

Planned Giving Tip
May 2006
The Role & Influence of the Pastor

I recently spoke with a pastor who informed me that in the last ten years his parish has received more than \$3 million in bequests from various parishioners. When asked why he thought the donors had made these important gifts, he said something interesting.

He told me that a pastor from the recent past used to make an annual financial report to the parish. During the report he reminded his parishioners of the importance of having a will to ensure that their estate was distributed according to their wishes, not the wishes of a court appointed guardian. He gently reminded them during the report that bequests to the parish in their will would go a long way to help the parish achieve its short-term goals and its long-term mission.

The pastor then told me that even though he wasn't the one to plant the seeds years ago, he got to bear the fruit of the former pastor's good work. Of course there is no way to prove he was right because the individuals never informed the parish of their bequests ahead of time (which is the norm). Regardless it is still a good practice, one that he continues to implement each year

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Planned Giving Message for the Bulletin

FATHER'S DAY

Create a very special remembrance of a very special father: a planned gift to our endowment. Your gift provides permanent, ongoing financial support. Learn how you can give a planned gift that allows, through his remembrance, him to keep passing on the faith that he tried to instill in you. Contact _____

Keep planting seeds!