

# A CHRISTIAN WILL ...

Providing for Your Loved Ones



*“Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have abundance for every good work.”*

2 Corinthians 9:8-9



The Archdiocese of Hartford  
Office of Development

# Receive God's gifts gratefully and return them with increase to the Lord

Stewardship is a way of life based on the biblical revelation of God as Creator of all things. We have received every gift of grace and nature from God. We have accepted a sacred trust to manage wisely the gifts He has blessed us with, to share them with gratitude and generosity, and to use them to protect and provide for our loved ones, our Church, and our community. A valid Will presents us with an opportunity to demonstrate our stewardship of God's gifts.

Without a valid Will, the court, not you, determines who will be the administrator of your estate, the guardian of your minor children, and how your estate will be distributed. Without a valid Will, the state and federal government may assess taxes upon your estate, thereby reducing what will be distributed to your loved ones. Finally, without a valid Will, the charities which have had special meaning to you in your lifetime - your parish, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, Catholic education, or a special ministry - will not receive anything from your estate.

By exercising your right to create a Will, you demonstrate faithful and respectful stewardship by providing for your loved ones and their needs, and by remembering our family of the Catholic faithful. With a valid Will, you are able to thank the Lord for all He has bestowed upon you during your lifetime. Finally, through a charitable Will bequest you can create a permanent memorial to remember and honor a cherished loved one.

## Common Misconceptions About Wills

"Wills are just for the wealthy or the elderly."

"Wills are usually expensive and require a great deal of time or work to prepare."

# Planning Your Will

## Some Helpful Hints

1. Decide upon the manner in which you wish your assets/possessions to be distributed to your loved ones.
2. Name an Executor to carry out the instructions of your Will.
3. Name a Guardian to care for minor children and a Trustee to manage assets left for them until they reach an appropriate age.
4. Identify the charities you wish to continue to support through a charitable bequest in your Will. We ask you to prayerfully consider remembering the Catholic Church in your Will.



*Please consider prayerfully  
remembering the Church  
in your Will*

# Four ways to make a Charitable Will Bequest to support the Church

## 1. Percentage

This is the most flexible way to give: the gift automatically adjusts to the size of the estate.

## 2. Fixed Amount or Specific Property

The most common type of bequest.

## 3. Residue

The gift of remaining property that is left over after all other bequests have been fulfilled.

## 4. Contingent

A bequest that occurs when beneficiaries under your Will pre-decease you.

A charitable Will bequest offers a flexible, thoughtful way to remember your Church. Your Church has been an important part of your life and the lives of your family. Your Church has been there to comfort you and help you through difficult times, and to celebrate with you in joyful times. As with people you love, we ask you to also remember the Church in your Will and estate plan.



*“What the Lord has planted, we nurture in faith. What the Lord makes grow, we await in hope. What the Lord gives us to harvest, we share in love.”*

Galatians 6:9

## A Joyful Heart Rejoices in The Lord

The symbol of the faith confesses the greatness of God's gifts. Life itself is a gift, and everything that we are, and everything that we own, is a gift from God. As believers, we praise God for His gifts, and as good stewards we joyfully return these gifts to the Lord with increase.

## Other Charitable Gifts

Consider other types of planned gifts to help support the Catholic Church. A Charitable Gift Annuity and Charitable Remainder Trust provide income for you and may also offer income, capital gain and estate tax advantages. Other charitable gifts include gifts of life insurance, retirement plans, and real estate that may also offer tax advantages.

## Endowment Fund Opportunities

Over the years, you and other faithful people have been generous in supporting the Church's mission by making annual donations to support your parish, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, Catholic education, and other special ministries.

You may be pleased to know there are ways of endowing such gifts to provide future support. By making a charitable bequest in your Will, you can provide an enduring annual gift after you are born to eternal life. A bequest endows your annual gift by providing annual income from the growth of the contributed principal.

If you contribute a certain amount each year, you may want to consider the bequest amounts shown here that would be needed to generate an annual gift to the Church.

### HOW ENDOWMENTS WORK

A Bequest of ...	Provides an Annual Income* of ...
\$2,000	\$100
\$5,000	\$250
\$10,000	\$500
\$20,000	\$1,000
\$100,000	\$5,000

\* For purposes of illustration, a 5% rate of interest is assumed.

# How can I help the Church further its Mission?

We experience the Church in joyous and solemn moments, in everyday occurrences, and in those special moments that mark the journey of life.

## Your Parish

Most people experience the Church in their local parish, which is their community of men and women of the Catholic faith. Your parish relies on your time, talent, and treasure to sustain its mission. If you contribute \$10 each week to support your parish, a charitable Will bequest of \$10,000 would endow your parish donation forever.

## Your Archdiocese

Each year, thousands of people support the mission of the Church at the Archdiocesan level through their donation to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Through a charitable Will bequest of \$5,000, you can endow a perpetual annual contribution of \$250 to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

## Catholic Education

Catholic schools today continue the tradition of providing quality education to more than 17,500 students. Our schools promote Catholic values, discipline, educational rigor, and parental participation and accountability.



## Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities and other Archdiocesan ministries serve the neediest of our brothers and sisters, providing direct services, family advocacy and referral services. Catholic Charities have been serving people of all faiths for over 90 years in 102 communities.

The Office of Development can assist you, your attorney, and other advisors in your estate planning. If you would like additional information about creating a valid Will, or to receive a complimentary Family Log Book to record important family information, please return the reply card below.

The material contained herein is not intended as legal advice or as a substitution for such advice. The Archdiocese of Hartford recommends that for advice and assistance in special cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.

### Response Form

Yes, I would like to receive additional information about creating a Will.

Yes, I would like to receive a complimentary Family Log Book.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail this form to: Archdiocese of Hartford, Office of Development,  
134 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105*

# STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

*Loving God,*

*I come to You in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am  
and all that I have is gift from You.*

*In faith and love, help me to do Your Will.*

*I am listening, Lord God.*

*Speak Your words into the depth of my soul,  
that I may hear You clearly.*

*I offer to You this day all the facets of my life,  
whether it be at home, at work, or at school – to be patient,  
to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.*

*Give me the wisdom and insight  
to understand Your will for me  
and the fervor to carry out my good intentions.*

*I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to You  
as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for You and my neighbor.*

*Help me to reach out to others  
as You, my God, have reached out to me.*

*Amen.*



## **Archdiocese of Hartford**

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