



3430 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44111



BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS CHARITABLE BEQUESTS GIFT ANNUITY

PLANNING together

www.csjgiftplanning.org

Spring/Summer, 2015

Congregation of St. Joseph Heritage Society

The **Heritage Society** was founded in order to gratefully recognize friends who have generously included the Congregation of St. Joseph in their estate plans. Your gift to us through your will or revocable trust, life insurance policy, IRA, charitable gift annuity, or charitable remainder trust enrolls you as a member of our *Congregation of St. Joseph Heritage Society* with these benefits:

- You will receive a *Certificate of Appreciation* and a special gift.
- Your name will be inscribed in our registry of honor.
- Masses or prayer services will be celebrated annually for the sisters to keep you in prayer.
- You will be recognized at our annual donor appreciation event.
- A Mass will be offered for the repose of your soul.

To learn more and join, visit us at csjgiftplanning.org, or contact Gary W. Mulhern, Gift Planning Specialist, at 304.232.8160, ext. 148, or email at gmulhern@csjoseph.org.

Heritage Society Members † Denotes Deceased

Anonymous (11)
Anonymous†
Jeri Bastin
Mary and Peter Bauer
Fr. James F. Bernauer
Tanya M. Bieth
Joyce Billadeau
Jane Bogenschutz
Larry and Leslie Bouterie
Lawrence Brafman
Bill Bramanti
Margaret Brennan
Bridget Brewster
Rosemary Broughton
Charles L. Brouillard
George and Judy Bruzza
Bonnie Buerk
Eileen J. Cantin, Ph.D.
Robert R. Casey
Thomas and Andrea Cassidy
Guy and Judy Chandler
Nancy S. and Doug Charney
Edward and Elizabeth Clark
Frances M. Cleary†
Ann Marie Conner
Mary M. Coscino
Louis D. Curet
Ruth Deitz
Evelyn M. Dennig†
Alice Dougan
Fr. Donald J. Eder
Patricia L. Evans
Marguerite Geier
Mary Louise Gellner
Marilyn F. Gibas
Louis B. and Marjorie S. Gillespie
Rosalie Glynn
Agnes Goss
Mary Jo and Steve Hazard
Erin H. Hazlewood
Julie D. Hendrickson
Judith A. Higgs
Terri and Herb Holman, M.D.
Beth Hornberger
M. Lurline Jolly
Michael and Bev Kelly
Lyn Kramer
Joe and Colleen LaVenture

William M. Lawler
Suzanne M. Leafent†
Marilyn Ledger
Marla Loehr
Robert H. Mace, Jr.
Gloria C. Maddox
Hilda and Lloyd Maestri
Carol C. Manion†
Fr. John Mannion
Mary Sue McDuffie
Karen L. Medure
Charles and Vicki Milam
Margaret A. Morath, D.O.
Judy and Jerry Nechal
Robert and Elizabeth Newman
Mary L. Nielsen
Gerry and Sue Oaks
Muriel Offan†
Bernard and Pauline Parr
Mildred C. Peiffer†
Peggy and John Perring-Mulligan
Jim† and Vi Powers
Marie Jean Proulx
Alice Riley†
Burke Riley
Kathy Riley
Rev. Msgr. Allen J. Roy
Bill and Judy Sandquist
Margaret Schmitz
Mary and Ray Schulte
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Shirey
Tom† and Susie Siemers
Yvonne Stoehr
Cecilia A. Stoltman
Joanna C. Stott
Jean Tesloff†
Andrea Longo Thomas
Mary Ann Tintes
Marilyn Trechter
Elvern A. Vanyo
Ruth and Dan Velasquez
Kathleen E. Walsh
Fr. Steven P. Walter
Mary Fran Walter
Judith Whitacre
Margaret M. Wiechman
Mary M. Wilcox
Mary M. Zignego

If you've remembered the Congregation of St. Joseph in your estate plans, please let us know so we can include you in our next issue. We only list members who have granted us permission.



For Judy (Hocking) Higgs, the Sisters of St. Joseph are more than very near and dear to her. After all, she spent 13 years as a member. During that time, the congregation was responsible for her early religious formation and higher education. After leaving the congregation, Judy became an associate, has been in that capacity for many years, as was her late husband, Harry. An associate is an individual who is drawn to the sisters' mission and spirituality in a formal way, but does not take vows.

"Over the past decades, I have maintained a close and significant relationship with the sisters and have been involved in congregational life and ministries," said Judy. "I share the charism and values of the Congregation of St. Joseph, and I am committed to their Generous Promises. It is important to me to support the life and work of the

Close Relationship and Shared Vision Leads to Gift to Support Sisters' Life and Work

sisters in light of our shared vision and Gospel values," she continued. The Generous Promises are four main goals on which the congregation is focused. These include: to work toward systemic change in collaboration with others; to take steps to strengthen, heal, and renew the face of Earth; to work toward a culture of inclusivity and mutuality; and to be mutually responsible and accountable for leadership in the congregation.

Because her commitment to the sisters and their mission runs so deep, it was a natural progression for Judy to want to support the congregation financially. She has been a regular supporter over the years, but Judy wanted to do more, and that included giving from her assets. An excellent method of doing this is a gift of a beneficiary designation. This can take many forms and can include retirement plans, life insurance policies, IRA accounts, transfer on death accounts, or commercial annuities, just to name a few. "I chose to give beneficiary designations over other forms of planned giving to keep clear what will be assigned to the

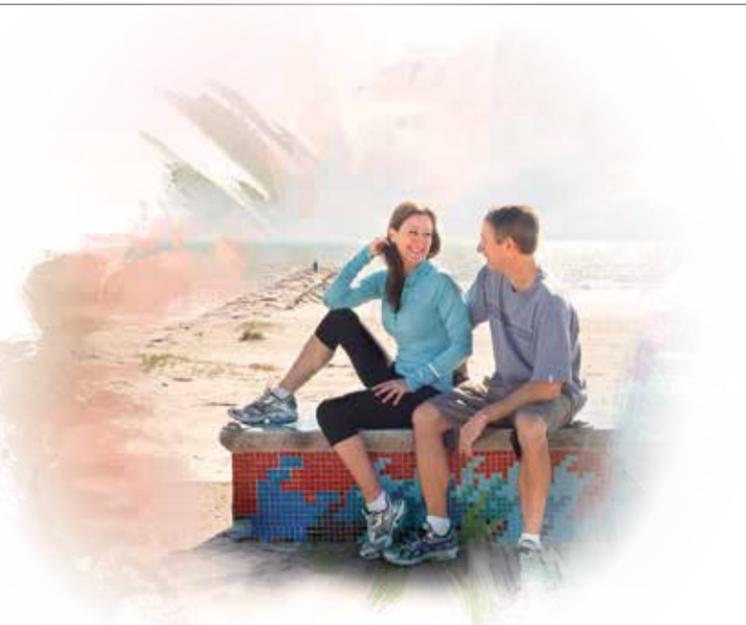
congregation without having to go through the process of a will being probated," said Judy. "And I feel confident that my wishes will be handled without question," she continued.

Judy said it was easy to make the beneficiary designations that she made for the sisters. "I simply requested that my professional financial advisor contact the respective agencies to request the appropriate forms," she stated. All she had to do was fill them out and sign them. What does Judy hope to accomplish with her generosity? "I hope that the beneficiary designations will help to support the elder sisters and contribute to the continuation of congregational ministries," she said. Judy continued, "The benefit to me is the peace of mind regarding the eventual distribution of my assets."

When asked what she liked most about making beneficiary designations to benefit the sisters, Judy replied, "Beneficiary designations provide hassle-free ways to support the congregation beyond one's lifetime on Earth." ■

The Legacy YOU LEAVE

One of the most effective but simplest ways you can support the Congregation of St. Joseph or other charitable organizations is by including a gift in your will. Also known as a charitable bequest, a gift made through your will can benefit both you and the causes most important to you.



Why might you want to make a charitable bequest? Here are some of the benefits of bequest giving:

- A bequest is flexible – You can make a gift today by including a provision in your will and change your mind anytime in the future.
- With a bequest, you can give as much or as little as you want to charity through your will without impacting your lifestyle today.
- You may continue to benefit from and make use of your assets (your home, stocks, IRA, etc.) during your lifetime, since the gift is made when you pass away.
- It typically costs you nothing to add a charitable bequest to your first will or at a later date when you decide to update your plan.
- If you have a taxable estate (over \$5.43 million this year), your estate may benefit from estate tax savings. This means that you can preserve and give more of your estate to your family.
- You can create a legacy by which to be remembered through bequest giving. Please let us know if you have already included us in your plans so that we can recognize and thank you!

Whether or not you include a charity in your plans, it is important for you to have a will written by qualified counsel. Here are some reasons why you might want to create a plan for the future:

WITH A WILL	WITHOUT A WILL
You can provide for your family, friends, and the causes that mean the most to you.	Everyone must guess what you intended with your estate.
Probate is made easier because your intentions are clear.	Probate can be burdensome if not contentious for family and friends.
You write your legacy and story by which to be remembered.	Your legacy is written by others or not written at all.

If you are interested in learning more about creating a plan, please visit our website below. You will find a free guide to planning your will, bequest language, and other tools designed specifically to help you and your attorney. Please call or email us if we can be of assistance to you in your planning. ■

Visit www.csjgiftplanning.org and click on *Bequest Language* to find the congregation's full legal name which you will need in order to include the sisters in your will or name the sisters as a beneficiary of one of your assets as described in our cover story.

GIFT ANNUITY The Gift That Gives Back To You



Did you know there is a way to support our cause and receive cash back? It's called a charitable gift annuity.

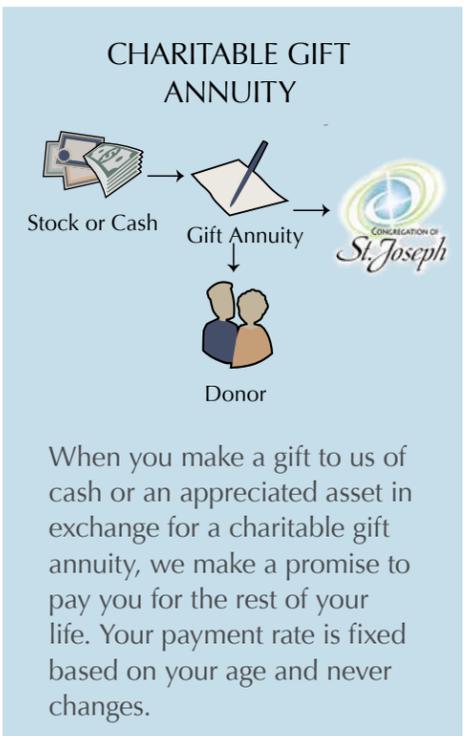
Our friends who have funded one for themselves like the reliable constant payments of a charitable gift annuity. Here are some of the benefits of a charitable gift annuity that you, too, can enjoy:

- Income tax deduction to offset taxes
- Capital gains tax savings (for an appreciated asset gift)
- Fixed payments to you (and/or another person) for life
- Higher payments for a deferred payment gift annuity
- Possible tax-free payments

While a gift annuity offers many options, the benefits increase when you fund it with

an appreciated asset like stock. By transferring stock to fund your gift annuity, you can receive immediate capital gains relief for your gift. Avoiding an immediate capital gains tax on the sale of your assets can provide a big benefit for you if you are facing higher capital gains tax rates this year.

If the idea of cash back and tax savings interests you, please visit our website to learn more about the charitable gift annuity. Please call or email us for a free no-obligation illustration with your potential gift annuity payment and tax benefits. ■



When you make a gift to us of cash or an appreciated asset in exchange for a charitable gift annuity, we make a promise to pay you for the rest of your life. Your payment rate is fixed based on your age and never changes.

Planning Together is published biannually to provide insight into how you can plan for your future and benefit organizations that you believe in, like the Congregation of St. Joseph.

For more information on the content in this issue or to learn more about helping the sisters continue their work, please contact: Gary W. Mulhern, Gift Planning Specialist, at **304.232.8160, ext 148**, or gmulhern@csjoseph.org. You may also visit us online at www.csjgiftplanning.org