

Special Collection Diocesan Catholic Schools to Be Taken January 25-26

Catholic Schools Week 2020 will kick off in the Diocese of Fort Worth with a second collection for the **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund** in **ALL PARISHES Jan. 25-26**. One hundred percent of the proceeds remain in the Diocese to increase available financial aid for qualifying families who desire a quality Catholic education for their children.

Most Reverend Michael Olson, Bishop of Fort Worth, says, “Our Catholic schools are dedicated to integrity of faith entrusted to the Church by Christ and also to the soundness of solid and right reason, where we can come to know the Truth both through faith and reason. Our Catholic education also has to be accessible to all and the **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund** makes that accessibility to all that we can have a Catholic education that inconveniences us from complacency and helps us to go into the world with truth that we know through faith and reason.”



For more than 100 years, Catholic education in North Texas has focused on preparing young people with quality academics, challenging physical activities and formation in faith. It's been proven over and over again that students graduating from Catholic schools are better prepared for their next level of education and better prepared for life. Studies show they succeed more readily than students who have not had a rigorous college prep education.

Our schools form the future of our Church. Sustaining the long tradition of excellence in our 19 elementary and high schools remains the highest priority in the Diocese of Fort Worth. With this function as our priority, it's interesting that there are 45,196 Catholic students in public schools receiving Catholic formation on Sundays. We know some of them would prefer to glean their religious education in a Catholic school setting but cannot afford tuition. Tuition is an obstacle for some families and the 2018 results of the FACTS independent assessment of about half of those families indicated the tuition need in our Diocese is about seven million dollars.

The **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund** was established in 2006 to increase available financial aid for families who demonstrate financial need. The goal is to offer affordable Catholic school education to as many families as wish to send their children to a Catholic school. We need you to generously support the Catholic Tuition Assistance Fund Collection in your parish on Jan. 25-26 or **Text SCHOOLS to 91999**.

For more information, please visit <https://catholicschoolsfwdioc.org/tuition-assistance>

Parish Information:

“It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community—bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity—to continue to strive towards the goal of making our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children, including those who are poor and middle class.” *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, 2005*

For this reason, this Special Collection is to be taken in ALL PARISHES and ALL funds returned to the Catholic Center for re-distribution through the Tuition Assistance Fund that benefits ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. If your parish chooses to hold a special collection for a specific Catholic School it may do so **at another time.**

Please read the attached **Letter from Bishop Michael Olson** (English and Spanish Versions provided) at all Masses the weekend prior to the collection (**January 18-19**).

Please print and use the **bulletin insert** that was emailed to all bulletin editors and available in the eBulletin to promote this collection.

Suggested promotional copy is as follows:

Bulletin/School Newsletters/Website/Social Media/Pulpit Announcement **Week before the collection (January 18-19)**

Support Catholic Education in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Bishop Michael Olson invites you to be especially generous to next week’s special collection for the **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund**. One hundred percent of the funds collected remain in the Diocese to assist families with tuition expenses to our 19 Catholic schools.

Reminder: this weekend please read the Letter from Bishop Olson during all Masses

Week of the collection (January 25-26)

Help families send their children to our Catholic schools. Today begins Catholic Schools Week. Bishop Michael Olson encourages you not only to support today’s special collection for the **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund**, but also to take part in the many open houses and other activities scheduled in our Catholic Schools. Do a “little something extra” to express your gratitude to our educators and your support for our students this week.

Week after the collection (February 1-2)

Our Catholic schools extend their thanks. Educators, students and parents across the Diocese send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donations to last week’s **Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund**. If you were unable to support the collection last week, you may drop a clearly marked contribution into the collection at your parish, or Text SCHOOLS to 91999.

Parish Business Managers The codes for remitting these funds to the diocesan finance office are Sage Intaact Account Number **214000** Intaact Fund No. **28012** and the deadline is **February 17, 2020**.

If you have any questions about this special collection, please contact
Renée Underwood, CFRE, Associate Director of the Advancement Foundation at
817.945.9441 or runderwood@advancementfoundation.org or [Erin Vader](#), Coordinator for Schools
Advancement and Alumni Relations, 817.945.9377.