



GUIDE TO LEGACY GIVING

What Is Legacy Giving?

Legacy giving is a way to support the Church and the ministries you care about through your estate plan. It allows you to make a gift in the future while maintaining control of your assets during your lifetime.

A legacy gift reflects your values, supports your faith, and helps ensure that the mission of the Church continues for generations to come.

Why Consider a Legacy Gift?

A legacy gift allows you to:

- Continue supporting your parish, school, or favorite ministry after your lifetime.
- Create a lasting expression of your Catholic faith and values.
- Help future generations encounter Christ.
- Potentially reduce estate taxes and administrative costs.
- Leave a meaningful impact without affecting your current financial security.

No gift is too small. Every legacy gift helps strengthen the future of the Church.

Ways to Leave a Legacy

Include a Gift in Your Will or Trust. One of the simplest and most popular ways to make a legacy gift. You may designate:

- A specific dollar amount
- A percentage of your estate
- A particular asset
- The remainder of your estate after loved ones are provided for

Example:

"I give 10% of my estate to support the mission and ministries of my parish."

Beneficiary Designations. Many assets allow you to name a beneficiary directly. These may include:

- Retirement accounts (IRA, 401(k), 403(b))
- Life insurance policies
- Bank or investment accounts

Updating a beneficiary designation is often simple and may not require updating your will.

Charitable Gift Annuities. A charitable gift annuity provides:

- Fixed payments for life
- Possible tax benefits
- A future gift to support Catholic ministries

This option can be especially attractive for individuals seeking supplemental retirement income.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be wealthy to leave a legacy gift?

No. Many legacy gifts are made by ordinary families who want to support the Church they love.

Can I change my plans later?

Yes. Most estate gifts can be modified if your circumstances change.

Will a legacy gift affect my current finances?

Most legacy gifts take effect after your lifetime and do not impact your current income or savings.

Can I support both my family and the Church?

Absolutely. Most donors first provide for loved ones and then include a charitable gift as part of their estate plan.

Getting Started

1. Reflect on the people and ministries that have shaped your faith.
2. Discuss your wishes with your family.
3. Meet with your attorney, financial advisor, or estate planning professional.
4. Consider including a charitable gift in your estate plan.
5. Inform the organization of your intentions so they can ensure your wishes are honored.

Charitable Remainder Trusts. A charitable remainder trust can:

- Provide income to you or your loved ones
- Potentially reduce capital gains taxes
- Create a significant future gift for ministry

These arrangements are often funded with appreciated assets such as stock or real estate.

Endowment Gifts. An endowment creates a permanent source of support. The principal remains invested while annual earnings support a designated ministry, such as:

- Parish operations
- Catholic education
- Seminarian formation
- Outreach ministries
- Care for retired priests

Your gift continues working year after year.

What Ministries Can I Support?

Legacy gifts may support:

- Your parish
- Catholic schools
- Seminarian education and vocations
- Retired priests
- Catholic Charities
- Youth and young adult ministries
- Campus ministry
- Cemetery and funeral ministries
- Endowment funds
- Any ministry that has touched your life

You may choose unrestricted support or designate your gift for a specific purpose.

A Legacy Beyond Financial Gifts

Legacy planning is also about preparing your family and sharing your faith. Consider:

- Creating a will
- Naming powers of attorney
- Completing healthcare directives
- Discussing your wishes with loved ones
- Planning your Catholic funeral and burial
- Sharing your faith story and values with future generations

These decisions can be one of the greatest gifts you leave your family

Leave a Legacy of Faith

Your legacy is more than what you leave behind, it is the impact you make on the lives of others.

By including the Church in your estate plans, you help ensure that future generations will continue to worship, learn, serve, and grow in faith.

A well-planned legacy gift allows your values, faith, and generosity to continue long after your lifetime.

Note:

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