



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation

May 2020

Catholic Scholarships Continue to Make a Difference

During the 2019/20 school year, over \$40 million was offered in financial assistance to students attending archdiocesan schools. This total amount includes scholarships supported by campaign funding like the Caritas Scholarship, which we've highlighted in recent newsletters, as well as the Phoenix Scholarship, which we'll be covering in this edition of the newsletter.

It's through your generosity, families who can't afford sending their children to private Catholic school are able to, and as a result, students are receiving quality education that promotes college readiness and moral development.

As another school year comes to a close, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and support of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

God bless you all this month.

Scholarship Feature: The Phoenix Scholarship

Through campaign funding and other programming, the Archdiocese of Chicago is able to offer need-based scholarships to families, making Catholic education affordable and accessible to those who value sending their child and/or children to Catholic school.

Strengthening Catholic education continues to be a key element of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, with up to \$150 million in campaign funds directed to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. The Phoenix Scholarship ensures access to Catholic education for families throughout Cook and Lake counties and is eligible to families with children in any school listed in the Official Catholic Directory for the Archdiocese of Chicago who demonstrate financial need and meet certain other criteria established by the Trust Board. Initially, the Trust Board elected to prioritize scholarships for families and schools with the greatest need. As the Trust endowment has grown, the Trust Board has expanded to serve as many students as possible while protecting the long-term viability of the endowment.



COVID-19 Update: Support Your Parish and the Coronavirus Emergency Fund

Please visit archchicago.org/support to support parish offertory, the Coronavirus Emergency Fund or both as your means allow. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support.



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To apply, families must complete and submit the standard FACTS financial aid application from their schools. Verified applications are then sent to the Office of Catholic Schools for administrative processing. The Office of Catholic Schools sends applicants an acknowledgment of its receipt of the application. The Trust Board has created a Scholarship Delegation Committee to review and approve scholarship awards on behalf of the Trust Board. Once a scholarship award decision has been made, applicants will receive a letter from the Office of Catholic Schools notifying them of the award decision and the amount of the scholarship. Awards are made on a rolling basis.

Scholarships may cover up to 50 percent of a student's tuition with the balance paid by the parents or guardians of the student. The scholarship may be renewable annually based on a continued demonstration of need and meeting certain other criteria. Contributions towards this fund are even more important during this time, as unemployment numbers related to COVID-19 will result in even more demand for scholarships and assistance with tuition. For more information about The Phoenix Scholarships, please email Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships, at csullivan@archchicago.org.

Phoenix Scholarship Recipient and Nazareth Academy Graduate to Attend University of Nebraska in the Fall

Derrick Strong Jr. is a senior in high school and will be graduating from Nazareth Academy, located in LaGrange Park, this month. Derrick junior was born and raised in the Chicagoland area along with his sibling, Kennedy. His parents, Derrick and Kimberly, grew up Catholic, which is why they both had a strong desire to send their children to Catholic school.

"Derrick's experience at Nazareth

Academy has been nothing short of incredible, which we anticipated when we were thinking through where to send him to school," said Derrick. "We've seen him thrive being in a smaller classroom atmosphere and truly appreciate the one-on-one attention he's received from his teachers and the rest of the staff at school."

Not only has Derrick junior thrived academically at Nazareth Academy, he has also been extremely active in sports, playing football, basketball and lacrosse. It's Derrick's hard work, determination and dedication that also landed him a scholarship to attend the University of Nebraska in the fall. As of now, Derrick junior is still scheduled to attend in the fall.

"We are so proud of the man he has become and it's been a blessing to see him grow in his faith and relationship with God during his time in school," said Kimberly, mother of Derrick junior. "His time at Nazareth Academy and the formation of his faith has connected our family in many ways and makes us all stronger."

The Strong family applied for the Phoenix Scholarship through their parish, St. Agatha Catholic Church, located at 3147 W. Douglas Boulevard in Chicago.

"The Phoenix Scholarship helped ease the financial burden of paying for our son's Catholic education and it helped us maintain payment of tuition," said Derrick. "It's thanks to the donors of the scholarship, he's able to obtain a high school diploma and continue on with his education."

For more information about Nazareth Academy, please visit nazarethacademy.com.



Pictured above is Derrick Strong Jr. and his his parents. The Strong family is extremely grateful to donors of the campaign for easing the burden of paying Derrick's tuition, especially while his mother, Kimberly, battled cancer his senior year.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,276,306*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 122%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$255,107,916

Percent Paid to Date: 73%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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