

# lumen vitae

*A quarterly publication about Planned Giving from the College of Saint Benedict*

## *Rita Lukes' Lifetime of Legacies*

### How her \$1 Million Gift Started with just \$50

Feisty and focused, Rita Lukes '59 plowed through life on her terms.

She defined her life with accomplishments: being the first female attorney and partner in the Minneapolis law firm Rider Bennet, authoring two books, and serving on the governor's committee of Judicial Nominations in Hennepin County.

While studying at the College of Saint Benedict, however, she was crippled by polio. Her "sticks" aided her until the mid-1990s when she needed a wheelchair.

To her, life was not one of challenge. "Someone will come up to me, pat me on the shoulder and say, 'You're doing great, Honey.' That's when I have the urge to knock some teeth out," Rita said during a 1980 Saint Ben's *Today* interview (photo below).

Friend and colleague Dayton

Soby remembers, "She asked for no accommodation, and she received none. She always got where she was going, and the only difference from the rest of us was that she, as she told me, 'had to leave a little earlier.'"

In addition to polio, Rita tackled breast cancer, a kidney transplant and a stroke. But, she wouldn't let you focus on that. "She believed that God had a plan for her, and she was a matter-of-fact realist who took things as they came," Dayton recalls. "She would say, 'Well, that's just how things are.'"

For Rita, giving came easily. "I began to appreciate how Saint Ben's was an important part of my life, that it gave me something," she said in the *Today* interview. "I wanted to give something back."

Throughout her lifetime she shared her time, talent and treasures,

humbly and altruistically, in ways that were right for her.

Since graduation, Rita gave to the Annual Fund, with gifts starting at \$50. She also volunteered.

As her means increased, she established a \$25,000 scholarship endowment in her parents' honor.

And, she noted a provision in her will for the College of Saint Benedict. She often joked, "You will receive 40 percent of what's left, if anything is left."

On July 26, 2006, Rita passed away, much too soon. The legacy she left will touch many generations of Saint Ben's students.

An outright bequest of \$175,000 increased her parents' scholarship, and a residual gift of \$800,000 for endowment was given.

As Dayton administered the will, he remarked, "May Rita's gifts be blessed in service to others."

Rita's \$1 million gift will support students and faculty in fulfilling Rita's life motto, "There isn't anything you can't do."

**Rita Lukes from a 1980 Saint Ben's Today article.**



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## *Peace of Mind at Any Age*

Your Will is an Essential Part of Estate Planning

At any age, preparing a will offers peace of mind. You'll make important choices about your life, your loved ones, and your possessions. In the process you determine how to:

- 1) Distribute cash, investments, real estate and personal property to loved ones and charities of your choice.
- 2) Provide guardianship for those in your family who are unable to care for themselves
- 3) Establish management of your estate property for your family
- 4) Reduce potential taxes and estate settlement costs
- 5) Decrease undue burden on your loved ones with absolute clarity of

your wishes and intentions.

If you haven't already established a will -- or you have one but haven't reviewed it in some time -- you may want to consider finding an attorney who specializes in this area to draft your will or help you modify it based on current circumstances.

Such things as retirement assets and life insurance policies, for example, cannot simply be designated in your will. The policies themselves must list your beneficiaries.

As life circumstances change, you'll want to review your estate plans and retirement policies frequently to ensure they reflect your wishes.

## Outright Bequests

Outright bequests name charities, like the College of Saint Benedict, as gift recipients in your will. Most entitle your estate to a charitable deduction for the value of your gift. Consider how these popular options might fit into your overall estate plans.

### **Cash Bequests:**

Designate a specified dollar amount to be given to charities, like \$100,000.

### **Specific Bequests:**

Designate stocks, bonds, vacation homes, and other pieces of property to be given as gifts.

### **Percentage Bequests:**

Designate a specific percentage of your estate, like 5 to 10%.

### **Residuary Bequests:**

Designate a percentage of what is left after expenses, taxes, fees and bequests have been paid.

*“So let your light shine as a beacon of hope and direction for those who follow.”*



## Join the Lumen Vitae Society

Offer a testament to your personal value of giving.

Honor a loved one with a named scholarship or program endowment.

Strengthen the mission of the nation's premier Catholic liberal arts college for women that is grounded in Benedictine values.

Give deserving young women an opportunity to shine.

Consider the College of Saint Benedict in your estate plans.



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