

spiritual to-dos SPIRITUAL TO-DOS ARE THE REAL WORK OF OUR LIVES

How is your to-do list coming along? Do you sometimes feel that you will never accomplish what needs to be done, or do all of those things you would like to do? People throughout the ages apparently have felt the same. Part of our confession each week challenges us to think about what we need to do:

“Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone . . .”
(BCP 360)

Our spiritual to-do list is no less important than our daily living tasks. Only, this list may be the real work of our lives. Being ready to enter into another life is important, and it is a loving act on your part. Making out a will, durable Powers of Attorney for financial and health care issues, and medical directives will assure everyone that you have clearly thought out what your wishes are and what needs to be done on your behalf. Taking care of these small tasks now is being a good steward of all that God has given you. If you feel fortunate because of your good health, or your family, or your finances, or any combination of these things, then you will be giving thanks by accepting these gifts as yours and taking care of them with directives.

In your will, you have the ability to clarify all of those things that may be “undone” today. For example, establish guardianship for your young children; recognize daughters-in-law or sons-in-law and/or grandchildren that might otherwise get left out of your estate; take care of a disabled child; and recognize your church family as part of your estate plan.

The glory of this is not in the paper or processing, it is in the discernment of what you have, what you care about, and how you would like to see things continue when you are no longer here. The glory is in the inventory of all that is good in your life. Family, friends, money, and things are all a part of who we are.

But there are other important considerations that should be part of your discernment. Think of your daily to-do list. What is on it? Tasks that are meant to satisfy you, or someone else? Tasks that must be done so that our children are cared for? Spouse’s needs met? Bosses and co-workers will remain satisfied with our work? Shareholders will remain with the company?

Creating an estate plan and a will, or a revocable trust to execute the plan, affirms all of the “to-do” issues most important to *you*. It declares your intent for your family, it helps you take care of children or other dependents, and it helps you state your desire for charitable gifts. Create your will and other key documents; remaining silent about your wishes and your desires keeps this important part of your life “undone.”

For the free booklet, *Planning for the End of Life*, or for more information about leaving a gift to your parish, contact a planned giving committee member or the Episcopal Church Foundation at 800-697-2858, or www.EpiscopalFoundation.org, for confidential advice.