



Seasons of Generosity – Planned Giving

Session Two ~ Stores that Sustain Us

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Opening Prayer

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O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Welcome



Scripture Grounding

Scripture: Genesis 12:1–4a (NRSV)

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

Called to be a blessing



We are Called to be a Blessing

Faith That Extends Beyond Us

- ▶ God's promises are always communal
- ▶ Our faith is shaped by those who came before us
- ▶ What we receive, we are invited to pass on



Called to be a Blessing



The Power of Story

Why Stories Matter

- ▶ Stories make generosity visible
- ▶ Stories connect faith to real lives
- ▶ Stories invite others into hope and trust



Storytelling and Legacy

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The Saints Among Us

Honoring Those Who Came Before

- ▶ Faithful givers, leaders, and servants
- ▶ Often quiet, rarely celebrated
- ▶ Their lives continue to bear fruit

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.

You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
in church, by the sea, in the house next door,
they are saints of God whether rich or poor,
and I mean to be one too.

I Sing of Song of the Saints of God,
Hymnal 1982, 293, v. 3

Storytelling and Legacy



Legacy Societies as Storytelling Communities

More Than Recognition

- ▶ A way to honor faithfulness
- ▶ A way to tell and preserve stories
- ▶ A way to invite others into the ongoing story



Storytelling and Legacy



A Question for Reflection

What Story Is Being Told?

- ▶ About your parish?
- ▶ About generosity?
- ▶ About faith lived over time?

Storytelling and Legacy



For your Breakout Groups

In Your Breakout Group

- ▶ Who are the saints of your church?
- ▶ What stories do you hope people will tell about you or your parish?
- ▶ What is one next step your parish could take to tell its generosity story?

Small-Group Work



Looking Ahead

Carrying the Story Forward

- ▶ We are blessed to be a blessing
- ▶ Our stories invite others into generosity



Closing



Closing Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you knit together your faithful people of all times and places into one communion: Grant that we, who remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us, may also share in their faith and generosity, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing





Thank you!

For more information, resources, and videos, find us at www.tens.org

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