



DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

Faithful Giving

A GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

Turn Your Annual Gift Into a Forever Gift

Anual gifts are a critical lifeline to the Diocese of Marquette. If you are an annual donor, you know firsthand the satisfaction, and challenge, of being a Christian Steward. We deeply appreciate your generosity.

As you look to the future, you may wonder what will happen when you're gone. How will our Catholic legacy be carried on? One way you can make sure your generosity continues forever is to make an endowment gift in your will or trust.

Here's an example of how that could work. Let's say you give \$1,000 annually to the U.P. Catholic Services Appeal (UPCSA). With help from your estate planning attorney, you include a provision in your will to fund an endowment with a gift of \$25,000. Once funded, a portion of the endowment each year will continue funding evangelizing ministries that UPCSA supports. The remainder is reinvested, which allows it to grow and support annual payouts forever. This generous arrangement replaces your \$1,000 annual UPCSA gift after your lifetime.* The benefit? Your Catholic legacy lives on forever.

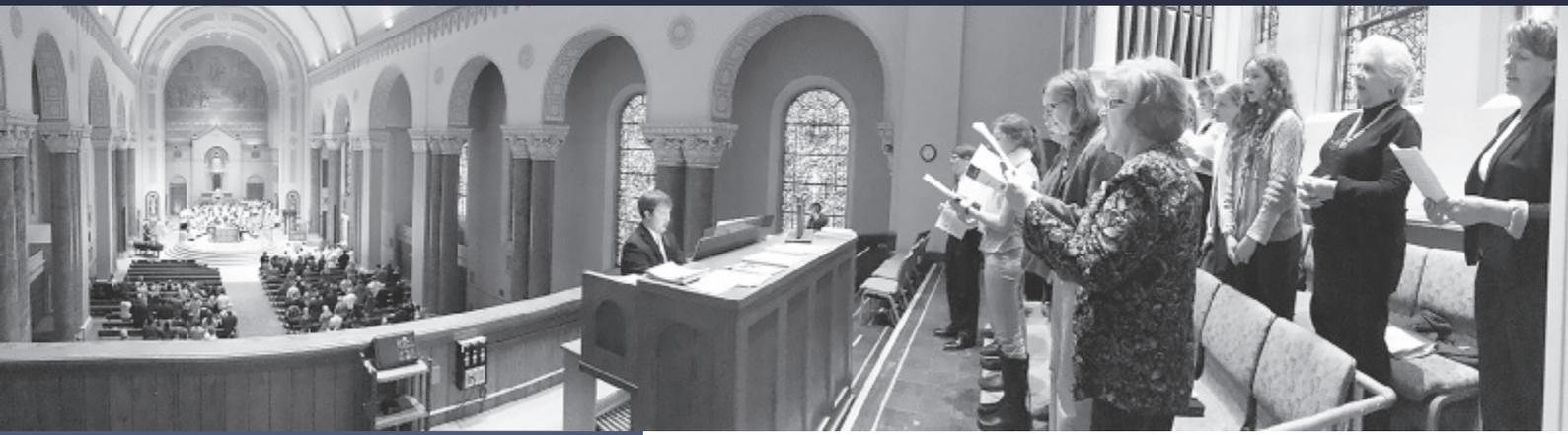
*Assuming 4 percent (\$1,000) is used by the fund annually.



Strengthen Your Catholic Legacy

With a gift of an endowment to the Diocese of Marquette in your will or trust, you'll help ensure that what you value endures. **Contact Terri Gadzinski, Executive Director, Stewardship & Development, at 906.227.9108** to learn more.

Through UPCSA, we work together in the Lord's vineyard to grow the Church in the Upper Peninsula.



**ANY DAY.
ANY TIME.**

Do you want to explore ways to support the Diocese of Marquette? If you've got five minutes, let us take you on a little journey.

- **STEP 1:** Go to www.dioceseofmarquette.org/planmygift
- **STEP 2:** Read about gift planning options that can fit your goals and situation. Use our Gift Illustrator to see what gift type works best for you.
- **STEP 3:** Contact us to learn how we can help make your giving dreams a reality.

A Resolution You Really Should Keep

MAKE THIS THE YEAR FOR ESTATE PLANNING

There are two sure things about New Year's resolutions: Everyone makes them, and everyone breaks them. Typical resolutions are things we know we ought to do, like eat more vegetables. Yet, we often don't follow through. Maybe you've been thinking about updating your estate plan but it's been relegated to the back burner. This is one resolution that you simply must keep.

Why It's Critical

Preparing or updating a will and getting a comprehensive review of your estate plan can help safeguard your family's financial security. If you pass away without a will, the laws of your state determine how your property is divided. If you have a spouse and children, they may have to share part of your estate with your siblings and parents. This can have serious financial consequences for your loved ones. Having an out-of-date will can cause similar problems.

What Is Missing?

- The last time you considered your estate plan, you may have been concerned about the financial needs of young children. Today, your greater concerns may be long-term care planning for your aging parents, or even yourself.
- The life insurance policy that was once "just the right amount" now may be either more than you need or not enough.
- Have you remembered your Catholic Church in your will? To learn how to add a gift to your will or trust, talk to your attorney, or contact Terri Gadzinski at tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org or 906.227.9108.

Write a Legacy Letter

TELL YOUR LOVED ONES YOUR STORY



The most cherished thing you leave behind when you pass away won't be a car, house or bank account. It'll likely be something much more personal. A legacy letter can be a touching way to pass down the Catholic faith. Sharing our faith with others is an essential element of following Jesus. It is not optional.

- **Write a letter.** It's the easiest way to create a permanent record of your values.
- **Add photos to your letter.** Pictures of you, your adventures and your relationships help tell your story. Include sacramental photos: baptism, wedding, etc.
- **Consider creating a website** or a social media post to complement the letter and provide a share-ready version for your family. Film a video testimonial to provide an added dimension and tell your story in your own voice.

Questions to Ask

In preparing your story, think about the experiences that shaped your values. The following questions can help you get started.

1. What faith values are most important to you? How do you follow these in your daily life?

2. What major events affected your view of life?

3. How have you experienced the love and grace of God?

4. What are you most grateful for personally and professionally?

5. What are the most important lessons you have learned from your loved ones, friends or colleagues?

6. What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

7. What advice do you want to leave your loved ones?



Once you've jotted down some initial thoughts, you can begin to weave those values and beliefs into your legacy letter. Remember to share your connection to the Diocese of Marquette in your letter and feel free to contact Terri Gadzinski at 906.227.9108 or tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org if you would like to include a gift to the Church as part of your legacy.



Plan Now for the Future

Plan thoughtfully for the future. Use the enclosed reply card today to receive your FREE copy of *Estate Planning Starters* to learn about creating (or updating) your estate plan.



Ashes are a visible sign of following Jesus.

Determine Your Estate Size in 4 Steps



It's important to know the scope and value of your estate. After all, you can't decide what to leave to others if you aren't sure what you own. Here are four steps you can take to determine the size of your estate.

Step 1: List Your Major Assets

Assets can include many things, such as:

- Your home, land and other real property
- Stocks and bonds
- Cash, including savings accounts and CDs
- Tangible personal property (including autos, jewelry and antiques)
- Assets in which you have an income interest (such as an annuity)
- Retirement accounts such as 401(k)s or IRAs
- Life insurance
- Equity/ownership interest in a business like a sole proprietorship or partnership

Step 2: Assign a Value

Use the current market value for your major assets. Don't strive for exact amounts. Rounded numbers are fine.

Step 3: Determine How and With Whom Your Assets Are Owned

Ownership generally falls into three categories: solely owned, jointly owned with rights of survivorship and tenancy in common. Owning an asset with your brother is different than owning an asset with your spouse. Also, married couples who live in community property states have additional record-keeping requirements.

Step 4: Calculate Your Debts

What you owe is subtracted from the value of the assets when you pass. The most common debt is a mortgage on a primary residence or vacation house. Credit card balances and other loans are also calculated here.

 These steps will set you well on your way to developing an estate plan. If you would like more information, please contact us.

Our Mission

We, the Diocese of Marquette, united in Word and Sacrament and in communion with the universal Catholic Church, witness to and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ for all the people in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



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1004 Harbor Hills Drive
Marquette, MI 49855

Terri Gadzinski
Executive Director,
Stewardship & Development
906.227.9108
tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org

dioceseofmarquette.org/planmygift