FLEXIBLE WAYS TO GIVE

YOU WILL BE *my* WITNESSES

A Campaign for the
DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD



The *You Will Be My Witnesses* Campaign offers many ways to make a lasting impact, whether through cash, assets, or other creative giving options. Many of these methods also provide potential tax advantages, allowing you to support the mission you care about while making the most of your resources.

Ways to Give with Tax Benefits

Pledges of Cash or Check

Gifts made by December 31 may be tax-deductible in the year they are given. Checks should be made out to ***Diocese of Rockford – You Will Be My Witnesses.***

Gifts of Stock or Appreciated Securities

Donating appreciated assets can help you avoid capital gains taxes and may provide a charitable deduction for the full fair market value. A stock form is available on *youwillbemywitnesses.org*. Click "Ways to Give" under the parish resources tab.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are age 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to the campaign. A QCD counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but is not counted as taxable income – a tax-efficient way to give. On pledge form "Other" line, write QCD and the name of your financial institution.
More details on back.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Individuals aged 73 or older must take RMDs each year. Donating all or part of your RMD directly to charity (via a QCD) can help satisfy this requirement while reducing taxable income. On pledge form "Other" line, write RMD and the name of your financial institution.
More details on back.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

You can recommend a grant from your DAF to the campaign, continuing your charitable giving strategy with potential tax benefits. On pledge form "Other" line, write DAF and the name of your financial institution.

Gifts of Grain or Cattle

Gifts of grain, cattle or other commodities offer ways to maximize giving. Please contact the Office of Charitable Giving at 815-399-4300 for details on the commodity transfer and required documentation for campaign donations. All gifts must be arranged in advance of any transfer.



Giving through Your IRA: QCDs and RMDs

For many donors, giving through an **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)**, or a **401K Account** is one of the most tax-efficient ways to support a capital campaign.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

- If you are 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to a qualified charity – this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. QCDs are not allowed from 401K accounts.
- You can give up to $108,000 (or $216,000 for married couples) in 2025 directly from your IRA. In 2026 these numbers will increase to $111,000 for individual gifts and $222,000 for married couples.
- A QCD reduces your taxable income, even if you don't itemize deductions.
- Because the gift goes directly to charity, it is not taxed as income to you and counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) once you reach the eligible age.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

- Once you turn 73, the IRS requires you to withdraw a set amount from your IRA or 401K each year – this is your RMD.
- If you do not take your RMD, you may face a penalty tax on the amount not withdrawn.
- By directing part or all of your RMD from your IRA to a qualified charity (via a QCD), you can satisfy your RMD and reduce your taxable income at the same time.

EXAMPLE

If your RMD for the year is $10,000, and you send that amount directly from your IRA to the campaign, you meet your IRS requirement **without adding $10,000 to your taxable income**.

A SMART WAY TO GIVE

QCDs and RMD gifts allow you to make a meaningful contribution to the mission while maximizing the tax benefits available to you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

This information is **not financial or tax advice**. Please consult your **tax advisor or financial professional** to determine whether a QCD or RMD gift is right for your situation.