

## STEWARDING YOUR LEGACY

Sharing & Growing Your Gifts

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### A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAUREEN O'KEEFFE LINDGREN

As we begin Lent, we are reminded that it is a time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. While we typically focus on prayer and fasting, almsgiving is sometimes overlooked. The giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts.

If you have made plans to share God's gifts in your estate plan, we invite you to join the **Fr. Thomas Price Society**.

Perhaps you have made a bequest for your parish, the Diocese, a school or Diocesan ministry. For that we would like to say *Thank You*. You do not need to share any documents with us, but we invite you to join this Heritage Society.

For more information, please visit the link below.

<https://www.foundationdor.org/fr-price-legacy-society>

### *"Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom"*

In his 2024 Lenten message, the Holy Father reminds us that God has not grown weary of us and that we should welcome Lent as the great season of conversion, a time of freedom. It is a time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbor are one love.

Pope Francis reminds us that "for this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us."

## MAXIMIZING YOUR IMPACT: OFFSETTING TAXES WITH CHARITABLE GIVING

As the new year unfolds, it's a prime time to reflect on your financial goals and consider ways to make a positive impact. One avenue that not only supports worthy causes but also offers potential tax benefits is charitable giving.

Did you know that you can offset your tax liabilities by making charitable contributions? It's a win-win scenario: you support causes you're passionate about while potentially reducing your tax burden. Here's how it works:

- 1. Deductions for Charitable Contributions:** When you donate to The Foundation, you may be eligible to deduct the value of your contributions from your taxable income. This means you can lower your taxable income, potentially resulting in a lower overall tax bill.
- 2. Maximizing Deductions:** To maximize the tax benefits of charitable giving, consider donating appreciated assets such as stocks or real estate. By donating these assets directly to The Foundation, you may be able to avoid capital gains tax while still claiming a deduction for the full fair market value of the asset.
- 3. Donor-Advised Funds:** Another strategy is to contribute to a donor-advised fund (DAF). With a DAF, you can make a charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction, even if you haven't yet decided on specific charities to support. You can then recommend grants from the fund to The Foundation over time.
- 4. Qualified Charitable Distributions:** If you're 70½ or older, you can make direct charitable contributions from your individual retirement account (IRA) through qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). These distributions count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and are excluded from your taxable income, offering tax benefits even if you don't itemize deductions.
- 5. Impactful Giving:** Beyond the tax benefits, charitable giving allows you to make a meaningful difference in your community and beyond. Whether you support your parish, the Diocese, or a diocesan ministry, your contributions can help drive positive change where it's needed most.

As you plan your charitable giving strategy for the year ahead, remember to consult with a tax advisor or financial planner to ensure you're maximizing the benefits while aligning with your overall financial goals.

If you have any questions or would like to explore charitable giving opportunities further, don't hesitate to reach out to Donna Ashcraft on 919-568-1067 or at [Donna@FoundationDOR.org](mailto:Donna@FoundationDOR.org).

Merciful God,  
We embark on our journey of renewal  
through difficult and uncertain times;  
times of division and strife,  
and for many  
suffering and discouragement.  
But our journey is with your son, Jesus,  
who bore his cross and suffered in  
ways we cannot imagine.  
We journey with Jesus toward the  
great paschal feast of Easter,  
where we have the grace to  
experience true the joy of  
Resurrection.  
Teach us to be good stewards of your  
mercy and forgiveness,  
so that we may extend these gifts  
to others.  
Give us the strength to bear witness  
to your son at all times,  
even during these times of stress  
and adversity.  
And fill our hearts with love  
that we may be faithful to the Gospel  
Jesus proclaimed  
and ready to celebrate our unity  
with him and each other.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS – LINKS ARE BELOW!

