



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

January 26, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* (STO) combined with our local assistance program offers 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 2008 taxable income is at or below 300% of the federally determined poverty rate. The STO will award approximately \$2.6 million to qualifying families attending Archdiocesan schools during the 2009-2010 school year.

Aquin also has local funding to provide tuition assistance over and above the STO. 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 Aquin will utilize 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 is now available at the school, or on line at <http://www.psas.org>. In addition to your completed application, you must include a copy of your 2008 federal income tax return or your 2007 federal income tax return with a copy of your 2008 W-2(s). The application needs to be completed on-line or completed on a paper copy and postmarked no later than **March 16, 2009**.

To assist you in filling out the application, PSAS has 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 for assistance.

Award notification letters will be mailed in May 2009. 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. We particularly urge all families who receive funding through the Free and Reduced Lunch Program to apply. They will qualify and will receive considerable financial support through this STO program. It will also mean more financial support for the local assistance program available through other Archdiocesan sources.

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 26** Applications available through the school and on-line at www.mypsas.org.
- March 16** Completed applications must be post-marked or filed electronically.
- May** Award notification letters sent to all families who applied.
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/

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. Donors interested in contributing to this program during 2009 can download a donor application at <http://www.ourfaithSTO.com>. The goal for 2009 is to raise \$3.7 million to be used in the 2010-2011 school year.

Families are eligible for the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* assistance if their taxable income for 2008 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.

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

***STO Qualifying Levels 2009-2010**

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 2009 Federal Poverty Levels as required by Iowa law.

**Family size includes parent(s)/guardian(s) plus total number of dependents claimed on 2008 tax return.

*** Families are eligible for **STO assistance** if their taxable 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.

**** For each additional dependent add \$11,220.