



PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER

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EWTN FAMILY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

John's Plan

by Ryan Flood

"EWTN played a significant role at the end of John's earthly life."



Through thoughtful estate planning, John B. Lord established a Revocable Living Trust to provide for the material needs of his wife until her passing in 2018. The Trust also made provisions for his children and his favorite charities. EWTN was honored to be one of those charities. However, none of this would have happened if John had not taken the time to contemplate, plan, and execute the largest financial transaction of his life. Most of us budget each year so we can provide for ourselves, our loved ones, and our favorite charities, but how many of us take the time to discuss and strategize what is most likely the largest financial transfer of our lives... our estate plan?

Unfortunately, some estimates show that over 50% of Americans die without any plans for the transfer of their assets. Whether you have a significant or a modest amount of assets, you are still responsible for the

stewardship of the assets that God has entrusted to you. God has also entrusted you with the distribution of those assets, whether they be to family, friends, the government (unintentionally, in the form of income and/or estate taxes), or charity. John's son (his Trustee) explained to me the significant milestones in John's life and how, amidst all the ups and downs, trials and joys in his life, his faith was so important to him. John's son also shared how EWTN played a significant role at the end of John's earthly life.

John's Life

John Baldwin Lord was born in and grew up in a Chicago suburb. Courageously serving his country in World War II, John's B-24 was shot down behind enemy lines, and he spent time in a POW camp. John had been seriously burned when his plane was attacked by enemy fire, and while in captivity he suffered frostbite and near-starvation. In April 1945 John Baldwin and the airmen were rescued by American troops. Back in a military camp, he wrote in his memoirs, "Another POW and I spent most of that night drinking milk and eating bread, butter, and jelly until we were sick."

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John's Plan *(continued from page 1)*


Later in life, John tracked down the British doctor who had treated the serious burns that resulted from his plane being shot down.

After the war John came home, and in December 1948 married Marian Johannes of Chicago. He and Marian raised six children. John became a successful chemical engineer, working for Betz Laboratories in Chicago and, after 1959, as a plant manager in Philadelphia and Trevese, PA. He was a senior consultant for Betz when he retired as a plant manager in the late 1980s. John and Marian were married for over 40 years, until Marian's death in 1989.

John remarried in 1994, and eventually moved to a retirement

community in South Carolina. It was there that John, who had always been religious and had a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, became even more focused on his and his family's personal salvation. He began to watch EWTN with increasing frequency in order to supplement the knowledge and practice of his Catholicism. The content he viewed and pondered became a source of not only comfort, but also of increasing devotion to his faith. As his health declined and he became unable to participate in many of the things he had liked to do: travel, play bridge with friends, and discuss his war experiences, he relied more and more on EWTN programming for personal solace.

The Result

Today, John's generous legacy gift has made it possible for EWTN to produce and transmit programming that enables others to learn about the Catholic faith. John took the time to contemplate his legacy with regard to his family and his charities. John chose to make EWTN part of his legacy, so that others might experience and learn their Catholic faith. May John and all the faithful departed rest in peace. 

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of charitable estate planning, please contact Ryan Flood, EWTN's Legacy Giving Advisor, at (205) 569.2674. You may also visit our Legacy Giving website at ewtn.giftlegacy.org.

Ryan would like to thank John Lord, Jr. for sharing the stories in this article


Do You Own a Business?



For small business owners, have you ever found yourself saying, "I'd like to retire, but I'm not sure who would run my business?" You are not alone: roughly six million operating companies are privately held in the United States, representing approximately \$30 trillion in sales. According to U.S. census data, baby boomers aged 54–72 own 63% of these companies. Although baby boomers are holding on to their businesses for a longer period of time,

all boomers will reach the age of 70 or older within the next 15 years. That represents nearly four million baby boomer businesses poised to transition. Assuming a business valuation of 50% of sales, which is reasonable by most standards, that number represents \$10 trillion of wealth poised to transition.

According to a survey conducted by Fidelity Charitable in 2018, philanthropy is top-of-mind when business owners are making plans to sell their businesses. Three out of 10 current business owners reported the intent to sell or pass the business down to a family member within the next five years, and of those, nearly 68% have plans to donate to charity

in conjunction with that transition. Specifically, 31% plan to donate to charity with the proceeds, 27% plan to set up an ongoing way to make charitable donations via a donor-advised fund or foundation, and 26% plan to donate shares of the business prior to the sale, which can help increase the amount they can give¹. 

Do you have a plan for your business? If you would like to learn how a charitable gift can assist you, please contact Ryan Flood, EWTN's Legacy Giving Advisor, at (205) 569.2674. You may also visit our Legacy Giving website at ewtn.giftlegacy.org.

Donating US Savings Bonds



An EWTN family member recently asked me, “Can I donate my Series E and EE U.S. Savings Bonds to EWTN? If so, how do I go about doing this?”


Yes, you can, but only through a specific bequest in a will or revocable living trust. You cannot donate the bonds to EWTN during your lifetime without incurring a capital gains tax.

In regard to leaving US savings bonds to charity at death:

If a bondholder wishes to leave U.S. savings bonds to EWTN upon death, the bequest should be arranged as a specific bequest in the will or revocable living trust of the [bondholder]. The [bondholder] should NOT name the charity as the beneficiary of the U.S. savings bonds. Some years ago the Georgia Supreme Court ruled against a donor’s intentions to gift her bonds to a charity. Upon the donor’s death, family members argued that the beneficiary designation was invalid due to the federal law which prohibits most nonprofits from being named an eligible beneficiary of U.S. savings bonds.

The family members were successful in their suit and were awarded the savings bonds from the deceased’s estate.

By naming a charity as the beneficiary of the specific bequest of U.S. savings bonds in the will or living trust, the nonprofit will not have to pay income tax on the growth in the savings bonds due to the nonprofit’s tax-exempt status.

In addition, the bond holder’s estate may be eligible to take a charitable estate tax deduction for the full value of the bonds payable to the charity. If you have questions please contact the Mission Advancement Office at (205) 569-2674 or by email at rflood@ewtn.com. 

Recent Court Rulings on Unredeemed U.S. Savings Bonds

In a recent news article, an appellate court handed a win to the federal government in a yearlong fight over who can lay claim to the \$25 billion in unredeemed U.S. savings bonds. The three-judge panel with the Federal Circuit said that the bonds belong to the original bond owner.² The bonds could have been given to heirs and/or charity. Another article mentioned that many of the bonds were just left in safe deposit boxes after someone passed away. Bonds being fought over fall into two categories: those that a state physically possesses as unclaimed

property, mostly from abandoned safe deposit boxes, and “absent bonds,” meaning every matured bond ever purchased by residents, even if the state has never seen a copy.³ The moral of the story is that each of us should review his or her estate plan and all the assets owned every two to three years, including inherited assets. Now the bonds are held up in a court battle and are not helping anyone, family or charity. You should check to see if you own U.S. savings bonds and if owned, their location, firebox, safe deposit box etc.

1. National Association for Charitable Gift Planners – Essential Assets Collection – Closely Held Business

2. Wall Street Journal: States Rebuffed in Court Fight to Reclaim \$25 Billion in Savings Bonds, Aug. 14, 2019 Online Version

3. Wall Street Journal: States Battle Treasury Over Billions in Unclaimed Savings Bonds, Aug. 3, 2019, Printed Edition



Ryan Flood, FCEP EWTN’s Legacy Giving Advisor

With almost 20 years of experience in the area of charitable planning, Ryan Flood, EWTN’s Legacy Giving Advisor, assists EWTN family members and friends who are interested in integrating life-transforming charitable giving strategies into their financial, business, or estate plans while amplifying what they preserve for themselves in retirement and for their heirs.

You may reach Ryan at (205) 569-2674 or by email at rflood@ewtn.com



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Global
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Year End Giving Ideas

**You may consider one or more of these gifting strategies before the year's end:
Selling securities, real estate or a business this year? Consider planning strategies to
avoid capital gains tax.**

- Are you 70 ½ or older? Check on you IRA Required Minimum Distribution
- Expect to be in a higher tax bracket? Talk with your advisor for solutions to manage taxes
 - Inquire about the EWTN Donor Advised Fund

Contact EWTN's Legacy Giving Advisor:

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