

A message from the Director . . .

Raymond Shipman, Executive Director
November 2026

It is a great privilege to begin serving as the Executive Director of the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena. Thank you to so many for your warm welcome!

As I begin this new role, I am excited to promote our culture of generosity and stewardship throughout the Diocese. For Catholics, the concept of gift carries a meaning much deeper than a financial transaction. In our tradition, we are taught to recognize that all we have received is a gift from God. At Mass, we give thanks for what God has given us, and we offer back to God the fruits of His creation, our own works, our very selves. In that offering, we are drawn more deeply into the ultimate self-gift of Jesus on the cross. For the Christian, then, giving is not simply about transferring some finances that we possess. Rather, it is an act of gratitude and an active participation in the life and mission of the Church.

I have seen throughout my years in the Diocese that the Church is sustained in countless ways by people who give of themselves: parents and grandparents who pass on the faith to their children, parishioners who volunteer their time and talents, priests who give their lives in service, and benefactors who generously support the work of the Church. Thank you! I have a deep appreciation for the wideness of the life of the Church in the Diocese of Helena, and for the many people who quietly and faithfully sustain it.

The resources entrusted to the Foundation are not only assets to be managed responsibly. When you make a financial contribution through the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena, your gift is an act of your faith, your hope, your heart, and an act of evangelizing. Our responsibility at the Foundation is to steward those gifts faithfully so that they can bear fruit. I look forward to getting to know you better, building upon the relationships I have formed, and to continuing working with our donors, pastors, parish leaders, ministries, and the Foundation Board to ensure that the gifts entrusted to the Foundation are stewarded faithfully for the generations who will come after us.

May you and your families know God's abundant blessings, and may He continue to bless the Diocese of Helena and all those who give so generously to support the mission of the Church in western Montana.

Sincerely,

Ray

Raymond Shipman
Executive Director

"*And the God of peace will be with you*" -Philippians 4:9

FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena