

An
Invitation

to join the
Perpetual
Light
Society



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Giving thanks is important in every aspect of our lives. It is especially central to our Catholic faith which helps us in our earthly journey as we prepare our souls for eternal life with God our Father.

The Perpetual Light Society provides a way for all of us to give thanks. It provides a way for the faithful of this diocese to pass on the faith through their wills and final gifts to the diocese, parish or other planned gifts. It also provides me, your bishop, with a way to thank you for such sincere acts of faith and charity.

With this letter, I extend to you a personal invitation to enroll as a member in the Perpetual Light Society of the Diocese of Rockford. Stewardship takes on different expressions. Since the earliest days of the Church, the faithful have worked courageously and generously to pass on the gift of faith to the next generation.

Our forefathers and mothers sacrificed to give us the parishes we call home, the schools and religious education programs that have nurtured us, and the diocesan ministries that have touched so many lives.

The Perpetual Light Society provides the opportunity to pass on the faith through this stewardship practice of giving a final offering of a portion of our earthly possessions for God's work. To become a member of the Perpetual Light Society, I ask you to do three things.

First, prepare a will to take care of your loved ones. Second, consider including your Diocese, and/or your parish as beneficiaries in your will or as recipients of other planned gifts.

Finally, I ask you to return the enclosed Perpetual Light Society enrollment card. It is my heartfelt hope that you will prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Perpetual Light Society. This will help us provide a strong and vital Church for our children and our children's children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ David J. Malloy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford

Questions about the Perpetual Light Society

Q. What is the Perpetual Light Society?

A. The Perpetual Light Society was established to thank and celebrate with parishioners who remember the Church in their will, estate or other planned gift. This stewardship practice of contributing a measure of our earthly possessions recognizes that everything comes from God; all our time, talent, treasure and assets are His gifts to us and we in turn show our deep sense of gratitude in a planned, proportionate and sacrificial manner. By doing so we proclaim that our faith was a priority in our lifetime; ensuring that those who come after us will have similar opportunities to grow in their faith and thus, furthering the mission of the Church.

Q. How do I become eligible for membership?

A. By leaving the Church in your will, estate or other planned gift, you are eligible to become a member of the Perpetual Light Society. For example, you may choose to include our Diocese, your parish, a Catholic school or a diocesan ministry in your will. Another option is to make a planned gift through a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or insurance policy.

Q. How can I join the Perpetual Light Society?

A. Upon including the Church in your will or planned gift, you may complete the enclosed enrollment card and return it to us.

Q. What are the benefits to becoming a member?

A. You are invited to an annual Perpetual Light Society Mass with the Bishop followed by a luncheon. Also, you receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Bishop Malloy and your name published with all Perpetual Light Society members annually, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

Q. Do I need to prepare a new will if I already have one?

A. No. You can add a codicil (document to amend your will) to your existing will to include the Church as a beneficiary. Your attorney should advise you on what is best for your circumstances.

Continued...

Q. What is The Catholic Foundation?

A. The Catholic Foundation for the People of the Diocese of Rockford was established in 1987 as the custodian of perpetual (endowed) gifts made to the Diocese, parishes, schools and diocesan ministries. The Catholic Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors who has been appointed by the Bishop. This Board oversees the prudent investment of all funds and the distribution of earnings to all participants. The Catholic Foundation allows donors to participate through Endowed Gifts, Gift Annuities, and Donor Advised Funds.

Q. What is an Endowed Gift?

A. An endowed gift provides a perpetual source of income for the designated organization; meaning the principal (endowed gift) remains untouched year after year, but allows for distribution of earnings, which are used to meet your specific charitable intention.

Q. What is a Donor Advised Fund?

A. The Catholic Foundation also offers Donor Advised Funds. This option allows you to make a tax deductible contribution where you can designate which entity/organization receives distributions. There are two types of Donor Advised Funds offered: Endowed (with distributions of earnings only) and Provisional (distributions can include both earnings and the original gift).

Q. What is a Gift Annuity?

A. A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a contract between you and the Catholic Foundation for the People of the Diocese of Rockford, in which you transfer ownership of cash, securities or other assets, and receive a guaranteed fixed payment for life. Upon your death, the remainder of your gift is distributed to your parish, school, or other diocesan agency. Please visit www.foundationrockford.org and use the Annuity Calculator to see what rates you are eligible, or contact our office for further information.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Charitable Giving
Diocese of Rockford, PO Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125
815.399.4300 | www.FoundationRockford.org

Join the Perpetual Light Society!

Dear Bishop Malloy,

Please enroll me in the Perpetual Light Society. I/We have named the Diocese, my Parish, Catholic school, and/or diocesan ministry as a beneficiary in my will or in another planned gift.

Before I/We join the Perpetual Light Society, please contact me to discuss questions I may have.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Parish _____ City _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Email _____

Please do not publish my/our name(s) annually.

Please mail completed form to: Perpetual Light Society - Diocese of Rockford - 555 Colman Center Drive - Rockford, IL 61108