



A Ministry of Saint Thomas Aquinas Cluster Parishes
608 3rd Ave NW, Box 460
Cascade, IA 52033

January 28, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and Aquino are pleased to once again provide tuition assistance to qualifying families through the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* (STO). This program, supported by over 1,000 donors provides expanded opportunities to help qualifying families afford the Catholic School of their choice.

Tuition assistance through the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* is available to all families whose 2009 taxable income is at or below 300% of the federally determined poverty rate. That table is found at the end of this letter.

Aquino also has local funding to provide tuition assistance over and above the Archdiocesan program thus providing supplementary tuition assistance to the STO program. Our local assistance program is open to all locally qualifying families, not just those eligible for the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO*.

Both the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* and Aquino 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 \$21 non-refundable processing fee for the application, payable to PSAS. Please note this is a one-dollar increase from last year.

An STO application is being sent home to all families and is also online at www.psas.org. In addition to your completed application, you must include a copy of your 2009 federal income tax return or your 2008 federal income tax return with a copy of your 2009 W-2(s). The application needs to be completed on-line or via U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than **March 15, 2010**. We are encouraging all families to apply!

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 school office for assistance and ask to speak to Mrs. Yamoah.

Award notification letters will be mailed on or before May 10, 2010. The complete timeline with specific information concerning the application is found below.

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 make Catholic Education affordable for all.

If you have questions about the assistance program, call the school. 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,

Mary Yamoah, Principal

Timeline

- January** Applications available through the school and on-line at www.psas.org.
- March 15** Completed applications must be post-marked or filed electronically.
- May 10** Award notification letters sent to all families who applied.
- May 30** Families receiving assistance send confirmation they are accepting/declining the assistance back to the school.
- School Code** When completing the application, our school/system code is 3461. The password online is Arch1.

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 2009 returns. Donors interested in contributing to this program during 2010 can download a donor application at www.ourfaithsto.org. The goal for 2010 is to raise \$3.73 million to be used in the 2011-12 school year.

Families are eligible for the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* assistance if their taxable income for 2009 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 2010-2011**

Family Size	*Maximum Income	**Family Size	***Maximum Income
Two	\$43,710	Five	\$77,370
Three	\$54,930	Six	\$88,590
Four	\$66,150	Seven	\$99,810

* STO qualifying levels are based upon 300% of 2010 Federal Poverty Levels as required by Iowa law. These rates will be in place at least through March 1, 2010 according to the Department of Human Services. It is not known at this time if rates will change/increase on March 1. If the level is revised, all families will be notified.

**Family size includes parents/guardians plus total number of dependents claimed on 2009 tax return. For families with more than seven persons, add \$11,220 for each additional person.

*** Families are eligible for **STO assistance** if their taxable income is at or below the above listed income levels. Local assistance may not be 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.