Ray and Mary Kennedy both graduated from St. John’s University in 1963. Ray also attended New York University’s MBA program and Harvard University’s Executive Marketing Management program. He began his career at AMF Corporation as a financial analyst. In 1995, he became executive vice president of Masco Corporation. Ray was a member of both the Notre Dame Advisory Council for the Hesburgh Libraries and the Edward Frederick Sorin Society until his untimely death in February 2003. The Kennedys have three children: Raymond (’87), Michael (’88), and Kevin (’90).

The Kennedy Preservation Fund assists the Hesburgh Libraries’ conservation and preservation efforts by saving at-risk members of distinguished collections and unique items that would otherwise be lost to future generations of scholars. The endowment’s support of preservation in areas such as Catholic studies, Irish history, and the humanities — where books tend to have been published on brittle paper and research materials have fallen prey to ill-handling or environmental degradation — is critical to the survival of these valuable resources.

The Kennedys have established a second fund at the Named level.