

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and Holy Family School System are pleased to announce the second year of a program that provides tuition assistance to qualifying families. The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization (STO)* sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque combined with our local assistance programs offer expanded opportunities to help qualifying families afford the Catholic School of their choice.

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* is available to all families whose adjusted gross 2007 income is at or below 300% of the federally determined poverty rate. The STO currently has over \$2.66 million that will be given to families attending Archdiocesan schools during the 2008-2009 school year.

Holy Family School System also has local funding to provide tuition assistance over and above the Archdiocesan program thus providing supplementary tuition assistance. Our local assistance program is open to all qualifying families, not just those who qualify for the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO*.

Both the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* and Holy Family School System will be utilizing Private School Aid Services (PSAS) to assist in determining the level of assistance to be awarded. PSAS has developed an application that all families need to complete to be considered for assistance. Your personal information will be held in strictest confidence at all times. If you have a child at more than one Archdiocesan School, you will only need to complete one application form. There is a \$20 non-refundable processing fee for the application, payable to PSAS.

The application will be available at the HFS business office beginning January 28, 2008 and on line at [www.mypsas.org](http://www.mypsas.org). If you contact the business office we can provide a form to you. In addition to your completed application, you must include a copy of your 2007 federal income tax return or your 2006 federal income tax return with a copy of your 2007 W-2(s). The application needs to be completed on-line by March 17, 2008 or completed on a paper copy and given to the Holy Family business office no later than February 29, 2008.

To assist you in filling out the application PSAS will have a call center available at 1-866-424-6443. The call center is open Monday-Friday from 11:00 am-7:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:00 am-noon. You are also welcome to call the business office at the LaSalle center (390-6512) for assistance.

Award notification letters will be mailed on April 15, 2008. The complete timeline with specific information concerning the application is enclosed.

We strongly encourage every family to complete an application. The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* coupled with our local tuition assistance program will be able to help many more families than we have assisted in the past.

If you have questions about the assistance program, call the business office (390-6512). Call the PSAS call center at 1-866-424-6443 with specific questions about the application. This is a wonderful opportunity for qualifying families.

Sincerely,

Rick Louk, Principal

### **Timeline**

- January 28** Applications available through the school and on-line at [www.mypsas.org](http://www.mypsas.org).
- February 29** Completed paper applications are due in the HFS business office.
- March 17** Completed applications must be post-marked or filed electronically.
- May 1** Award notification letters sent to all families who applied.
- May 10** Families receiving assistance send confirmation they are accepting/declining the assistance back to the school.
- School Code** When completing the application, our school/system number code is 1143. School authorization code is “arch 1”.

### **Program Information**

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* is funded by numerous generous donors from across the Archdiocese of Dubuque. All donors received an Iowa Tax Credit equal to 65% of their gift, with all donations qualifying for a federal income tax deduction for their 2007 returns. Donors interested in contributing to this program during 2008 can download a donor application at [www.arch.k12.ia.us](http://www.arch.k12.ia.us). The goal for 2008 is to raise \$3.84 million to be used in the 2009-2010 school year.

Families are eligible for the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* assistance if their adjusted gross income for 2007 is at or below 300% of the poverty level. The poverty level is set by federal guidelines. The level of *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* assistance recommended by PSAS will be based upon family income, number of dependants, and the total K-12 tuition bill for the family.

#### **\*STO Qualifying Levels 2008-2009**

<b>**Family Size</b>	<b>***Maximum Income</b>	<b>**Family Size</b>	<b>***Maximum Income</b>
<b>Two</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>Five</b>	<b>\$74,400</b>
<b>Three</b>	<b>\$52,800</b>	<b>Six</b>	<b>\$85,200</b>
<b>Four</b>	<b>\$63,600</b>	<b>Seven</b>	<b>\$96,000</b>

\* STO qualifying levels are based upon 300% of 2006 Federal Poverty Levels as required by Iowa law.

\*\*Family size includes parents/guardians plus total number of dependents claimed on 2006 tax return.

\*\*\* Families are eligible for **STO assistance** if their adjusted gross income is at or below the above listed income levels. Local assistance is not based upon the above. Falling within these guidelines does not necessarily guarantee tuition assistance.

All families who want to be considered for tuition assistance must fill out the PSAS application.