



Catholic Foundation of West Tennessee

FAQs ABOUT MAKING GIFTS IN YOUR WILL

What are my options if I have assets to give but don't want to lose their benefits right now?

Bequest: Your will can provide a percentage of your estate value to the Church or name the Church as a remainder beneficiary. Either way, you maintain use of the assets for your lifetime.

Charitable Remainder Trust: Establish a trust that provides you with tax benefits and a lifetime stream of income. Only upon death does the Church receive the asset(s).

What options do I have for assets I don't need now but might need later in life?

Life Insurance: Purchase a paid-up insurance policy and name the Church as beneficiary. You receive any income stream from the policy and can redeem the policy later, if necessary. There is no tax benefit for this option.

Charitable Lead Trust: Create a lead trust using your asset(s). This offers tax benefits to you, and the Church receives an immediate funding stream for a defined period. At the end of that period, the principal of the trust reverts to you.

How can I ensure my heirs receive the bulk of my estate, yet still provide for the Church?

Remainder Bequest: Leave a bequest in your will that designates a percentage of your overall estate as a gift to the Church. No matter the final estate value, your heirs will receive the majority of the inheritance.

Charitable Lead Trust: Establish a lead trust in your will. Upon death, the Church will receive an income stream for a specified number of years, after which your heirs inherit the principal balance of the trust.

What if I have been paying on a life insurance policy for years but no longer really need it?

Paid-Up Insurance: Gift the policy to the Church. The donation may qualify you for a tax benefit, and the Church can either redeem the policy or let it remain in force.

Non Paid-Up Insurance: Gift the policy to the Church and continue making tax-deductible donations to the Church, equal to the annual premiums as they come due.

I have an IRA and do not need the IRS-required annual distribution. Can I donate it to the Church?

You can transfer all or part of your IRA required annual distribution to the Church. You don't pay taxes on that part of the distribution, and the Church receives a cash gift. A Roth IRA also offers benefits but may differ depending on its structure. Consult your tax advisor for specifics.

How can I leave the Church some or all of my IRA or company retirement plan assets?

Simply contact the Archdiocese for specific language to name us or your parish as a primary or a contingent beneficiary of the retirement asset. The proceeds will then bypass your estate upon death.

How can real estate or other assets that I no longer need be donated to the Church?

Real Estate: Real estate may be gifted outright to the Church or through your estate plan. Consult your tax advisor to discuss what is best for you, then consult the Archdiocese or your parish for details on how to proceed.

Tangible Personal Assets: A simple way to give art, collections, etc. is to sell them yourself and donate the cash proceeds to the Church. You then have a clear tax-deductible value and there is no need to obtain appraised values.

I can donate either cash or appreciated stock. Is one more advantageous than the other?

Either option is a wonderful gift to the Church. If the stock value has appreciated since its purchase, donating it directly to the Church may offer you substantial charitable giving tax advantages and favorable capital gains treatment.

