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We would like to share some of the most frequently asked questions about benefactor giving and, in this way, we can hopefully answer some of yours.

**1 *Do I have to have my will (or trust) rewritten to leave a gift to the church?***

No. You simply have to ask your attorney to amend your will (or trust) with a codicil that states what you would like to leave as a gift to the church.

**2 *How much must I leave?***

You can leave a gift of any amount. There is no minimum that you would have to leave.

**3 *Do I have to leave only money or can I give a possession?***

You can give whatever and however you so designate. You can leave the proceeds from a life insurance policy, the sale of stocks, securities or CD's, your car, art and jewelry or even your house.

**4 *Can I designate that my money be used for a specific item for the church for example a new stove?***

This can be done but if in the meantime the church has already purchased a new stove, that money would have to be held for years until another new stove was warranted. The church would not be able to use the money for anything else. If you want to designate you can make it with broad strokes like for the Parish Center. That would give the church more leeway in putting your money to good use.

**5 *I am not sure how much money will be left to give when I die. How can I be sure that my family will be taken care of?***

You can designate the manner, means, and amount of the disbursement of your property to your family and others, including Star of the Valley Parish.

**6 *What are the tax benefits?***

Including a gift to the parish in your will (or trust) not only helps the parish but also normally reduces the overall inheritance tax liability. Legacies to charities may be deductible from the value of your estate before taxation. In some instances, the taxes that may be saved can equal the amount of your contribution to the church, and your loved ones will still be getting the same amount that you intended. Please check with your tax advisor.

We hope that the above questions and answers have been helpful to you. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the parish office at 707-539-6262 and they will have someone from the Finance Council call you to answer any further questions you or your family may have. You can also fill out the form on the back of this letter and return it to the parish office.