

# The Power of Your Bequest



*The Most Lasting Gift  
You Will Ever Give*  
2018



*For almost 1000 years the Equestrian Order has been committed to acts of mercy in the Holy Land...we are literally the lifeblood to Christians there. After Spiritual growth for each other it is our highest calling. And when you consider your lasting calling and the legacy you want to leave in this world, please consider the power of your bequest on our brethren in the Holy Land.*

### **The Power of Your Bequest**

*"After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings" - Act 24:17*

Just as Paul provided funds to those in need in Jerusalem in 57AD, you have continued that mission through your gifts to the Order. The Order in return has carefully used those funds to form Priests and Religious, support local Parishes, educate school children, help those who are sick, disabled and displaced, champion justice, encourage economic development, seek peace, and ultimately provide a path of hope for Christians in the Holy Land.

Estate giving is the one time in your life that you are free from considering your personal needs to ensure your own well-being. You have a unique opportunity to start with a "clean sheet" and allocate your entire estate for all the things you hold dear. Think about it - **100% of all the talents you have developed can now be channeled to your family, parish, diocese and those programs in which you believe.** It is also the road map for how you wish to help others and it may provide some tax benefits while you are alive.

We ask that you please consider including the Order among those beneficiaries. Please remember even a small portion of your estate can have a dramatic effect on those in the Holy Land. 5% is often considered a "don't notice" amount in all things but even 1% can mean a significant improvement in opportunities and conditions for our brethren. First, let us look at the power of prior gifts and the thinking of current members. Then we will focus on the basics of a bequest as well as some tax beneficial options

### **Those Who Have Given**

The Gernert and Zuberano estates gave gifts, including land, which the Order sold and funded a multi-million-dollar endowment for education in the Holy Land. That endowment has funded 18 scholarships at Bethlehem University ever year...for years!

Father William Harnishfeger, a noted Cardiologist, upon his passing gave a simple percentage of his estate. That bequest, setup many years ago, will provide over \$1M for the general efforts of the Order with a portion for the needs of handicapped children in Bethlehem and a hospital in a very poor part of Jordan.



## *A Bequest Primer – Options for giving*

This information was developed to provide a primer on ways you might consider including the Order in your estate plans, and, how the Order would manage and use the funds based on your desires. It is our goal to provide you with options you can consider and discuss with your estate planner or lawyer. It is focused on WHAT we could do together to help our brethren in the Holy Land. This is NOT a comprehensive estate planning process and is NOT a substitute for involving your estate planner. With this overview of options, along with your prayerful desire of how you want to help people in the Holy Land and your estate planner's skill in developing proper plans, we are confident your wishes can be realized.

### **HOW DO I GIVE A GIFT?**

The most common way to give a gift through your estate is through a "bequest" included in your will or trust. A statement in your will or trust should specify WHO is going to receive the funds and WHAT they are going to receive. You have the options of giving a general amount, general percentage or a specific item or items of value. The most common form is as an UNRESTRICTED gift. One where the Order receives the funds with the flexibility of applying them to programs and projects most in need and with timing most appropriate to the need. For such a bequest we have the following sample of how it might appear:

***I make the following bequest to be distributed outright to the WESTERN USA LIEUTENANCY OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM, a non-profit voluntary association of the faithful, the funds to be used specifically for needs and support of efforts in the Holy Land.***

*You will need to provide the actual nature of the bequest that will follow this preamble – again it could be a specific dollar amount, or percentage of your estate or specific items of value (like a house or piece of art).*

### **WHAT IF I WANT TO GIVE IT FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR PROJECT?**

We realize that although a general gift gives the Order the most flexibility in helping Christians in the Holy Land, you may have a passion for specific projects or areas of focus within that broad scope. The Lieutenancy is sensitive to your desires to help specific groups or categories of people in the Holy Land. We also realize that the Order has a very extensive knowledge and support system for the projects and programs most needed. It is our goal to find a good fit between your desires to help and programs highly valued and needed in the Holy Land. There is also the reality of evolving needs where good intentions included in your estate may no longer be needs after your passing. So, let's talk about options for making your desires and the Holy Land needs fit best.

First, such gifts which your estate clearly specifies for which purpose you want the funds used. As mentioned earlier we must be careful that the specific use is broad enough to be viable for the long term.



Currently the focus on Education, Health Care or Religious support meet those needs. If you have a more specific desire, then there are two things you need to do. First, within the bequest you can have broader language much to the effect that if the specific action is no longer possible you would like the funds to focus on one of the three areas above or for the general use of the Order. Also, it is critical to contact the Lieutenancy to discuss your specific desire to determine if it is appropriate and aligns with the Order's visions.

### **WHAT IF I WANT MY GIFT TO HELP FOR AN EXTENDED TIME OR FOREVER?**

When you want your funds to support the Order for an extended period of time either in general or for a specific application then you would like to create an ENDOWMENT. There is some flexibility in the types of endowment including options of a specific percentage or amount each year or an endowment where only the interest from the funds is used for the Order or it's programs, thus protecting the principal in perpetuity. These parameters will determine the amount and duration of your gift. Your estate planner again can help you with your desire. As you plan an endowment please consider discussing it with your heirs and educating them on your vision for the endowment.

Fortunately, the Order can manage such endowments once you specify them. Upon your passing the funds would be transferred to the Order who will implement your gift as you choose. Likewise, if you would like to keep your heirs informed about the impact of your endowment please discuss this with the Lieutenancy to ensure we form a mutual plan.

### **WHAT TYPES OF ITEMS CAN I GIVE?**

The Western Lieutenancy is very flexible and open to receiving a wide range of valuable items to fund the Order. Of course, Currency, Stocks and Bonds are welcome. But in addition, real estate and other items of value including real property, collections, or pieces of art, etc. are readily accepted. If you are not sure, please contact the Western Lieutenancy for clarification.

### **SPECIAL BENEFICIARY OPTIONS**

In addition to funds and stocks there are assets where you can name the Order as the beneficiary such as Life Insurance Policies and Retirement Plans. Many times these have long since been funded and it is simply a matter of redirecting the beneficiary to being the Order.

### **ARE THERE TAX BENEFICIAL GIVING OPTIONS?**

There are a number of tax beneficial options for giving. For example, giving highly appreciated stock or other assets provides your estate a way to avoid taxes.

There are other more complex options, which your estate planner can guide you through. More sophisticated options include a variety of Charitable Trusts. These by their nature give you the option of donating an asset for which you get a current tax deduction. You then receive proceeds over time (much like an annuity) and then the balance is given to the Charity at a later date. Or you can take an asset you are no longer using (land, insurance, etc.) and donate it for which you could receive an annuity over time while the charity eventually uses the bulk of the proceeds. We are not going to delve into these, but we just want you to know you have a number of tax beneficial options in this area, which your planner can help you with.

*We asked Lady Nancy Iredale who has already included the Order in her estate about her reasons - "My EOHSJ bequest permits me to continue to support Christianity in the Holy Land after I can no longer make an annual contribution."*

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TODAY?

**Create or Update your Will and Trust** – Seems pretty obvious that you should give direction of where you want your treasures to go upon your passing, usually in the form of a Will and a Trust (you will likely need both, but you should check with an estate attorney to determine what is best for you). Otherwise, the State will decide how your estate will be divided and to whom. **However, today about 50% of you have not yet completed either a will or trust.** You have been meaning to...others haven't reviewed theirs in year. We first ask that you either complete or review yours, since none of us know the hour of our calling.

Lady Nancy Moloney, an established estate lawyer, points out that this is actually the best gift you can give to your children and those people and projects you care about. It makes it possible for you to realize your wishes and to help the people you care about without involving the government in your final gifts.

Or, if you have a will and trust, revisit them to make sure your desires are still reflected.

Finally, please consider the Order in your estate plans.

*Another special member, who wishes to remain anonymous, continues to be very generous in her lifetime but also has made a bequest to the Order and when asked why stated - "Because I take my vow and commitment to supporting the Order very seriously, it made sense for me to endow the Order through my Trust and Will so that I could continue in my commitment. I trust those individuals in the Order who give their talents to the Church and I trust them to do the right thing with it. They are some of the finest people I know, and I trust them to fulfill my intentions."*

## Legacy Society Estate Bequest Appreciation Program

*We cherish every gift you give either now or in the future. If you choose to include the Order in your will or trust, please let us know. We wish to express our appreciation and make others aware.*

All members who include the Order in their Estate will be recognized as follows:

- *Recognition on their Annual Meeting Name Tag*
- *Recognition at the Annual Business Meeting*
- *Recognition at their Mid-Year Meeting*
- *It will be noted next to their name in the Annual Roster*
- *It will be noted in the Year in Review document*
- *Upon a member's passing the Lieutenant will speak to the impact of a member's gift*

In addition, there continue to be three Legacy Society Achievement levels (per couple, or one-half for an individual member). These will include additional recognition:

Bronze - \$25K to less than \$100K

Silver - \$100K to less than \$250K

Gold - \$250K and above



Thank you for remembering the Christians of the Holy Land in your estate planning. If you would like more information or would like to make us aware of your commitment to the Order, please contact the Western Lieutenancy either by phone or e-mail. If you have a special vision, please contact your Bequest Liaison to discuss your desires and ensure it is appropriate, and within the power of the Lieutenancy and the Order. When you inform us of your commitment, please include a copy of the bequest page of your will or trust and appropriate contact information (estate planner, lawyer, heirs, etc.) to insure we include you in the Legacy Society.

*Note to Current Legacy Members – You will be included in the updated program. Your current achievement level will continue to be recognized and your bequest much appreciated. We will move all members to the new appreciation program described in this brochure.*

**If you are considering a bequest or have questions, please contact your Bequest Liaison or Area Councilors.** Each Bequest Liaison is a specially selected senior member off the Order in your Area. They are NOT estate planners, but facilitators and champions..for you! They will help you realize your goal and if necessary arrange additional help and guidance through the Lieutenant, Chancellor and Strategic Development Committee.



