

Franciscan¹ Footnotes²

1 Franciscan: Called like Francis of Assisi, the Sisters of St. Francis are messengers of peace, committed to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized and respect the gift of all creation.

2 Footnotes: A publication of the Congregational Advancement Office of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH.

February 2020

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." - St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Recovering...

Everyone uses the month of January to collect and re-cover. We collect our Christmas decorations and store them for another year, we collect all our tax papers, and recover from all the guests that dropped in for a few days or a full week. Some of us begin to consider re-organizing all of the above.



Reorganizing and recovering is akin to re-discovering a new part of ourselves. As I reflect on getting myself going in the new year, the Book of Revelations (cf 3:20), comes to mind on keeping your door open for the

challenges of the new year. New challenges and new doors of opportunity...are we ready to open those doors?

Together as we begin a new decade of dreaming about possibilities and opportunity. May the church season of "ordinary time" be extraordinary for you, as together we all spend time recovering, reorganizing and rejuvenating our inner spirit of communicating for a new year of dreams.

Happy New Year,

Eileen M. Kerner
Director of Congregational Advancement
Sisters of St. Francis



Author Paul Hood, FCEP, is a consultant and adviser to the Sylvania Franciscans.

Do you have a question for Paul?

Estate Planning with Paul Hood

The year-end issue

NEW RETIREMENT PLANNING LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

FEBRUARY 2020

On December 20, 2019, President Trump signed the *Setting Every Community Up For Retirement Enhancement Act (SECURE Act)* into law. The SECURE Act made many big changes to long-standing qualified retirement plan and individual retirement account (IRA) rules. In this article, I outline the key provisions affecting estate and charitable planning with qualified retirement plans and IRAs.

The four big changes that I will cover in this piece are:

1. Repeal of the maximum age for contributing to a regular IRA.
2. An anti-abuse rule that affects charitable giving through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA, which I've discussed before.
3. Extension of the age for having to begin required minimum distributions (RMD) from 70 ½ to 72.

Ask it now! *(You'll receive a response in 24-72 hours.)*
Click here to read previous questions and answers

4. Elimination of the lifetime stretch of receiving IRA benefits for most non-spouse IRA beneficiaries.

[READ PAUL'S IMPORTANT FEBRUARY ISSUE HERE](#)

Go Forth in Peace



The Sylvania Franciscan Choir, singing their hearts out under the "Prince of Peace" window in the loft of Queen of Peace Chapel.

(Photo credit: The Blade | Kurt Steiss.)

Catholic Sisters Week March 8 - 14



Sister Theresa helps Sister Rose de Lima, the oldest living Sylvania Franciscan, cut the first piece of cake.



Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and marginalized, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community and offer hope.

We celebrate **Catholic Sisters Week** March 8-14 in a national tribute that began in 2015 as part of Women's History month.

On the Sylvania Franciscan and Lourdes University campuses, in Sylvania, Ohio, lay employees, faculty and students shine the spotlight on the Sisters through a series of 'Shout-outs,' a cake and ice cream party at Rosary Care Center for our elder Sisters and a campus-wide 'Take a Sister to Lunch' event in the Lourdes University cafeteria.

Do you have a favorite Sister teacher or long-time friend? If you would like to send her a "Shout-Out," contact ereiter@sistersosf.org and we will get your word of thanks to her during Catholic Sisters Week.

Sophia Center moves to Canticle Center

[Sophia Center's](#) counselors are days away from 'the big reveal' of their newly renovated office space in the Canticle Center on 5335 Silica Drive.

Since its founding by Sister Rachel Marie Nijakowski in 1993, Sophia Center has been located at 6832 Convent Blvd. in the house original to the property purchased in 1918 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania.



The move on February 3 takes them just around the corner. The Canticle Center, originally built in _____ for the Sister's elementary school, St. Franciscan Education Center (name check), is now home to Lourdes University's Art Department and has served as additional space Sophia Center for several years.

Although truly a 'cradle to grave' counseling service, Sophia Center has emerged as a local leader in diagnosing and creating strategies to help individuals with learning disabilities, attention issues, behavioral issues, processing issues, Dyslexia, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and neurological dysfunction.

To accommodate an ever-expanding client list that includes local schools, Sophia Center Director Sister Rachel saw that, with modifications, the Canticle Center was ideal for reuniting her staff of 15 counselors and providing private counseling space for all.

"Moving all of the Sophia Center staff to the Canticle center enables us to continue to build a strong professional community as we share current practices coming from our own areas of expertise and licensure," Sister Rachel explains.

Sophia Center provides services for all ages and all income levels. Subsidies are available for the **18% of clients** (check number) who are unable to pay all of any of their fees, thanks to Sophia Center donors and sponsorship from the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio.

For counseling and testing, please call the office at 419.882.4529 to schedule an appointment. Office Hours are Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sophia Center is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH.

[Donate to Sophia Center](#)



Y2K - 20 Years Later

By Sister Nancy Linenkugel, OSF

Lehman's Hardware Store in Kidron, Ohio specializes in products designed for the Amish who use non-electric goods. A friend and I happened to visit back in 1999 when the world was in a furor about the "Y2K" problem, or "Year 2000" problem. The fear then was that computers couldn't format or wouldn't recognize the last two digits of a year ending in "00" because that could mean either 1900 or 2000. Anything computerized was predicted to go berserk.

There's a cartoon showing a chubby husband ready to step on the bathroom scale and telling his wife, "Honey, I hope you get me a digital scale for Christmas. When the millennium changes to the year 2000, my weight will go to zero!"

[Read Sister Nancy Linenkugel's new year's reflection](#)

Regina Spirituality & Conference Center Plus - two secluded hermitages

Looking for a place to hold a retreat or a conference?

Would you like a tranquil place to get away for personal reflection?

Nestled in a tranquil, 89-acre setting among pine trees, shrines, and a prayer garden, the Regina Spirituality & Conference Center is a place for people from all walks of life; ideal for prayer, personal development and educational formation.

The Regina Center is designed for:

- Retreats; group or individual
- Ecumenical group meetings or prayer services
- Workshops
- School, parish, or organizational strategic planning
- Business meetings



[Click for more information.](#)

Upcoming Events

Lenten Prayer Services

Queen of Peace Chapel

Wednesdays in March at 7 p.m.

March 4

March 11, the Sylvania Franciscan Choir

March 18, the St. Clement/St. Catherine Choirs

March 25, Lenten reflection with Father Marty Nassr

Second Annual Sylvania Franciscan Spring Art Festival

Franciscan Center

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, March 28

Delightful selection of art and crafts that will help us greet Spring in a truly Franciscan fashion, with beauty, joy and creativity.

Guest Celebrant

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

**Mass at Queen of Peace Chapel
Followed by a Reflection in Regina Conference Story
8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 9**

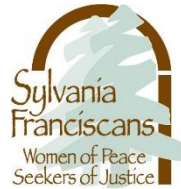
John Eric Stowe, O.F.M. Conv., is an American prelate of the Roman Catholic Church currently serving as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington in Kentucky.

If you would like to discuss a planned gift for the Sylvania Franciscans, including Wills or Bequests, Life Insurance or IRA Retirement Plan/Beneficiary designation, please contact Eileen Kerner, Director of Congregational Advancement, ekerner@sistersosf.org or 419.824.3625.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH are grateful to you, our donors, for helping us continue to be messengers of peace through our [Sylvania Franciscan Ministries](#).

*The Sisters of St. Francis is a 501(c)(3) organization
and your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Tax ID#34-4450609*

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