



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Share Your Blessings. Sustain Our Faith.

Inspired Giving

SPRING 2022

Why You Should Plan Ahead

Can't predict what's next? It's tempting to put planning on hold. Unfortunately, loose ends can lead to future stress and rash decisions.

Consider this: Planning under "normal" circumstances allows you to slow down and review your options. For example, taking the time to be mindful when creating an estate plan gives you the opportunity to record your values and make sure your wishes are followed. A thoughtful estate plan can also tell your story through the causes you support after your lifetime.

A well-planned estate helps you:

- **Make the most of your assets.** Meeting with qualified professionals helps you grow your wealth over the long term.
- **Protect family and loved ones.** An up-to-date estate plan keeps loved ones safe. Reviewing it regularly means adjusting for changes in

personal relationships, tax laws, births, deaths and state of residence.

- **Be tax smart.** Certain assets can be tax burdens (or at least tax surprises) to your family. Planning helps you keep them in the loop and possibly avoid a tax hit altogether.
- **Continue helping others after your lifetime.** Gifts to organizations like the Catholic Community Foundation may provide you financial benefits in addition to the fulfillment that comes from helping others.

We Can Help

By planning your estate now, you not only support your loved ones, you ensure the organizations you care about, like the Foundation, continue to receive your support. Contact us at 410-547-5352 or CatholicCommunityFoundation@archbalt.org to learn more about including us in your future plans.



Build an Expert Team

If you're ready to start planning your future, be sure to consult the experts. Having an estate planning attorney and financial advisor helps you make sure your future plans do exactly what you want them to.



Your Estate Plan Might Be Missing Something

If you're taking another look at your existing estate plan, or just starting your planning journey, be sure to include the following items—in addition to a will—to make things easier for you and your loved ones. In most cases, you won't need to involve an attorney.

Be Sure You Have:

- 1 A high-level overview** that lays out the basics of your finances and plans. Include:
 - Where to find your will and other documents, and who the key people are—your agents under the powers of attorney and executors or personal representatives.
 - Financial assets (where accounts are held and who owns them).
 - Insurance coverage (property/casualty, health, life).
 - Property and vehicle information.
 - Regular household bills that you pay.
- 2 A detailed description of your finances** (account numbers, contacts at financial institutions, etc.).
- 3 A personal property memorandum** that is referenced by your will and states how you want property distributed and/or sold. This allows you to assign sentimental or valuable assets to specific people without having to change your will if you change your mind.

- 4 A plan for your pets** to ensure that your furry friends are taken care of. A legally binding pet trust can be created, or you can make provisions in your will for how you want your pets cared for in your absence.
- 5 Your digital estate plan**, which includes online account details.
- 6 Advance directives**, powers of attorney and other end-of-life planning tools to communicate your basic wishes. Add personal messages and detailed plans for your funeral, memorial and other specifics.
- 7 An ethical will**, which is your opportunity to hand down your values in a document or video. Think of it as a personal record of your life—how you've lived it and how you want to inspire others.

Explore Your Legacy at Catholic Community Foundation

Wherever you are in the process, your estate plan is a powerful way to show your love for your favorite causes, such as the Foundation. Please contact us at CatholicCommunityFoundation@archbalt.org or 410-547-5352 to learn more about including the Foundation in your future plans.



Don't Have an Estate Plan? Start Here

Estate planning is a highly personal process of deciding how your assets will be distributed after you're gone. Consider these questions first, then meet with your estate planning attorney to begin putting your wishes into place.

- Who will receive your home? Car? Stocks? Jewelry?
- Who will take care of your children if they are not yet of legal age?
- Do you have relatives, even children, who should not receive assets?
- Are there charities you would like to benefit from your estate?

Shine a Light on Your Values

Taking time to think about and document what's important—and why it's important—can help you connect more deeply with the people and places you hold dear.

For example, caring supporters of the Catholic Community Foundation share a commitment to our mission, our archdiocesan parishes, schools and ministries.

Here are some ideas for how you can forge more meaningful connections and pass along your generous spirit.

- Have you done an activity recently that made you happy? Consider a cause related to that activity. For example, if you enjoy a particular hiking trail, find a local conservation group to support.
- If you feel connected to a current event, see if nonprofits you support are responding and ensure they are set up for success.
- Go beyond dollars and cents. Volunteering is a great way to give back, especially for local charities that may not have the administrative staff that their larger counterparts have. Also, inviting friends and family can be an effective way to introduce them to your passions.
- Your values can unlock others' generosity. Letting loved ones know what you care about can help you connect. It could even bring them to support the causes you cherish.

Tell your story by keeping a running document (a generosity journal or ethical will) that gives an account of who you gave to, why you gave to that nonprofit, how it made you feel and how that nonprofit's mission fits into your overall value system.



Ethical Will? What's That?

While the name “ethical will” may be new to you, the concept may not be. Think of an ethical will (aka a generosity journal or legacy letter) as a vital part of your estate plan.

This record of the experiences you've had, lessons you've learned and the causes you've chosen to support throughout your life is a meaningful way to tell your story, pass on your values and give yourself peace of mind that part of you will live on.



Step-by-Step Planning

Having a solid plan is the best way to help you and your loved ones rest easy about the future. Creating your estate plan also gives you a chance to consider your long-term plans for the Catholic Community Foundation. Our **FREE** guide, ***Your Personal Planning Road Map***, lays out the process in a simple, step-by-step manner. Simply complete and return the enclosed reply card to request your copy.



Catholic Community Foundation Exceeds \$100 Million in Assets

The assets held under management by the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) increased to \$100 million in 2021, an amount that has since grown to more than \$120 million today. This significant milestone represents a new phase for the CCF and a cause for acknowledging and celebrating its positive influence on the thousands of lives it affects.

"This blessed achievement is a true testament to the unyielding dedication and generosity of those who support the Church and its mission," said Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and Foundation chairman. "So many in our Archdiocesan family recognize the crucial importance of sustaining our Catholic institutions. These men and women have put their faith into action to ensure a robust future for this community of faith and, for that, I could not be more grateful."

Established in 1998 by Cardinal William Keeler, the CCF has been able to maintain its annual growth because of an increase in philanthropic participation and the financial acumen of its board of trustees and committee members, both past and present.

"The Foundation's enduring success rests on the shoulders of all who have supported us over these many years," said John Balch, president. "Catholics across our region have given so freely of their time,

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *supports*



talent and treasure and their countless contributions have positioned us well for continued growth."

Bernadette Maldonado, executive director of the Foundation, added, "Growing the Foundation to this considerable size in its young 24-year history signals confidence in the Foundation's mission and in the board's role as primary fiduciary. We are poised to substantially extend our impact on the Archdiocese of Baltimore, its parishes, schools and other beloved Catholic partners."

To learn more about how you can support the Catholic Community Foundation, contact us today.



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The Catholic Community Foundation
320 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201-4421
410-547-5352

CatholicCommunityFoundation@archbalt.org
ccfmd.org