

The GIFT PLANNER

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S CHURCH

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Church bells endowment is sound investment



Carl and Mary Kay Wolford chose to establish a new endowment to fund the maintenance of the church bells and clock.

Earlier this year, when the couple learned about the repairs needed for the bells and clocks in the Archabbey Church, one part of the project drew their interest. Saint Meinrad had decided that, as part of the project, it would seek an endowment for future maintenance of the bells.

Mary Kay vividly remembers President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, talking about the bells and their meaning to the monastic community. "They are our heartbeat," he said. "They symbolize our life source as they announce the times for prayer and special occasions." As frequent visitors to the Hill, the Wolfords appreciated how the bells underscore the rhythm of the place.

With that in mind, they decided to fund the endowment to ensure that future maintenance and

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Carl and Mary Kay Wolford have supported the mission of Saint Meinrad for decades. Although busy with their careers, family and friends, their parish, and various charitable and civic organizations, they found time to devote energy to furthering Catholic education.

They knew about the Benedictine monastery and its work of forming Church leaders, but they became more interested when a neighbor sought their help in contacting some people on behalf of Saint Meinrad.

Mary Kay is a retired teacher and coordinator of the gifted / talented program in the New Albany-Floyd County Schools and Carl enjoyed a successful career in sales for Proctor and Gamble. They are active members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, IN.

Through the years, as they met the monks and learned more about the prayer and work of Saint Meinrad, Carl and Mary Kay made regular gifts. "We were impressed," said Carl, "with how they used the gifts and their good stewardship."



Saint Meinrad
Archabbey and
Seminary & School of Theology



**Rt. Rev. Kurt Stasiak, OSB
Archabbot of Saint Meinrad**

Dear Friends,

With each issue of *The Gift Planner*, my confreres and I are greatly honored by the individuals whose stories are featured. We are certainly grateful for their generosity. But we are also grateful for their willingness to tell their story about what led them to share their resources with Saint Meinrad.

Each story is unique with regard to how the planned gift or endowment was established and the occasion that prompted them to do so. What is most striking to us, however, is the consistency in the “why” donors choose to honor us through their special gifts. Without exception, it is the donor’s deep commitment to our work and mission that motivates them to take their support to the next level.

My brother monks and I are deeply grateful and humbled by the extraordinary generosity demonstrated by people like Carl and Mary Kay Wolford. They are a wonderful example of the many thoughtful philanthropists who have made Saint Meinrad’s 160-year history possible. Their endowment, as well as the many other endowments established on our behalf, will help to ensure the continuation of our mission.

To them and to all of you who have supported us over the years, thank you. And may God continue to bless you in all ways.

+ Kurt Stasiak, OSB

repairs would keep the bells and clocks in good condition.

“Besides the beautiful sound that you hear from the bells, it’s the tradition of the younger monks ringing them. It’s part of their formation to continue that tradition,” says Mary Kay.

The interest earned on the endowment will be used to pay for the care and upkeep of the church bells and tower clocks. The endowment’s principal remains intact, allowing the interest to accumulate and be used for this purpose in perpetuity.

Guiding their philanthropy – to Saint Meinrad and others – is the Wolfords’ focus on stewardship. “Saint Meinrad is an example of a good steward,” says Carl. “My definition of stewardship is accepting your gifts – gifts that are entrusted to you by God – graciously, managing them while you’re holding them, and

sharing them with others in justice and love.”

Mary Kay agrees and encourages others to be generous with what they’ve been given. “I tell people all the time, ‘You can’t give away more than you get back.’” She explains, “You have to start and just have faith. You don’t give to get something back, but if you give in good faith, you receive much more than you give.”

Saint Meinrad is not the only place to recognize the Wolfords’ charitable work. Last October, in Washington, D.C., they were honored for their commitment to Catholic education with the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award given by the National Catholic Educational Association. Indianapolis Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR, (now Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Newark) nominated Carl and Mary Kay for the award. ♦



Barb Balka, who served as director of planned giving for Saint Meinrad for 12 years, retired on September 27, 2017. Barb dedicated her time at Saint Meinrad to serving hundreds of benefactors, friends and alumni. Many of us have come to know Barb and appreciate her welcoming kindness. May God continue to bless Barb as she enjoys the next chapter of her life.

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Saint Meinrad is blessed with many friends, benefactors and supporters. Some of them see the benefit of giving a gift that continues to give for years and years. They have established an endowment to support Saint Meinrad in its mission.

There are many reasons why benefactors choose to make endowment gifts to Saint Meinrad. So, why consider establishing an endowment? It really depends on your objectives; however, here are five we hear from our friends.

1. **Personal Satisfaction.**

Making a real difference by doing something important and lasting is highly satisfying. Many donors tell us that having their family name on a fund fulfills one of their highest personal ambitions while honoring loved ones.

2. **Strengthening Saint**

Meinrad. We will always need to raise funds to sustain our facilities, programs and personnel. However, the annual endowment payout eases some of the financial pressure. Having a strong endowment allows Saint Meinrad to have a financially stable future.

3. **The Name Lives On.** A donor's name can be attached to an endowment

fund, and because the funds are permanent, this legacy will carry that name in perpetuity and perhaps influence future generations in the family.

4. **Continue Annual Gifts.**

Some friends recognize that their regular gifts each year will be missed once they can no longer be made. To continue the pattern, they create an estate gift that is 25 times the amount they currently give each year to Saint Meinrad. For example, Marie and Thomas, who give \$1,000 annually, can endow these contributions by making a one-time gift of \$25,000.

5. **Permanence.** Many friends see a connection between their retirement funds and our endowment funds. Both are protected and managed separately, so the principal retains its purpose. Our endowments are managed like a retirement account, providing needed income in a predictable way.

To learn more about Saint Meinrad's endowments, contact Darren Sroufe, our director of planned giving. Darren can assist you with additional needs for information and answer any of your questions regarding our endowments. Call (800) 682-0988 or email him at dsroufe@saintmeinrad.edu. ♦



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Help us carry on God's work.



Your last will and testament can be an eloquent statement of what was most important to you in life. A bequest to help educate priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers at Saint Meinrad is a good way to thank God for your faith and to pass it on to those who follow you.



Saint Meinrad

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