



THE SERAPHIM LEGACY SOCIETY

Gift Planning News and Ideas for Special Friends of St. Bonaventure University **SPRING 2015**

LOVING TRIBUTES FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

Spring is a glorious time of year. The beauty of flowers in bloom makes us stop and celebrate the ever-changing world around us. Spring is a time for reflection and renewal.

This time of year is also filled with a variety of opportunities for us to celebrate and honor those people who have touched our lives in profound and meaningful ways.

On Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, Memorial Day and other special occasions, we often try to find just the right way to express how we truly feel about those we admire, respect and love.

A special way to give

Instead of giving flowers, you might want to consider a different sort of gift—a gift that will honor your special person in a way that will tangibly benefit students today or perhaps in the future. A gift to St. Bonaventure in memory of, or as a tribute to, your special person provides a way to thoughtfully

remember family members and friends who have been a vital part of your life.

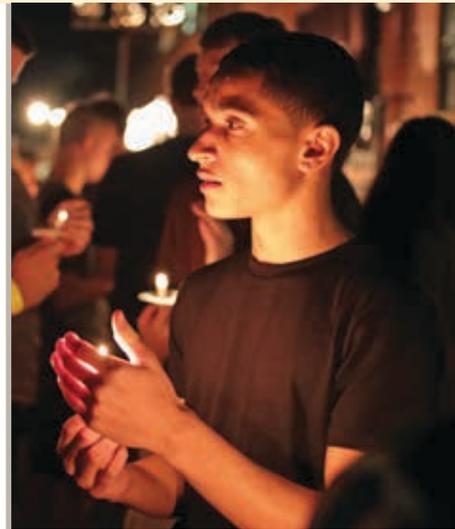
What can be given?

Tribute gifts are often made by check or credit card. This is a convenient way to give and the gift can readily be put to good use by St. Bonaventure.

There are others ways of making a memorial or tribute gift. For example, stocks or mutual funds that have increased in value since you have owned them can make excellent tax-wise gifts.

Another way to express your admiration is through a tribute gift in your will. For example, what could be a more fitting tribute to a spouse who has passed on than creating a memorial bequest in your will that provides an endowment at St. Bonaventure in his or her name?

Please read on to learn more about how to make special gifts this spring that acknowledge your affection, esteem and gratitude.



The circle of life: Estate gifts impact future generations of students. Pictured: Class of 2018 Welcome Days Candlelight Ceremony at De La Roche

INSIDE:

- Making meaningful remembrances
- Ready for a quiz?
- Donor Spotlight: Rick Stearns, Class of 1965

HONORING A 50-YEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH A GIFT

Rick Stearns visited St. Bonaventure as a senior in high school and said the university “felt like just the right fit.” When he arrived at St. Bonaventure for his freshman year, Rick “did not know one person there,” but this Poughkeepsie native quickly bonded with his classmates. And that connection has only grown stronger in the 50 years since his graduation.

“At St. Bonaventure, it was really easy to connect with other people,” Rick said. “We all played intramural sports and tried to win the President’s Cup. Even ‘rules’ during our freshman year—wearing those dink hats and signs—bonded us in a special way.”

In addition to the strong bond among the students, the friars and professors at St. Bonaventure also contributed to the unique atmosphere on campus. As a business major with a concentration in finance, Rick clearly recalls classes with Professor Austin Finan.

“Prof. Finan was such an excellent lecturer, I would forget to take notes!” Rick recalled. “I was mesmerized by him—and needless to say I had to borrow someone’s notes to study for his midterm.”

Since his graduation, Rick has been blessed with a wonderful family—his wife Kathy, a daughter and son and four grandchildren—as

well as a successful career in the insurance industry. Now retired and living in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Rick enjoys staying close to his Bonaventure roots by reaching out to prospective new Bonnies. “I have helped recruit 26 kids over the years. Right now I am working with a young lady from here in Florida. I told her if she chooses St. Bonaventure I will buy her a pair of snow boots,” Rick joked.



Rick Stearns, Class of 1965,
and his wife Kathy

Rick may joke about St. Bonaventure’s snowy winters, but he is serious when it comes to his devotion to his alma mater and his desire to give back. “My father always taught us to give back, especially to the community that shaped and nurtured us,” Rick said. “At St. Bonaventure, I received a great education and values that helped shape my life. That’s why I decided to support the university in my estate plans.

“Kathy and I view Bonaventure as a member of our family. So we decided to treat it as our third ‘child’ in our will. We designated 10 percent of our estate to go to St. Bonaventure as thanks for the education I received. I hope other alumni will consider doing something similar—the gift amount is your choice, but the key is to give back so others can experience what we all received from the friars during our Bonaventure years.”

PROVIDE FOR LOVED ONES FIRST

Charitable bequests need not affect your family’s future security. After your loved ones have received the property you designate for them, you can include a gift in your will of the remainder of your estate.

A charitable gift of the residue of your estate can also be changed at any time, at your discretion.

MAKING MEANINGFUL REMEMBRANCES

It has been said that your will and estate plans are a testament to your values. A will allows you to legally provide for those you care about in ways you feel are most appropriate. You can also continue your support of charitable institutions, such as St. Bonaventure, in these plans.

Through your will

One way to express your love and admiration for an exceptional individual is through a memorial or tribute gift in your will. Remembering a family member, close friend, professor or mentor in your will is a lasting way to honor that person who has touched your life in a profound way.

Some options to explore when considering a memorial or tribute gift include giving a specific dollar amount, a particular asset or personal property.

A lasting legacy

Example: Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's son passed away a few years ago. At the time, friends and family made gifts in his memory to his alma mater. And each year on his birthday, additional gifts were made.

When the Johnsons revised their will recently, they decided to include a charitable bequest to their son's alma mater. The Johnsons hope that this gift in memory of their beloved son will help other students reach their educational goals.

Other ways to give

If you have a spouse, sibling, parent or other loved one who depends on you for financial assistance, you may have concerns about your ability to continue providing this care in the future.

A life income gift plan, such as a charitable gift annuity, can provide income payments for the life of a person you designate. After the payment period ends, the remaining funds become a gift in memory of your loved one, to be used by St. Bonaventure.

Many also specify memorial gifts from their life insurance policies, retirement plan assets and other sources. A memorial or tribute gift made from such funds may allow you to give more in a tax-efficient way.

We will be pleased to provide more information to you and your advisors about ways you can create a lasting legacy at St. Bonaventure while preserving financial security for you and your loved ones.



Joe Franzetti, '99, keynote speaker at the 2014 Internship Summit is pictured with (from left) Jason Damon, Colleen Guilfoyle, Emma Zaremba and Sebastian Bellm.

READY FOR A QUIZ?

Knowing how estate planning can help you reach your personal and philanthropic goals, such as memorial or tribute gifts, can make it easier to create or update your plans. The following *True/False* quiz may help you determine if your estate plans meet your needs and wishes. If you are uncertain about a statement, answer *False*.

1. I have a will or living trust. True False
2. I have not moved to another state since last reviewing my will and other plans. True False
3. My marital status has not changed since my last review. True False
4. No children or grandchildren have been born since I last updated my plans. True False
5. My spouse and/or loved ones need no assistance in managing property left to them. True False



Your generosity helps to ensure a campus-wide environment for celebrating our students and their many talents.

6. I have not given away or sold property that is left to heirs in my will or other plans. True False
7. I am aware that my will may not determine who receives my life insurance and retirement plan assets. True False

If you answered *False* to any of the statements above, you may want to revisit your estate plans to be sure they reflect your current wishes. We will also be pleased to provide additional information on ways to effectively plan your estate.

JOIN THE SERAPHIM LEGACY SOCIETY

The Seraphim Legacy Society honors alumni and friends who preserve and pass on the St. Bonaventure promise through a gift in their long-range estate plans. If you would like to learn more about how to make a legacy gift to St. Bonaventure in your will, trust or other plans, please return the enclosed card or contact Robert Keenan, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at (800) 664-1273, opt. #2.



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