

Arctic Footprints

News & Ideas for Charitable Giving Summer 2017

“Some give by going to the Missions. Some go by giving to the Missions. Without both, there are no Missions.”

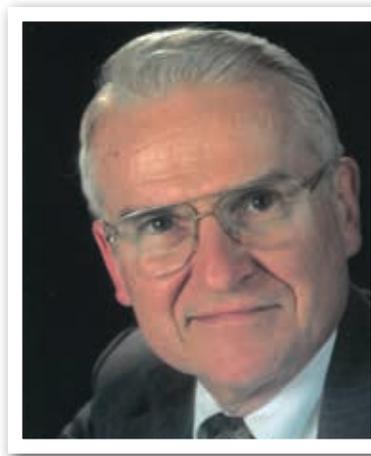
(The Alaskan Shepherd)

Dr. John Whittaker knew from an early age he wanted a career in medicine. He also knew from an early age he had a heart for supporting mission work.

“I’ll never forget meeting a missionary at my church when I was a child. The work they were doing was so important,” he shared. “I thought briefly about becoming a missionary. Then I realized, that as a doctor, I would have the means to support their work.”

John, a urologist, and his wife, Barbara, a nurse and administrator, married 24 years ago and live in Jacksonville, Florida. The high school sweethearts reconnected when Barbara traveled to Florida to visit her father.

Barbara was raised in the Catholic Church and John, having attended a Baptist church for many years, began going to Mass with her after they married and converted to Catholicism. John shares, “Through



Dr. John Whittaker

the Eucharist and the many rewards and blessings not known or appreciated by the infinite number of Protestant denominations, I feel I’ve come home.”

John and Barbara first learned of the work of the Diocese from reading *The Alaskan Shepherd* newsletter. “I’m not even sure why we received that first issue except we give to several Catholic organizations,” said John. “I was immediately captivated by Fr. Louis

L. Renner, SJ’s stories about the ministry to the Alaska Natives. Reading about people who had nothing and yet had such a strong faith was inspiring. This was the mission work I wanted to support.”

John corresponded regularly with Fr. Renner until he passed away in 2015. “We had a special relationship, though we never met,” John said. He also communicated with Bishop Donald J. Kettler over the years. Recently, John and Barbara were honored to host Bishop Chad Zielinski when he was traveling in Florida.

continued on Page 2



If you would like to make a gift to the Diocese of Fairbanks, please visit our website at:

<http://dioceseoffairbanks.org>.

Please click on DONATE.

Inside:

- Will Congress Change Your Estate Plans?
- Using Retirement Plan Assets to Make Your Gifts

The Missions...

continued from Page 1

Though thousands of miles away, John and Barbara have faithfully provided financial support to the Diocese on a yearly basis and have responded to special needs. They have also made the Diocese the beneficiary of their estate.

“Barbara and I don’t have any children. We wanted to choose how our estate will be used after we are gone, instead of everything going to the government,” John said. “Most important, there is a real need in Alaska and that is where we feel it will do the most good.”

Barbara and John hope to visit one day. Until then, their prayers and support will enable us to continue our mission work for years to come.

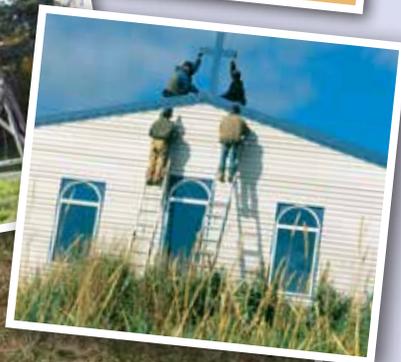
Will Congress Change Your Estate Plans?

These days it’s virtually impossible to watch television, read a newspaper, or go online without coming across information about possible revisions in our nation’s tax laws. In this environment, it can be challenging to know the best course of action when making future financial plans.

If income, estate, and gift tax changes do occur, it is important to determine what they mean for you and how they may affect your estate and financial plans.

Fortunately, one thing *IS* certain: In terms of the actual documents, Congress cannot change your will, trust, or other plans.

In this issue we share information that we hope you will find helpful as you consider your own situation. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for more information, confidentially and with no obligation, to help with the charitable aspects of your plans.



What Should You Do Now?

Contact your professional advisors for a review of your existing estate plan. Maintaining an up-to-date will or trust will give you peace of mind that your property will be distributed according to your wishes.

Review beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, retirement accounts, bank accounts, and investment accounts. Make sure they are current and coordinated with your overall estate and financial plans.

Think about your charitable intentions and make sure they are addressed in your plans. Obtain professional guidance as to the best options available to achieve your goals.

Take advantage of certain tax incentives while they are in place. Income and capital gains tax rates, allowable deductions, as well as gift and estate tax rates typically remain unchanged until Congress introduces or passes new legislation.

Using Retirement Plan Assets to Make Your Gifts

Retirement plan assets can be a wise source to make your gifts now and in the future.

Giving Now

Make Tax-Free Gifts to the Diocese of Fairbanks from Your IRA

If you are aged 70½ or older, you can give directly from a traditional or Roth IRA completely free of federal income tax (up to \$100,000 per person per year; a couple with separate IRAs can give \$200,000). Giving directly from your IRA won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your Social Security income to a higher level of taxation. Additionally, your charitable IRA gift may count towards your required minimum withdrawal.

Giving Later

Make the Diocese of Fairbanks the Beneficiary of a Retirement Plan

When you leave the balance of an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) to your heirs, they must carefully manage the account to avoid losing its tax-deferred status and potentially triggering large income taxes and possible penalties. You can simplify matters for your loved ones by directing all or a portion of what remains in your retirement accounts to charities and leaving other more tax-favored assets to your heirs. Designating a charitable beneficiary of a retirement account does not require you to change your will.

For more information about making a gift using retirement plan assets, return the enclosed card or contact Teresa Chepoda-Usibelli at 907-374-9528, or via email at teresa@cbna.org.



Seminarian Ben Doudna
Photo credit: JR Ancheta

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts to the Seminarian Endowment Fund!

We have just started to raise funds for our 2017 Seminarian Endowment. In 2016, we received a \$50,000 matching grant from Catholic Extension, bringing our total raised to over \$224,000! Words cannot express our appreciation for your love and support. Your generosity has allowed us to begin an endowment that will fuel the future of priests by providing for their education in the Diocese of Fairbanks. By your prayers and gifts, we have started to build a legacy that will eventually help put young men through the Seminary and yield priests for the Mission fields of Northern Alaska!

The *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati House*, facilitated by our Vocations Director, Father Robert Fath, is located on the Diocesan Campus, and was dedicated on August 22, 2016, by Bishop Chad Zielinski. For the first time in the history of our Missionary Diocese, we now have a Seminarian Discernment House where our four Seminarians can live when they are not attending Seminary or working summers in the Missions of Northern Alaska.

Thank you for keeping our Seminarians in your prayers!

Conor Baer—Mount Angel Seminary, Saint Benedict, OR, now entering College 4.

Ben Doudna (pictured above)—Mount Angel Seminary, Saint Benedict, OR, now entering Theology 2.

Fredrick Granheim—St. John's Seminary, Womersh, England, now entering Theology 3.

Josh Miller—Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL, now entering Pre-Theology 1.



Three Ways to Give Through Your Will

A gift through your will or trust is an ideal way for friends to support the ministry of the Diocese in the future. Here are three ways you can make a gift in your will:

- 1. A Gift of What's Left.** If you do not wish to specify the exact size or your charitable gift (often the size of a future estate is difficult to estimate), you might consider naming the Diocese of Fairbanks as a residual beneficiary of your estate. You may provide that all, a specific amount, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate shall pass to the Diocese after other specific bequests have been fulfilled.
- 2. A Specific Gift.** Of the many ways to give to the Diocese of Fairbanks through your will, a bequest of a fixed dollar amount or a bequest of specific property is the simplest. Securities, real estate, and personal property can all be given through a will.
- 3. A Gift of the Percentage.** To be sure your charitable gifts will remain in proportion to other bequests, you can designate in your will that a specific percentage of your estate be given to the Diocese of Fairbanks.

If we can provide more information about the charitable aspects of your plans, please contact Teresa Chepoda-Usibelli at 907-374-9528, or teresa@cbna.org, or return the enclosed card.



More information

Teresa Chepoda-Usibelli
Diocese of Fairbanks

Office of Stewardship and Development

1312 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

Phone: 907-374-9528 • Email: teresa@cbna.org

<http://dioceseoffairbanks.org>



Teresa Chepoda-Usibelli



Considering a Bequest?

If you are considering making a gift to the Diocese of Fairbanks through your will or trust, we sincerely thank you. These gifts make a profound difference in our ministries. Here is some language you may want to share with your attorney:

“I give the sum of \$_____ to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709”; or “I leave all (or a portion) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my property of every kind and character, including personal property and real estate and wheresoever the same may be situated, I give and devise to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.”