



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.

January 2021

"None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice." -- Pope Francis

Mirrors of Life...

In this turbulent time, of neighbor against neighbor, I am reminded daily of Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Matthew, (22: 37-39) *"thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* We have a short life on this earth and treating others with respect and kindness is just a small way to appreciate the gift of life.

In the monthly reflection of the Leadership Team, we are reminded *"to promote what unites us and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect."* (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, pg. 134)



2021 begins with restrictions to not socialize, wear a mask for our protection and the protection of others...the list goes on. I have personally changed my lifestyle. My husband and I have gone from empty nesters to living with four additional people, our daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. Sharing a home brings out our generational differences and I try to incorporate the values I cherish. Having less time to meditate, I have introduced prayers before meals, some traditional, some just a quick abbreviated prayer.

We are what we want others to be. My five-year-old grandson stopped me one night before dinner and said "I want to say grace!" I thought to myself, *Oh this should be good!* He proceeds to say grace beautifully, with only one mispronunciation (bounty). He was so proud of himself. I was amazed that he mirrored the reverence, the words, and that he was right on! The experience taught me not to judge and be open to the possibilities of new experiences, reminding me gifts come in many forms.

So as we journey together through 2021, again with COVID at our side, remember we are grateful for you, our donors. The gifts you give and the prayers you say for all our ministries share the Franciscan spirit of caring for all who are poor and marginalized.

Peace and All Good,

Eileen Kerner
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH
Director of Advancement
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ESTATE PLANNING WITH PAUL HOOD

FEBRUARY 2021: ASK PAUL

We received some very good questions about taxes, retirement plans and IRAs for this month's column. If you ever have a question that you'd like to see me address or answer in a future column, just reach out to [Eileen Kerner](#), Director of Congregational Advancement with the Sisters.

Our readers asked:

I am interested in sharing some of my IRA/401(k)/403(b) with the Sisters. Can you focus on the process of doing so? Do I

need to cash out IRA/401(k)/403(b) and then have to count the distribution as taxable income first? First and foremost, I applaud you on your forward-thinking about benefitting our tremendous Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania OH.

The answer to your question is not always. If you're age 70½ and have a traditional IRA, you can do a qualified charitable distribution (QCD, also referred to as an IRA charitable rollover) to the Sisters without having to take the distribution into income first. Moreover, while you won't get an income tax charitable contribution deduction for a QCD, it will count toward your RMD without having to recognize income.

The way that the QCD is supposed to work is that the money is paid **directly** out of the IRA to the qualified public charity like our Sisters. However, some IRA account custodians give their account holders IRA checkbooks. Just make sure that you don't first write the check to yourself; make it out directly to the Sisters.

There's a **lot of misinformation** out there in the financial public about how to best go about getting money out of an IRA or qualified plan to charity. I implore you to reach out to Eileen Kerner with the Sisters **before you take any action**. She could save you making a big and costly mistake by first taking a distribution that you're intending to give to the Sisters.

Now, for some who desire to make provisions for charity out of retirement plans and IRAs, it will be necessary to first recognize the income and then get an income tax charitable contribution deduction for that contributed to charity. You must run the numbers first, because it may be that the income tax charitable contribution deduction won't be a complete wash against the recognized income.

What is the age of being forced to begin taking required minimum distributions from retirement plans and IRAs (RMD) for those over 70. Is it 72 going forward and due the year they turn 72 and paid out by the next April? Was there a reprieve on 2020 taxes? The SECURE Act changed the deadline for having to begin taking RMDs from April 1 of the year following the year in which the participant or account holder attained the age of 70 ½ to age 72. Accordingly, the RMDs must begin by April 1 of the year following the year that the participant or account holder turns age 72. While there wasn't any reprieve on 2020 taxes on retirement plans and IRAs, 2020 legislation dispensed with the requirement to take out an RMD **in 2020 only**.

I know that the SECURE Act eliminated the ability of many beneficiaries to obtain a lifetime “stretch” of IRA and qualified plan benefits of lifetime stretch. As I understand it, the lifetime stretch is now restricted to spouse beneficiaries and young or disabled beneficiaries. Are there any ways around the new rules? Generally, the new SECURE Act rules make it very difficult to obtain a lifetime stretch for beneficiaries who aren’t surviving spouses or young or disabled beneficiaries. However, some experts have demonstrated that the interposition of a tax-exempt charitable remainder trust for a term of up to 20 years can achieve some semblance of stretch, albeit not as favorable as under pre-SECURE Act law. However, charitable remainder trusts are complex creatures, and this is a very highly specialized area of estate planning about which very few estate planners are well versed, so caution is in order. I don’t know how many people will be practically able to avail themselves of this planning technique. I suspect that many won’t find it palatable. Perhaps in a subsequent column I could explore this further with examples.

What are the pro’s and con’s of a trust to manage an IRA /401(k)/403(b)? Is this something that you would ever recommend? Trusts are management and asset protection vehicles. They often have little role in planning for retirement plans and IRAs. However, if the account is large enough so that you don’t want the ultimate beneficiaries to withdraw all of the money in the first year (which happens about 80% of the time), a trust can come in very handy by interposing a governor in the form of a trustee. This often is done with blended family couples where the account holder wants to provide for both his spouse and his children from a prior relationship.

As I said earlier, and it bears repeating: the use of trusts in retirement planning is very complex and requires expertise that few regular estate planners possess, so caution is in order. When in doubt, and you should be in doubt, always ask before taking action. Eileen Kerner is always happy to hear from you, and I encourage you to enlist her aid as a resource to prevent problems.

May God continue to bless you, your families and the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania OH.

Consultant Paul Hood, FCEP, works with Thompson & Associates in Toledo, OH to assist charitable organizations and work with their donors on values-based estate planning.

Paul obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University and an LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center before settling down to practice tax and estate planning law in the New Orleans area. Paul has taught at the University of New Orleans, Northeastern University, The University of Toledo College of Law and Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law. Paul has authored or co-authored seven books and over 500 professional articles on estate and tax planning and business valuation.



Sister Sammy and Sister Ann Joachim, still under lockdown, are grateful to have received their vaccines last month, along with all residents and staff at Our Lady of Grace Hall and Rosary Care Center.



2021 Reflections

by Sr. Roselynn Humbert

We are now full into 2021. Do we feel the change? For me, days just go by one after another with little more than the calendar numbers changing. Monday are still Mondays and my daily habits go on as before. It is really up to me to make a change. The future of this year has very few predetermined outcomes. We hope the vaccine will halt the spread of COVID 19. We know a new president has been inaugurated, but beyond the near future, we are not able to predict large-scale change.

Today I had an event many in my age group have: *a doctor's appointment*. I was meeting a new doctor since my previous cardiologist has relocated. The entire procedure at the office had changed and it threw me off. I entered the wrong building. It was suggested I walk to the correct building inside instead of going outside. What a maze. On the last lap, a kind nurse offered to walk with me to the physician's office and explain my predicament. I was so grateful for her kindness.

The new doctor was very thorough and ordered blood work. Thank goodness the lab was on the first floor of the same building. The receptionist warned me that there were many waiting ahead of me but I was okay with that. As part of the new procedures, there is a greeter at the door, taking temperatures and asking the COVID questions in case you had not registered in your car. This gentleman was an inspiration. Many folks were hard of hearing or disoriented as I was. He was gentle, caring, and loud enough to

be heard. He always asked if the person knew where to go. He always had a smile in his voice even with the mask on and though not a young person, showed energy and enthusiasm as person after person came through the door. Sometimes it was difficult to explain that he needed to take their temperature at the wrist. He showed no signs of frustration or asides to anyone no matter how difficult it was to communicate through the masks.

After watching him a while I caught his eye and he came closer. I told him what an inspiration he was. He said, "People are scared and angry. They just need a little care and comfort these days." I agreed with him and we spoke a few more words. I told him that I was a Sister and I notice these things. He was touched and grateful for my support. How easy it would have been to just think good thoughts instead of putting them into words. We never know how our actions, words and attitudes affect others. It is a good thing to share a positive observation. Where can you make a positive impact today? Who needs a little cheering up or a word of support? You never know how it may come back to you.

I guess the biggest question is, "What do I want to change?" That can be answered in two ways. What do I decide I want to change in myself or my routine and what do I want to change in the outside world? Changing myself is the biggest challenge. I have lived long enough to know that vague New Year's Resolutions are not very effective. To really change I need to develop new habits and responses to my environment and my daily living. There are many supports out there for these changes.

Journaling is one useful practice. The use of bullet journals is also popular. A thoughtful journal can lead to insight into the reason for roadblocks on the journey to change. A bullet journal itemizes the goals for the day or the week and gives one the opportunity to check off items as they are completed. Some of us find procrastination is the enemy of completing tasks. There is always another time, another day, a better feeling. Just having it written down and then checked off can be very helpful for procrastinators.

Sister Roselynn Humbert is the Director of Volunteers for the Sisters of St. Francis. She is active in her parish, St. Pius X, and uses her artistic talents to lead card-making and scrapbooking classes for All Good Things Art & Gifts and to raise funds for Sylvania Franciscan Ministries.



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK March 8 - 14

*Celebrating Traditions,
Changing the World*

Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope ...But for one week, March 8-14, we shine the spotlight on women religious and honor their charism and commitment to God's work.

This year we will 'Thank a Sister' by hosting a local pantry drive for Sylvania

Area Family Services and Bethany House on campus and in select community venues.

Our dear Sisters under lockdown at Rosary Care Center and Our Lady of Grace will be honored with cupcakes and flowers, and our friends on Facebook should look for series of videos from community leaders discussing the impact of the Sylvania Franciscans in our world.

If you would like to thank a Sister who made a difference in your life, email Eileen Kerner at ekerner@sistersosf.org or call 419-824-3625.



A Beautiful Gift for the Sisters at Our Lady of Grace Hall

Thanks to the generosity of a donor gift, Our Lady of Grace Hall will soon be graced with a stunning retractable awning. The awning will provide the Sisters with a much desired covering for their outdoor patio. The awning is scheduled for installation in Summer 2021.

If you might be interested in supporting the Sisters through a gift, call Eileen Kerner at 419-824-3625.



No Public Mass

In the continued interest in safety, Mass at Queen of Peace Chapel continues to remain restricted to Sisters. We look forward to the time we can pray together again soon.

We seek 1,000 friends to pledge \$1 a day for the next three years to help our ministries live on.

We thank those who have committed to this Sisters' Initiative.



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

Ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis

**[Bethany House](#) | [Convent Park Apartments](#) | [Lourdes University](#)
[Our Lady of Grace Hall](#) | [Rosary Care Center](#) | [Sophia Counseling Center](#)**

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