Judgment Day by Congressman Henry Hyde

When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the Final Judgment, I’ve often thought, as Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are there standing alone before God, and the terror will grip your soul like nothing you can imagine.

But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world. They will plead for everyone who has ever been in this movement. They will say to God, “Spare him because he loved us.” And God will look at you and not say, “Did you succeed?” Rather, He will say, “Did you try?”

Your will is one of the most important documents you will make in your lifetime. That’s because it is your final testimony to the values that are most dear to you.

What’s more, it is through your will that you will carry on the work that God has called you to do while here on earth.

For you, that means protecting and defending all innocent human persons, but most especially God’s precious unborn children.

Throughout your life you have demonstrated your profound love for the youngest members of our human family. Time and time again you have given of yourself for their sake. You have shared the blessings which God has bestowed on you to help advance the cause of life.

And by means of prudent estate planning, you will be able to carry on your pro-life mission long after God has called you to your Heavenly reward.

Not only is your bequest easy to make, it will be yet another action of yours that the “chorus of voices” will point to as they speak out in your defense. Please seek an advisor before drafting your will.

A bequest may be made in several ways:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset
- Gift of the residue of your estate

Certain types of property, like retirement plan assets or an insurance policy, pass outside of the will or trust. These types of assets require you to name a beneficiary by completing a beneficiary designation form and do not require the services of an attorney. Here are two examples:

Bequest of an IRA

A retirement asset like an IRA account makes an excellent bequest to charity. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value would be depleted through estate and income taxes. By designating Priests for Life or another charity as a beneficiary for part or all of your unused IRA, the value of the IRA gift is transferred tax-free at your death and your estate receives a charitable deduction. Even if you wish to leave your IRA to your spouse at your death, you may also designate Priests for Life as the secondary beneficiary to your account.

To do this, contact your IRA custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form. Fill in the required information and mail it off. It really is that simple.

Bequest of an Insurance Policy

If you no longer need all or part of your policy income for expenses, it can be gifted to charity. As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is taxable at your death. However, if the policy is gifted to charity, your estate avoids paying tax on the value of the policy and receives a charitable deduction for the gift. You may generally name anyone as a beneficiary or secondary beneficiary of your policy and change it at any time.

Contact your insurance company to obtain beneficiary designation form to make a bequest of a percentage of your policy to Priests for Life or another charity of your choice.