



# PLANNING *TOGETHER*

## WITH THE SINSINAWA DOMINICANS

ESTATE AND GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER

## HOW DO I LEAVE A LEGACY?



**Sister Mary Ellen Green, OP,** Director of Development, invites you to partner with the Sinsinawa Dominicans. Sr. Mary Ellen has been a Sinsinawa Dominican for 39 years and is grateful for your support. She looks forward to meeting you and welcomes your calls, e-mails, letters, and visits. Contact her using the information at the end of this newsletter.

### CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL

The first step toward leaving your legacy is to make sure you have an up-to-date will and estate plan. Be sure to consult a qualified estate planning attorney for help.

### THE GIFT YOU LEAVE BEHIND

Through a bequest (a gift you designate in your will), you can remember loved ones in special ways, perpetuate your values, and partner with the Sinsinawa Dominicans. Gifts that you may be reluctant or unable to make today become feasible when provided for by your will. What's more, bequests avoid federal estate taxes, which can devour up to 46 percent of your total estate.

### LET US KNOW

Please let the Office of Development know when you have named the Sinsinawa Dominicans in your will so we can thank you. While public recognition of your gift often inspires generosity in others, we also understand that anonymity may be your preference.

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## SEVEN WAYS TO CREATE A LEGACY and Support the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters

1. **Specific bequests** transfer a particular piece of property.
2. **General bequests** transfer a stated sum of money.
3. **Contingent bequests** require a certain event to occur before distribution. You could bequeath funds to an individual (such as a spouse) provided he or she survives you; if not, the funds would then go to the Sinsinawa Dominicans.
4. **Residuary bequests** transfer the "rest, residue and remainder" of your estate, or a percentage of the residue, after all other bequests, debts, and taxes have been paid.
5. **Unrestricted bequests** allow the Sinsinawa Dominicans to use the assets in whatever way they see fit.
6. **Restricted bequests** allow you to specify how the funds are to be used. If you have a special purpose or project in mind, it's best to consult Sr. Mary Ellen Green, Director of Development, when you make your will to be certain your intent can be carried out.
7. **Honorary or memorial bequests** are given to commemorate someone.

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