

# SERAPHIM *Legacy* SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Gift Planning News—St. Bonaventure University

FALL 2018

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

**D**ominic Manieri, Class of 1940, died in 1999. This fall, he once again helped a student attend St. Bonaventure University.

Thanks to a bequest in Dominic's will, future generations now have the chance to realize their dreams and achieve their potential.

The myth is that all planned gifts are complicated. But some options are relatively easy, like designating a gift to the general endowment or a named endowment, such as an endowed scholarship.

This issue features a number of ways to make charitable gifts through your will.

It also highlights the many good works of Fr. Philotheus Boehner, O.F.M., who arrived at St. Bonaventure in 1940 (the year Dominic Manieri graduated). A leading Franciscan scholar and a renowned botanist, Fr. Philotheus was invited to Bona's by then president Fr. Thomas Plassmann, O.F.M. Together they founded the Franciscan Institute.

St. Bonaventure prepares students for lives of faith, leadership and service.

What each of these men put into motion decades ago is still making a difference on campus today. Are you a difference maker?

*Robert F. Keenan, '74*

Robert F. Keenan, '74  
Associate Director of Planned Giving



## DID YOU KNOW?

ST. BONAVENTURE IS RANKED **NO. 1** IN NEW YORK AND **NO. 2** IN THE NORTH ON *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S* 2019 LIST OF BEST REGIONAL UNIVERSITY VALUES.

# ALUMNUS AND STAFF MEMBER SUPPORTS UNIVERSITY THROUGH ESTATE PLAN



*A “unique lifetime association” with St. Bonaventure is the reason Bob Keenan, '74, has named the University in his estate plan—a practical way, he says, for he and his wife to make a significant gift and leave a legacy.*

**M**y relationship with St. Bonaventure University and our Franciscan leadership dates back to the 1950s—as a faculty brat, a student, a member of the Class of 1974, parent of a 2001 graduate, and as an employee for the past 21 years.

I have been asked many times to tell my story. Now it's time.

Yes, Leo was my dad (Leo E. Keenan Jr., L.L.D., '47, who taught at the University for more than 50 years). And, yes, I am a member of the Seraphim Legacy Society, and my wife, Jane, is too. We are joined by more than 500 Seraphim Legacy Society members. I became a member the year I began working at St. Bonaventure in 1997. But why did I join?

After only a few months on the job, I saw firsthand the impact of estate giving, no matter the size or manner of the gift, and how it would help insure the future of this institution. I chose to remember St. Bonaventure through a life insurance policy. I also knew it would be difficult for me to ask our alumni and friends to join the Seraphim Legacy Society if I were not a member.

From my perspective, as a member of the Keenan family—a family with more than 30 degrees from this university—I feel so strongly in my heart that I owe St. Bonaventure. I simply must give something back.

When I graduated in 1974, I did not have any student loans or debt from my college education. I was so fortunate to have been a recipient of the university's tuition remission program. I was a

beneficiary of this program because of my father's dedicated work. He began teaching at Bona's on July 5, 1949, and taught his last class (which I attended) on December 12, 2001. That's 52 years of loyalty and service.

During his tenure, he influenced decades of Bonaventure men and women. He was first on this campus in 1936 as a student in a math class taught by Mike Reilly. There has been a Keenan or two (or more) on this campus for more than 80 years!

The University has truly has been a second home to me. As a high school senior, I applied to only one college. There is no doubt I am where I am because of St. Bonaventure.

My story isn't over, and neither is yours. All I ask is if you would please join me as a member of our Seraphim Legacy Society. Your estate gift will help secure the future of this one-of-a kind Franciscan University.



## MAKING GIFTS THROUGH YOUR WILL

**T**hrough your will you can plan for the future well-being of your loved ones. Wills can provide for spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings and friends. They can also include gifts to a different kind of “loved one”—a charitable organization you believe in, such as St. Bonaventure University.

**Explore the options.** There are many ways to make charitable gifts through your will. You can choose to give a specific amount, a particular property, a percentage of your estate or whatever remains after all other loved ones have been provided for. You can also combine these methods—for example, giving a percentage of a certain asset.

Each method of giving has different advantages. Your attorney can advise you on which approach best suits your goals.

**Funding other plans.** Wills can do more than provide for a simple distribution of assets. Through your will you can fund other plans that result in income for a spouse or another loved one.

For example, you can use your will to set up a gift annuity, a charitable gift that also makes regular, fixed payments to a loved one for the remainder of his or her lifetime. Or you can fund a type of trust that makes payments to your loved one for a period of time, then reverts to a charitable institution, like Bona’s.

**Meet all your goals.** Even those with strong ties to charitable causes want to know that their loved ones will be provided for. Your will can be used to meet many of your financial goals.

Talk to your attorney about the different methods of making gifts through your will. You may be surprised to find how many possibilities exist.

### IN MEMORY OF A FRIAR

Fr. Philotheus Boehner, O.F.M.

1901-1955

German émigré Fr. Philotheus Boehner, O.F.M., is remembered for his many achievements as well as his humble and gentle nature. An eminent scholar, noted botanist and first director of the Franciscan Institute, he accomplished much during his 15 years at St. Bonaventure.

Born in Lichtenau, Germany in 1901, he became a Franciscan in 1920 and was ordained a priest in 1927. He received his doctorate in biology in 1933, but also immersed himself in medieval philosophy, teaching both philosophy and biology in his home country.

After accepting an invitation by the eminent philosopher Etienne Gilson to lecture at the University of Toronto, Fr. Philotheus found himself an enemy alien there when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939 and World War II broke out. St. Bonaventure president Fr. Thomas Plassmann, OFM, invited him to continue his work here as a member of the graduate faculty.

Fr. Philotheus accepted and was influential in the formation of the Franciscan Institute, of which he was named the first director in 1946.

As a scholar, Fr. Philotheus is most famous for editing the writings of the medieval Franciscan philosopher, William of Ockham. As director, he focused on the rare book collection. Today it is widely considered the most important collection of Franciscana in North America.

Known as a compassionate confessor and spiritual director, throughout World War II, Fr. Philotheus served as auxiliary chaplain to German interned prisoners of war. He also counseled many at St. Bonaventure, including noted spiritual writer Thomas Merton.

His talent in philosophy meant he was often asked to guest lecture across the country, and scholars under his supervision published work on philosophy, theology, history and missiology.

But it was biology that remained Fr. Philotheus’s passion. He was able to identify 83 unique new species of mosses and liverworts in Cattaraugus County.

He passed away on May 22, 1955, at the age of 54.

Fr. Philotheus is buried at St. Bonaventure Cemetery.



## TAX-FREE GIVING FROM YOUR IRA

**F**or more than 100 years, our nation's tax laws have encouraged charitable giving. Now, if you are age 70½ and older, you may make gifts directly from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to charitable organizations you care about, like St. Bonaventure, without having to pay taxes that would otherwise be due.

### Why is this such a good giving option?

- ▶ These donations can count toward all or part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution.
- ▶ Giving from your IRA—rather than withdrawing these funds—won't increase your Adjusted Gross Income or subject your Social Security income to more taxes.
- ▶ IRA gifts can be especially advantageous for those who do not expect to itemize their deductions and for those whose deductions are limited.
- ▶ You may make charitable IRA gifts of any amount (up to \$100,000 per-person per-year or \$200,000 for a couple with separate IRAs).

Consider supporting educational excellence for the students of St. Bonaventure by making a year-end gift from your IRA. For more information, contact us or your IRA administrator. We are happy to work with you on the charitable aspect of your financial 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, '74, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at (716) 375-2318.



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