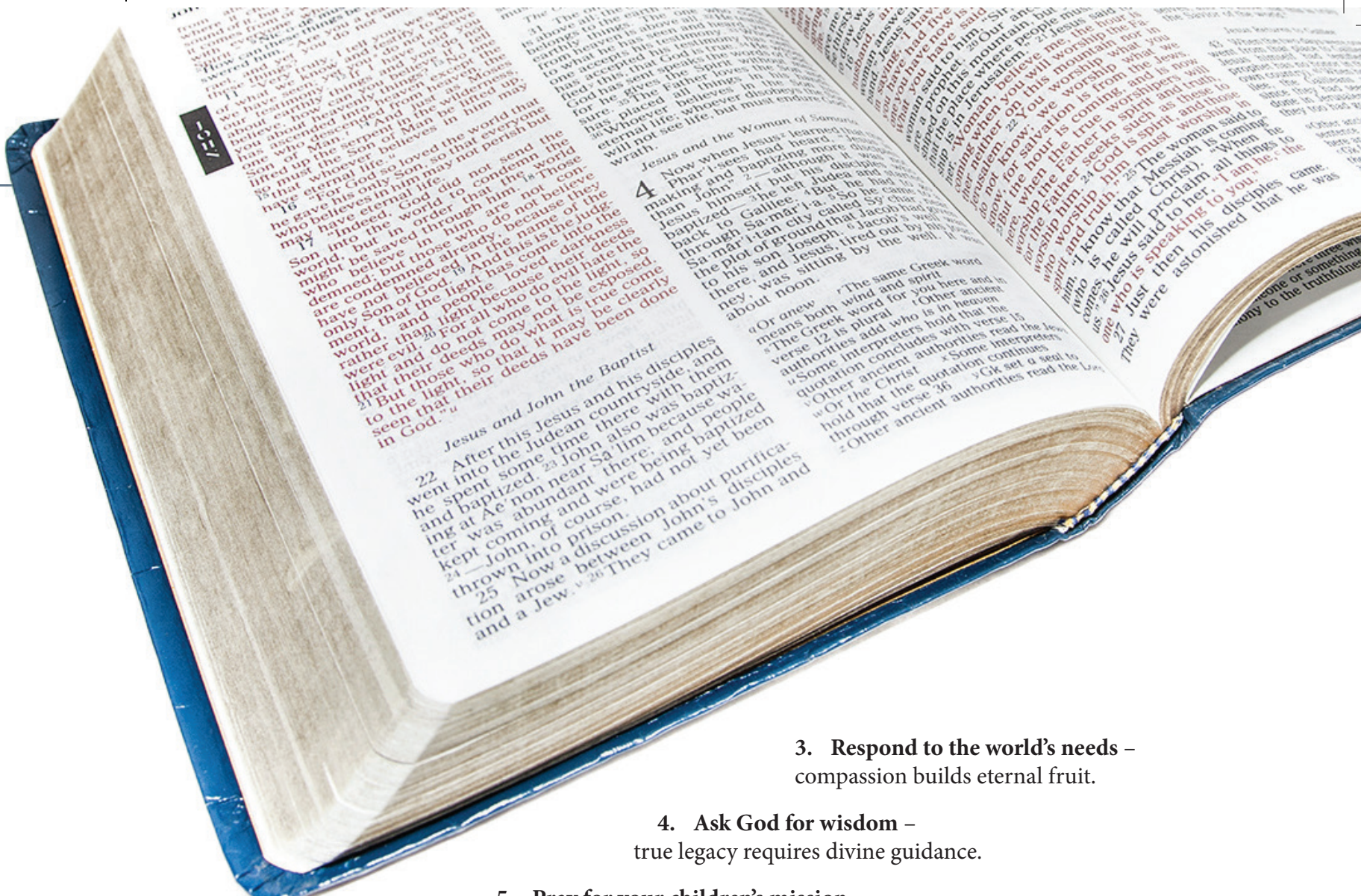
That’s a legacy. Telling the story. Living the story. Giving others the story.

Maybe you wonder: *Have I failed too many times? Is it too late?*

The answer is no. You’re still breathing. You’re still building. And heaven is still writing your story.

So here are five simple ways to leave a godly legacy:

1. **Fear the Lord and obey Him** – your legacy starts in your heart.
2. **Let God work through you** – it’s His power that leaves the deepest mark.



3. **Respond to the world’s needs** – compassion builds eternal fruit.

4. **Ask God for wisdom** – true legacy requires divine guidance.

5. **Pray for your children’s mission** – send them into a future with faith.

In the end, reputation is what people think of you now. **Legacy is what they remember long after you’re gone**. Most of us won’t leave statues or biographies. But we can leave something greater: changed lives, encouraged hearts, and a witness to God’s love that keeps going.

So, what can you do today, to build that kind of legacy tomorrow?

Let us live generously. Let us love deeply. And let us pass on a faith that lasts forever.

**As part of Legacy Sunday, I invite you to prayerfully consider including your parish in your will or estate plans.** Of course, we begin by taking care of our families—that’s both natural and faithful. But once your loved ones are provided for, consider including the Church as one of your children—a part of your family that has nurtured your soul, formed your values, and walked with you through life.

Your gift can ensure that the faith you’ve lived continues to flourish—for your children, their children, and all those who will come after.

Because your legacy—rooted in Christ—can be a light that never goes out.

Amen.



# Talking Points for Lay Leaders – Legacy Sunday

## 1. Introduction

- Introduce yourself and your connection to the parish.
- Briefly explain that today you're here to speak about the future of the parish — long after we're gone.

## 2. Why Legacy Sunday?

- Legacy Sunday is a special weekend to encourage parishioners to prayerfully consider including the church in their will or estate plans.
- It's about ensuring the parish remains vibrant and financially supported for future generations.

## 3. The Power of Legacy

- Legacy is more than money — it's about values, faith, and spiritual impact.
- Reference Scripture: Jesus entrusted us with His legacy — the Eucharist. We, too, are called to pass on what has shaped our faith.

## 4. Personal Testimony (Customize this to the speaker's experience)

- Share a memory of the parish: baptisms, weddings, funerals, or a time when the parish supported you.
- Talk about a legacy gift that made a visible difference (e.g., a new roof, scholarships, or youth ministry support).
- Explain how including the parish in your will is a way to say thank you to God and His Church.

## 5. Practical Steps

- Let parishioners know there are free tools available: estate planning guides, funeral planning resources, consultations with the Idaho Catholic Foundation.
- No gift is too small — even a small percentage of a life insurance policy or retirement account can have a lasting impact.

## 6. Call to Action

- Encourage parishioners to pick up a brochure, return the response form, or scan the QR code to learn more.
- Ask them to pray about it — this is a spiritual decision just as much as a financial one.

# Sample 5-Minute Presentation for Legacy Sunday (Lay Leader)

Good morning/afternoon, everyone.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is [Insert Name], and I've been a member of [Parish Name] for [X] years. I've raised my family here. I've watched my children receive their sacraments here. This church has been the backdrop of some of the most sacred moments in my life — from joyful celebrations to moments of deep sorrow and prayer.

Today, I want to speak with you from the heart — about Legacy Sunday and why it matters.

You see, just like you, I love this church. I love the way the candles flicker in the stillness before Mass. I love the music, the laughter of children, and the way our community shows up when someone is hurting. This parish has been my spiritual home.

And like any home, it takes care and support to keep it strong. That's why I've made the decision to include [Parish Name] in my will. It's not a huge gift — but it's meaningful to me. It's my way of saying: *Thank you, Lord. Thank you for this community, for this faith, and for always being near.*

Maybe you've never thought about leaving a gift to the Church after you're gone. I hadn't either — until I realized that someone before me did. And because of their generosity, I worship under a roof that doesn't leak. My children/grandchildren enjoy Vacation Bible School. Our youth group has a place to gather.

That's what a legacy gift does. It plants seeds we may never see bloom — but we trust that God will use them to bless generations to come.

I invite you today to pray about your legacy. Stop by the display in the back of church. Pick up the brochure sitting in your pew. Talk to your family.

This is our opportunity to carry the light forward. To ensure that [Parish Name] remains a place of worship, joy, and hope for years to come.

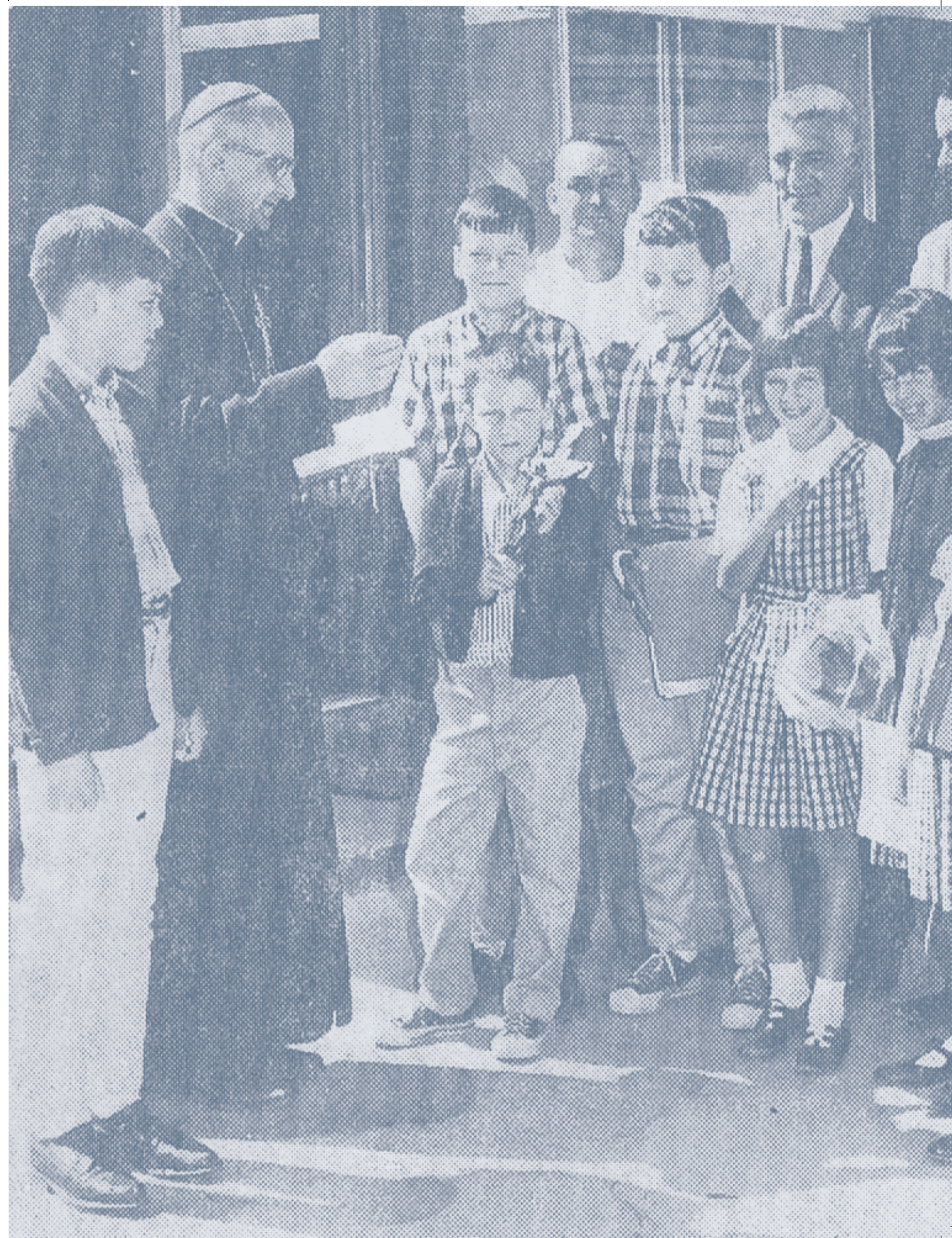
Thank you for listening. And thank you for loving our parish as deeply as I do.

God bless you.





# Notes





# Questions?

At the Idaho Catholic Foundation, our vision is ensuring that the Catholic community and its ministries have the financial resources to serve and make a difference in the lives of current and future generations. We welcome your calls, questions, and inquiries as we partner with you to support the current and long-term financial needs of your parish and parishioners.



**Margaret Hampton**  
*Development Coordinator*

mhampton@rcdb.org

1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400  
Boise, ID 83705

208-342-1311, ext. 5139

