



Planned (or Legacy) Giving: Keeping St. Mary's future bright!

Anyone—regardless of income or stage of life—can make a legacy gift, and you might be able to contribute more than you think!

When you consider things like home equity, retirement accounts, and life insurance, your estate may be larger than expected. A gift in your will, trust, retirement accounts, or life insurance can make a tremendous impact on St. Mary's Catholic School, without affecting or touching your bank account. To learn how to sustain the gift of Catholic Education to the West, Texas area children, well into the future contact the school office at 254-826-5991, or Dan Wierzbowski at 512-949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org for more detailed information.

What is Legacy Giving?

A legacy gift is one that comes from assets and therefore allows you to make a larger gift than you could from income. While some legacy gifts can provide you with a lifetime income, others use tax-smart ways to maximize your gift and/or minimize the tax impact. Most take effect in the future as a final way to create your legacy (and therefore do not affect today's finances). Learn more about ways to create your legacy gift to provide lasting support for St. Mary's Catholic School at austindiocese.myplannedgift.org.

1. After years of faithful support to St. Mary's Catholic School, you may wish to create a legacy gift to benefit the children that will be walking the halls of St. Mary's in years to come! You can help us to sustain our mission of Catholic education well into the future. Such a gift will allow you to extend your devotion to the Church and strengthen future generations.
2. Legacy giving allows you to make a significant impact on our future families, likely at no cost to you during your lifetime. Also, legacy gifts typically provide you or your heirs with tax advantages. Anyone, regardless of income or stage of life, can help secure St. Mary's future by establishing a legacy gift.
3. Legacy gifts can make a substantial impact on St. Mary's Catholic School, their families, and the future of the West, Texas area, creating a legacy for our ministry that lasts for generations. Legacy gifts can offer you significant benefits. For example, legacy gifts allow you to maintain control of your assets during your lifetime, take advantage of a number of tax benefits, or perhaps even secure a lifetime income stream for yourself or others.
4. Legacy gifts typically come from your assets rather than income. They are perfect for individuals and families of all ages and levels of income who wish to create a legacy gift to the Catholic organizations that are important to them. Legacy giving can enable anyone to create a legacy for St. Mary's Catholic School. Learn more about how you can support St. Mary's for generations to come with a legacy gift by contacting the parish office or Dan Wierzbowski at 512-949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org.

Easy Gifts:

- o **Gift in Your Will** - A simple and popular way to make a legacy gift is through your Will. You specify a percentage of your estate, dollar amount, an item, or asset that you want your beneficiary to receive after your lifetime. You also have the option of naming St. Mary's Catholic School as a beneficiary to your estate.

In as little as one [sentence](#), you can complete your gift. This type of donation to St. Mary's Catholic School, in your will or living trust, helps ensure that we continue our mission for years to come.

The Diocese of Austin has partnered with FreeWill to give all our supporters the opportunity to do create or update their will at no cost to you. You can access this free planning tool at freewill.com/austindiocese. As always, we recommend consulting with an estate planning attorney to make sure your wishes are properly formalized.

- o **Beneficiary Designations** – You can name St. Mary's Catholic School as beneficiary of your IRAs, retirement accounts, and life insurance policies. Retirement accounts require separate change-of-beneficiary forms because they are separate from your will. They can be modified at any time by requesting the form from your plan provider or policy administrator. Make your desired changes and return the form to establish your gift.
- o **Giving From Your IRA** – For those age 70 ½ and older you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$105,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as St. Mary's Catholic School without having to pay income taxes on the money. Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). These tax-smart gifts are commonly called an IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Gifts that Provide Income:

- o **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)** - is a great way you can make a gift to our organization and receive regular payments for life. You transfer your cash or property to us; we promise to make fixed payments to you for life at a rate based on your age. The balance is used to support our work. When you create a charitable gift annuity to benefit St. Mary's Catholic School you may receive a variety of tax benefits, including a federal income tax charitable deduction when you itemize.
- o Create a CGA If you are 70½ or older by making a one-time election up to \$53,000 directly from your IRA without being taxed on the distribution. Receive steady income for life and support the mission of St. Mary's Catholic School. Special rules apply, contact Dan Wierzbowski at 512-949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org for details.

More Ways to Give:

- o **Appreciated Securities** - for instructions on transferring appreciated securities, please contact Lisa Rosenberger at 512-949-2450 or lisa-rosenberger@austindiocese.org.
- o **Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)** - are like charitable checking accounts that give you the flexibility to recommend how often and how much money you want to grant to qualified charities like St. Mary's Catholic School. You can also create a legacy gift by

naming St. Mary's as the beneficiary of the entire account or a percentage of the fund. With a percentage, you can create a family legacy of giving by naming your loved ones as your successor to continue recommending grants to charitable organizations. Contact your fund administrator for a beneficiary form.

- o **Endowments** - leave a gift to the parish that will sustain our mission by creating or contributing to an existing permanent endowment fund for the benefit of St. Mary's Catholic School held at the Catholic Foundation – Diocese of Austin. An endowment fund provides a permanent and secure source of income, which can help ensure the future of St. Mary's Catholic School.
- o **Real Estate** - Consider making a gift of real estate, such as a personal residence, vacation home, farm, commercial property, or undeveloped land. You may be eligible for a federal charitable income tax deduction and minimize or eliminate capital gains taxes. You also don't have to deal with the hassle of selling the real estate if the property is deeded directly to the parish or ask your estate planning attorney to add the appropriate language in your will or trust agreement. Please contact the parish office to discuss the type of property you would like to gift to us so that we can work with you to ensure that your goals can be realized within our gift acceptance policies.