

## Your Estate Plan

It's estimated that **more than fifty percent** of Americans do not have a proper estate plan. An estate plan, which includes a Will and often a Living Trust allows you to control how your loved ones are provided for after your death; it can also create a lasting legacy of giving to your Church.

The easiest way to make a planned gift is to include a simple bequest in your Will. If you already have a Will, or a Living Trust, please take time to review it to ensure it meets your present needs, and fulfills your wishes. At any time a codicil allows for an added provision or changes to the terms of the Will, as an amendment does for a Living Trust.

### Your bequest to the Church may be expressed in these words:

*I give and bequeath the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_ to St. Mary Congregation for its general purposes (unrestricted) OR for a specific named program (restricted).*

**OR**

*I give and bequeath \_\_\_\_% of the remainder of my estate after all debts, taxes, expenses, and family bequests have been paid to St. Mary Congregation for its general purposes (unrestricted) OR for a specific named program (restricted).*

## ST. MARY

CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY



*But just as you excel in everything -  
in faith, in speech, in knowledge,  
in complete earnestness  
and in your love for us -  
see that you also excel  
in this grace of giving.*

2 Cor 8:7-9

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## Opportunities in Planned Giving



*Creating a legacy  
of Love through  
an act of faith.*

## The Stewardship Connection

In the pastoral letter, “**Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response**”, the U.S. Bishops remind all of us that good disciples and stewards often do the following:

*“As Christian stewards,  
we receive God’s gifts gratefully,  
cultivate them responsibly,  
share them lovingly in justice with others,  
and return them with increase to the Lord.”*

Each generation of Catholics is given an important mission: how do we pass on the faith to the next generation?



Foremost is evangelization - knowing our faith well and sharing it with others. As important, is the careful and prayerful sharing of our God-given resources. One of those resources, *our assets*, includes the things we have accumulated over our lifetime.

As Catholics, we believe that our assets and our ability to acquire them are gifts from a loving, generous God. We have a responsibility to use these gifts wisely and prudently - as well as to share them with others - our family certainly, but also with those institutions devoted to spreading God’s reign on earth.

Bequests in a will, charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance, and gifts of appreciated stock are all planned gifts, or gifts that come after much thought and consultation with a professional advisor. Legacy gifts benefit the parish by securing support for ministries into the future and giving parishioners a way to continue the faithful stewardship they practiced in life.

Type of Gift	Benefit to the Parish	Benefit to the Donor
<b>Bequest in a Will</b>	Bequest could be held in perpetuity and invested to fund special needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate-tax deduction.</li> <li>• Perpetual-gift opportunity.</li> <li>• No cost to you during your lifetime.</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Gift Annuity</b>	Assets that are not used in paying annuity to the donors or others benefit the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guaranteed fixed income for life.</li> <li>• Portion of income is tax free.</li> <li>• Deferred tax deductions.</li> </ul>
<b>Life Insurance</b>	The parish receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive certain surrender value prior to donor’s death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surplus life insurance can be converted to a gift.</li> <li>• Income-tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred.</li> <li>• Premium payments may be deducted as gifts.</li> <li>• Possible estate-tax deductions.</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Remainder Trust</b>	Annuity is paid to the donor or other beneficiaries. Upon the death of the donor or last surviving income beneficiary, the remaining assets benefit the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income payments.</li> <li>• Deferred income if desired.</li> <li>• Possible income-tax and estate-tax deductions and avoidance of capital gains tax.</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Lead Trust</b>	Income for duration of trust helps meet needs that exceed the capabilities of most parishes, schools, agencies or ministries. At end of trust period, principal returns to donor or other beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income payments.</li> <li>• Principal can pass to others with little or no shrinkage.</li> <li>• Possible income-tax and estate-tax deductions and avoidance of capital gains tax.</li> </ul>
<b>Retirement/IRA</b>	Significant gift upon the death of the donor benefits the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income-tax and estate-tax savings for substantial portion of gift.</li> <li>• Protect heirs from tax liabilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Appreciated Stock</b>	Shares will be sold; the full value of the assets will fund parish needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of capital-gain tax.</li> <li>• Income-tax deduction for full market value on date of gift.</li> <li>• Possible estate-tax deduction.</li> </ul>