



THE SERAPHIM LEGACY SOCIETY

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

FALL 2015

SECURE THE FUTURE FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

You would not begin a home improvement project without making sure you have everything you need to complete it. You might talk to someone who has done a similar project, make a list of the materials you will need, take measurements and draw a rough sketch of your idea.

In much the same way, you cannot provide for your family's future economic security if you do not have the proper plans in place. Many professionals suggest beginning with a will, the basic building block of even the most complex estate plans.

A good place to start

Think of your will as a blueprint to help guide the eventual settlement of your estate. A thoughtfully written will, prepared in consultation with a qualified attorney, distributes property to those you wish to provide for in amounts or percentages you determine.

It also allows you to make gifts to family, friends and charitable interests, such as St. Bonaventure University, who have earned a special place in your life.

Provide for heirs

Your will can provide your loved ones and favorite charities with particular sums of money, certain assets or percentages of your estate. It also allows you to distribute your assets according to the individual needs of heirs.

You can leave specific amounts to some people and have others share in the remainder of your estate.

Charitable gifts in your will are an easy and effective way to remove assets from your taxable estate, tie up loose ends, and make sure your philanthropic goals are met.

Read on for more information about ways you can use your will and other estate plans to balance the needs of your loved ones with your philanthropic goals.



Thanks to the Franciscan values on which St. Bonaventure was founded, graduates go out into the world prepared to live lives of greater meaning.

INSIDE:

- Choosing the best ways of giving
- Test your will IQ
- Donor Spotlight: Marv Stocker, Class of 1965

LOVE OF BONA'S LEADS TO GIFT

If anyone was ever the quintessential Bonnie, it may be Marv Stocker. Marv grew up in Buffalo, New York, and was encouraged by his neighbor, a Bonaventure grad, to check out the school. “One visit to Bona’s and I just fell in love,” Marv said. And he has been in love with St. Bonaventure ever since.

A graduate of the class of 1965, Marv has supported his alma mater in many ways over the past 50 years. “I have made gifts to the school ever since I graduated, and I was fortunate that my gifts were matched by my employer [Marv worked for GE for 37 years],” he said. Marv has served as co-chair of the Bonaventure Fund six times, was president of the National Alumni Association Board in 2007 and 2008, and he recently helped in the planning and fundraising efforts for his 50th reunion.

“Our class has stayed very close. We are like family,” he explained. “Our 50th reunion was phenomenal—84 of us decided to come in a day early just to spend more time together. We had 140 attend the Saturday banquet. And our class was very receptive to giving back—our reunion gift was one of the largest the school has ever received! We donated an additional \$60,000 for the Grotto Renovation.”

While Marv and his classmates at the reunion were impressed by the new buildings and growth on campus, he feels very strongly that St. Bonaventure’s “Franciscan values are what

separates Bonaventure from other schools, and those values go with you for the rest of your life.”



Marv Stocker, Class of 1965,
and his wife Donna

Marv credits the friars, such as Dan Riley, Robert Gavin and Gervase White, with having a “tremendous impact on my life in so many ways.” In fact, Marv said, “The second most important decision I have made in my life, after marrying my wife Donna, was choosing St. Bonaventure University. And many of my Bonaventure friends feel the same way about their decision to choose Bona’s.”

That’s why it comes as no surprise that Marv and Donna have decided to support St. Bonaventure through a bequest in their will. “I feel indebted

to St. Bonaventure. I can never

fully give back what the school has given me and my family, but with our gift we hope to provide scholarships so more students can share in the life-changing Bonaventure experience.”

Marv and Donna are happy to be members of the Seraphim Legacy Society, which honors those who have made planned gifts to St. Bonaventure, and encourage others to consider their own legacy to the school. “After you take care of your family [the Stockers have 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren], what could be better than supporting St. Bonaventure? Your gift will help ensure the future of this wonderful place for generations to come, which is something we all want to see.”

PLANNING A LASTING LEGACY

The gifts described in this newsletter can honor the memory of a relative or friend.

More information about gifts in honor or in memory of others is available upon request.

CHOOSING THE BEST WAYS OF GIVING

The foundation of your plans—your will—is an extremely flexible instrument. Consider the different ways you can use your will to distribute property:

Leaving a fixed amount

Your will can specify a dollar amount to be given to a particular recipient. This can make sense if you would like to ensure that a certain amount is received by an heir before distributing any remaining assets to others.

Remember, however, that your financial situation may change over time. It is especially important to periodically review your will and other plans to be sure they reflect your current desires.

Designating specific assets

Similarly, you can use your will to leave a particular item or asset to others. As is the case when providing for a bequest of a dollar amount, this allows you to know exactly what a loved one or charitable interest will receive. Be careful, however, not to sell or give away any assets you have designated for others in your will.

It's also a good idea to discuss your plans with the intended recipient in advance. You don't want to burden them with an asset they may not need or are unable to use.

Giving adjustable amounts

Leaving designated percentages of your estate allows you to give proportions rather than specific amounts. The amounts received are then automatically adjusted as your finances change. Consider this option if you have less specific goals in mind.

Give "what's left"

The residue of your estate is what remains after all other distributions have been made. After first providing for loved ones in the amounts you determine to be appropriate, you may choose to devote all or a portion of the residue of your estate to St. Bonaventure.

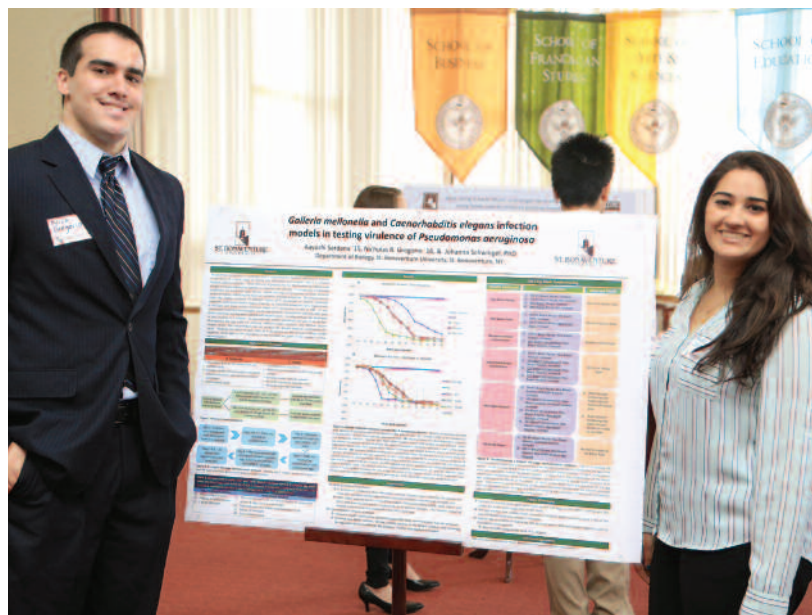
Wills offer flexibility

You can also combine these methods in your will. For example, you might specify that certain amounts or properties go to certain people, then divide whatever remains by percentages among your charitable interests.

Supplement your will

Other documents you may already have in place may determine how certain assets you own are ultimately distributed. For instance, if you own real estate jointly with another, your will may have little or no effect on the property's final disposition. In the case of life insurance policies or retirement plans, a beneficiary designation you signed years ago, not the terms of your will, could determine who receives those assets.

For more information on ways you can create a gift to St. Bonaventure in your will or other plans, please contact Robert F. Keenan, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at (800) 664-1273.



At the Arts and Sciences Expo (pictured above) and other education programs, St. Bonaventure students show what they're passionate about and discover what "becoming extraordinary" means for them.

TEST YOUR WILL IQ

How much do you really know about wills? Let's find out! Answer the following statements to discover just how savvy you are about wills.

1. A will is an effective way to make sure those I leave behind are taken care of in the ways that I suggest. True False
2. If I don't have a will when I pass away, my assets will be divided according to my state's laws. True False
3. I can continue my good works beyond my lifetime by naming charitable interests as beneficiaries in my will. True False
4. Most attorneys who specialize in estate planning can provide quotes for drawing up a will. True False
5. Even if I think my estate is small, I can still benefit from having an up-to-date will. True False



Students enjoy the state-of-the-art Swan Business Center thanks to many generous donors like you. Ann Swan made the lead gift to honor her late husband, William Swan, Class of 1969.

6. Owning assets jointly with a spouse is no substitute for a thoughtful will. True False

The answer to all of the statements above is *True*. If you got them all right, congratulations! If you missed a few, don't worry. You may just need to study up on wills a bit more—and this newsletter is a good place to start. You may also want to talk with friends and advisors who are well-informed about estate planning.

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 have included St. Bonaventure in your will or other estate plans, we cordially invite you to join the Seraphim Legacy Society so we may recognize your generosity. 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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