

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions are common among donors who are asked to support an organizational endowment fund at the Roman Catholic Foundation. Organization leaders and volunteers new to endowments and planned giving concepts will likely also have many of these questions.

What is the Roman Catholic Foundation?

The Roman Catholic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity, independent from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Foundation was established in 2013 with the goal of building endowed funds that will support Catholic parishes, schools and ministries throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis for generations to come.

How was I chosen to be approached by a planned giving and endowment building team member?

In working to increase endowment funds for our ministry, our team reviewed a number of factors including engagement and giving history. Your past dedication and generosity to our ministry demonstrates that you might be interested in leaving a legacy to support the mission of our organization after your lifetime.

What is a planned gift?

A planned gift is a significant charitable gift, made either during a donor's lifetime or at death as a part of his/her financial or estate plan, which is typically funded with assets (not income). In contrast, gifts made to the parish offertory or to annual appeals are usually funded with income and are generally not part of a larger financial or estate plan.

Will I receive tax benefits from a planned gift?

While there is no guarantee of any particular tax advantage, planned gifts are often offset by attractive tax benefits. The experts at the Roman Catholic Foundation can help you understand the potential tax implications of your gift. You should also consider discussing your plans with a financial advisor and/or legal professional.

How do I make a planned gift?

There are a number of ways to leave a legacy to benefit our ministry. The Roman Catholic Foundation exists to serve donors and the parishes, schools and ministries of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Their experts can provide confidential guidance to help you develop your planned giving goals and maximize the impact of your gifts on your favorite Catholic ministries.

How should my planned gift compare to my annual giving?

Planned gifts are typically funded with assets and often cost donors nothing during their lifetimes, where annual gifts are typically funded with income. Accordingly, planned gifts are often up to 300 times greater than a donor's largest annual gift!

Am I being asked to leave a planned gift in addition to my annual contributions?

Yes. Because planned gifts are funded with assets rather than income and often cost donors nothing during their lifetimes, we ask you to consider a planned gift in addition to your generous annual contributions.

How do I know the endowment fund will exist in perpetuity?

Funds at the Roman Catholic Foundation are permanent funds, invested for the long term, with the goal of making annual distributions according to the board-approved distribution rate.

How are the funds managed?

Funds held at the Roman Catholic Foundation are managed by Graystone Consulting, an independent business unit of Morgan Stanley. All funds are invested according to the Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines established by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The Foundation's investment policy mandates responsible stewardship by both seeking a reasonable (or competitive) financial return on its investments and doing so in a manner consistent with the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Investment policies include stringent evaluation criteria in the areas of protecting human life, promoting human dignity and reducing arms production. The Foundation's board of trustees oversees investment policies, and an investment sub-committee, made up of board members and other Catholic professionals meets quarterly to review the investment portfolio and its performance.

What happens if the recipient of the endowment fund's distributions ceases to exist?

When an endowment fund is established with the Roman Catholic Foundation, the establishing party has the opportunity to name a successor benefiting organization(s), who will receive endowment fund distributions upon the dissolution of the original benefiting organization.

Who determines how our endowment fund distributions are spent?

Upon establishing an endowment fund with the Roman Catholic Foundation, the establishing party names the benefiting organization and purpose of the fund. If a fund is established for the general support of an organization, the leaders within that organization determine specific use of the funds.

How are Foundation funds protected?

The Roman Catholic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity, independent from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Funds invested at the Foundation are therefore protected.

Are distributions from our endowment fund subject to Archdiocesan cathedraticum?

No. Endowment fund distributions to parishes, schools and ministries are not subject to the Archdiocesan cathedraticum or assessments.

If I want to contribute to our endowment fund now, how should I make the check payable?

Checks should be made payable to Roman Catholic Foundation/⟨⟨Fund⟩⟩.