



THE SERAPHIM LEGACY SOCIETY

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

WINTER 2015

A SEASON FOR GIVING

Fall is traditionally a time when we express thanks for the blessings we have received—and a time to pause and make plans for the future. For many, it can also be a time for sharing with others through charitable gifts.

The perfect time

A large number of charitable gifts are completed during the final months of each year. By taking the time now to carefully consider what to give, when to give and how to give, you can help ensure that your gifts make a maximum impact.

There are many options you may wish to consider when planning your gifts to St. Bonaventure University for the remainder of the year.

Boost your tax benefits

The way you choose to make your gifts can affect the amount you give. In fact, carefully

selecting the best property and timing for your gifts may actually allow you to give more in support of St. Bonaventure at the same after-tax cost.

Consider the future

For many people the end of the year wouldn't be complete without a thorough review of their long-range estate plans. During such a review you may find additional ways for your resources to perform "double duty"—providing for the financial security of your loved ones and benefitting St. Bonaventure.

Read on to learn more ways you can make charitable gifts this year that will maximize your benefits and provide for the students of St. Bonaventure.

As always, please let us know if we can provide you with additional information at no obligation. We are happy to share more ideas to help you complete your gift in a timely manner.



St. Bonaventure University is ranked No. 5 on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2016 list of best values in the North, the second-highest ranking for any regional university in New York.

INSIDE:

- Q&A about year-end giving
- Leaving your legacy
- Donor Spotlight: Mark and Lorraine Perry, Class of 1983

COUPLE HAS SPECIAL BONDS WITH BONA'S

For Mark and Lorraine Perry, class of 1983, St. Bonaventure is not just their beloved alma mater. It is where they met on their first day of freshman year, where they started dating a few months later at the Christmas dance and where they got engaged their senior year. "This year we celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary," Lorraine said.

For Mark, a history major, coming to St. Bonaventure was a family affair—his uncle was long-time theology professor Fr. Gervase White, and Mark's two brothers and sister also attended the school. Lorraine, on the other hand, was looking for a college with a strong communications program when she decided to visit Bonaventure her senior year in high school. "I fell in love with the campus," she said. "After that, St. Bonaventure was the only school I applied to."

Lorraine and Mark's four years at Bonaventure are ones they still cherish today. "Not only did we receive a fantastic education, but we made lifelong friends," Mark said. Lorraine agreed, "The friendships we made are second to none, even 35 years later."

Their Bonaventure connection has indeed continued over the years. "We run into people all the time who went to Bonaventure," Mark said. "We have an instant connection to them, no matter what year they graduated. We enjoy meeting others who love the school as much as we do."

Lorraine and Mark have also given both their time and financial resources to their school. They established a scholarship in honor of Mark's uncle, Fr. Gervase, who passed away in 2002. "It's been special to see our giving make an impact on current Bonaventure students," Mark said.

Lorraine also served on St. Bonaventure's National Alumni Association Board a few years ago, and during her term she and Mark decided to make a gift using life insurance. "We were

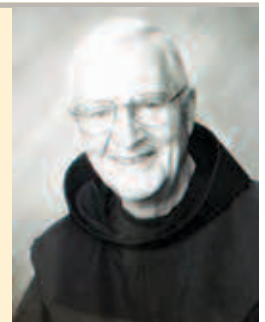
thinking about our estate planning, and decided to take out a life insurance policy naming St. Bonaventure as the beneficiary," Lorraine said. "With this plan, we give a set amount every year for 15 years, and then the school ultimately receives a larger gift down the road. It was simple to set up—we just filled out a form with our insurance provider—and we receive tax benefits. It's a win-win way for us to give."

While Lorraine and Mark's generosity will help students at St. Bonaventure for years to come, they believe they are the ones receiving more. "The older we get, our memories of Bonaventure grow," Mark said. "It's a great feeling to know that our life insurance policy will help Bonaventure carry on and create those memories for others after we are gone."



Lorraine and Mark Perry,
Class of 1983

Fr. Gervase White, O.F.M., 1951 alumnus, served nearly 47 years at Bona's. He taught theology, and served as prefect and dean of students, chaplain, campus minister and guardian of St. Bonaventure Friary.



In 2002, the Perry family established the **Fr. Gervase White, O.F.M., Scholarship** to honor Fr. Gervase's service to St. Bonaventure and to celebrate the good he shared as a friend, mentor and educator. The scholarship in his name aids children of St. Bonaventure alumni who demonstrate financial need and academic merit.

Persons interested in contributing to the scholarship fund should contact Bob Keenan, '74, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at (716) 375-2318 or rkeenan@sbu.edu.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

Q. Why should I consider making a gift before the end of the year?

A. Only gifts completed by Dec. 31 can reduce your tax bill for this year. Your tax rate determines how much you save: the higher your rate, the more you save. If your state also taxes your income, your savings may be even greater.

Q. What can I donate for a year-end gift to St. Bonaventure?

A. Cash, usually in the form of a check, is the most popular type of charitable gift at the end of the year. If you itemize your tax deductions and donate cash, you are allowed to eliminate tax on up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Any unused deductions may be used to help reduce taxes in up to five future tax years.

Q. Can I give property other than cash to fund my year-end gift?

A. Yes. Investments that have increased in value during the time you have owned them can be an especially attractive choice to make charitable gifts. Low-yielding stocks, bonds and other property can provide a tax-wise way to make meaningful gifts with little or no impact on your spendable income. Such gifts are generally deductible at their full value in amounts up to 30 percent of adjusted gross income if owned for longer than one year.

Q. What if I have securities that have decreased in value?

A. If you have investments that have decreased in value since you have owned them, it is usually best to sell them. You can then make a deductible year-end gift of the cash proceeds. You may be able to claim tax benefits for both the capital loss and the charitable gift, which may actually total more than the current value of the assets.

Q. I usually don't itemize income tax deductions. Can I still save taxes from my gifts?

A. Consider making extra gifts this year to boost your total deductions over the standard deduction amount, thus qualifying you to itemize.

Q. Is there a way for me to make charitable gifts to St. Bonaventure from my Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?

A. You can make a charity the beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plans to receive all or a portion of any amounts not withdrawn during your lifetime.

Q. Are there other assets that may be appealing when making year-end gifts?

A. If you own paid-up life insurance policies that have built-up cash value but are no longer needed for their original purposes, such as payment of estate taxes, they can make convenient, tax-deductible year-end gifts.



New degree programs at St. Bonaventure include:

- Cybersecurity
- Environmental Studies
- Industrial Management
- Pharmacy D.S. 3+4 Program (with the University at Buffalo)
- Professional and Creative Writing

LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

Charitable gifts included as part of your long-range estate and financial plans can offer an excellent way to provide lasting support for those organizations whose values you share, such as St. Bonaventure University.

Charitable gifts can be made in the future from plans you may already have in place for other purposes, or you may choose to use special giving vehicles that feature current tax savings, increased income and other benefits.

Giving alternatives

You can make meaningful, lasting gifts in one or more of the following ways:

- By making a gift through your **will or living trust**.
- By naming St. Bonaventure as beneficiary of all or a portion of the remainder of **retirement plan accounts**.
- By giving a share in the proceeds of **life insurance policies** no longer needed for their original purpose.

- By naming St. Bonaventure to receive all or a portion of what remains in investment accounts through what are known as **“pay on death” provisions**.

Give and supplement income

There are also ways to give that enable you to make charitable gifts today while retaining income for you and/or your loved ones. You may benefit from professional asset management, as it may reduce capital gains and provide other tax benefits.

Other planning tools allow you to first make charitable gifts for a period of time before providing a tax-free inheritance for your loved ones.

More information

Your gift of a lifetime to St. Bonaventure University can be made while possibly minimizing taxes and settlement costs as you conserve more of your estate for loved ones. Please let us know if we can provide more information to you or your advisers to assist you in the charitable aspects of your plans.

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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