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## **Silver hair brings out silver lining highlights in charitable annuities**

Paul Leier

*"Even to your old age I am the same, even when your hair is gray I will bear you; It is I who have done this, I who will continue, and I who will carry you to safety" (Isaiah 46:4).*

A few years ago my spouse, Sheila, said, "Let me take a closer look at your hair. I think I see some gray hairs on your head. We should pull some of those out. And, I see fewer hair overall."

I said, "Well, I don't think pulling out any of my remaining hair is a good idea. And second, I've earned my gray hairs and I intend to keep them."

On another occasion I was visiting with some ladies who were discussing their hair. Each lady stated that they recently had their hair highlighted or dyed at the beauty salon. I told them that I also had highlighted my hair. In disbelief they inquired further.

I said, "Yes, for the last several years I've been naturally highlighting my hair — peppering in some gray hairs and even some white ones."

It didn't take long for them to realize that I was making fun of myself. Needless to say, both of these occasions were filled with laughter. After all, they say laughter is the best medicine. Having the gift of life and getting older has its benefits.

Getting older has its charitable and economic rewards, too.

For example, consider the way gift annuity rates increase with age. If a 70-year-old person donates \$10,000 to the Catholic Development Foundation to open a charitable gift annuity they will receive \$580 every year for the rest of their life. The annuity rate is fixed at 5.80 percent for life.

If a person is 85 and obtains a gift annuity, the annual payment would increase to \$810. This is a result of an 8.10 percent fixed rate for life.

So, you see, aging has a silver lining. Now, I am not advocating that people wait until a certain age to attain a charitable gift annuity. Each person or couple needs to review their financial status, estate plan, and discern their charitable intentions.

I do know that whenever you attain a charitable gift annuity you will find the rates very attractive. The ad located on page 20 shows the current rates in effect for selected ages. The rates are for a single or a joint life gift annuity. As you might expect, rates are somewhat lower when two persons receive income from an annuity.

Many donors appreciate the stability of gift annuity payments. Once established, the rates are "locked in" and annuitants can count on receiving the same amount every year. And payments may be received annually, semiannually, quarterly or even monthly.

Another benefit of a charitable gift annuity relates to taxes. Not only does one receive a charitable tax deduction when obtaining a gift annuity, there is also the possibility of the annuity income being partially tax free.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of a CDF charitable gift annuity is the ability to give without endangering retirement income. In fact, just the opposite is often true: Sometimes our donors actually increase their retirement income by obtaining a gift annuity with low-yielding assets, such as certain stocks or even cash.

Further, you will be at peace knowing that you have designated a worthy Catholic cause to be the eventual beneficiary of your gift annuity.

Would you like to learn more about giving to the Catholic Development Foundation through the gift annuity program? Would you like to learn how your gift could benefit your parish or another great Catholic cause? If so, please give me a call at (701) 356-7926. Or, go to [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org) and select Stewardship/Donate and then Planned Giving. There you can "plug in" your age and an amount for a gift annuity. You will discover your rate and the annuity benefits.

*"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by virtuous living" (Proverbs 16:31).*

*Paul Leier is director of stewardship and development for the Diocese of Fargo.*