



'It Was Always Giving Back, Not Giving'

*By: SueAnn Howell,
Senior Reporter*

Longtime St. Vincent de Paul parishioners Chuck and Terry Davis left more than \$338,000 to their parish in the form of an endowment when they passed away.

The Terry and Chuck Davis Endowment was the last in a long line of efforts the Davises made to support their parish since they first joined in 1999.

For 17 years they lived at The Cypress, a continuing care retirement community near the church, before Terry passed away in 2015. Even though Chuck moved to California to live near family after his wife's death, he did not forget St. Vincent de Paul Church and his faith community. When he died in March, he was interred next to his beloved wife in the parish's columbarium.

Father Mark Lawlor served as the Davises' pastor at the time. He was a close family friend and offered both funeral Masses.

"They were very devout in their Catholic faith and generous in all aspects of stewardship," Father Lawlor said. "They were part of our columbarium committee and were instrumental in forming the policy and the design of the columbarium."

Another generous gift the couple made was in gratitude for their marriage of 67 years. They made

the memorial donation for the stained-glass window in the chapel depicting the Betrothal of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary.

The couple's son, Bob Davis, served as executor upon his father's passing.

"I don't think I've ever met anyone in my life who was more dedicated and more supportive of the Church and truer to their faith than my mom and dad," he said.

Davis shared that his parents never missed Sunday Mass and they volunteered at many parish events over the years. "Every part of their lives was centered around the Church."

continued on Page 3



Chuck and Terry Davis

Inside

- › Plan Today for Possibilities Tomorrow
- › It's Easier Than You Think



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Plan Today for Possibilities Tomorrow

Life can be complicated and once you feel you have it sorted out, it's apt to change. When you have so many complications in life, it's nice to find something that can be straightforward. Estate planning needn't be complex. Just take it step-by-step, as explained on Page 3, so you have a plan ready to provide for those important to you.

Make a difference

Your estate plans should reflect your ongoing desires for your heirs and the distribution of your property. Each of us makes a difference in the lives of those around us, especially the individuals we care about most. And although we might not like to think about it, we all need to consider what would change for the people who depend on us if we were not there. What would our spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings or close friends be left with in our absence?

An effective estate plan often revolves around a will. A will is important regardless of your wealth, marital status or age. Your will ensures that what you have goes to those you care about most.

In the process of making a will and other estate plans, many people find that including provisions for charitable interests is a meaningful experience. Charitable giving does not have to compete with providing for loved

ones. There are many ways to include favorite charitable interests, like the Diocese of Charlotte, in your plans after the needs of your family and friends are covered.

Start today

As you contemplate any events or changes that have occurred in your life recently, think of any new possibilities they may have provided. With the recent tax law changes, many individuals do not expect to owe estate taxes, so they are able to provide more for loved ones and their philanthropic interests.

Others are realizing that it may be wise to make their charitable gifts from retirement funds and leave other non-taxable assets to loved ones. Read more on the special provision for funding charitable gifts directly from an individual retirement account (IRA) below.

If you don't have a will or estate plan in place, or due to changes in your life your plans need to be updated—don't delay. Read on for more information about the importance of planning, not just for you, but for your heirs and charitable interests. Please return the enclosed card, visit our website: charlottediocese.givingplan.net or contact us if you would like more information.



Making Tax-Free IRA Gifts to the Diocese of Charlotte

With the start of a new year, many are beginning to plan when and how they will use the amount they are required to withdraw each year from their IRA. If you are age 70½ or older and are required to make such withdrawals you may wish to join other Catholic supporters who have chosen to make gifts each year to a parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Foundation or the Diocese using these funds.

Thanks to a special provision that allows charitable gifts to be made directly from IRAs using funds that might otherwise be taxed when withdrawn, individuals can make gifts called "Qualified Charitable Distributions" up to a total of \$100,000 per year; couples with separate IRAs can make gifts up to \$200,000. Amounts given this way are free from federal income tax even if you don't normally itemize your tax deductions. The funds directed to charitable purposes also count toward your minimum distribution amount and do not increase your reportable income in ways that could result in other taxes being due. Check with us or your IRA administrator for more information.

It's Easier Than You Think

Most people realize the importance of planning for the future and are aware that state laws are no substitute for carefully deciding how they would like their property to one day be distributed.

The main document that most individuals need to fulfill their wishes is a well-written will. Before visiting an attorney, there are steps you can take to reduce the time and expense involved. Take a few moments to carefully list the “**Four Ps**” of estate planning:

People: List those for whom you would like to provide now or in the future. Your list might include relatives, friends or others. You may also wish to add your charitable interests.

Property: Complete a list of all assets you now own or expect to own in the future. Subtract mortgages and other debts to arrive at your net worth. Also list all sources of income that may continue in the future.

Plans: Next, match the people in your life with the properties you wish them to receive. Pay special attention to timing as well as amounts, especially in the case of younger heirs. You may wish to delay receipt of property for a period of time.

Planners: Make a list of people on whom you rely for advice, including your attorney, accountant, banker, life insurance professional, investment advisor or others.

The next step

You are now better prepared to meet with your attorney and review your list of people, property, plans and planners.

Completing your plans

After your attorney has drafted the documents necessary to achieve your goals and you have reviewed and approved them, you will be ready to sign the documents.

After signing, you will be given a copy. The original documents should be kept in a safe place, and you should advise those you trust of the location.

Keeping up to date

It is a good idea to review your will and other estate plans on a regular basis to be sure they reflect your current wishes. Legacy gifts come in many forms and amounts. Every gift received provides substantial, even essential, support and helps to ensure the future of the Church. Please contact us for more information.

...Giving Back *continued from Page 1*

Davis believes his parents were invested in the people of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and wanted to make a difference in their lives. In their humility, he said, the last thing they would want is for people to know all that they did for the parish.

“Their motivation was pure. They never did it for publicity. It was always giving back, not giving.”

The Terry and Chuck Davis Endowment will be used specifically for maintenance of the church and buildings on the church property.

“Chuck and Terry passed from this life, but they are fondly remembered,” Father Lawlor said. “Their gracious donation and the establishment of this endowment will provide for the positive ministry of the Church for many generations to come.”

(This story was edited for length and originally appeared in the CNH.)





An Estate Planning Checklist

If you already have estate plans in place, here is a checklist to help you see if your plans are up-to-date or if revisions might be in order.

1. I have made a will, living trust or other appropriate estate planning document(s). Yes No
2. In these documents, I have provided for all my loved ones as I wish. Yes No
3. I have named an executor to handle the settlement of my estate. Yes No
4. In the event of my executor not being able to serve, I have named an alternate. Yes No
5. I have reviewed my beneficiary designations for any life insurance policies and retirement accounts. Yes No
6. I have planned for incapacity. Yes No
7. I have made plans for the payment of any taxes that may be due. Yes No
8. My financial records and other important documents are easily accessible. Yes No
9. I have discussed my plans with my spouse and/or other loved ones. Yes No
10. I have included gifts to the charitable organizations I wish to remember. Yes No

If you answered “**no**” to any of these statements, you might need to revisit your plans and revise as necessary so they reflect your wishes for the future. Contact us if we can help you with the charitable aspect of your 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: “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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