



YOUR LEGACY

Monsignor Showfety: A Lifetime of Service, A Legacy of Faith

Monsignor Joseph Showfety, a founding father of the Diocese of Charlotte, passed away peacefully March 24, 2025. Known for his industriousness and sense of humor, Monsignor Showfety played a key role in building the foundation of the Charlotte diocese from its start in 1972 as its first chancellor. He served the diocese in various capacities for nearly 70 years, while calling the priesthood “the greatest vocation in the world.”



His legacy continues—not just from his beloved homilies, the solid business and financial foundation he created for the diocese, or from his freely given smiles, but from his actions to include the Church in his estate plan.

In that plan, Monsignor Showfety remembered 10 diocesan parishes and established two new endowment funds. One endowment is for Bishop McGuinness High School and the other is for Saint Benedict in Greensboro, which was his home parish growing

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DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Fall 2025

Purposeful Planning Brings Peace of Mind

Making thoughtful plans for the future is one of the most meaningful ways to care for your loved ones and continue supporting your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation. A well-prepared estate plan reflects your values of faith and stewardship, protects those closest to you, and ensures your legacy endures.

Here are a few helpful reminders as you review your plans:

- You may need to update your will whenever life circumstances change, such as the loss of a spouse, the birth of grandchildren, a move, or financial developments.
- Review your will regularly and consult your attorney for any necessary updates.

- Store your will in a safe yet accessible location, and ensure your loved ones know where to find it.
- Remember that many assets—such as life insurance, IRAs, and retirement accounts—transfer by beneficiary designation, not through your will. Make sure these align with your overall estate plan.

With careful planning, you can be confident that your wishes and charitable plans, including your support of our Church, will be carried out as you intend.

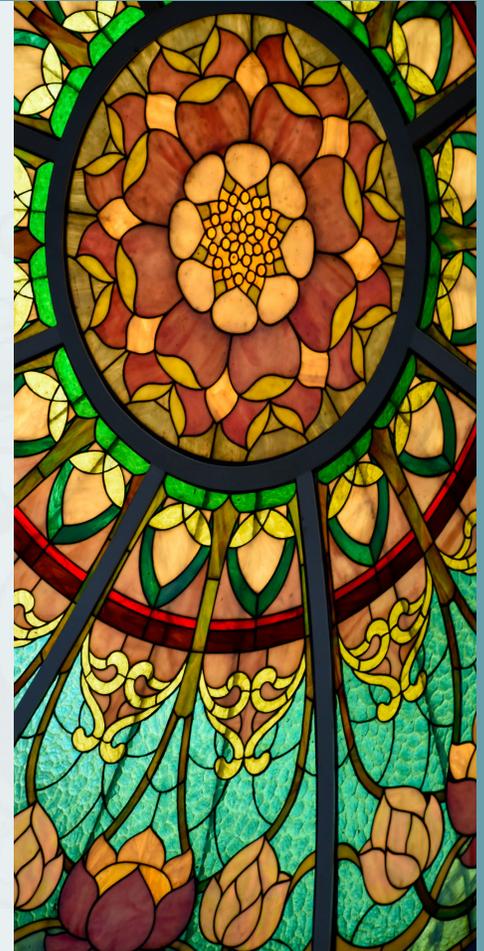
If you would like more information, please return the enclosed reply card or contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, at (704) 370-3364 or visit www.charlottedioocese.org.

Two Tax-Smart Ways to Give This Year

Due to ongoing successes of the stock market, many people are enjoying an increase in their financial and retirement accounts. Gifts of appreciated securities or making qualified charitable distributions through your IRA are two ways to maximize your impact while also providing tax savings:

- **Appreciated securities** – By donating stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have increased in value and that you've owned for longer than one year, you can avoid capital gains taxes, and you may receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value if you itemize. This allows your generosity to stretch further.
- **Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)** – If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift directly from your individual retirement account (IRA). These contributions are tax-free, can count toward your required minimum distribution, and are a meaningful way to continue your faithful support while reducing taxable income.

These are just two of the many ways you can make a lasting impact with your giving. Please get in touch with us for more information on these or other ways to make a gift.



Beyond Your Will: Giving Through Beneficiary Designations

A will is essential for ensuring your property is distributed according to your wishes. However, some assets bypass a will entirely and are transferred through your established beneficiary designations. Regularly reviewing these designations is just as important as updating your will.

- **Life insurance** – The proceeds from a policy go directly to the beneficiary listed on the form, regardless of what your will states. After taking care of family, many people name their parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation to receive all or part of these funds.
- **Retirement plans** – IRAs and 401(k)s are also passed on through beneficiary designations. Since these assets can be heavily taxed if left to heirs, they may be a good option for charitable giving, while other assets can be designated for loved ones.
- **Living trusts** – A revocable living trust lets you control your assets now and transfer them to beneficiaries after your lifetime, avoiding probate. You can also include charitable beneficiaries in your trust.
- **Donor advised funds (DAFs)** – DAFs allow you to make gifts over time. You can designate your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation to receive future distributions, extending your generosity beyond your lifetime. *For more information on DAFs, see Page 4.*

The next step

By reviewing your beneficiary designations and related plans, you can ensure that your loved ones are cared for and that your charitable wishes are faithfully carried forward.

A Legacy of Faith

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up. He previously established two other endowment funds.

“He was a planner,” said Jim Kelley, director of development. “Monsignor Showfety helped with many of the construction projects around our diocese, from bricks and mortar, to now leaving legacy gifts that will continue to build the kingdom. He never once asked a parishioner to do something that he himself was not willing to do. This includes living a life of stewardship - time, talent, and treasure.”





Understanding Donor Advised Funds

Many donors are discovering donor advised funds (DAFs) as a simple, effective way to support the charities you love, including your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan foundation. A DAF can provide flexibility in your giving and potential tax benefits.

Q. What is a donor advised fund (DAF)?

A. A DAF is a charitable account established with a sponsoring public charity. Donors contribute to the fund, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants over time.

Q. Why not just create a family foundation?

A. A private foundation can be costly and complex. A DAF, by contrast, is simple, flexible, and cost-effective.

Q. What are some advantages?

A. A DAF can help offset a tax bill after the sale of stock or other appreciated assets, while also providing the joy of recommending gifts for years to come. Donors may also designate any remaining balance in a DAF to benefit the Church.

Q. How can these organizations benefit?

A. Through a DAF, you can recommend distributions over time. When you do, please let us know so we can thank you and share how your generosity strengthens our ministries across western North Carolina.

More information

Donor advised funds offer a powerful tool for long-term stewardship. Contact us to learn how a DAF might complement your charitable plans.

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: "Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., 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: "Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., 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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