

GUIDE TO WRITING A WILL

Why Writing a Will Matters

A will is more than a legal document—it is a final act of stewardship. It ensures that your loved ones are cared for, your wishes are honored, and your resources continue to reflect your values, even after your death.

Catholic Considerations When Writing a Will

- **Faith and Stewardship:** Recognize that all you have is a gift from God and consider how it can serve others after your passing.
- **Family Care:** Provide for your loved ones' needs, safeguarding their dignity and security.
- **Charitable Giving:** Consider leaving a bequest to your parish, the Diocese, Catholic schools, or ministries that reflect your values.
- **Funeral and Burial Wishes:** Clearly state your desire for a Catholic funeral and burial according to Church teaching.
- **Executor Selection:** Choose someone you trust who understands your faith and values.

Steps to Writing a Will

Make an Inventory of Assets

- Include property, savings, investments, personal items, and life insurance policies.

Identify Beneficiaries

- Family, friends, charities, and ministries you wish to support.

Select an Executor

- The person responsible for carrying out your wishes.

Specify Funeral and Burial Plans

- Include cemetery choice, funeral Mass details, and any liturgical preferences.

Work with an Attorney

- Ensure your will is legally valid in your state.

Review and Update Regularly

- Update after major life changes (marriage, birth, death, move, or new assets).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I use MyCatholicWill instead of an attorney?

Yes, for most people it's a simple and effective option. However, those with complex estates may wish to consult an attorney.

2. Should I include my burial wishes in my will?

Yes, but also share them directly with your family and parish since wills are often read after the funeral.

3. Can I leave a gift to my parish or diocese?

Yes. You can designate a specific amount, percentage, or asset to support your faith community and ministries.

4. What if I already have a will?

You can update it using MyCatholicWill or by working with your attorney.

A Free Resource for Parishioners

MyCatholicWill is a free online Catholic will-writing program available to all Catholics in the Diocese of Memphis.

It allows you to:

- Create a legally valid will in about 20 minutes.
- Include your wishes for a Catholic funeral and burial.
- Support your parish or ministries through optional bequests.
- Receive guidance in alignment with Church teaching.

Start your free will today:
mycatholicwill.com/cdom