

CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING

The best reason to formalize an estate gift today is because you get to decide who receives the gift and how it is to be used to build God's Kingdom. Have you already designated the church in your will or trust? This means you already qualify as a Catholic Legacy Society member with the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

As you prepare your will or trust, be sure to communicate your Catholic values with a “Catholic Healthcare Directive” and “Durable Power of Attorney. These documents should be included in any estate plan to communicate your wishes with healthcare decisions and to assign a person to act on your behalf should you be unable to do so. The person you assign as your durable power of attorney for health decisions will be able to make decisions on your medical treatment should you be incapacitated. Make sure the person you assign to make these decisions shares your Catholic values on maintaining medical treatment. This durable power of attorney is for healthcare only and does not include the ability to make decisions on financial or other matters on your behalf.

The following documents were prepared by the Kansas Conference of Catholic Bishops. Take these documents to the attorney preparing your estate documents.

[Catholic Declaration on Life and Natural Death "living will"](#)
[Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions](#)

Your Will and Estate Plan should be reviewed periodically.

Did you know you could add a charity to your estate without calling your attorney? Simply [changing a beneficiary on an IRA](#) or other retirement account or Life Insurance to a full or partial beneficiary can be a quick, easy and inexpensive way to be charitable at death.

You want to give a gift in your will to the Church. Do you want to give a specific amount or a percentage? Have you decided what your gift will be? What is your [Catholic Legacy](#)?