



*Church of
Saint Ann
Legacy Society*

289 Arch Road, Avon, Connecticut 06001

April 20, 2016

Dear Valued Parishioner,

Several months ago in the NEXUS, I wrote about my intention to establish the **Church of Saint Ann Legacy Society** known also referred to as "**Planting Seeds for the Coming Harvest.**" Today I am pleased to officially announce its commencement. This Legacy Society will recognize and honor donors of specific bequests to the Church of Saint Ann **to be used solely for the benefit of our very own parish.** The Archdiocese is encouraging each individual parish to seek its own estate gifts.

Parishioners will be able to **celebrate our past and preserve our future** by becoming members of a Society committed to **planting seeds for the coming harvest.** Bequests will be used to support our thriving ministries and programs of social outreach. These collective efforts serve to make Saint Ann's a beacon of light in a secular world. It is only with dedicated parishioners like you that we will have the ability to continue our mission as a Catholic parish.

Over the years, our parish has received an extraordinary legacy from previous generations: a vibrant faith community of worship and service; the inheritance of a beautiful church; a strong financial footing; wonderful memories of parish events; and the lifelong Catholic formation of many people strengthened on their path of salvation. For generations, our Catholic parish community has raised families, received the sacraments, and laid loved ones to eternal rest. **The generosity of those who have preceded us and sacrificed for us has enabled Saint Ann's to always be there to serve and to console. What we do, why we do it and whom we serve, must continue for generations to come.**

The gift of a bequest flows not from a parish's financial need but rather from a parishioner's personal interest, engagement, and loyalty. **What is important is that the gift is meaningful to the donor. All people search for meaning and desire to be part of something life giving and consequential and most want to contribute in meaningful ways.** What could be more meaningful than to help execute and continue the mission of Saint Ann's parish, which makes a measureable difference on so many levels.

People love the Church... they love their parish ...they include the parish in their will ... and thereby make Saint Ann's a member of their family. Because your gift will augment our endowment fund, you will see yourself as remaining an integral part of Saint Ann's parish mission. **What we do as a people of faith on our journey to the Father speaks clearly to all who worship in this sacred space called Saint Ann's that the power and presence of God is a real treasure in our lives.** I pray that as you contemplate "Planting Seeds for the Coming Harvest" you will be as reckless in your generosity to the Church of Saint Ann as God has been in showering gifts upon you.

With prayerful gratitude,

John W. McHugh
Pastor