

# Your Catholic Legacy



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

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## Gift From a Faithful Priest

**“The inscription on the pendant says it contains a piece of the hairshirt worn by St. Thomas More. Would the Church like to have it?”**

It's not every day that someone offers you a possible relic from a saint.

We know that St. Thomas More secretly wore a hairshirt, which is an

uncomfortable garment made of rough cloth, usually goat's hair. While languishing in prison for not supporting Henry VIII's petition for divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and having his pen and ink taken away, he wrote his last letter using some coal and sent it to his daughter Margaret along with his hairshirt. St. Thomas More likely wore the hairshirt as an antidote to help him resist the temptations of the luxury and comfort that came with his high office. The detachment it helped him to forge would have strengthened his will not to break when all his titles and earthly comforts were stripped away after being thrown in prison. A few days after writing his daughter, St. Thomas More was martyred.

The donation was coming from the estate of Fr. Edwin Platt. Affectionately known as

Fr. Ed, he was a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto who passed away on Sept. 17, 2011. Fr. Ed was known to be a wonderful and charitable priest who dedicated his life to the service of others. When Fr. Ed passed away he had been a priest for 63 years. As a final sign of his devotion, Fr. Ed gifted his family home to the Archdiocese of Toronto to help in the establishment of a retirement home for priests.

The pendant was found in among Fr. Ed's personal possessions. It was sealed in a package that had been mailed to him, but never opened. And while we lack the official documentation to prove it's an actual piece of the hairshirt worn by St. Thomas More, it's a welcomed addition to our Archives Department from a faithful priest of our archdiocese. It will be kept with care.



*If you would like to make a special gift in your Will to The Shepherds' Trust, a charity that helps retired priests, please contact the Development Office. All calls are confidential.*



Fr. Edwin Platt as a young man

Opposite: The pendant contains a possible relic of St. Thomas More

# THE MYSTERY OF

# Icons



The Catholic Pastoral Centre was the home of the sixth annual Legacy Society Mass and lunch. The Society was established as a special way to say thank you to parishioners who have included their parish or favourite Archdiocesan charity in their Will or estate plan.

At the recent lunch, Legacy Society members were given a special treat of learning more about religious icons from a master iconographer, Mr. Janusz Charczuk. Mr. Charczuk delved into the mystery of icons and said that a religious icon is a window into Heaven itself. He explained that when an icon is made, the real author is the Holy Spirit and the iconographer's hand is

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only the instrument. The process used to create an icon is ancient. No one knows who invented it, other than it has been faithfully practised by monks for over a thousand years.

If you have included your parish or favourite archdiocesan charity in your Will or estate plan and would enjoy being invited to future Legacy Society events such as the one held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, please let the Development Office know. We would be pleased to invite you to future events.

All members of the Legacy Society also receive:

- A hand-crafted cross, blessed by the Archbishop of Toronto.
- A personal letter and certificate acknowledging your intention.

*To learn more about the Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto, contact the Development Office. **Legacy Society members have the option of remaining anonymous.***



# GIFTS OF SECURITIES WAY UP!

Awareness that people can support their parish or favourite archdiocesan charity using securities is growing. **Donations of securities in the Archdiocese of Toronto has grown by over 400% in three years!**

The popularity of gifting securities as a smart tax planning strategy is growing because the government allows you to donate appreciated securities directly to a Canadian charity without having to pay any capital gains tax.

Many parishioners have begun using securities to consolidate all of their Church giving – specifying how much they want to go to offertory, a building fund, the Family of Faith campaign, etc. In the case of ShareLife, for example, a parish can be credited with the donation and the pastor notified. Donations can also be directed to The Shepherds' Trust, St. Augustine's Seminary, St. Michael's Choir School, etc. Parishioners are free to allocate their securities gift as many ways as they like.

Here's how the process works:

## 1 Step One (You)

You complete the archdiocese's Letter of Direction form and fax or email copies to:

- Your broker
- The archdiocese
- The archdiocese's broker

To get the form go to: [www.archtoronto.org/development/Pages/Securities\\_Stocks.aspx](http://www.archtoronto.org/development/Pages/Securities_Stocks.aspx) and then click on "Letter of Direction" or contact the Development Office.

## 2 Step Two (Your Broker)

Your broker then transfers your securities from your account into the Archdiocese of Toronto's account.

## 3 Step Three (The Archdiocese of Toronto)

1. The archdiocese's broker receives your securities and sells them.
2. The proceeds from the sale are then wired into the archdiocese's account.
3. The archdiocese then prepares your tax receipt and disburses the monies to the parish(es)/charities you have listed on the Letter of Direction.

**It's that easy!**



## Securities In Your Will

If you are making a bequest to the Church and have securities that have increased in value, consider creating instructions for your estate to gift the securities *directly to the Church instead of selling them* and then donating the cash. This will help your estate save taxes because your estate won't have to pay any capital gains tax if your securities have increased in value.

# Euthanasia

## Are You and Your Loved Ones Protected?



Contact our office to receive your free copy of the Catholic Estate Planning Guide.

Euthanasia may be well on its way to becoming a part of our country's landscape. Below is some suggested wording from our Catholic Estate Planning Guide that you can share with your lawyer when drawing up your Power of Attorney for Personal care to protect yourself and your loved ones:

"I wish to live in my home at: \_\_\_\_\_, for as long as possible. If I become too old or too ill or incapacitated or too much of a burden for my children, I wish to be at 'name of seniors' residence, etc.' I want God to decide whether I should live or die. Therefore, if I become terminally ill and unable to make decisions concerning my treatment, and have no reasonable expectation of recovery, then I request that no ethically extraordinary treatments be used to prolong my life, but that my pain be alleviated if it becomes unbearable, even if this results in shortening my life. No treatment, however, should be used with the intention of shortening my life. As a Roman Catholic, I wish to have Mass and Holy Communion daily, unless this is impossible. I want a priest called to give me the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as soon as and as often as I become seriously ill."

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### 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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