



# LEGACY GIVING NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION OF EWTN

// VOL. 7 / ISSUE 1  
WINTER 2025

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## EWTN FAMILY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

# Charitable Gift Annuity: Increase Your Income While Making a Gift to EWTN

by Dan Clark, J.D.



Tony and Mary Ellen Panetta

The Catholic faith is paramount to Tony and Mary Ellen Panetta. That is why they greatly value EWTN programming and content. EWTN's daily Mass and rosary and engaging programs and documentaries on Church teachings have been a constant source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment.

Tony and Mary Ellen live in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Tony is retired after a career in newspaper publishing and Mary Ellen is a retired nurse.

"We've been faithful viewers of EWTN for years," Mary Ellen explains. "It's like having a trusted companion on our faith

journey. The programming helps us grow closer to God."

When the Panettas sought ways to increase their support of EWTN's mission, they discovered the benefits of funding a charitable gift annuity. A gift annuity allowed them to make a gift while securing fixed, reliable income for the rest of their lives.

"Funding a charitable gift annuity was a great solution for us," Tony explains. "It allows us to support the work of EWTN while also giving us peace of mind knowing we'll receive steady income during retirement."

The process was simple: With guidance from the EWTN Legacy Giving Team, the Panettas transferred a portion of their savings to a gift annuity. In return, they receive regular payments for life, a portion of which is tax-free. Additionally, they qualified for a charitable tax deduction for their gift.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like Tony and Mary Ellen, EWTN can continue proclaiming the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ, to the world.


# EWTN Family Members Share Their Stories:

## Tony and Mary Ellen Panetta Testimonial (continued from page 1)

Most people fund a gift annuity with cash or appreciated securities. Using appreciated securities provides additional tax benefits by partially avoiding capital gains tax, by-passing the portion attributable to the charitable gift.

You may choose to have income payments begin immediately or defer the start to a later date. Deferring the start of income payments allows

for tax benefits now, while securing a higher payout rate. This flexibility allows you to establish a gift annuity while meeting your financial goals and retirement needs.

While there are numerous benefits of funding a gift annuity, perhaps the best is knowing that your gift will be providing critical support to EWTN and Mother Angelica's mission of Catholic evangelization. 

*If you're interested in learning more about how a gift annuity can support EWTN and provide income for you, contact the EWTN Legacy Giving Office. Simply call 205-271-4522 or email [legacygiving@ewtn.com](mailto:legacygiving@ewtn.com). We are able to provide you with your expected payout rate, tax benefits, and discuss your options for specific circumstances.*

## Updated QCD Limits for 2025

*by Charlie Van Patten, J.D., CAP*




The IRS has announced increased limits for IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) for 2025. Each year, the IRS considers adjustments to various provisions to keep up with inflation. These increases allow donors to make a bigger charitable impact in the upcoming year.

For 2025, an individual over the age of 70½ may donate up to \$108,000 from an IRA directly to a qualified nonprofit. This is a \$3,000 increase from the 2024

QCD limit. This is an individual limit. Spouses who hold their own IRAs may each contribute up to the maximum, allowing for a total QCD of up to \$216,000 per married couple.

The SECURE Act 2.0 introduced the ability for donors to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with a QCD. Under current law, this is a once-in-a-lifetime arrangement. For 2025, the donor may fund a CGA up to \$54,000. This is up \$1,000 from 2024.

While there is no income tax deduction for a QCD, the contribution satisfies the donor's required minimum distribution for the year, subject to the limits noted above. What would have otherwise been a mandatory distribution of taxable income becomes a charitable gift. This allows even those who do not itemize deductions to benefit from the tax advantages of a donation.

For a CGA funded by a QCD, the payouts will be taxable as ordinary income. The benefit here is that the donor is able to bypass taxable income in the year of the donation and receive the taxable payouts over time. 

*Contact us to learn more and see if this kind of gift makes sense for you. We are happy to discuss options and walk you through the process to take advantage of this opportunity.*

# Now is the Time to Plan: 5 Ways to Avoid Despair in Difficult Times

by Robert Michael Way, Esq.



Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory to Him forever! You will be challenged during sickness and before death

to trust in God's mercy. One way to avoid despair in difficult times is to plan now, turning to Christ and the Church's teachings, with legal documents that are integrated with tenets of your faith.

## Health Care Powers of Attorney & Living Wills

Powers of attorney are documents which authorize another person to make medical decisions for you when you are incapacitated. By contrast, a Living Will is a document that informs a treating physician about your medical decisions regarding end-of-life care.

## Caution Regarding the Use of Living Wills

The Catholic Church teaches that you should know the individual making an end-of-life decision for you. A Health Care Power of Attorney is preferable to a Living Will because you have no idea who the treating physician will be to enforce your wishes. A Living Will also does not consider advances in medical treatment, and the document restricts a health care agent's authority to make medical decisions for you.

When drafting a Health Care Power of Attorney, you may wish to include the following faith-based provisions in the document:

## 1 Administration of Nutrition and Hydration

Catholics should prayerfully consider including a provision in a Health Care Power that requests the administration of nutrition and hydration except and unless the administration (1) would worsen one's medical condition, (2) cause significant pain or discomfort, or (3) not assimilate into the body.

## 2 Request for Sacraments

Include a request for Anointing of the Sick, Confession, and Holy Communion. By making these requests, you are exercising your First Amendment right to "free exercise of religion" under the U.S. Constitution, which may offer the opportunity to obtain a court-ordered injunction if your request is denied. One can also explicitly request in the Power of Attorney the Apostolic Pardon from the priest administering Sacramental Anointing, thereby receiving a plenary indulgence and pardon for all temporal punishment provided one is in the state of grace and the usual conditions are met.

## 3 Directive Forbidding Physician-Assisted Suicide

Include a directive forbidding physician-assisted suicide, and a declaration that overrides the signing of a MOLST/POLST (Medical or Physicians Order for Life Sustaining


Treatment) so that the Health Care agent's authority is in no way limited by a subsequent medical order.

## 4 Provisions Concerning Pregnancy

Language may also be included that protects both the life of an unborn child in utero and the life of the mother when the mother has already been declared legally brain-dead.

## 5 Avoidance of Unethically Derived Medical Treatments

Finally, consider including a provision rejecting medical treatments derived from immoral and unethical medical practices, including abortions and embryonic stem cell research.

Will you trust in the Lord? Remember the Lord's words: "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust." (Luke 8:50) Each of us must carry our cross with the Lord all the way to Calvary to one day receive the crown of holiness and be clothed in light for all eternity. Start now to prepare the necessary documents while trusting in the Lord's mercy and in His teachings through the Church. God is with us! He is and always will be! 

*Robert M. Way, Esq. is an Estate Planning Attorney from Tucson, Arizona.*



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