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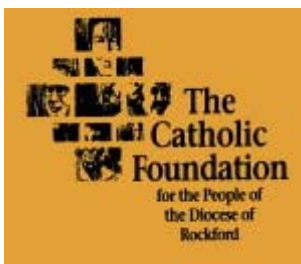
Planned Giving News

Catholic Diocese of Rockford

June 2008



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**From Greg Urban,
Diocesan Director of
Planned Giving**



Dear Greg :

I would first like to offer my congratulations to the newly ordained priests and deacons that will be serving the people of our diocese. It is a great joy to welcome you!

We seem to have rolled quickly from unseasonably cool spring weather into rain,

Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity: The time may be right...

Are you interested in giving a substantial gift to the Church or your favorite charity, but can't do without the current income from your savings to live on? If you answered yes, you might consider a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) offered by the Catholic Foundation. CGAs regularly pay you a fixed amount of money every year for the rest of your life. The payout rate, which is based upon your age when payments begin, is often much higher than offered by a bank CD. And what about safety? Payments on our CGAs are guaranteed by the Catholic Foundation and the Diocese. CGAs also offer you an immediate and continuing tax deduction. The face amount of the CGA (the gift) is invested in the Catholic Foundation. Lifetime payments come to you from both the policy earnings and from some of the original principal. When you pass to eternal life, what is left in the annuity is distributed to those charities you specify. You win with lifetime current income and the charity wins with your eventual gift.

If you are interested in this gift opportunity, now might be a good time to act. The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) has decided to lower suggested payout rates (annuity rates) beginning July 1, 2008. You can see a comparison of the current and new rates by downloading a [annuity rate comparison chart](#). If you (or one of your parishioners) would like a no obligation [on-line](#) or written proposal, please contact (or have them contact) me.

Donor Advised Funds: A New Foundation Offering

The Catholic Foundation has recently inaugurated a new way to give: **Donor Advised Funds (DAF)**. These new funds allow a donor to give one lump sum, say at the end of December, getting an immediate tax deduction, then to advise the Foundation at their leisure to what charity and how much of their gift to distribute. These new donor advised funds, available to individuals only, are invested in the Catholic Foundation and compound earnings until distributed.

The Foundation offers two types of donor advised funds: endowed and provisional. With an endowed DAF, only the invested earnings may be distributed. With a provisional DAF, both earnings and the original gift (or principal) can be distributed.

According to a recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, assets of 103 of the nation's biggest donor-advised funds grew 25 percent in 2007,

storms and the heat of summer. It seems too that the financial markets are mirroring this erratic behavior! Large day-to-day market gains and losses seem to remain the norm. Last I checked, the Foundation Growth Fund return was still running around zero for the fiscal year to date. Let's pray that the market gains a bit and ends higher on June 30.

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer!

P.S. Remember to place the enclosed "blurbs" in your bulletins or newsletters!

Keep planting seeds!

Ministry Quicklinks

[Rockford Stewardship web](#)
[Catholic Foundation web](#)

reaching \$23.3-billion. The amount of money distributed to charities from donor advised funds also jumped significantly last year, leaping 24 percent to \$4.2-billion in 2007.

For more information and an application, please call the Foundation office.

Wills Seminars: Now is the time to plan

Has your parish considered offering a Wills or Estate Planning Seminar for your parishioners this year? If you would like to consider this, now might be a good time to begin preparation. Might I suggest bringing this topic up at your next Finance Council or Stewardship Committee meeting?

Conducting a wills (a.k.a. estate planning) seminar is one of the best ways to promote planned giving to benefit your parish or organization. The primary goal of these seminars is not to get at your parishioner's money. *The goal is to get your parishioners to think about being good stewards:* what might happen to them and their families if they get sick or die and where their money goes if there is no explicit instructions. For example, medical and property powers of attorney are vital documents in case one becomes incapacitated. Do you want the court to decide what medical treatment is sufficient for you? Can someone access your money and other property if you are unable to do so? A simple will might offer the court and relatives guidance as to the wishes of parents for care of their children if the unthinkable happens to them. Only then do we offer participants some ideas and suggestions for gifting a portion of their assets to charity. The most popular time of the year parishes hold these seminars is in the late fall (October and November) as we call November "Wills Awareness Month" in our Diocese. However, any time of the year, if more convenient, will be accommodated. Call or e-mail me if you would like a prepared document with information on the steps necessary for conducting a successful wills seminar in your parish.

Bulletin Blurbs

The following messages can be appropriately inserted into your weekly bulletin:

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Make a gift that will make a difference. Your gifts of cash, stock, real estate and insurance are needed to make our endowment grow, giving our parish a perpetual income. Contact us today to learn more of how a gift today can be transformed into an eternal gift that helps pass on our Catholic heritage.

TAKE STOCK

Did you know that gifts of stock avoid capital gains tax? If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish or diocese rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value of the stock, avoid the capital gains tax and make a substantial gift. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good. Go to our web site at www.stewardshiprockford.org and click on the "Stock Donations" tab, or contact Deacon Greg Urban at our Catholic Foundation at 815-399-4300 for details.

TIRED OF LOW CD RATES?

Charitable Gift Annuities that pay you now and eventually benefit our parish (or school) offer better rates than many CDs, give you a tax deduction, and are excellent ways to pass on your

Catholic heritage. To learn more or for a confidential discussion to help you meet your financial needs and goals, call Deacon Greg Urban at our Catholic Foundation at 815-399-4300.

Contact Info

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