

Planned Giving Tip

December 2006

A Word to the Wise

I recently received the following information from a planned giving consulting firm that works primarily with Catholic organizations:

"Did you know that..."

- * The largest single gift your Catholic institution will ever receive will be a planned gift?
- * Catholics are still the most affluent religious denomination in the U.S?
- * Religious and educational institutions received more than \$100 billion in charitable gifts last year?
- * A large portion of the population does not have a Will?
- * 70% of ALL charitable giving comes from people who regularly attend church?
- * Nearly \$10 billion in charitable gifts were made through bequests in Wills last year?
- * Your donors are continually being asked to make planned gifts by universities, hospitals, museums and other charities?
- * Planned gifts come first and foremost to charities with an organized planned giving program?
- * Sunday envelope users make the best planned giving prospects?"

Attached is a monthly "To Do" list for parishes and schools interested in making planned and endowment giving a higher priority in 2007. If the information above is correct, it seems to make sense to do so. Please call me if you would like to schedule an estate planning seminar in the spring. Continue to remind parishioners in the bulletin to remember the Church in their Will.

Bulletin Messages for the New Year

Make passing on your Catholic heritage your first resolution of the new year. Your planned gift to our endowment makes you an eternal steward of our parish.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD -- Baptism sanctified each of us in Christ to everlasting life. We can ensure that our stewardship to the Church lasts beyond our lifetime by making planned gifts to our endowment(s). Be an "eternal giver" by contacting _____.

May the Lord bless your parish with a renewed and reinvigorated spirit of generosity and self-giving in the coming year. Have a blessed Christmas with your family.... and your spiritual family.

Keep planting seeds!