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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



MANUS CHRISTI SOCIETY

National Estate Planning Awareness Week: Protect Your Family, Protect Your Faith, Leave a Lasting Legacy

October 19–25 is National Estate Planning Awareness Week—a timely reminder of the importance of having a thoughtful and up-to-date estate plan. Estate planning is not only for the wealthy or those with complicated financial affairs. Every adult can benefit from having a plan that clearly expresses his or her wishes and provides guidance for loved ones. As Catholics, estate planning is about much more than distributing property. It is an opportunity to care for our families, express our faith, and practice faithful stewardship of the blessings God has entrusted to us.

A thoughtfully prepared estate plan provides peace of mind. It helps ensure that your wishes are honored, reduces burdens on family members, and can minimize uncertainty during an already difficult time. Estate planning also provides an opportunity to review beneficiary designations, health care documents, powers of attorney, and other important planning decisions so that they reflect both your personal values and your Catholic beliefs.

To help parishioners take this important step, the Diocese of Rockville Centre partners with FreeWill, an online planning resource that allows many individuals and families to prepare a legally valid will at no cost. The process is simple, secure, and can often be completed in less than 30 minutes. There is no obligation to include a charitable gift, although many Catholics choose to remember their parish, the Diocese, or another Catholic ministry as an expression of gratitude, faith, and Christian stewardship.

An estate plan should also communicate the spiritual wishes that may be just as important to you and your family as your financial decisions. The Diocese's Catholic Sacramental Wishes Statement is a helpful tool that gives families practical guidance regarding your desire to receive the Sacraments, have a priest

contacted during serious illness, make Catholic funeral arrangements, request prayers and Masses after death, and record other faith-based preferences. Keeping this document with your estate plan and sharing it with your loved ones can help ensure that these important wishes are understood and respected.

If you have already remembered your parish or the Diocese in your will, please let us know so that we can add you to the DRVC's Manus Christi Legacy Society. Thank you for leaving a lasting legacy.

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For additional planned giving information, please visit:

www.drvc.org/planned-giving

Join Us for a Webinar October 20th!

In recognition of National Estate Planning Awareness Week, we invite you to attend a special online webinar on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** During this informative presentation, Mark Henry, JD, Stewardship Advisor, will discuss why every Catholic adult should have an estate plan; the important documents and decisions that should be considered as part of that plan; how to prepare a will at no cost using FreeWill; how the Catholic Sacramental Wishes Statement can help families honor Catholic beliefs; and practical steps you can take now to complete or update your plan.

Whether you are creating your first estate plan or reviewing documents prepared years ago, this webinar will provide practical guidance and encourage you to take meaningful action. Estate planning is ultimately about the people, principles, and faith that matter most to us. Preparing your plan can be one of the most thoughtful expressions of love you offer your family—and one final act of Christian stewardship.

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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
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Thank you so much for your
prayers and support.



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