



Mary's Spiritual Motherhood of Us All!



Mother's Day brings to mind flowers, family dinners, and beautiful greeting cards just for Mom. It's a day to spend with your mom, to honor her and show her your love.

It's also a perfect time to think about our spiritual mother, Mary. It's no coincidence that Mother's Day and several remarkable events with Our Lady happen in May.

The first of May is marked by the "Queen of Heaven," a less commonly known feast that acknowledges Mary's role as the Queen of Heaven and her special relationship with Christ.

May 13th commemorates the apparition of Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Her visit revealed three secrets to the children and also encouraged devotion to the Rosary.

On May 31st, we celebrate "The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary." This feast details Elizabeth's remark, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" She recognized the miraculous nature of both her pregnancy and Mary's.

In many parishes, statues of Mary are decorated with flowers and crowned to honor Mary as the Queen of Heaven.

As we look to our mothers, let us give thanks to them. Through them, we have experienced the tender love of God made visible on earth. We pray to Mary, our Blessed Mother, role model, and intercessor, trusting in her prayers for all mothers.



Living the Gospel by Providing Affordable Housing for Our Seniors!

Catholic Charities' housing department provides seniors who meet income guidelines with the opportunity for safe and affordable housing and access to a supportive network of services.

Karen was in need of affordable housing, when a Senior Advocate recommended she apply to Catholic Charities Housing program. Temporarily living with her sister, an apartment came available at Bishop Ryan Village adjacent to St Rosalie Parish in Hampton Bays. Having a safe place to live is a comfort for Karen's family and the fellowship amongst the community is a joy for Karen.

"I love living here, I feel safe, I have friends, and I am able to get involved with the Parish activities", Shared Karen

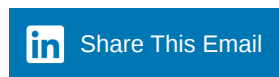
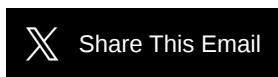
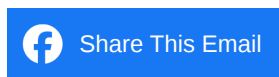
"We are doing what Christ called us to do: to care for your neighbor, to care for that person who is in need. That's what Catholic Charities is all about. Our motto is Care with Dignity, Life with Hope—and we really do stand by that motto."

-Michael E. Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities

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Tax-Wise Giving From Your IRA: Stewardship Beyond Year End



Faithful stewardship is not only a spiritual discipline but also a matter of prudence. Many Catholics unintentionally pay more tax than necessary simply because they are unaware of strategies the law already provides.

While charitable planning is often discussed near December, these opportunities exist throughout the year and can be integrated

thoughtfully into your overall financial life.

For Catholics age 70½ or older, one of the most powerful tools is the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD allows you to transfer funds directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, including your parish, school, or other Catholic ministries. When executed properly, the distribution is excluded from your taxable income. This can be especially valuable for those subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), which generally begin at age 73 under current law. A QCD can satisfy all or part of your RMD while avoiding the income tax that would normally apply.

Why does this matter? Because reducing adjusted gross income (AGI) can produce ripple effects across your tax return. Lower AGI may reduce the taxation of Social Security benefits, mitigate Medicare premium surcharges (IRMAA), and preserve eligibility for various deductions or credits.

Unlike ordinary charitable donations, a QCD offers tax benefits even if you do not itemize deductions.

Importantly, these strategies are not confined to year-end decisions. Catholics who regularly support the Church may benefit from planning QCDs earlier in the year, aligning their giving with both spiritual and financial objectives. Consistent, intentional giving can help avoid last-minute tax surprises and support parish and diocesan initiatives more predictably.

Recent tax law developments continue to reinforce the importance of proactive planning. The SECURE Act and subsequent updates adjusted RMD ages and rules governing retirement accounts, making IRA distribution planning more nuanced than in prior decades. Additionally, standard deduction levels remain historically high, meaning fewer taxpayers itemize — which further increases the relative value of QCDs for charitably inclined retirees.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre encourages parishioners to explore these opportunities as part of faithful stewardship. Tools and educational resources are available at no cost and with no obligation. Whether your goal is supporting your parish, advancing Catholic education, or strengthening charitable outreach, thoughtful IRA planning can help you serve the Church while exercising sound financial judgment.

You have worked diligently for what God has entrusted to you. With prudent planning, it is often possible to reduce unnecessary taxes, fulfill your obligations responsibly, and extend generosity to the works of the Church — not just at year end, but throughout the year.

**WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND HAPPY
MOTHERS DAY!**



***Good and Gentle God,
we pray in gratitude for our
mothers and for all the women
of theory who have joined with
you in the wonder of bringing
forth new life.***

***You who became human
through a woman, grant to all
mothers the courage they need
to face the uncertain future
that life with children always
brings.***

***Give them the strength to live
and to be loved in return, not
perfectly, but humanly.***

***Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they
care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.***

***Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the
trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you
for help when they need it most.***

- Author Unknown

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