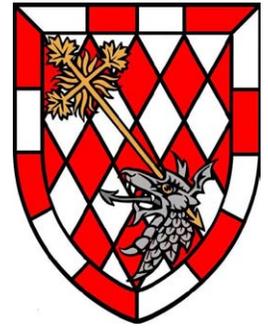


Your Catholic Legacy



Newsletter of the Archdiocese of Toronto Development Office

Spring/Summer 2013, Number 39

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Becoming the hands of Christ

We received the following letter regarding a parishioner who passed away recently. It is one of the most stirring estate letters we have ever received and shows the transformational power of friendship.

Today your charity will be receiving the third and final check from the estate of Jim Gallagher, a close friend we all miss dearly.

We're sure you receive donations from estates on a regular basis, but how often do people take the time to tell you who that person was? Today, we want you to know the life of our dear friend and the reason he remembered you in his will.

Jim was a man of great character. Honest, trustworthy, devoted and loyal. Jim didn't have the childhood that most children born today would expect. His birth parents were, for reasons Jim never quite understood, unable to take care of him and before long he was placed into the caring hands of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS). Thanks to the CCAS the foster parents that took Jim in were kind and caring. Jim spoke highly of them and he kept in touch with them for the rest of his life. While a child of the CCAS, Jim attended many summer camps and special events, all happy memories.

At one of the summer camps Jim met Father Leo, a Basilian priest.

Father Leo saw Jim as a troubled youth and knew in his heart that all Jim needed was someone he could trust and talk to. Father Leo helped Jim turn his life

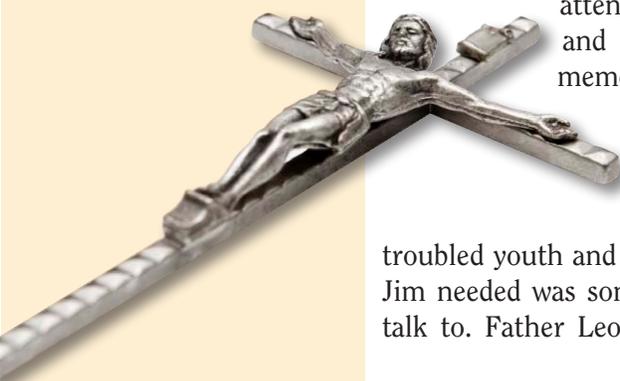
around and their friendship continued for the rest of his life. Jim was a devoted Catholic and attended Mass at St. Basil's Parish in Toronto. He was an active member of his parish and his skills as an amateur photographer were in high demand at all church functions. Jim knew what retirement was like for a priest and Jim made sure that he did what he could for them by adding The Shepherds' Trust to his list of beneficiaries.

Shortly after leaving the foster care system Jim was hired at our family-owned Caterpillar Dealership. There, our family became good friends of Jim as did all his fellow workers. Jim never married, nor did he have any children, but we all became members of Jim's expanded family of friends.

Jim suffered a massive stroke at the young age of 57. He slowly regained some of his motor skills over the next three years. These extra years gave Jim's friends the time to show him how much having him in our lives meant to us. Unfortunately, complications from this stroke took Jim's life at the age of 60.

Jim wasn't a wealthy man. He never owned a home and lived his adult life in a small one room basement apartment. He never found the need to gather lots of material possessions. He did enjoy photography and traveling to see friends and taking a cruise on the latest cruise ships. He could talk for hours about the new ship designs and special features. Jim left everything he had to your organizations, the bulk of which came from his pension fund

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Gifts in kind are sometimes not so kind

Grandpa's stamp collection, your first car, a box of beat up old coins, a comic collection from the 1980s, crystal figurines in a living room glass display, a really old pocket watch and Great Aunt Betsy's tarnished tea set all have one thing in common...

The owners usually believe their items are worth more than they really are.

Chances are we have all imagined having the "big win" that we occasionally see on TV shows like Antiques Road Show. Especially when we have invested time into collecting something we care about. We naturally think that others will recognize the same value we place in it.

One gift I especially remember handling for the Archdiocese of Toronto was from a parishioner who was gifting to their parish a mid-1990's Jaguar. The car was beautiful. It really was. It had only 74,000 kms, was driven in the summer and for the most part was stored indoors for the winter. The person donating it was the first owner. The car had never been in an accident and the interior was immaculate. The donor was in his late 70's, had all the servicing records, and took really good care of it. He had moved into a condo downtown and no longer wanted to drive.

For various reasons we had to sell the vehicle to a dealer. We got \$3,500. And while the donor did not mind (he knew well in advance), I must admit that if it were not for that pesky little thing called "a conflict of interest", I would have bought the car.

The best part of the transaction was when the dealer who was buying the Jaguar told me to call him right away if I ever got a hold of mid-1990's Volkswagen Jetta that ran on diesel. It seems construction people really like them because the same diesel that goes into the equipment can go into the car. We could expect to fetch a few thousand more for the Jetta than what we got for the Jaguar.

It can be a hard, cold world.

The key to valuating a donation for gift in kind purposes is not what we believe the item is worth, or even what an insurance appraisal says it's worth, but what the item is worth in a free and open fair market. The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) sets a guideline surrounding this. If a gift in kind is made, either in life or through a Will, the tax receipt will be for the fair market value. A good example is a diamond ring.

While there may be an appraisal for insurance purposes that says it's worth \$10,000, but if potential buyers on a free and open market are only willing to pay \$5,700, then the tax receipt will be for \$5,700. This is the fair market value.

There is a way that you can check to see what your gift in kind may be worth for receipting purposes. Try going onto ebay.ca or kijiji.ca and watch an online auction to see what it (or a very similar item) sells for. Do this a few times, average the amount, and then you will have a pretty good idea as to what you could expect your tax receipt to be.

If you don't like what you see (or do like what you see) consider keeping the item in your family. An old coke machine in the basement or a well-framed Olympic pin collection may look better in a family members' basement than a tax receipt for a few hundred dollars.

But who knows? Perhaps you do have the special item that is one of a kind. I once handled a painting that sold in an auction in London, England, for over \$100,000. I knew we were on to something when three people showed up to see the painting with white gloves and an ultraviolet light.

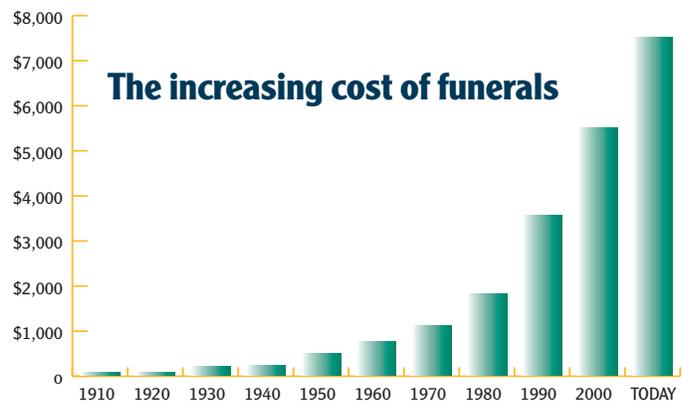
One never knows!

This article originally appeared in the most recent Catholic Register estate planning issue as supplied by Quentin Schesnuik in the Development Office. By popular interest, we are printing it here.



What goes up... Does not always come down

Here is a simple illustration to highlight the ever increasing cost of funerals and burials set beside major historical events to put things into perspective. Funeral pre-planning is one way you can help save your estate considerable expense. If you have any questions about pre-planning contact Amy Profenna at Catholic Cemeteries at 416-733-8544 or toll free at 1-800-974-4619.



Decade	Bread costs	Average annual salary	Grave cost	Burial fee	Funeral cost	Special Events in the decade
1910	5¢	\$699	\$24	\$4	\$75	July 28, 1914 – World War I begins. Pope Benedict XV urges all Christians to pray for an end to the war. Padre Pio offers himself as a victim for the end of the war. Days later he has a vision in which Christ appears and pierces his side. A few weeks later Padre Pio receives all five wounds of Christ or the Stigmata and carries them for 50 years.
1920	12¢	\$1,164	\$25	\$5	\$80	May 18, 1928 – Blessed Pope John Paul II born. 1929 – The stock market crash ushers in the Great Depression.
1930	9¢	\$1,970	\$30	\$5	\$200	October 5, 1938 – St. Maria Faustina Kowalska dies. Devotion to the Divine Mercy begins to spread worldwide. September 1, 1939 – Hitler orders the invasion of Poland. World War II begins.
1940	9¢	\$1,725	\$50	\$7	\$255	1942 – In reaction to the second secret of Our Lady of Fatima, which warns that Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, Pope Pius XII consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1942. 1947 – The Cold War begins.
1950	15¢	\$3,210	\$70	\$15	\$500	1950 – The Assumption (belief that Mary’s body was assumed into heaven) is one of the oldest traditions of the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XII declares this belief as dogma. The U.S. begins construction of the hydrogen bomb.
1960	23¢	\$6,305	\$120	\$30	\$750	July 26, 1968 – Pope Paul VI releases the encyclical <i>Humane Vitae</i> stating the Church’s official position on artificial contraception. American involvement in The Vietnam War begins.
1970	29¢	\$9,400.00	\$180	\$45	\$1,100	1970 – St. Teresa of Ávila becomes the first female Doctor of the Church. 1973 – <i>Roe v. Wade</i> - The U.S. Supreme Court decision which struck down many state laws restricting abortion. The battle for life begins.
1980	52¢	\$19,500	\$550	\$100	\$1,850	May 13, 1981 – Assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square. November 9, 1989 – Fall of the Berlin Wall.
1990	69¢	\$28,960	\$1,000	\$200	\$3,550	August 2, 1990 – Saddam Hussein orders Iraq invasion of Kuwait. 1992 – The Catechism of the Catholic Church is first published. It becomes an international bestseller with almost a million copies in print to date.
2000	\$1.72	\$40,343	\$1,250	\$500	\$5,500	2000 – Y2K computer fears prove to be unfounded. 2005 - Pope Benedict XVI is elected.
TODAY	\$2.49	\$46,800	\$1,800	\$875	\$7,500	The 2009 global financial crisis hits the world. March 31, 2013 – Pope Francis becomes our 266th Pope. The unbroken line of shepherds leading back to the first Pope, the Apostle Peter, continues...

Contact our office to receive your copy of the FREE Catholic Estate Planning guide.

Looking for an Advisor to Help You with Your Will or Estate Plan?

The Archdiocese of Toronto maintains a list of lawyers, accountants and financial advisors in your area who are ready to assist you with making your Will or estate plan. If you do not have a Will (or have been meaning to have a new one made) contact our office today. Depending on your area, we can supply you with three to four advisors you can call to see if there is someone you feel comfortable working with.

If you are a Catholic professional advisor and are interested in learning how to join the archdiocesan list, contact our office to learn more.

Becoming the hands of Christ

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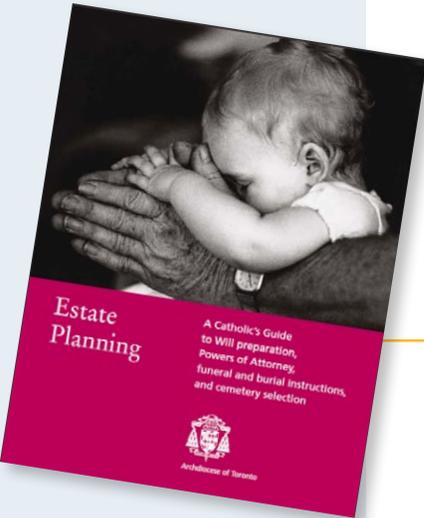
which he never got the chance to use. His thoughtfulness means each charity received just over \$93,000. Jim taught us to appreciate all we have and especially to remember those who touch our lives and make a difference.

On behalf of Jim, please accept our deepest appreciation for all your good work. May this money help you fund future projects in Jim's memory.

Sincerely,
*Jim's Friends and Executor's of his estate**

If you would like to speak to someone about how to make a gift of faith to your parish or favourite Archdiocesan charity, please contact the Development Office of the Archdiocese of Toronto. All calls are confidential.

** Excerpts of the letter reprinted with permission from Jim Gallagher's Estate Trustees.*



Contact us

Your Catholic Legacy, the planned giving newsletter of the Archdiocese of Toronto, is a free publication that is produced twice a year to keep parishioners informed about issues related to estate planning and the many tax-smart and creative ways they can support their parishes and Archdiocesan charities. While all articles are researched and come from reliable sources, you should always consult an advisor before making any gift.



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