

# Your Catholic Legacy



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

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## Inside:

Why It's Important  
to Talk to Our Family  
About Our Estate Plan 2

Profession of Faith 3

Canadian Estate  
Planning 4

## Your Profession of

# Faith



Recently, a parishioner contacted the Development Office of the Archdiocese of Toronto and asked if we had a “Profession of Faith” that they could include in with their estate documents.

The parishioner did not explain why having the Profession was so important to them. Perhaps they had a child who had strayed away from the faith and the hope being that the Profession would have an impact when read. Or perhaps they wanted to strengthen their loved ones after they had passed away. Whatever the reason, a Profession of Faith can offer a way for you to express the importance of the catholic faith you loved in life and will hold beyond your death.

In this issue is some suggested wording you can consider using if you want to include a Profession of Faith with your estate documents.

# WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

## TO TALK TO OUR FAMILY ABOUT OUR ESTATE PLANS



As the two warring sisters prepared for their final battle, both failed to recognize that their parent's estate was the wrong place to wage their final fight.

The sisters were fighting over two porcelain faced dolls that formed a part of their parent's estate. The one sister argued that both dolls were for her while the other said that it was supposed to be one doll each. This nasty battle was preventing the estate, which was very sizeable in the millions of dollars, from being completed. Since both sisters were fairly affluent in their own right they were not afraid of legal bills. Neither would give ground on the issue. Eventually, it was ruled that as the estate was to be divided equally between the two sisters, the two dolls were to be included in the division. The one who had both dolls was told by the court that she had to give one of the dolls to the other sister.

Two weeks later the other sister received her doll in the mail. When she opened the box she found the doll inside. The problem was that its face had been smashed into bits. She could never prove that her sister had smashed it as it was possible that it had been damaged in transport.

Travelling throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto (and beyond) and giving estate planning presentations in parishes, Catholic Cemeteries and to various groups, people frequently share with us their personal stories. Some stories are wonderful. Others are not.

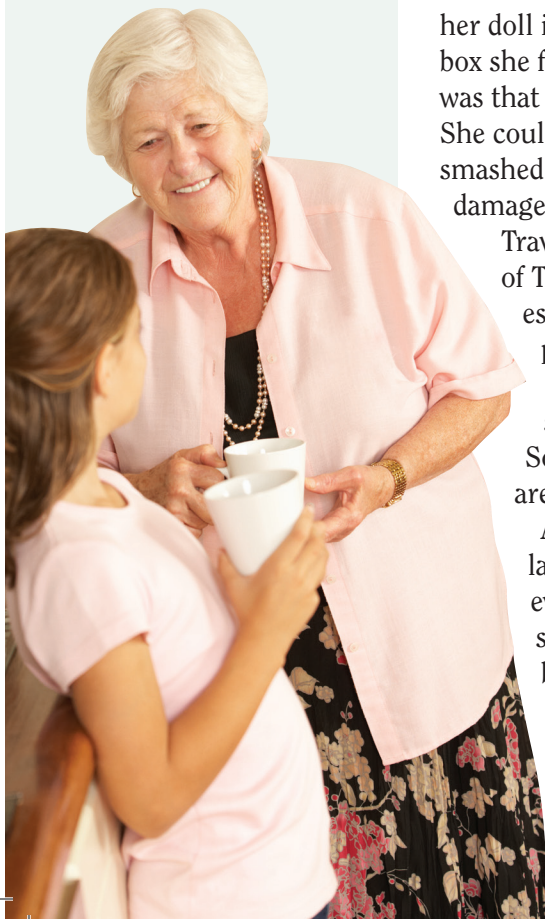
Another story was about a young lady. After her grandmother's funeral, everyone in the family thought that she'd gone crazy when she asked to be handed her dead grandmother's knife.

The reason she wanted it, she explained, was that as a

little girl, she used to bake bread with her grandmother. She would help her grandmother measure all the ingredients, knead the dough, and then watch and smell the delicious bread as it baked in the oven. Her grandmother was always very kind when they made bread together, never getting annoyed if flour was spilt on the floor or if clean clothes got messy. When the bread was done, her grandmother would let her cut it with her big bread knife, gently taking her little hand in hers as they cut the bread together. As a little girl, it was the only time she was allowed to touch a knife. She told her family that she hoped to have the bread knife because it reminded her of the time she spent with her grandmother. When she told this story to her extended family everyone wanted her to have it and shared in her joy when she received it.

We frequently attach memories to objects. These two stories highlight this fact. One thing you may want to consider is asking your family if there are certain items you have that they are attached to. Of course you do want to make an itemized list of everything you own. That is not the point. What you want to find out is if there are any specific items your loved ones may be attached to. This may help to ease their loss after you pass away. A recent study highlighted on the back of this newsletter found that 46% of people with a Will have not shared their estate plans with their family. By having this conversation now, it may be possible to avoid any disputes later. Funerals should be a time that bring families together, not tear them apart.

*If you would like to receive a free Catholic estate planning guide to help you with your Will preparation, please contact the Development Office. All calls are confidential.*



# PROFESSION OF

I, \_\_\_\_\_ firmly believe and profess each and everything that is expressed in the Creed, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith, I believe also all that is contained in the Word of God, whether written or handed down in tradition, which the Church, either in solemn judgment or by its ordinary and universal teaching authority, sets forth for our belief as revealed by God.

I also firmly accept and hold each and everything definitively proposed by the Church concerning its teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of intellect and will to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the College of bishops enunciate in the exercise of their authentic teaching authority, even if they do not intend to proclaim those teachings by a definitive act.

So help me God and these His Holy Gospels, which I touch with my hand.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Duly sworn before me as witness:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pastor (or delegate)*

# Faith



## CANADIAN ESTATE PLANNING

### Looking for an Advisor to Help You with Your Estate Plan?

The Archdiocese of Toronto maintains a list of lawyers, accountants and financial advisors in your area who are ready to assist you with making your estate plan. If you do not have a Will (or have been meaning to have a new one made) contact our office today. Depending on your area, we can supply you with three to four advisors you can call to see if there is someone you feel comfortable working with.

Recently, Scotiabank conducted a Canadian study to measure how effective Canadians are at creating their estate plans. Some of the findings were quite interesting:

- Only 50% of Canadians have a Will.
- The percentage of Canadians with a Will increases as they get older:
  - » 19% for 18-34 year olds
  - » 30% for 35-44 year olds
  - » 50% for 45-54 year olds
  - » 86% for those 55 and older
- Of those Canadians who do have a Will, 46% of them have not spoken to their families about what is in it.
- Concerning Powers of Attorney for Property:
  - » Only 33% of Canadians have Powers of Attorney for Property
  - » 59% do not have one
  - » 8% say they don't even know what it is
- The appointment of a power of attorney increases with age:
  - » 18-34 (15%)
  - » 35-44 (18%)
  - » 45-54 (28%)
  - » 55+ (58%)
- Other interesting findings from Scotiabank's continued research include:
  - » Only 1 in 5 Canadians (22%) are leaving something in their estate plan for a charity
  - » 61% of Canadians are not aware of tax benefits associated with gifts by Will

*Our Faith  
Our Future*

**Have you considered including your parish or favourite archdiocesan charity in your Will?**

### 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.



Archdiocese of Toronto Development Office  
Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2

Tel: (416) 934-3411 | Toll-free: 1-800-263-2595  
[www.archtoronto.org/development](http://www.archtoronto.org/development)



**Arthur Peters**  
Director of Development  
Tel: (416) 934-3400, ext. 559  
[arthurpeters@archtoronto.org](mailto:arthurpeters@archtoronto.org)



**Quentin Schesnuik**  
Manager of Planned Giving and  
Personal Gifts  
Tel: (416) 934-3400, ext. 561  
[development@archtoronto.org](mailto:development@archtoronto.org)



**Elvira Foronda**  
Development Co-ordinator  
Tel: (416) 934-3400, ext. 519  
[eforonda@archtoronto.org](mailto:eforonda@archtoronto.org)

We encourage you to share this newsletter with a friend or family member.