On This Mountain

Do you remember Grandpa Zebulon Walton?

He was the patriarch of a rural, Depression-era family depicted in the popular 1970s TV show, The Waltons. Zeb was a hardworking man, full of wit and wisdom. His common-sense advice guided his children and grandchildren in their day-to-day challenges. Among his memorable maxims was one regarding the land on which the family lived, presumably their most valuable possession:

“You can’t own a mountain more than you can own an ocean or a piece of the sky. You hold it in trust. You live on it, you take life from it.”

Grandpa’s view of Walton’s Mountain goes to the heart of Christian teachings on wealth.

The Catholic Catechism instructs us that, “The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family.” (2404)

“A steward of Providence”--that’s what Zeb Walton hoped John Boy, Jim Bob, Mary Ellen, and all his grandkids and their children would become. Zeb realized that everything they owned was meant to enrich not only their lives, but the lives of others, too.

In fact, we refer to this kind of generosity as “stewardship.” Most of us learn it first and quite naturally through our own families. A baby is born. Family members eagerly and lovingly make room in their heart, home, and budget. Everyone has to sacrifice at least a little to accommodate the new sibling, and generally it’s done quite joyfully. Mom, Dad, and siblings may each have less money, time, and sleep ... but all grow richer in love. (The Waltons’ had seven children!)

You are an important member of the Association of the Miraculous Medal, a worldwide, spiritual family. Together, we pray for one another. We seek to grow richer in love for our Lady and for Jesus.
Our Association can be thought of much like the Walton’s Mountain Grandpa Zeb cherished. Together, we hold it in trust. We draw life from it. Most importantly, we work to offer that spiritual vitality to generations of our family members to come.

As you plan the future, and disperse of possessions God has entrusted to your care, prayerfully consider the place the Association of the Miraculous Medal holds in your heart. Each year, members generously include AMM in a will or trust alongside their children or grandchildren. It’s the simplest and most popular way to perpetuate for generations to come the faith-building mission our Lady first entrusted to Saint Catherine Labouré 190 years ago.

*It’s never too early to begin planning.*

If you don’t have a will, now is a good time to consider creating one. If you do, reviewing it annually will help you make sure it reflects your current charitable priorities.

*The number one reason to not delay is ensuring that your “mountain” is protected, that your wishes are carried out – before an unforeseen event puts those important decisions into hands other than your own.*

There’s no more compelling example of such an event than a worldwide pandemic. And millions of Americans die unexpectedly each year from heart disease and injuries.

Another reason to act now? It can save you thousands of dollars. Donors are often able to avoid costs and taxes simply by having prepared a will in advance of their death. A tax attorney or estate advisor can advise you of further financial benefits that naming charities like AMM in your will can offer. And your heirs may enjoy greater peace of mind knowing you have a plan in place.

Each year, more and more beloved members name AMM as a beneficiary in a will or trust. These donors earn a place of honor in **Mary’s Legacy Society**.

To help you get started on planning during 2021, the Association would like to send you “Eleven Things to Remember…” It’s a pamphlet with basic how-to information on enacting a sound estate plan. Simply request your free guide on the enclosed reply form.

AMM is deeply grateful for your decision to include us among your charitable priorities. We pray you will want to be part of Mary’s Legacy Society so that together, we can carry on the work of perpetuating love for Jesus through our Blessed Mother, by way of the Miraculous Medal she wished to be shared with all the world.
Why I Give

We are humbled when members tell us, and allow us to share with you, the inspiration behind their generous financial support of our AMM family. Recently, we spoke with these contributors:

- **Frank W. from Virginia** became a member in December 2020. He told us,

  "I give to help and because our Lady said that by spreading devotion to her and the Miraculous Medal, we will receive many, many graces. She is my Mother and I am devoted and wear her Miraculous Medal every day. She is such a help to me. I put my medal on each day and say, “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us.” I pray this anytime I need help. I pray the Rosary, too, as often as I can.”

- **Brian M. from Magnolia, New Jersey**, said,

  “I converted to Catholicism 10 years ago. A friend kept answering my objections to the Catholic faith (especially about our Blessed Mother) with verses from the Bible. Small miracles kept happening to my friend – and me! I now wear my Miraculous Medal continuously. I am strong in my belief, and wish to support AMM to reach others, too.”

- **Marie from Kansas** shared,

  “I learned about devotion to our Blessed Mother from my mother and started praying the Rosary and wearing the Miraculous Medal as a child. I now pin the medal on my medical alert necklace – it is my ‘lifeline.’”
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Remember AMM in your will.
The rewards will be miraculous!

For those looking to donate to the Association of the Miraculous Medal, here is sample language:

“I hereby give, devise and bequeath unto the Association of the Miraculous Medal, 1811 West Saint Joseph Street, Perryville, Missouri 63775, ______% of my estate for the furtherance of its works.”

The Association of the Miraculous Medal is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, which is approved by the IRS to be tax exempt (ID #43-0673516).

Contact Us
For more information about gifts that pay you income, please contact our Mission Advancement Team:

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We look forward to hearing from you!