



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Administrators  
FROM: Bettina Alonso *BA*  
CC: The Reverend Monsignor Joseph LaMorte  
DATE: November 4, 2019  
SUBJECT: Will Seminars

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Dear Pastors and Administrators,

As you read in my recent email, the Planned Giving Office recently sent out a newsletter that encourages parishioners to express their faith through their estate planning. We believe fully that a will is more than just a legal document; it is an expression of what that person most believed and what they felt was most important in their lifetime.

Given the gravity of drafting something so serious, it is normal that many parishioners feel overwhelmed by the process. The Planned Giving Office would like to be able to offer guidance to these parishioners and ensure that they never feel alone while taking the first steps in the process of estate planning.

To assist in this effort, Planned Giving has been hosting will seminars throughout parishes in the archdiocese to encourage parishioners to remember their parish in their will. In the past two years, we have held 11 will seminars in various counties and have received 24 bequest notifications as a result.

These seminars are entirely free of charge and are often presented by a local attorney who can answer the questions that parishioners may have that you or I would be unable to answer. All materials are provided by the Planned Giving Office and all that the parish has to do is host.

Parishioners leave these seminars with more knowledge and confidence in their future planning. Relieving them of their anxieties about wills and estates goes a long way in informing them that they are not alone in this process. Their faith, their pastor, and their archdiocese can guide them towards a more secure future for both themselves and their loved ones.

If you would like to host a will seminar, please contact me at 646-794-3393 or [Bettina.Alonso@archny.org](mailto:Bettina.Alonso@archny.org).

With warm regards,

Bettina