

Jeremiah 29:Eleven

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”*

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FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena

A Ministry of Hope for the Future



Daniel Thies
Executive Director

Hello and God bless!

I am excited to welcome you to a new resource from the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena: *29:Eleven*. This newsletter is named from scripture, Jeremiah 29:11—*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”* The ministry of the Foundation is about hope for our future: the future of our parishes, the future of Catholics in Western Montana; the future of our faith.

In my role as Executive Director for the Foundation, and as a youth minister before that, I have found that we are all looking for the Lord. In every neighborhood, workplace, grocery store, nursing home, and school there are people longing for a true encounter with their Creator. As St. Augustine said, *“You have made us for yourself, oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”*

As the sociological, moral, and spiritual landscape of culture continues to shift, we must ask the question “what does our faith have to say to this new age?” This question propels the Foundation to find ways to support spreading the Good News to all people, and *29:Eleven* is one way we will do that. We know the hunger of people for the love of God. So here we are, gazing out over the precipice of a new age for the Church. At the Foundation, we are not afraid, but rather have great hope in a renewed apostolic zeal that sends each one of us out to bring Jesus and the depths of his love to all people.

The Foundation’s mission is “to serve and strengthen the people, parishes, ministries and apostolic mission of the Diocese of Helena.” We know our parishes, and our faith needs as much long-term financial backing as we can muster TODAY. This is what we do at the Foundation. We invite people to invest in the future of our faith. We build endowed funds for parishes and ministries that will continue to pay out earnings and preserve the principal of every gift in perpetuity. In other words, your generosity will support your children’s, children’s, children’s faith. I can’t think of a better rate of return than the salvation of souls for generations!

I want to invite you into this mission, because I have experienced the excitement of participating in the great hope of our Lord and His Kingdom come. Let us together, through Him, with Him and in Him, begin to build TODAY the dream of our faith for tomorrow!

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home, and school there are people
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A Prayer by St. Teresa of Calcutta

In the month of September we remember Mother Teresa’s feast day and this prayer she prayed daily. It reminds us that the reason we care for the bodily needs of others is that our love for them makes us long to bring their souls to Christ.



Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.

By reciting this daily prayer, Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that Christians must act as Christ did so that others may not only hear His words but may see Him in everything we do.

FACTS & FIGURES

Building the future of our faith

The MISSION of the Foundation is to *serve and strengthen the people, parishes, ministries and apostolic mission of the Diocese of Helena.*

Here are a few numbers that demonstrate how we do that . . .



\$1.1 Million
Grants Awarded to Parishes/
Ministries since 2007

\$13+ Million
Distributed from endowments
to Parishes/Ministries

\$36 Million
in Endowments

\$100K+
awarded in grants this year

We talk about our goals in dollar amounts, but the true ministry is bringing people closer to God. We raise funds in thanksgiving for all we have been given and for all that we get to experience and we invite you to join this effort, by making a planned gift or a straight-forward donation.



YOU did it!

Your generous donations and Christ-filled hearts helped the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena to obtain the \$50K match for the Priestly Formation and Development Endowment!

Together we raised \$100,000 total to support our priests from seminary through retirement. You made a tremendous difference that will be experienced by generations to come!

A Truly Beautiful Thank You

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Hamilton just seems to do things right. With the help of a couple of estate gifts and outstanding leadership, they have built a solid financial future for their parish using annuities and endowments.

When it was announced that Fr. Jim Connor would be retiring from St. Francis this summer, the parish community decided to give him a gift . . . a really smart gift. The parishioners purchased an annuity for Fr. Connor.

So what's an annuity? It's a "planned" gift. It's an investment that is great for retirement (the reason the parish gave it to Fr. Connor) *AND* a gift for a parish or ministerial endowment in the future. In this instance, the annuity provides a little extra money for retirement for Fr. Connor, then, when he passes, the remainder goes to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish endowment at the Foundation, which pays quarterly distributions to the parish each year.

When an individual person or couple buys an annuity through the Foundation, they can receive a 40% Montana tax credit as well, courtesy of the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. Annuities from the Foundation start at \$2,500. Each household is eligible for up to \$10,000 Montana tax credit per spouse (\$20,000 total). If you gift stock with significant gains, it could produce even more savings.

This gift to Fr. Connor shows the love his parish has for him. The Foundation was honored to help provide the annuity that created this beautiful thank you.

If you are interested in learning more about how an annuity can provide you a 40% tax credit through a gift to your parish, please contact Daniel Thies, (406)389-7051.



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graces of
giving at
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