

WHERE THERE'S A WILL... THERE'S A WAY



What is a Will? A Will is a written legal document that controls the distribution of your property after your death. A Will is your only guarantee that your estate will be distributed according to your wishes.

What happens without a Will? Many people do not prepare a Will; therefore, their estates are distributed according to a formula prescribed by state law. The laws are inflexible and make no exception for loved ones in unusual need. In some instances, assets go entirely to the state. You must have a Will to be sure your desires are carried out. Nothing will be left to a charity unless your Will specifically says so.

What is needed to make a Will valid? In order for a Will to be valid, its creator must be of legal age and of sound mind. The document must be signed and witnessed in a certain way, depending on the state in which you live. If you try to write your own Will, it may not be valid, and then the state's formula for distribution of your assets will be used. A beneficiary or the spouse of a beneficiary should not be a witness. Many legal and technical formalities also must be followed. Anyone wishing to prepare a Will with a gift to help the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia should consult an attorney that is knowledgeable about testamentary arrangements for the benefit of the Franciscan Ministries Foundation.

What is the role of an executor? The executor is a person or institution named by you in your Will who is responsible for collecting the assets of your estate, paying your creditors, managing your property, and distributing the property to the persons and charitable institutions named in your Will.

What is a bequest? A gift left in your Will is known as a Bequest or Legacy.

How do I make a Will? Preparing your Will is one of the most important and personal choices that you will ever make. By planning your Will, you will be communicating your love for your family, friends, and any organization or cause that means a great deal to you. After providing for your family, please consider a gift to the Franciscan Ministries Foundation to ensure that the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have sufficient funding to support their ministries and their retirement.

Retirement and/or Ministries: By including the Sisters of St. Francis in your Will, you will help to ensure that the sisters will continue to carry out their congregational mission and the social teachings of the Church.

The sisters have few resources besides their courageous spirit and their trust in God's providence, which has proved sufficient because many people of Philadelphia supported their ministry in a variety of ways. Now you can help the sisters' ministries or their retirement by providing a place for them in your Will.

YOUR LIVING WILL

What do I say in my Will? Your attorney can best advise you about ways to provide for your beneficiaries and, at the same time, help support the sisters. Your bequest can be small or large, restricted or unrestricted. A bequest can be made in a Will or by naming the Sisters of St. Francis as a beneficiary of a revocable trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.

Some suggestions for naming the sisters in your will are illustrated below:

- **Percentage:** I hereby devise, give, and bequeath _____% of my gross estate as finally determined for federal tax purposes to the Franciscan Ministries Foundation, 609 South Convent Road, Aston, Pennsylvania 19014-1207.
- **Set Amount:** I hereby devise, give, and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ to the Franciscan Ministries Foundation, 609 South Convent Road, Aston, Pennsylvania 19014-1207.
- **Residual:** I hereby devise, give, and bequeath _____ (a percent or all of) the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to the Franciscan Ministries Foundation, 609 South Convent Road, Aston, Pennsylvania.



It is your choice entirely whether or not you would like to tell us about your bequest.

We ask that you do, however, advise us of any bequest intentions, which we will not consider binding. If you do choose to tell us, it will help us plan for our future and allow us to thank you for your intentions.