



# YOUR LEGACY

SPRING 2023

## Endowment Fund Honoring Coach Provides Lasting Gift

By: SueAnn Howell, Senior Reporter  
*Catholic News Herald*

Students at St. Pius X School will be blessed for generations thanks to an athletic scholarship honoring Katelyn Mitchell, a beloved girls' basketball coach who died at age 33 in 2020 after a long battle with cancer.

The **Katelyn Mitchell Student Athlete Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established by her parents, Stephen and Judith Mitchell, to provide annual tuition assistance for a St. Pius X School athlete.

"St. Pius basketball teams meant so much to Katelyn, and we felt this was a great way to honor her. She was always smiling and never lost her sense of humor. She was a driven young lady who still worked full time and earned her MBA while she battled stage 4 metastatic breast cancer," her father shared.

### Care from their community

The parish community at St. Pius X Church rallied around the Mitchell family during Katelyn's illness and passing. Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X, revealed, "Katelyn was a strong, smart, thoughtful, successful, professional person who was a mentor for so many of our young girls. Many of our students held her in esteem as a role model."

Monsignor Maraccio added, "Her engagement with our kids is enduring. They still remember her



Coach Katelyn Mitchell and the St. Pius X School basketball team.

with great affection, and we honor her legacy with this endowment. We hope to encourage that same level of engagement in our students."

### Thinking of others

Last year, the Mitchells personally funded a \$2,000 scholarship for a St. Pius X student athlete. At the end of this academic year, the Katelyn Mitchell Student Athlete Scholarship will be funded out of the endowment and awarded to applicants in the sixth or seventh grade. Stephen Mitchell emphasized, "This endowment fund will live on when we're gone. It will be a lasting gift we can provide to the students."

*continued on Page 3*

## Inside

- › How Will You Be Remembered?
- › The Plot Thickens for IRA Gifts



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# How Will You Be Remembered?

At the start of the new year, many people resolve to improve themselves and the world around them. The dilemma sometimes encountered is how to accomplish that in practical terms. The answer often changes with each individual and their circumstances.

## Plan ahead

A thoughtfully planned legacy gift offers a chance to be remembered for your generosity and commitment to the Church along with potentially providing tax and other financial benefits for your estate and/or heirs. It is important for you to consider how such charitable gifts might impact your overall estate plan, so enlisting the help of your lawyer and other professional advisors is wise. A gift through your will or other estate plans lets you continue to support your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation into the future.

You provide aid for the organizations you value and help them succeed in their mission. In addition to supporting the Church now, why not continue your assistance in the future while also making a loving tribute to someone special?

## Some details

There are a few items to keep in mind as you plan. By carefully arranging how you make your gift of a lifetime, you can preserve more of your estate for your loved ones. There are also ways to minimize taxes and settlement costs when you include charitable provisions.

Did you know memorial gifts can be included in your estate plans? It's possible to fund these gifts with cash, securities, real estate, or other property. Or you may instruct that the charity receive all, a percentage of your estate, or a portion of what remains in your estate after all bequests to family and others have been completed.

One last item to consider, there are popular gift planning tools available that allow you to make a thoughtful gift while receiving increased income. You can choose the length of time you want to receive the income, and there are tax savings and other benefits involved as well.

## More information

Visit our website [charlottediocese.givingplan.net](http://charlottediocese.givingplan.net), consult your advisors, or contact us if you are interested in more information about making a legacy gift.



## Change Is Constant

Change affects all of us, and your estate plans aren't exempt. As we progress further into 2023, take some time to think through any changes in your life.

Has your marital status changed? Have you recently moved to a different state? Are there any new members of the family you'd like to include in your plans? Have any of your children left the nest?

Big life changes, or even changes in local tax laws, can affect your plans—and may even make them obsolete.

Consider taking the time to ensure your plans are up to date and that they still reflect your long-term financial and philanthropic goals. Contact us or your advisor if you have any questions.

# The Plot Thickens for IRA Gifts

If you own an IRA and are 70½ or older, you can make direct gifts to support your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation, called qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), of up to \$100,000 and \$200,000 for couples with separate IRAs this year. (Beginning in 2024, those amounts will be indexed for inflation.) Although no income tax deduction is available, the QCD can satisfy part or all of your required minimum distributions (RMDs), thereby avoiding income tax that would normally be owed on the withdrawals.

## Split-interest gifts are now possible

Here are some changes regarding IRA gifts that you may not be aware of, and you might find them useful in your planning. When the *SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022* went into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, it included a provision that allows you to fund charitable remainder trusts or charitable gift annuities with your gifts. The one-time election applies to transfers up to \$50,000, from which you would receive payments of at least 5% annually for life.

You and/or your spouse are the only permitted payment recipients, and the remainder trust or gift annuity can be funded only with the QCD. Payments,

which must begin within one year of the gift, would be taxed at ordinary income tax rates.

## Changes for RMDs too

In 2023, the age at which RMDs must begin increased to 73, but a QCD might still be the best giving option for qualified donors. For example, James and Mary Gray, both age 71, don't have to take distributions from their IRAs this year, so a QCD does not replace money on which they would otherwise be taxed. However, the Grays, who give about \$20,000 annually to the Church and other charities, are unable to itemize their income tax deductions.

The standard deduction for a couple, both age 65 and older, is \$30,700 in 2023, so they receive no tax benefit from their generosity. If they make QCDs, they are contributing money that has never been—and never will be—subject to income tax. Their gifts may also reduce their required minimum distributions in future years.

Please visit our website, [charlottediocese.givingplan.net](http://charlottediocese.givingplan.net), or contact us if you would like more information about making charitable gifts through your IRA.

## Lasting Gift *continued from Page 1*

Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, said, "What amazes and touches me deeply is that this family has suffered such a great loss, and they are still thinking of others. Katelyn will have a major impact on students for generations to come—offering them the gift of a Catholic education, and that will change those students' lives."

## Support the Church with an endowment

You can establish an endowment with the Diocese of Charlotte Foundation by leaving a bequest in a will; a beneficiary designation from a retirement plan; a gift of real estate; a gift of life insurance, cash, or securities sufficient to set up an endowment; or a life income arrangement, such as a remainder trust or annuity.

If you are interested in setting up an endowment or adding to an existing endowment at your parish or Catholic school, contact Gina Rhodes, director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3364 or [gmrhodes@rcdoc.org](mailto:gmrhodes@rcdoc.org) for more information.



# What Are the Best Assets To Give?

The last few years have been rather turbulent for the economy and financial markets, but both have seen recent numbers that indicate they may be stabilizing. With this consideration, it would be a great time to analyze what type of assets are especially advantageous to give in 2023.

Take the quiz below to find out how much you know about various assets you can give to help support your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation.

1. Among the most popular ways to give, it is important to consider the timing and possible limitations on gifts made in the form of:
  - a. Cash, checks, or online gifts.
  - b. Securities that have increased in value.
  - c. Bequests.
  - d. None of the above.
2. Congress has provided that you can deduct the full value of these gifts, including any amount that would be owed in capital gains tax if sold.
  - a. Bequests.
  - b. Securities that have increased in value.
  - c. Real estate.
  - d. None of the above.
3. Given through a will, trust or other arrangement, these gifts are a wonderful way to provide a charitable legacy while still having resources for present needs.
  - a. Real estate and other appropriate property.
  - b. Securities that have increased in value.
  - c. Bequests.
  - d. None of the above.
4. These assets are often overlooked as gift resources but can be an excellent way to make a meaningful gift.
  - a. Proceeds from retirement funds.
  - b. Real estate and other appropriate property.
  - c. Bequests.
  - d. A and B.

## How did you do?

The correct answers to the quiz are 1.) a, 2.) b, 3.) c, 4.) d. If you were unsure of the answers to these questions or would like additional information about any of the items addressed, please contact us.



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If you choose to remember a parish, the Diocese, or the Foundation in your will, your gift should be listed as follows:

- ▶ For a parish, the listing should be: "Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, or his Successors in Office for the (name of parish, city)."
- ▶ For the Diocese, the listing should be: "Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, or his Successors in Office."
- ▶ For the Foundation, the listing should be: "Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to (be added to or establish) the endowment fund."



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