

# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

March 2019

## The Impact of the Caritas Scholarship

The Caritas scholarship is an integral part of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, and one of the major scholarship programs offered to elementary school students attending Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools. Since its creation in 2014, the Caritas scholarship has grown in reach and number of scholarships, and in the 2017/18 school year, 2,126 scholarships were awarded, totaling over \$3,000,000 given to students in need.

The scholarship is given to families in need of financial support to begin or continue placing their child or children in Catholic school. Without the scholarship, thousands of students would not have the opportunity to receive quality education and grow in a faith-based environment. It's thanks to the donors of the campaign that these students are thriving, learning and expressing their love for God through activities and initiatives at school. These students are also able to be a part of a community at school and receive multiple avenues of support and encouragement from staff.

To date, nearly 7,000 students at 100 schools across the archdiocese have received approximately \$10,600,000 in scholarships since the program's inception. Now, more than ever, we're so grateful that campaign donors like you give us the opportunity to invest in the future of the Catholic church. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

## St. Genevieve School Provides Student with Scholarship and Support During a Tough Season in Life



Pictured above are Brenda Gonzalez and her two children. Brenda is extremely grateful to campaign donors for giving her daughter, Nayah, the opportunity to attend Catholic school.

As a single, divorced mother of two, Brenda Gonzalez's plate is extremely full working and taking care of her two children. A lot of Brenda's time is dedicated to taking care of her oldest child, her son, who has down syndrome and a hip condition that has been putting him in and out of surgery for eight years. There are times Brenda needs to take a leave of absence from work to take care of him, which can bring financial stress to the family. Brenda's youngest child and daughter, Nayah, has always been a wonderful little sister, creating an incredible bond with her older brother. Nayah attends St. Genevieve School, located at 4854 W. Montana St. in Chicago, and is currently in the second grade.

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“Nayah is extremely bright and has always expressed an interest in school,” said Brenda. “She exceeded my expectations and has maintained good grades, and lot of that is due to the support she’s receiving from St. Genevieve School. She has been able to create healthy relationships with teachers and other students, and it’s a blessing to witness.”

Nayah has been able to continue attending Catholic school because she received a \$2,000 Caritas scholarship. Principal McKenna Corrigan provided Brenda with information about the scholarship and she applied immediately because it was important for her daughter to continue receiving a quality education.

As a Catholic, I want my children to have morals, values and a close relationship with God,” said Brenda. “The archdiocese’s Catholic Schools provide students with an outstanding curriculum and opportunity to learn God’s word in school. Nayah has been able to express her love to God in many different ways and she wouldn’t be able to do so in public school.”

Not only is Nayah receiving the education her mother has always longed for her to have, she also has a tremendous support system thanks to the staff at St. Genevieve.

“Nayah’s school has provided her with emotional and moral support, especially when her brother was in surgery and she was having a hard time coping with it,” said Brenda. “They have been there for her and helped her through tough times. I am eternally grateful for this because through the tough times, she is still able to succeed and work towards her future.”

To learn more about St. Genevieve School, please visit [stgtschool.org](http://stgtschool.org).

## Melrose Park Family Receives Scholarship, Giving Their Girls an Opportunity to Attend Catholic School

Emilizabeth Garcia, her husband and their three girls live five minutes from Sacred Heart, located at 815 N. 16th Avenue in Melrose Park, and always dreamed of sending their girls to Catholic school.

“We knew placing our daughters in Catholic school would have a lasting impact on their lives, but with tuition costs, we didn’t think we’d be able to afford sending them,” said Emilizabeth. “Thankfully we heard about the Caritas Scholarship and applied immediately.”

The family’s oldest girls, Marijose (fifth grade) and Teresa (third grade) were both awarded the scholarship and have been attending Sacred Heart since kindergarten. Both Marijose and Teresa feel a sense of community at Sacred Heart and look forward to attending school and Mass every day.

“They love Sacred Heart so much that when they behave badly, I tell them I am going to take them out of Catholic school and send them to public school and they plead, ‘No mommy, don’t do that!’”, said Emilizabeth. “They enjoy it so much, have grown accustomed to the teachers and have made lifelong friends.”

It’s through Sacred Heart, Emilizabeth’s daughters get the opportunity to grow spiritually and in their relationship with God. They both completed their First Communions, attend weekday Mass at school, learned how to do the rosary and look forward to attending Mass as a family every Sunday.

“If the Caritas Scholarship didn’t exist, my girls would not be attending Catholic school today. We would have no other option but to send them to public school because we currently live on one income,” said Emilizabeth. “I am forever grateful my girls have the opportunity to attend Catholic school and the positive influence the staff and curriculum has already had on their lives.”

To learn more about Sacred Heart, please visit [shsmelrosepark.com](http://shsmelrosepark.com).



Pictured above are Emilizabeth, her husband, and their three daughters. Their oldest daughters attend Sacred Heart in Melrose Park.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000**

Total Raised to Date: \$422,580,412\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$221,361,064

Percent Paid to Date: 63%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

tel 312.534.8500

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