A tradition of leadership and loyalty.

Established in 1982, the Demske Society honors the foresight and commitment of generous donors who include Canisius College in their estate plans. This society was named for the College’s 22nd President, Rev. James M. Demske, S.J., whose steady leadership was vital to the growth and development of Canisius. Members of the Demske Society are ensuring the strength of our College for generations to come by supporting scholarships, developing programs, enhancing campus buildings and increasing student opportunities. Like Father Demske, members of the Demske Society are helping to secure an even brighter future for our students, while forever linking their legacies to Canisius College.

Planned gifts make a difference.

Becoming a member of the Demske Society is a testament to your loyalty and faith in Canisius College. Talk to some of our current members and you’ll see why planned giving can be so rewarding.

THE BROWN FAMILY LEGACY

William F. Brown, Jr. ’44 established the Rev. T. Joseph Brown ’14 S.J., Memorial Scholarship, via a life insurance policy, to honor his late uncle who made the dream of a Canisius education financially possible. Today, Brown’s brother Joseph G. ’55, helps grow the fund through a bequest and annual gifts. Together the Brown brothers are honoring their past while helping students to secure their futures.

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

John “Jack” Zaidel ’57 wanted to establish a scholarship in honor of his mother, Rose, but he didn’t know what expenses lie ahead for him. A Charitable Gift Annuity enabled Jack to make his philanthropic vision a reality while he receives a steady stream of fixed income. After his lifetime, the remaining funds along with a generous bequest will be used to endow the John N. Zaidel ’57 and Rose C. Zaidel Scholarship.

As a Demske Society Member, you will enjoy:

- Special invitations to Demske Society functions and other special events including seminars and lectures, an annual leadership dinner and our Homecoming celebration
- A distinguished gold trombone pin, signing your membership in this exclusive society
- Satisfaction in knowing that your planned gift will benefit many generations of students
- A lasting legacy that’s deeply rooted in education and service
Giving options that match your goals.

The Demske Society offers several options to assist you in making a charitable contribution to Canisius while meeting your own financial needs. A legacy gift allows you to make a difference for Canisius now and in the future, while still reaching your personal goals:

**INCREASE YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME**

Charitable Gift Annuities pay guaranteed fixed income at very attractive rates. With gift annuity rates based on age, your payout can be substantial. Payments can be sent to you now or be deferred to provide even higher income in the future. Best of all, a portion of your income stream could be tax-free.

**MAXIMIZE FAMILY INHERITANCES**

If you are subject to estate and inheritance taxes, there are charitable giving tools to reduce or eliminate these taxes and provide more to your family and Canisius. Discuss with your attorney or financial advisor if a Charitable Lead Trust or Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) can help you achieve your goals of passing on assets while reducing or even eliminating gift or estate taxes.

**USE ASSETS OTHER THAN READY-CASH**

Gifts of appreciated stock, or gifts directly from an IRA (with certain requirements), might cost less, after tax savings, than an outright gift of cash. Due to special tax considerations, retirement funds make an excellent choice for funding a testamentary gift. By designating that all or a portion of your retirement funds will be distributed to Canisius College, your heirs can avoid paying the full amount of tax (as much as 60 percent or more for both estate and income tax) on the transfer of retirement funds.

**MAKE A TAX-WISE GIFT AT END OF LIFE**

By naming Canisius as a beneficiary of your will, retirement plans (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.), living trust, donor-advised fund or life insurance policy, you can “endow” your annual gift and support the College in perpetuity.

**GIVE THROUGH INSURANCE**

If you no longer need the entire death benefit of an existing insurance policy, consider naming Canisius as the beneficiary of all or part of the proceeds. To do so, contact your insurance carrier and complete a change of beneficiary form naming “The trustees of Canisius College.”

In some cases, if you own a fully paid, existing life insurance policy, you may want to consider making an outright gift by donating the policy to the College. You benefit from an income tax charitable deduction for approximately the cash surrender value of the policy. Canisius College generally liquidates donated policies and uses the proceeds as you designate. If you make the college the owner and beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, the annual premium payments will be tax-deductible.

I realized that I will not always be here to provide my annual support, so to ensure my continuing investment and to leave an indelible imprint on the institution I care so deeply about, I have provided for Canisius in my estate plans.

Joseph (Jerry) Castiglia ‘55, HON ’95
Your will. Your legacy.

Canisius’ greatest priority is to educate young men and women in the Jesuit tradition, and to prepare them for lives of leadership and service. By making a legacy gift to the College through your will or estate, you are going above and beyond to support the goals of our College and our students. Demske Society members may select the area of the College they wish to benefit, or you may make an unrestricted gift, which provides the College with the flexibility to use those funds where they are most urgently needed.

**BEQUEST AND LIVING TRUST DESIGNATION**

A will or living trust that includes the College as a charitable beneficiary is no different than any other will, except that it includes language to benefit the College. The bequest can be structured in a variety of ways. We recommend you share the following language with the attorney who is drafting your will or living trust:

“I give, devise and bequeath to The Canisius College of Buffalo, NY Inc. the sum of $____________”

or “____________ percent of my estate” or “the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.”

For a contingent bequest:

“If (insert name) is not living on the ninetieth day after the day of my death, I give the property that would otherwise pass to (insert name) to The Canisius College of Buffalo, NY Inc.”

The Demske Society invites you.

To learn more about the Demske Society and planned giving at Canisius College, please contact Mary Ellen Bakowski at (716) 888-2235 or bakowskm@canisius.edu. We would be happy to meet with you individually to discuss your philanthropic goals and how the Demske Society can help you reach them.

If you have already included Canisius College in your estate plans and are not a Demske Society member, please return the card or contact us today. We thank you for your generosity and support.

His trombone plays on.

An avid trombonist, Father Demske often delighted the Canisius College and Western New York communities with his performances. For this reason, the trombone is used as the symbol of the Demske Society and distinguishes our alumni and friends who have included Canisius in their estate plans.