

Thy Will Be Done



An argument could be made that the business of death is so taxing that there ought not to be other demands associated with such an event. Unfortunately, we are not let off the hook so easily. While considering issues relating to death and dying may seem difficult or frightening, avoiding them could have significant ramifications. One oft quoted statistic is that close to 70% of Americans die without having created a will, potentially causing heirs to lose money to taxes, or preventing beloved family members, friends, or charities from receiving any funds.

Making a will is about more than avoiding giving any extra funding to Uncle Sam (though that can be a helpful side benefit). We are all familiar with the phrase “last will and testament” and testament is a key word. Our wills are our last chance to state our values about whom and what we loved for throughout our lives. Not only do we have the opportunity to provide a



secure future for our loved ones, we could also contribute to the sustaining of a valued charity.

We may also want to consider how a will becomes a reflection of our values. For example, some people choose to include a Christian Preamble in their will. This preamble clearly shows the individual's appreciation for the gifts that God has given throughout life. Individuals may also choose to make a bequest to the parish where they have worshiped for countless Sundays, or to a specific parish ministry where they have given their time and talent. Opportunities to demonstrate love and thanks for all that God has done for us abound throughout life and as we face death. We should be careful to seize those chances where we can.

For further information about the Christian Preamble and leaving a bequest to your parish, please contact the Episcopal Church Foundation at 800-697-2858 or giving@episcopalfoundation.org.

