

# Heritage Circle

A financial and charitable planning guide from Marist School

## Paying It Forward by Advancing Marist's Mission

When reflecting on her Marist School education, Dawn Villanueva Levy '93 remarked, "As an adult you look back at what has been pivotal in your life, and Marist has always been that for me." When Dawn began contemplating her estate plans, she decided that she wanted to leave a legacy at Marist School. She knew that by making a planned gift at Marist, she had an opportunity to make a significant donation to the school in addition to her faithful support of the Annual Fund.

When asked what inspired her generosity, Dawn shared that the faith-filled and supportive Marist community had made a great impact on her life, including the strengthening of her faith. Remembering her ninth grade introduction to religious studies class taught by then Marist Theology teacher the late Dr. Robert Donovan, Dawn appreciated that it provided her with the opportunity to explore her faith. She loved the school's daily morning prayers, and especially how faith and spirituality were woven into every aspect of her Marist education. She vividly recalls when the Marist community lifted her mom up in prayer before a surgery. The comfort that she and her brother, Peter Villanueva '98, received from the Marist family during this challenging time is one that she will never forget.

Inspired by the many Marist faculty and staff members who helped guide and encourage her next steps after graduation, Dawn feels that helping to preserve the excellence of the Marist education is important, and she wants to pay it forward.



Marist School had such a profound impact on the life of Dawn Villanueva Levy '93 that she was inspired to include Marist in her estate plan. Her support helps preserve the excellence of the Marist education for future generations.

About five years ago, she began organizing her plans to direct what would happen with her assets and what would be left to her children, and she notified Marist of her intentions. She feels empowered to arrange things now, so that her family will be taken care of and she can help advance Marist School's mission—to form the whole person in the image of Christ—for future generations. Through her planned gift, Marist students will benefit from the nurturing, faith-filled educational experience that she received while a student.

Dawn's generosity is recognized by Marist through membership in the Heritage Circle, Marist's planned giving society. We are grateful to Heritage Circle members for their commitment to ensuring a Marist education is available for future generations. Heritage Circle members receive an invitation to an annual appreciation event, recognition in Marist publications, and a pass to Marist athletic events.

# The Power of Beneficiary Designations

## Your Invisible Estate Plan

The exciting news is that you can do more with your legacy than you may think is possible. But many individuals overlook assets that could have gone to a worthwhile cause or loved one.

While a will is critical to your overall planning, **you likely have assets that pass outside of this important document.**

Luckily, through the power of beneficiary designations, you can take control.

**Q:** What is a beneficiary designation?

**A:** The act of designating a person or organization as the future recipient of funds from an asset that passes outside your will.

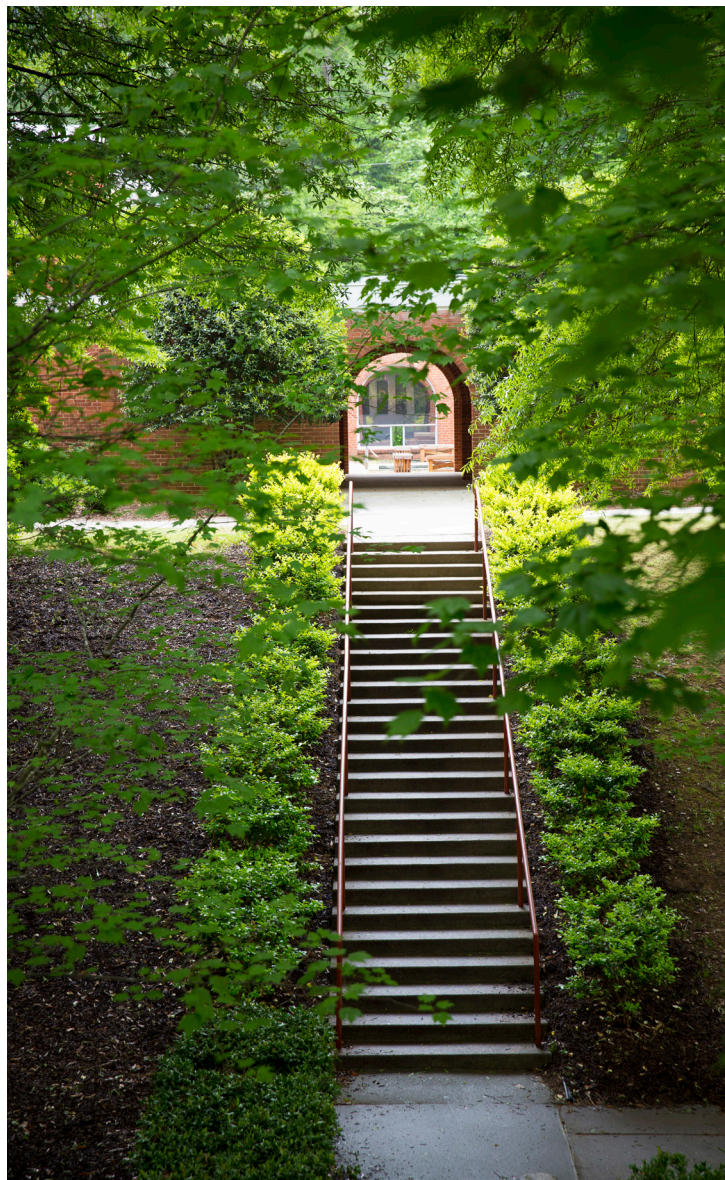
You can name beneficiaries for the following assets:

- 401(k) plans
- Individual retirement accounts (IRA)
- Stock options
- Life insurance policies
- Pension or profit-sharing benefits
- Keogh plans
- Group life insurance
- Bank accounts with payable-on-death (POD) arrangements

### How Do I Do It?

These assets are incredibly easy to designate to the recipient of your choice. Contact your plan administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form (many even keep their form online). The process can take just a few minutes.

**Important Tip:** Plan administrators have varying policies for notifying the surviving beneficiaries. Be sure your beneficiaries know about your gift so they can manage the process without undue stress. If you designate Marist School as a recipient, we want to be sure that we use your gift exactly as you intend. Please notify us so that we can thank you for your generosity.



We would be honored to help find the giving option that is best for you. Contact the Marist School Advancement Office at (770) 936-6424 or [giving@marist.com](mailto:giving@marist.com) today.

# Tally My Assets

Thinking about how much your estate is worth can raise all kinds of questions: Is there enough to retire on? Can I provide for my family? Fortunately, most people have more in their estate than they think.

**To get started**, write down what you have. Use the current market value for everything you own and the face value (not cash value) for any life insurance. We have provided a chart to list your figures. Do not worry about exact amounts; your best estimate is a helpful start.

If you are married, be sure to include your spouse's assets and all jointly owned or community property.

## Take Inventory

Asset	Approximate Value
Cash (savings, money market, checking, CDs)	\$
Residence	
Other real estate	
Stocks, bonds, mutual funds	
Retirement funds (pension, profit-sharing, IRAs, Keogh plans)	
Life insurance face value	
Personal assets (cars, jewelry, boats, paintings, collections)	
Annuities, revocable trusts	
Closely held business interests	
Partnership ventures	
Notes, mortgages owed to you	
Other	
<b>Total assets value:</b>	

Once you have completed an inventory, you are ready to decide where you want it to go. Taxes may impact your decisions. When you give your retirement plan assets (IRAs, etc.), to your loved ones, for example, they will pay income taxes on any distributions, but if you give them to a nonprofit like Marist School, we will receive your gift tax-free.

We can help you navigate how to get the most from your estate. Contact the Marist School Advancement Office at (770) 936-6424 or [giving@marist.com](mailto:giving@marist.com) today.



## Simple Steps, Big Impact

We have broken the planning process into manageable steps and explained some of the key people you will need to identify as part of your plan. Return the enclosed reply card today to get your FREE guide, ***Five Steps to Protect Your Family and Your Assets.***

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# What Is Often Forgotten in Estate Plans

Your estate plan serves two purposes: It takes care of practical matters (like directives for medical care) and personal matters (like providing for loved ones and charitable organizations that express your most cherished values). Yet, despite the essential nature of an estate plan, there are a handful of things that are often forgotten:

### 1. Designating beneficiaries

Naming beneficiaries for important assets like your retirement plan accounts or life insurance policies is critical because these pass outside of your will. Without this step, the assets will go to your estate. How these assets are eventually distributed depends on a variety of factors, including where you live, if you have a will, and any outstanding debt.

### 2. Updating life changes

When an important milestone occurs, ask yourself: Will this event influence my plan? If you fail to update your will or beneficiaries, you might accidentally leave an inheritance for someone or something you no longer wish to support.

### 3. Talking to loved ones

It might be tempting to keep your plan to yourself. Instead, share it with loved ones. Show them how your values have informed what you wish to leave behind. If you have included a charitable organization, like Marist School, in your plan, let us know so we can ensure your gift is used as you intend.

Your estate plan should reflect where you are in your life. Do not treat it as something to put away as soon as it is completed. If you do, you risk losing the ability to let your legacy evolve with you.

Use your estate plan to make a difference for our students—we can show you how. Contact the Marist School Advancement Office today to discuss the best option for you.