



FAITH

IN OUR FUTURE

REINVIGORATING CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY: *THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHAMPIONS ENDOWMENT FUND*

While southeastern Wisconsin faces numerous specific challenges, including unemployment, poverty, violence and crime, Catholic school leaders believe the most pressing challenge is a lack of hope. The most effective remedy — the key to addressing those problems today and tomorrow — is education. Quality education, including formation of character, is the best shot we have at effectively engaging society's challenges.

When it comes to quality education of the soul, mind and character, nothing in American Catholic history has been as successful as our schools. Catholic education is the backbone of our faith, a celebrated mission of our Church and a significant and critical contributor to our communities.

Catholic schools transform our local and global communities into centers of faith, hope and charity by providing quality Catholic education to all people. With the second-largest school system in Wisconsin (smaller only than Milwaukee Public Schools), the Archdiocese of

Milwaukee has a far-reaching platform from which to bring about that transformation — across our community, neighborhood by neighborhood, family by family, child by child.

PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The *Faith In Our Future* Campaign will establish an endowment fund of \$11 million to provide annual tuition assistance for students in need. The *Catholic School Champions Endowment Fund* is:

- for elementary and high school students whose families have made a financial commitment to Catholic education, but cannot afford tuition without additional assistance;
- open to children of all faiths who seek the benefits of Catholic education: strong academics, Catholic values, discipline and accountability;
- for students attending any Catholic school in the archdiocese, with monies distributed based on a standardized set of criteria and definition of financial need. Financial awards will be directed to schools based on the schools' applications on behalf of families needing assistance.

➔
More on reverse side.

Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

FORMING THE WHOLE PERSON

Catholic schools are committed to educational excellence, to student diversity and to a Catholic culture of faith, service and personal responsibility.

Students clearly benefit from superior academics. The average 2007 composite ACT score in southeastern Wisconsin Catholic high schools was 23.3 — higher than the state average of 22.3 and the national average of 21.2.

In archdiocesan grade schools, the average student performed at or above the 70th national percentile in grade 3 (2003) on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and maintained this high performance over five years to grade 7 (2007) across all subject areas.

Catholic elementary and high schools lay a solid foundation for continuing education. Between 2001 and 2006, an average of 84.5% Catholic high school graduates entered a four-year college, 10% went on to a technical school, and 0.9% went into the military.

Excellence in academics is just the beginning. Our Catholic schools not only teach Catholic values and beliefs, but also promote the ideals of service and leadership through programs such as:

- Pius XI High School's Christian Service course, which provides a structure for investigating the experience of feeling called, heightening students' understanding of their role as Catholics in the community;
- Dominican High School's Ethical Leadership Program, which connects juniors and seniors with community leaders to learn how they handle ethical challenges in their personal and professional lives;
- St. Mary Parish School's program of service, caring and outreach for elementary school students, including projects such as serving at the St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program, visiting seniors at Christmas and Easter, and participating in the Katrina K.A.R.E. program.

KEEPING QUALITY EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE

Following Archbishop Timothy Dolan's pastoral directive to strengthen our schools, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee seeks to reinvigorate Catholic identity and promote renewed commitment to Catholic schools.

We face a remarkable opportunity to strengthen the understanding of the purpose, mission and values of

Catholic schools; to ensure young people develop a deep personal faith and live the teachings of the Church; and to generate continuing revenue streams to help provide affordable education to all.

Even with their emphasis on excellence, Catholic schools face an uphill enrollment struggle. For the 2007-08 school year, 26,308 children were enrolled in archdiocesan elementary schools—a drop of nearly 400 from the preceding year. Secondary school enrollment rose from 6,783 to 6,864, just over a 1 percent increase.

Finances clearly play a role in these figures. In 2005-06, annual tuition rates at elementary schools in the archdiocese were in the following ranges: 18% between \$900 and \$1,499, 32% between \$1,500 and \$1,999, 38% between \$2,000 and \$2,499, and 12% charged more than \$2,500. In the same year, high school tuition rates ranged from \$4,500 to \$8,095.

With 2007-08 elementary school tuition averaging more than \$2,200 and high school tuition more than \$8,000, it's difficult for families to send one child, let alone an entire family, to Catholic schools. The main reason parents tell us they cannot send their children to a Catholic school is because they cannot afford it.

Sixty-three percent of our archdiocesan elementary and high schools reported almost 1,800 families requested financial aid for the 2006-07 school year. The \$3,880,000 awarded to those families totaled 45 percent of the estimated need, leaving an unmet need of \$4.6 million.

The *Catholic School Champions Endowment Fund* can help keep Catholic education accessible.

CREATING LONG-TERM BENEFITS

The Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education suggests the best way to appreciate the power of Catholic schools is to imagine our Church and our community without them. "To those who wonder how we can afford to make the investment necessary to sustain, strengthen, and expand Catholic schools, we respond by turning the question on its head," the task force wrote. "How can we afford not to make this investment? Our future depends on it more than we may suspect."

For more information contact Debra Lethlean, Development Director, 414-769-3322.

INVEST IN THE MIND. ENRICH THE SPIRIT.