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CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."
- Pope Leo XIV*

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

A Faithful Estate Plan: An Act of Love for Your Family and Your Faith



Most people understand the importance of having a will, yet many Catholics have not completed even the most basic estate planning documents. A faithful estate plan is about much more than distributing property. It is an opportunity to express your values, protect your loved ones, affirm your Catholic faith, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

As Catholics, our estate plans should reflect what is most important to us: our faith, our family, and our commitment to the Gospel. A faithful estate plan can provide for loved ones, support the charitable causes that have enriched our lives, and communicate our wishes regarding important end-of-life decisions. It can also include a Catholic Legacy Will, allowing us to share our testimony of faith and our hopes for future generations.

Today, advance planning has taken on even greater importance. Earlier this year, New York enacted the Medical Aid in Dying Act, which legalizes physician-assisted suicide under certain circumstances. While the Catholic Church continues to affirm the dignity and sanctity of every human life from conception until natural death, this new law underscores the importance of making your wishes known in writing.

Without clear guidance, others may be left to make critical medical decisions on your behalf. A Catholic health care directive can help ensure that your medical care remains consistent with your faith and values. Such planning can protect against confusion, relieve burdens on family members, and help ensure that decisions reflect the Church's teaching on the dignity of human life.

Estate planning is also an opportunity to consider how you might continue supporting the Church and charitable causes after your lifetime. Many faithful Catholics choose to remember their parish, the Diocese, Catholic schools, ministries, or charitable organizations in their wills and

beneficiary designations. These gifts help sustain the mission of the Church and can become a powerful expression of gratitude for the blessings received throughout life.

The good news is that it has never been easier to get your plan in place. Through the Diocese of Rockville Centre's partnership with FreeWill, parishioners can create a legally valid will online, at no cost, in as little as 20 minutes. The secure online platform also provides information about beneficiary designations and charitable planning opportunities. There is no obligation to leave a gift to the Church, but many participants appreciate the opportunity to include a legacy gift as part of their planning.

There has never been a more important time to ensure that your wishes are documented and your family is protected. A faithful estate plan is one of the greatest gifts you can leave to those you love.

We greatly appreciate our generous friends and supporters who remember the Church in their estate plans. As always, seek the advice of your own legal, tax, financial, and medical advisors before implementing any planning strategy.

For more information, please contact:

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For additional planned giving information, please visit:

www.drvc.org/planned-giving

National Estate Planning Awareness Month

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month! Next month our office will be offering a webinar on the importance of leaving a will and how to use our Free will making program: **FreeWill**.

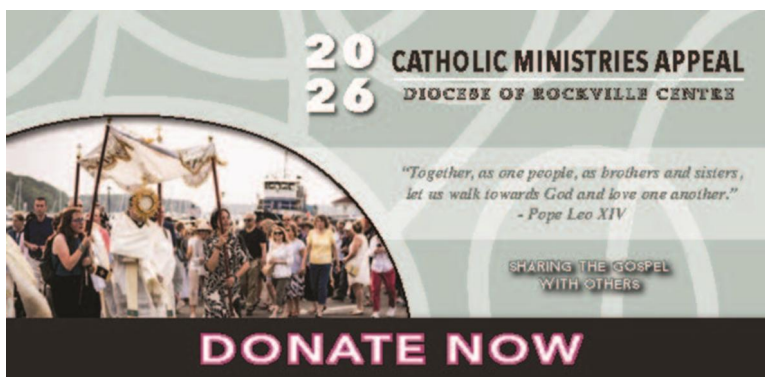
If you havent already done so, I invite you to check out FreeWill. It is completely free to use and can help you to check off that one thing on your to-do list: make your will. Visit FreeWill.com/DRVC.

Sharing the Gospel through Word and Action

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps spread the Gospel beyond your boundaries. Your gift is helping to form priests and deacons that will serve in our Diocese, keep the fire burning in our young people in youth and young adult ministries and help those in need. If you have not made a gift yet



for this year, we invite you to please prayerfully consider making a gift to help those within our Diocese. Please click through the 2026 CMA Donate Now button below to make a gift. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.



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