

# D<sup>the</sup> DISCIPLE'S LEGACY

## Leaving a Legacy

Program encourages charitable gifts through estate plans

As a Christian steward, you believe in giving back to God by sharing with others His many blessings to you, and you demonstrate this through your weekly offering to your parish. But what happens to your support when you die?

### Without a legacy gift, it stops.

For several years, governors of the state of Michigan have proclaimed May as LEAVE A LEGACY® Month. This nationwide public awareness education program, sponsored by the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning, encourages individuals to make charitable contributions through their estate plans — wills and trusts. The Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan promotes the program locally.

A recent Michigan State University study found that Michiganders are especially generous givers, even during difficult economic times. An astounding 81.5 percent make a gift to charity annually, predominately to religious institutions. Unfortunately, only 9.1 percent leave a charitable gift, a bequest, through



their will. In large part, this is because only about 43 percent of people have a will. Without a will or living revocable trust, you cannot make a charitable bequest.

Bequests are one of the simplest forms of planned giving, and are a way to perpetuate your lifetime commitment to the Church. Additionally, a charitable gift in a will or trust will likely allow you to make a more significant gift to your parish, Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, or another favorite non-profit organization, than you may be able to afford during your lifetime.

When you leave a bequest to your parish in your will or trust, your parish continues to receive the earnings on your gift each year for many years. Consider this: Assume you contribute \$1,000 each year to your parish, about \$20 a week. If you leave \$20,000 to your parish as a bequest in your will or trust, and that fund is invested at 5 percent, your parish will continue to receive \$1,000 each year for generation after generation. You effectively continue to support the ministries of your parish even after your death.

*“... bear fruit  
and you will become  
my disciples.”*

*John 15:8*

### INSIDE

Scholarship funds continue  
to assist area college students

News You Can Use



**LEAVE A LEGACY®**  
*Make a difference in the lives that follow.*

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For many people, \$20,000 may seem like a large amount. However, through life insurance proceeds, sales of property, and retirement plans that provide cash payouts, our estate at our death may have more cash than we ever had on hand while alive. Sufficient funds may well be available to make significant legacy gifts to the Church.

But to make a bequest to the Church and your other favorite charities, you must have a will or trust. If you die “intestate” — without a valid will — state law will determine the distribution of your property. State law does not provide for any charitable gifts. Failure to have an estate plan is also poor stewardship of God’s gifts, since unnecessary taxes and administration costs may deprive your family of needed resources after your death.

If you already have a will or trust, you should review these documents periodically to ensure they still meet your family’s estate planning goals and objectives. In making or reviewing your estate planning documents, please give prayerful consideration to making a gift to our local Church. †

### Common bequest designations

#### To your parish:

*“To Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, or his Successors in Office, for (name of the parish and the city), Michigan”*

#### To the Archdiocese of Detroit:

*“To the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan”*

#### To the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation —

*“To the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation, Detroit, Michigan”*

#### To your parish endowment fund:

*“To the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation, Detroit, Michigan, for the benefit of the (name of the parish) Endowment Fund, (name of city), Michigan”*

#### To the Archdiocese of Detroit Priests’ Pension Plan:

*“To the Archdiocese of Detroit Priests’ Pension Plan, Inc., Detroit, Michigan”*

#### To Sacred Heart Major Seminary:

*“To Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, Michigan”*

#### To Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan:

*“To Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, Royal Oak, Michigan”*

These designations can also be used for beneficiary designations of life insurance benefits, IRAs and other retirement plan benefits, and in charitable remainder and charitable lead trust documents.

## News You Can Use: IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA charitable rollover has been very popular for donors age 70½ or older since its adoption in the Internal Revenue Code in 2006. Unfortunately, the law has not been a permanent part of the Code, and the latest extension of the law expired at the end of 2014.

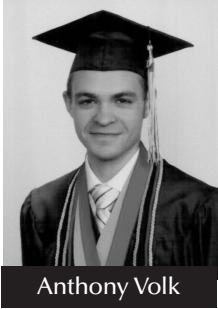
For several years, the legislative pattern has been to extend the law at the end of the year, but retroactively to the beginning of the year. Then the law expires and the process begins all over again. Legislation has been proposed to extend it for 2015 and perhaps beyond, but in the current political climate nothing in tax legislation is a sure thing.

The effort to make the IRA charitable rollover permanent in the tax law is now more organized. An organization, the Charitable IRA Initiative, has been created to pursue legislation that would make the IRA charitable rollover permanent, as well as more flexible and available for tax planning. If some version of the charitable IRA rollover law passes, we will alert you through parish bulletins and the Archdiocese of Detroit website, [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org).

In the meantime, in your 2015 planning, you should follow the steps that applied in prior years to take advantage of the law if it is extended. Contact your IRA administrator with instructions to make a

distribution from your IRA directly to the charity you choose. Assume that other provisions of the prior law will apply if it is extended — the total annual distribution is limited to \$100,000, and the distribution must come from an IRA, not some other qualified plan such as a 401(k) plan.

By taking these steps, even if the law is not extended, you would get most of the same benefits if you itemize deductions on your tax return. You would recognize income for the IRA distribution, but offset it with a deduction for the distribution to charity. You would not get the same benefit if you take the standard deduction rather than itemizing your deductions. †



Anthony Volk



Catherine Wallace



Courtney Cattaneo



Lauren Wandzel



Shannon Thomas



Vittoria Walter

## Generosity lives on

Scholarship funds established through the Endowment Foundation continue to assist college students

Six college students completed their most recent academic year with the assistance of scholarship funds established through the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation.

"The generosity of two individuals continues to assist area students with much needed funds for their college education — and will for generations," says Tom Scholler, associate director of the archdiocesan Department of Development and Stewardship.

Shannon Thomas and Anthony Volk were recipients of scholarships from the Del Papa-Grimaldi Scholarship Endowment Fund, and Courtney Cattaneo, Catherine Wallace, Lauren Wandzel, and Vittoria Walter received scholarships from the Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Josephine Del Papa arranged for a charitable gift annuity that eventually funded the scholarship endowment. After her death, her family used her gift annuity to establish The Del Papa-Grimaldi Scholarship Endowment Fund, which has provided \$75,500 in scholarships since 2002.

"The fact that other people are willing to start scholarship funds for students is something that is very commendable," says Shannon, a Del Papa-Grimaldi Scholarship recipient who is studying nursing at Grand Valley State University. "I would be honored to be able to do this some day. I

know firsthand that funding for school does not come easy. This scholarship is helping me achieve my goals and reach my dreams, and I can only hope that I can help someone do just that in the future."

Mrs. Del Papa personally experienced financial hardship when her family lost their home in the Great Depression and spent nearly her entire life working, beginning in childhood until finally retiring just before age 92. While she was never

ther their educational goals."

Since 2011, the Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund has provided \$50,000 in scholarships. Lilo Wendell established the fund with an estate gift specifically to provide college or university scholarship grants to deserving high-school seniors who are Catholic daughters of single mothers and attend Catholic high schools, or are members of a parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"I felt incredibly honored when I

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**'This scholarship is helping me achieve my goals and reach my dreams, and I can only hope that I can help someone do just that in the future.'**

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wealthy, she was always a good steward of what God gave her. Her hope was that the scholarship she established would help students that had struggled like she did achieve their goals.

"Without this scholarship I would not be able to afford to attend Harvard University where the required academic equipment is just as demanding as the curriculum," says Anthony, an international diplomacy major. "I was left with a sense of extreme gratitude for the administrators of the scholarship who perform the difficult task of choosing amongst so many exceptional candidates, and for Ms. Del Papa, who established this endowment to assist impoverished but hardworking students such as myself fur-

heard the news that I was a recipient of the Lilo Wendell Scholarship," says Courtney, who will begin her sophomore year at Michigan State University in the fall. "It was a good feeling to have something positive come out of a situation that is not ideal, as well as to be recognized for my faith."

Ms. Wendell emigrated to the United States from Germany with her mother in 1958. She had a strong bond with her mother, a single parent at the time of coming to this country. Her relationship with her mother influenced her desire to assist young women in similar situations to pursue their dreams of gaining a college education. Ms. Wendell herself had a long and rewarding career as an

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accountant for an advertising agency. In the trust in her estate plan, she established this scholarship through a gift to the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Foundation to provide the means to assist young women as she had envisioned.

"I find it so admirable that individuals like Lilo Wendell set up scholarships for people they don't even know who share similar circumstances as themselves," says Lauren, who is studying nursing at Schoolcraft College. "I hope very much to help many people in my future career as a recreational therapist, and maybe someday I can also pay it forward to students the way Ms. Wendell has with me."

*For information on how to contribute to the Del Papa–Grimaldi Scholarship Endowment Fund or the Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund, or to set up a similar fund with a gift in your estate plan, please contact the Department of Development and Stewardship at (313) 596-7400 or [development@aod.org](mailto:development@aod.org). †*

### Del Papa-Grimaldi Scholars

"I feel a tremendous responsibility for being a good steward. This is something that I try to display in my everyday life even if it is in the smallest of ways. This scholarship reinforced that responsibility for me. If I have someone believing in me to do good and lead a successful life, then I owe it not only to myself to carry that out, but I owe it to the person who is making that all possible for me."

— Shannon Thomas, 20, Grand Valley State University

"I find the life of the founder of the Del Papa-Grimaldi scholarship to be highly inspirational since she was born into poverty but overcame her circumstance through faith, hard work, and education. This fills me with hope that my efforts to educate myself, continue in the Boy Scouting movement, and pursue my faith may one day lead to a highly successful lifestyle where I, too, can give back to my community."

— Anthony Volk, 18, Harvard University

### Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholars

"The scholarship is inspirational. It helps put positive outcomes of staying true to your faith in light as well as being thankful for what you have."

— Courtney Cattaneo, 19, Michigan State University

"When I found out I was chosen to receive the scholarship, I was ecstatic. I remember telling my mom and it brought tears to her eyes. We are so appreciative and eternally grateful for the scholarship. I personally know what it's like to struggle financially and this helped to relieve loads of stress off my first year of college."

— Catherine Wallace, 18, Grand Valley State University

"I feel a responsibility to do my very best and learn as much as I can this year, knowing that Ms. Wendell had actually set up this fund herself to help someone like me."

— Lauren Wandzel, 18, Schoolcraft College

"I feel that there is a certain responsibility when it comes to scholarships. I would never waste the money given to me. Because of my mother I have learned that every penny counts. With these funds I was able to do in college better than I had ever done in high school academically. Lilo Wendall inspires me every day, because if she can help the community, so can I. She is one of the many reasons I go out and do community service. She will continue to inspire me to do great things in the future."

— Vittoria Walter, 18, Northwood University

For more information on the planning and charitable giving techniques discussed in this newsletter, or to be enrolled in The Disciple's Legacy Society, please return the enclosed reply card or contact Tom Scholler in the Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Development and Stewardship at (313) 596-7408 or [scholler.tom@aod.org](mailto:scholler.tom@aod.org).

**You may also visit our website at [www.AOD.org/plannedgiving](http://www.AOD.org/plannedgiving).**

*The Disciple's Legacy* is for your information on Christian stewardship, estate planning, and charitable giving. It is not intended to be legal, tax, or financial advice. Please consult with your attorney, tax advisor, or financial planner for the precise planning of the transactions suggested here.