



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

LEGACIES OF FAITH

Biannual Planned Giving Newsletter, Issue 1, Winter 2012



Dear Friends,

Welcome to “Legacies of Faith,” a brand new newsletter focusing on planned giving in The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton.

The goal of this newsletter is twofold. First, the newsletter will provide some educational components to you regarding what planned giving is, different ways that one might make a planned gift, how such gifts can make a difference in future of our Catholic Church, and the benefits to you of giving wisely.

Secondly, this newsletter will provide you with examples and stories of folks just like yourself who have made the steps to leave a planned gift. The generosity of so many of these benefactors, along with their stories, is truly inspiring.

So what exactly does the term “planned giving” mean? Planned giving, which is often referred to in the reverse – gift planning – is a method of supporting your favorite charity or charities that enables generous people to make larger gifts than they would normally make from regular income. The most common types of planned gifts are bequests in wills and life insurance policies. These and

other types of planned gifts provide benefits to the donor as well as the charity. As such, they often considered as part of one’s estate and tax planning, and in most cases, come to the charity on the death of the donor.

However, the true value of a planned gift is in what it can achieve in our Catholic community. A planned gift can help provide for a strong future for the Catholic Church in many different ways, such as helping educate seminarians and assisting retired clergy.

As well as ensuring a bright and hope-filled future for the Church, a legacy gift can proclaim to all the importance of a person’s faith. A will is, after all, one’s final message to their family and their community about what they valued in their lifetime. Children and grandchildren can enjoy all the support and services the Church has to offer because of a benefactor’s generosity.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Cor. 9.9
Again, welcome to the first ever issue of “Legacies of Faith”. I hope you enjoy it.

Joyce Tutt, Planned Giving Coordinator

Joyce began her career with The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton in 1995 with The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College. She has worked in the area of planned giving since 2001.

Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society Celebrates 16 Years!

The Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society was formed in 1995. As His Grace had just retired as Archbishop of Edmonton, the Foundation of SJS & NTC asked his permission to name this honorary society after him. We are grateful for his “yes” to this request. The Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society is an honorary society for people who have made or plan to make a planned gift to The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, to The Foundation of SJS & NTC or St. Joseph Priests’ Foundation of Edmonton.

Each year, members enjoy an annual celebration – mass at St. Joseph Seminary as well as a luncheon. In addition, four masses are celebrated annually for the intentions of Society members. There are no fees involved, and membership continues in perpetuity.

September 28, 2011, was a very special day at St. Joseph Seminary, as 10 new members were welcomed into the Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society. . Seven have made their gifts through named endowment funds, and three through bequests in their wills.

The celebration began with a special Mass in the new chapel at St. Joseph Seminary, with Archbishop MacNeil himself as the celebrant. As the new members were announced, they came forward and were personally presented with their certificate of membership by His Grace.

At the luncheon following Mass, a short program was offered with messages of appreciation from Rev. Stefano Penna, VP of College Advancement and Development , Rev. Shayne Craig, pss, Rector of St. Joseph Seminary and President of NTC, and seminarian David Hogman. David summarized the seminarians’ gratitude so eloquently when he said:



Archbishop Joseph MacNeil preaching during last Annual Archbishop MacNeil Society Mass & Luncheon on September 28 at St. Joseph Seminary chapel.

“... your ongoing generosity and your presence with us today helps us to put into perspective the beauty of our Catholic faith and the dedication of God’s people to the continued proclamation of the Gospel. This we cannot truly learn in class. In a way, you have made Christ present to us, and there is nothing more beautiful than that; there is nothing more beautiful than to encounter Christ, to love him and to encounter Him again in our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Antoinette and Germaine Marchand: Sisters in Faith

When is a good age to write your final will? If you asked Antoinette and Germaine Marchand, the answer would likely be “any age.” Both in their 90’s, the sisters reviewed their priorities less than a year ago, and had new wills written.

Faith has always been an important part of the lives of Toni and Gerry, as they like to be called. Their concern that there always are enough priests and well-trained lay people to meet the needs of the Catholic Church for future generations led them to leave a bequest to The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College in their new wills. They had always been involved in their parish and the Catholic Women’s League, and had always financially supported the Church. So to them it just made sense to continue that tradition through their estate planning.

As with many of our benefactors, Toni’s and Gerry’s example of how to lead a Christian life came from their parents. Being raised in Catholic family of nine children on a Saskatchewan farm, they learned a great deal about how to be good stewards by giving of their time, talent and treasures.

Toni, a retired social worker, volunteered for several years with the Edmonton Food Bank. Gerry, who retired from Imperial Oil in 1979, is a proud member of the ESSO

Annuitants Club. Both spent many years serving St. Joseph Basilica Parish through their involvement with Catholic Women’s League. In addition, for decades both have given their support to the Edmonton Food Bank, Lurana Shelter, the United Way, and many Catholic organizations. For them it is a way of life. So much so, in fact, that in 2007 the United Way formally recognized Toni and Gerry for 50 years of support.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton has been blessed as a result of Toni and Gerry’s desire to share the gifts that God has so abundantly shared with them.

Antoinette Marchand & Germaine Marchand



“The statue beckoned” - The Story of Dr. Robert & Marjolyn Audette

While developing a detailed retirement plan with their financial planner, Robert and Marjolyn Audette were asked a question: “Would you rather give money on your final tax return to the Government or to your favourite charity?” It was from that meeting that they learned their estate could save considerable tax dollars on their final return if they maximized their charitable giving beforehand as part of their overall estate planning process.

The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College became their charity of choice. Robert and Marjolyn have been long-time supporters of the Foundation. As a result of their meeting with a financial planner, and in consultation with Joyce Turt, they established the

of the importance of faith in their lives. They now make monthly contributions to their fund, which will also be the recipient of bequests in their wills.

Asked why they chose the Foundation of SJS and NTC, they pointed to the statue of Christ the Teacher that sat at the entrance to the two facilities at their old St. Albert Trail location. The couple moved to St. Albert in the mid-1970s, and the statue just seemed to beckon them. But it wasn’t just the statue. It was also as if Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman was giving them direction. Their first encounter with his action in their lives was the day they met -- at the Newman Centre of St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan. At the

and enjoy the love of three adult children and two grandchildren.

Robert credits their tradition of charitable giving to the example set by his father, Julien. Two of his sisters – Robert’s aunts – were sisters with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. It didn’t matter where Sr. Gertrude Audette and Sr. Alice Audette were ministering to the people, whatever they or the order needed, Robert’s father became their silent benefactor. If the convent’s car broke down, a new one would appear.

For Marjolyn, it was her mother, Maria, whose example most impacted her faith life. As a war bride from Holland, Maria overcame many difficulties and her faith remained

De-mystifying Gifts of Life Insurance

The following is an interview with Dan Dean. Dan is a certified financial planner who serves on the Board of Governors of The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College, and chairs both the Investment Review and Planned Giving Committees.

I have heard that life insurance policies can be given to charity. Is that true?

Dan: Yes. There are two ways it can be done. A donor can either sign over ownership of the policy to the charity now, or they can name the charity as beneficiary.

Either way the charity will receive the proceeds of the policy at death. Are the advantages different to the donor?

Dan: By signing over ownership of the policy to the charity, a tax receipt is issued for the cash surrender value at the time of transfer. The cash surrender value is the amount of money accumulated in the policy to that point in time. If the person is still paying annual premiums, a charitable tax receipt is also issued for amount of the premiums paid each year.

When a donor names the charity as beneficiary, their estate will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full death benefit of the policy when the funds are received.

Which is the best option for a donor?

Dan: That depends on the individual's financial circumstances. If you need the charitable tax now, then signing over ownership might be best. On the other hand, if you feel the tax credits would be better used by your estate, then having the charity receive the benefit on your death could be the answer.

Many people have policies they took out when their children were young to ensure they would be taken care of in case something happened to them. Their children are now adults and they no longer need the policy for that purpose. Could that type of policy be donated?

Dan: It can indeed. Many people have policies they no longer really need for various reasons. These make great charitable gifts.

So why would people consider giving life insurance policies to charity?

Dan: By gifting a life insurance policy to a charity, the donor is often able to give a much larger gift on their death than they might otherwise be able to provide during their lifetime.

I can give you an example of this. Recently the death benefit from a life insurance policy was paid out to The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College in the amount of \$350,000. The donor had paid a total in premiums of only \$60,000. It was a great return on their investment and a gift that will greatly assist the seminary and college.

How do I choose the best option for me?

Dan: I highly recommend you talk to an accountant, certified financial planner, or other professional advisor, to see which fits in best with your overall estate plan.

Wills Information Sessions

Everyone should have a current, properly prepared will – whether you are 22 or 92, and regardless of your financial circumstances. The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton is pleased to host Wills Information Sessions at parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Learn about:

- types of wills
- what should or should not be included in your will
- ways to insure you provide for your children and other loved ones

- how to maximize the funds your beneficiaries will receive while minimizing taxes and fees
- considerations when choosing an executor/executrix,
- Personal Directives and Enduring Power of Attorney
- Charitable bequests and more.

The session is FREE. To register for a date and location near you call Anna at 780.469.1010, ext. 2260.

Have you left – or are you considering leaving – a bequest to the Catholic Church in your will?

If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Joyce Tutt, Planned Giving Coordinator

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