



St. Mary's of the Lake—St. Benedict's Watkins Glen—Odessa, NY 2020-2021 Annual Parish Report



St. Mary and St. Benedict, Pray For Us

From Fr. Jeff

On June 29th of this year, Fr. Steve Lape departed our parishes after serving for seven years as your Pastor and I became your Parochial Administrator. Since then, we have all been going through a transition. Each year, with or without a change in priests, the parishes provide an annual report to the parishioners.

In the past, this report was made as an oral presentation at Mass with some handouts provided. This year we are trying this format that is done in some other parishes. We hope this accomplishes two purposes. The first is to help you better understand how our parishes are doing financially. The second is to present you with information on how our parishes are doing in other areas like our Community Table and Faith Formation programs. We ask you to be good stewards of your time, talent, and treasure to help our parish. It is our duty to let you know how things are going. Here I think of the words on our parish logo, "Journeying *Together*." Our church in Watkins Glen is named for the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the mother of us all. Our church in Odessa bears the name St. Benedict. St. Benedict helped found several early monasteries. Monasteries played an important role in preserving the faith. We ask St. Benedict to help us be the Church that God calls us to be today. The waterfall in our logo remind us of the waters of baptism as we receive life in the Spirit.



This report covers our fiscal year which ran from July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021. If you look at the statistics on page 4, you will see many of them are down compared to previous years. Of course, this is in large part due to the Coronavirus pandemic. By July of last year, we had reopened for Masses but many people were making choices to remain at home. Throughout the year our attendance numbers have risen but remain short of what they were before the pandemic. If you are one of the people who have not returned because you feel insecure in group settings, please know that we pray for you and an end to the pandemic. Please pray for us as we work through this pandemic.

There are other people who used to come who "lost the habit" of coming to Mass during the shutdown. If you are one of them, know that you are welcome back at anytime.

That being said, attendance at Masses has been decreasing for many years. I am grateful to see our numbers somewhat even over the years but we still have work to do. One of the questions before us is how do we invite more people to Mass. It begins with prayer. Please pray that we are lead by the Holy Spirit to lead our community to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer.

Peace,

Fr. Jeff

Journeying Together

ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE
Watkins Glen, NY
ST. BENEDICT'S
Odessa, NY



Forward in Faith

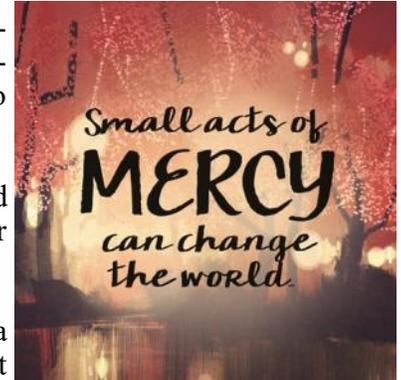
The primary purpose of this report is to “report” on our last fiscal year and how we did. However, we don’t want only to look back. On this page we offer some information about how we are moving forward. The theme for our diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) for the new year is “Forward in Faith.” How are we moving forward both from dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic and in general?

In terms of our Coronavirus precautions, one of Fr. Steve’s final decisions was to move the 5:00 pm Mass back to St. Benedict’s with the relaxing of social distancing requirements. Starting October 3rd, we moved the 7:30 am Sunday Mass at St. Mary’s of the Lake to its traditional 8:00 am. We are also restoring the exchange of the Sign of Peace, albeit with no physical contact (the handshaking is replaced by a nod of the head). The 12:30 pm Mass will continue at least through November. We will continue to monitor the number of cases of the virus and respond with appropriate adjustments in our precautions.

Our Community Table ministry remains shutdown from the Coronavirus pandemic. However, we are working to resume this ministry with proper safeguards in place. We are grateful for a \$1,500 grant from the local Elks lodge to help fund this ministry.

In addition to her new duties in charge of our Children’s faith formation and youth ministry, Rosemary Nabogis will continue to have learning sessions for adults with videos and discussion.

Fr. Jeff will be offering a series of presentations this Fall both in-person and via webinar on prayer beginning on October 28th. Please email him at fr.jeffrey.tunnicliff@dor.org for more information.



Changes in Staff

Fr. Jeff mentioned in his opening to this report the transition from Fr. Steve to him. This is not the only transition in staff this year.

Jeanne Pavlina first became a parishioner in 1977. In 1994, she joined our parish staff as an assistant to Sr. Cate to help with our faith formation programs. In 2003, she became our Faith Formation Coordinator. She has faithfully served our parishes for the last 27 years. Jeanne decided to retire as of June 30th of this year. We are thankful for her many years of service to our parish. However, we are not saying goodbye. Jeanne will continue as a parishioner and as one of our musicians, who generously give of their time and gift of music to help make our Masses better. She will also continue as our wedding coordinator. (FYI—her husband Deacon Dan will continue as one of our parish deacons.)



So, what does that mean for our faith formation programs for our children and youth? Rosemary Nabogis, who has already been working as our Pastoral Minister and Cemetery Coordinator, has taken on the leadership of our faith formation programs. To make this possible, we have adjusted some of her duties. Cindy Kain now prepares much of our parish bulletin as a volunteer. We have hired Maria Rondinaro as an office assistant to help Rose for a limited number of hours. We have also hired Jessica Littler as a *temporary* employee to help evaluate our faith formation programs for children and youth. These programs are very important as our children are very important to us and to Jesus who said, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14).



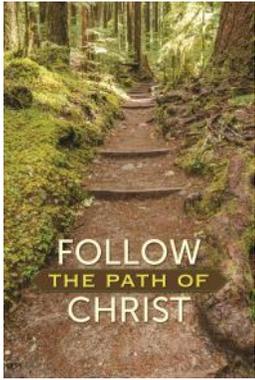
While happening after the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we will also mention the retirement of Tim Jaynes as our maintenance and cemetery worker. Tim has done this job for the last four years but has decided it is time for full retirement. We thank him and wish the best as he and Jan live as snowbirds.

Children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

The youth are a very important part of our church, not just the future, but the present. It is important that we offer our young people opportunities to grow in their faith so that it becomes an important part of their future and the Church's future. But, we can't do this alone. Faith must start in the home, the domestic church. Parents must set the example of how important their Catholic faith is to them. How can they do this? Attending Mass together as a family, praying together as a family, talking about their faith and how it applies to the everyday decisions that need to be made in their lives, living by example, in word and action.



Faith Formation programs this year have seen an increase in the volunteers helping with this ministry in its varied roles. We have been able to reduce class sizes with 3 new catechists teaching the grades and thus apply social distancing in each room more readily. The classes are now K-1, 2-3, 4-5 & 6-7. We have also split the preparation classes into two groups (grade 8 and grade 9) This has allowed for us to work with the children in the set curriculum as well as reinforcement activities of content learned, active theme related games and time for building relationships with each other in the classrooms. We have also introduced new curriculum for all the Sacrament preparation classes, which, for the youth, is being well accepted and enjoyed. The Faith Formation team see their role as supporting the family in teaching the faith and look forward to continuing to serve you in this year ahead. We offer our thanks to both our new volunteers and the returning volunteers.



If you have any questions about our youth programs, please contact Rosemary Nabogis at our office by phone or email at Rosemary.Nabogis@dor.org.

Please pray for our youth and catechists as we look forward to another formation year!

St. Mary's and Holy Cross Cemeteries

We have two cemeteries for the final resting place for our parishioners. St. Mary's Cemetery is the older cemetery and has no unsold graves. St. Mary's Cemetery averages about 6 burials a year. So, our income is limited. St. Mary's Cemetery is mowed by a part-time staff worker.

Holy Cross is our newer cemetery, averaging about 12 burials a year. We have about 100 graves left and looking to develop a long-term plan to expand the number of graves. Thus, Holy Cross Cemetery has more income but it is not sufficient to cover all expenses for both cemeteries. Holy Cross is currently mowed through the generosity of our one of our parishioners.

We are very grateful for individual donations as well as those who give to our annual Memorial Day weekend cemetery collection. To help us continue to maintain our cemeteries, we will be adding another collection in November.

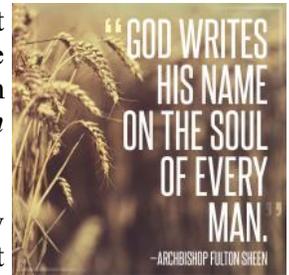
When money is available, there are special projects to be done. In 2019, we received a special grant from Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Rochester. From this we completed some special projects. Holy Cross have finished its projects and also taken care of a drainage issue in the front section of the cemetery. The last project at St. Mary's Cemetery is the replacing of the hydrants this Fall.

Currently, we have no new projects underway in either cemetery. We hope to raise enough money to have Holy Cross Cemetery fully mapped out and develop a plan for future development. This will be a very long term plan to include the entire 13 acres. This plan will help best develop the property including adequate drainage of each section, which has been an ongoing issue. The plan will also include some landscaping aspects to enhance the sacredness and beauty of the cemetery so that it is a place of prayer and restfulness.



Are We Reaching the People?

We rely on the parish statistics, i.e. numbers to help us answer this. However, we must always remember that our focus is not the numbers themselves. Our focus is the people and the eternal future of their souls. The *Code of Canon Law* of our Catholic Church ends by reminding us, “*salvation of souls, which must always be the supreme law in the Church, is to be kept before one’s eyes*” (paragraph 1752).



The reality today is fewer and fewer people are going to church. The tables below show some stability in our numbers in the last five years. However, we are all well aware that over the long term, attendance and participation is way down. People are losing faith or fail to see the importance in coming to church. We need to help them understand what God offers us in our Catholic faith.

We need to work on ways to reach out to people and help them understand that our faith is still relevant. The Bible is not an outdated book. As we ponder this, I ask you to think about who has been an example of faith to you? What did they do that inspired you? Then, how might you be an inspiration to others?

One more question. There is no doubt that fewer people are coming to church following the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Who do you know that stopped coming to church? Ask yourself why you find it important to come to church and what might you say to them to encourage them to come?

St. Mary’s of the Lake

Parish Statistics (Year ending)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Number of Registered Individuals	1,684	1,669	1,664	1,642	1,629
Number of Registered Families	840	861	863	824	817
Average Saturday Evening/Sunday Attendance	325	339	365	300*	225**

*In 2020, the attendance numbers are for the 8 months prior to the arrival of the Coronavirus in early March.

**In 2021, the numbers cover from July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021. The numbers started small and rose throughout the year, averaging 310 for four Masses (no Mass at St. Benedict’s) in June 2021.

St. Benedict’s

Parish Statistics (Year ending)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Number of Registered Individuals	183	195	162	161	169
Number of Registered Families	86	94	91	92	88
Average Saturday Evening/Sunday Attendance	68	74	71	61*	***

*In 2020, the attendance numbers are for the 8 months prior to the arrival of the Coronavirus in early March.

***In the fiscal year ending 2021, there were no weekend Masses at St. Benedict’s due to the Coronavirus social distancing capacity until June 25, 2021 (69 people).

St. Mary’s of the Lake and St. Benedict’s Combined Faith Formation and Sacraments

Parish Statistics (Year ending)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Baptisms	8	10	2	0	0
First Communion	5	9	8	0***	11
Confirmations	3	3	8	0***	8
RCIA	3	0	3	0***	2
Weddings	5	6	9	2	3
Funerals	20	28	17	19	31
Faith Formation Enrollment K-12	49	65	49	40	55

***There were no First Communion, Confirmation, or RCIA celebrations in the 2020 fiscal year due to the COVID shutdown.

How Are Our Finances?



Fr. Jeff Shares His Thoughts on the Finances

Before I say anything else about our finances, I want to first say thank you. Thank you to all who contribute to our parishes. We are grateful for all of your contributions but I want to offer a special note of thanks to all who continued to contribute financially even when you couldn't come in person. We are also thankful for those who contribute of their time and talent. In this portion of our annual report, we focus on our finances. Your financial contribution is important to us but not because we are greedy. Money is only a means to help make possible the ministry we do. Just like you do at home, we need money to be able keep our lights on, to pay the gas bill to heat our buildings, and our water bill so we can use our bathrooms. Your financial contributions are critical to pay our staff. This includes our faith formation programs for children *and* adults. It includes me being available for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as well as presiding at Mass.

As you look at the "net operating revenue", you will see a healthy surplus in both parishes. At St. Mary's this is due to some generous *one-time* gifts. At St. Benedict's, there has been some increase in regular giving. We are thankful for both. You will also see that we were under budget for expenses at both churches. We thank all those who work hard to keep expenses at a minimum.

Another important part of our revenue is fundraising. We were not able to do any fundraisers in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including our bazaar. We have cancelled the bazaar again this fall because of the Coronavirus but with hopes to possibly do a bazaar in the spring. Please pray for this.

Turning to the non-operating revenue and expenses, please note that our affiliated organizations are St. Benedict's Society and St. Mary's Guild. You will see that approximately 80% of the non-operating revenue falls under "Investment Market Change." From generous past givers, both our parishes are blessed to have some reserve funds that are used only for emergencies or capital projects. These funds are invested in the market. This year there was a significant increase in market value but please remember this followed a huge fall in the stock market when the Coronavirus began.

As our 2020-2021 drew to a close this June, plans were made prior to my arrival to make another step in the shared services model as directed from our diocese. Terri Orbin has been our full-time Business Manager for over ten years. In 2015, Suzanne Krebs was hired as a Regional Finance Director for five parishes including ours to help us be more efficient and cost-effective. This year Suzanne began overseeing a total of eight parishes. Terri is now Business Manager for St. Mary Our Mother as well as our parishes. Thus, we are paying a smaller portion of Suzanne's and Terri's salaries. Obviously, someone needed to assume some of the duties Terri was doing for us. As part of the shared services model, our bills will now be paid through a centralized office in Corning. Terri will continue to be involved to ensure our business affairs are handled properly and I will continue to review and sign all checks. This model is used to help us manage our resources well and cost-effectively. Please pray that we have a good implementation of this model so that we can continue to minister for years to come.

Lastly, we are beginning to look at online giving options for your convenience. If this is something you are interested in, we will provide more information in the bulletin when we are ready to begin online giving.

Please be assured of my continuing efforts and those of our Business Manager, Terri Orbin, Finance Director, Suzanne Krebs, and our Finance Council as we work to ensure the financial fitness of our parishes.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jeff".



St. Mary's of the Lake
Annual Financial Report - July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
Operating Revenue						
Regular Collections	\$312,645	\$302,734	\$280,406	\$286,400	\$ (5,994)	\$262,250
Auxiliary Receipts	\$ 20,554	\$ 11,812	\$ 15,729	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,729	\$ 12,000
Ministry Programs	\$ 9,454	\$ 6,100	\$ 8,335	\$ 4,750	\$ 3,585	\$ 6,400
School Tuition	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,225	\$ 800	\$ 425	\$ 1,000
Gifts and Donations	\$ 12,353	\$ 31,966	\$ 54,724	\$ 17,000	\$ 37,724	\$ 7,000
Fundraising	\$ 9,547	\$ 8,036	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ (9,000)	\$ 9,500
Interest and Dividend Income	\$ 70	\$ 54	\$ 48	\$ 50	\$ (2)	\$ 50
Rental Income	\$ 1,870	\$ 1,130	\$ 750	\$ 1,100	\$ (350)	\$ 600
Social Events	\$ 3,694	\$ 1,542	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Other Operating Revenue	\$ 749	\$ 864	\$ 841	\$ 700	\$ 141	\$ 700
Total Operating Revenue	\$372,737	\$365,364	\$362,056	\$329,800	\$ 32,256	\$302,500
Operating Expense						
Salaries and Benefits	\$208,858	\$177,034	\$185,978	\$193,967	\$ 7,989	\$170,682
Professional Development	\$ 1,609	\$ 767	\$ 620	\$ 880	\$ 260	\$ 986
Insurance	\$ 19,186	\$ 19,536	\$ 20,879	\$ 21,089	\$ 210	\$ 22,010
Ministries and Programs	\$ 6,728	\$ 4,449	\$ 2,547	\$ 2,850	\$ 303	\$ 2,150
Social Events	\$ 3,977	\$ 2,272	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Fees and Interest Expense	\$ 216	\$ 208	\$ 703	\$ 218	\$ (485)	\$ 675
Supplies Expenses	\$ 14,845	\$ 14,808	\$ 14,386	\$ 14,075	\$ (311)	\$ 14,620
Rectory and Other Expenses	\$ 3,246	\$ 2,524	\$ 1,548	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,052	\$ 4,240
Building Maintenance	\$ 27,150	\$ 36,966	\$ 32,161	\$ 30,750	\$ (1,411)	\$ 29,025
Purchase of Services	\$ 35,434	\$ 29,400	\$ 18,988	\$ 22,184	\$ 3,196	\$ 19,624
School Assessment	\$ 1,638	\$ 1,658	\$ 1,563	\$ 1,658	\$ 95	\$ 1,600
Fundraising	\$ 3,794	\$ 2,264	\$ -	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,300
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 32,872	\$ 28,196	\$ 26,333	\$ 27,529	\$ 1,196	\$ 25,288
Donations and Gifts to Others	\$ 15,966	\$ 8,210	\$ 8,719	\$ 8,200	\$ (519)	\$ 8,200
Total Operating Expense	\$375,520	\$328,291	\$314,425	\$329,800	\$ 15,375	\$302,500
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (2,783)	\$ 37,072	\$ 47,632	\$ -	\$ 47,632	\$ -
Non-Operating Revenue						
Investment Market Change	\$ 21,969	\$ 19	\$182,276	\$ -	\$182,276	\$ -
Affiliated Organizations	\$ 1,653	\$ 967	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 2,151	\$ -	\$ 34,073	\$ -	\$ 34,073	\$ -
Total Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 25,773	\$ 986	\$216,349	\$ -	\$216,349	\$ -
Non-Operating Expenses						
Capital Purchases	\$ 18,143	\$ 30,156	\$ 1,076	\$ -	\$ (1,076)	\$ -
Affiliated Organizations Expenses	\$ 835	\$ 986	\$ 545	\$ -	\$ (545)	\$ -
Other Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 1,676	\$ 3,273	\$ 1,519	\$ -	\$ (1,519)	\$ -
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 20,653	\$ 34,415	\$ 3,140	\$ -	\$ (3,140)	\$ -
Net Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 5,120	\$ (33,429)	\$213,209	\$ -	\$213,209	\$ -
Net Revenue	\$ 2,337	\$ 3,643	\$260,841	\$ -	\$260,841	\$ -

St Benedict's

Annual Financial Report - July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2020- 2021	2020- 2021	2021- 2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
Operating Revenue						
Regular Collections	\$ 54,225	\$ 53,901	\$ 63,248	\$ 50,920	\$ 12,328	\$ 56,500
Auxiliary Receipts	\$ 643	\$ 388	\$ 211	\$ 350	\$ (139)	\$ 200
Ministry Programs	\$ 380	\$ 250	\$ 330	\$ 200	\$ 130	\$ 200
Gifts and Donations	\$ 250	\$ 620	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Interest and Dividend Income	\$ 20	\$ 16	\$ 9	\$ 19	\$ (10)	\$ 8
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 55,518	\$ 55,175	\$ 68,798	\$ 56,489	\$ 12,309	\$ 56,908
Operating Expense						
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 34,277	\$ 34,890	\$ 38,233	\$ 39,126	\$ 893	\$ 40,770
Insurance	\$ 2,877	\$ 2,975	\$ 3,379	\$ 3,448	\$ 69	\$ 3,609
Social Events	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies Expenses	\$ 872	\$ 1,048	\$ 972	\$ 980	\$ 8	\$ 1,025
Building Maintenance	\$ 11,055	\$ 7,766	\$ 6,493	\$ 8,710	\$ 2,217	\$ 8,160
Purchase of Services	\$ 2,838	\$ 1,466	\$ 653	\$ 840	\$ 187	\$ 100
School Assessment	\$ 268	\$ 280	\$ 271	\$ 280	\$ 9	\$ 280
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 1,911	\$ 2,248	\$ 1,263	\$ 2,105	\$ 842	\$ 1,964
Donations and Gifts to Others	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Total Operating Expense	\$ 55,917	\$ 51,703	\$ 52,264	\$ 56,489	\$ 4,225	\$ 56,908
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (399)	\$ 3,472	\$ 16,534	\$ -	\$ 16,534	\$ -
Non-Operating Revenue						
Change in Investment Market Value	\$ 3,699	\$ 3	\$ 30,688	\$ -	\$ 30,688	\$ -
Affiliated Organizations	\$ 1,809	\$ 2,416	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -
Other Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 1,079	\$ 1,202	\$ 8,878	\$ -	\$ 8,878	\$ -
Total Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 6,586	\$ 3,622	\$ 39,966	\$ -	\$ 39,966	\$ -
Non-Operating Expenses						
Capital Purchases	\$ -	\$ 4,600	\$ 2,915	\$ -	\$ (2,915)	\$ -
Affiliated Organizations	\$ 1,017	\$ 768	\$ 60	\$ -	\$ (60)	\$ -
Other Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 282	\$ 129	\$ 256	\$ -	\$ (256)	\$ -
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 1,299	\$ 5,497	\$ 3,230	\$ -	\$ (3,230)	\$ -
Net Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 5,287	\$ (1,875)	\$ 36,735	\$ -	\$ 36,735	\$ -
Net Revenue	\$ 4,888	\$ 1,597	\$ 53,269	\$ -	\$ 53,269	

St. Mary's of the Lake
 St. Benedict's
 P.O. Box 289
 Watkins Glen, NY 14891

NON-PROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT # 3
 Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Our Leadership			
<p style="text-align: center;">Staff</p> <p>Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunnicliff, Parochial Administrator Rosemary Nabogis, Pastoral Minister Suzanne Krebs, Finance Director Terri Orbin, Business Manager Leslie Montanye, Secretary Maria Rondinaro, Office Assistant Jessica Littler, Faith Formation Assistant Deacon Dan Pavlina Deacon Rick Roy Deacon Tom Ruda</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">©2004 LPI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council</p> <p>Richard Decker Nancy Dickerson Linda Frazier Warren Klick Tom McGarry Brenda Moore Guiseppe LaFace (Youth Rep)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Finance Council</p> <p>Chuck Franzese Pat Gill Barbara Goodwin Brenda Herforth Jan Jaynes Teresa Letteer Tom Letteer Brian Peters</p>

Another Way of Giving

Another way of giving apart from regular contributions is what is known as “Planned Giving”. This can be as simple as specifying a gift in your will to “St. Mary’s of the Lake Church” or “St. Benedict’s Chapel. These types of gifts can be small or large. Whatever the amount, the generosity is appreciated. Other types of planned giving include trusts, annuities, and insurance. You can learn more at <http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/stewardship/many-ways-to-give>.

