

# A Call to Stewardship

In their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Bishops remind us that good disciples and stewards 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 Catholic Christians, we believe that our assets and our ability to accumulate them are gifts from a loving, generous God. We have 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, insurance and gifts of appreciated stock are all planned gifts, or gifts that come after much thought and consultation with professional advisors. These important gifts will ensure that our lives will touch the lives that come after us to build the faith for generations to come.



*“It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”*  
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

## GOD FIRST IN LIVING AND GIVING

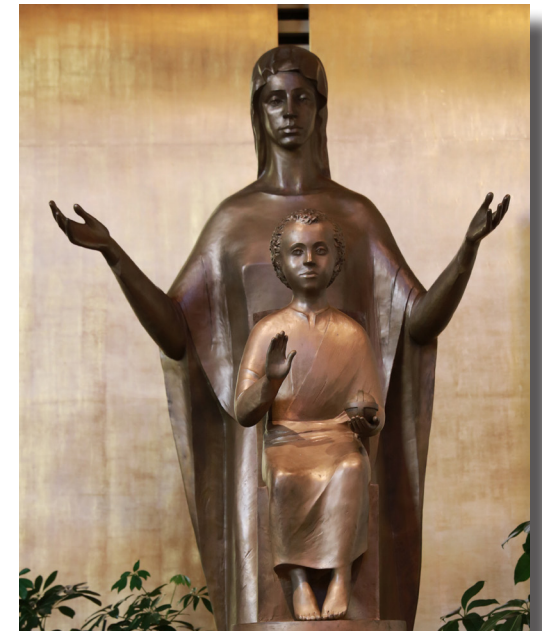


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## Leave Your Legacy



**ST. MARY'S OF ALEXANDRIA  
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION**



# What is St. Mary's Foundation?

St. Mary's Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization created to give St. Mary's parishioners the option to give larger, legacy-type donations, such as bequests, insurance policies, stocks, and retirement funds.

Through a Board of Directors, St. Mary's Foundation manages a portfolio of assets and takes a percentage of the earnings to then give back to those in need. A key difference is St. Mary's Foundation is completely independent of the Diocese of St. Cloud. That means the St. Cloud Diocese has no control or access to these funds now, or in the future.

## Who Benefits?

St. Mary's Foundation focuses on 4 areas of giving; 1) Vocations, 2) Facilities, 3) School & Faith Formation, 4) Music & Liturgy. If a committee or organization needs help in any of these areas, a request can be sent to St. Mary's Foundation Board for review.

## Who Has Been Helped?

The formation of St. Mary's Foundation is only officially 2-years-old, however there has been a few special requests already granted, including Faith Formation Grenada mission trip, National Catholic Youth Conference trip, individual vocational support for an African mission, and deaconate program support.

For more detailed information on St. Mary's Foundation, asset allocation and funds under investment, or for funds request, visit [www.stmaryalexandria.org/st-marys-foundation](http://www.stmaryalexandria.org/st-marys-foundation).

| TYPE OF GIFT               | BENEFIT TO FOUNDATION   | BENEFIT TO DONOR  |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Bequest in a Will          | 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> </ul>   |
| Charitable Gift Annuity    | Assets that are not used in paying annuity to the donors or others benefit the foundation.  | <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>  |
| Insurance Policy           | The foundation receives full face value of the policy upon death of the donor, or may receive certain surrender value prior to the donor's death. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income-tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred.</li> <li>• Premium payments may be deducted as gifts.</li> <li>• Possible income-tax and estate-tax deductions.</li> </ul>                                |
| Charitable Remainder Trust | Upon the death of the donor or last surviving income beneficiary, the remaining assets benefit the foundation.                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income.</li> <li>• Deferred income if desired.</li> <li>• Possible income-tax and estate-tax deductions.</li> </ul>  |
| Charitable Lead Trust      | Income for the duration of the trust helps meet needs that exceed the capabilities of most parishes, schools, agencies, or ministries.            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the end of trust period, principal returns to donor or other beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Principal can pass to others with little or no shrinkage.</li> <li>• Possible income-tax and estate-tax deductions.</li> </ul> |
| Retirement/IRA             | After age 70½, or upon death of the donor, gifts of IRA funds benefit the foundation.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate-tax and income-tax savings for substantial portion of gift.</li> </ul>  |
| Appreciated Stock          | Shares will be sold; the full value of the assets will fund foundation needs.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of capital-gains tax.</li> <li>• Income-tax deduction for full market value on date of gift.</li> </ul>  |

*Consult with your attorney or tax advisor - it is ALWAYS important to have professional counsel in matters such as these.*

## How to Leave a Legacy

It is estimated that more than 50 percent of Americans do not have a will. A will 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, 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 terms of the will.

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

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <p>I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ to (parish name) for its general purposes (unrestricted) or for a specific named program (restricted).</p> | <p>- OR -</p> | <p>I give and bequeath _____ % of the remainder of my estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and family bequests have been paid to (parish name) for its general purposes (unrestricted) or for a specific named program (restricted).</p> |
|---|---------------|---|