

Fr. Joe

Dear St. Alphonsus Parish Family,

I hope you are enjoying the summer. I myself have a very different summer this year. In June, I was busy with packing, and saying goodbye to people at St. Joseph Church. Then, in July, I moved into St. Alphonsus, and tried to adapt my new life, my new role as the pastor. Now, it is already the middle of August, and that means the summer is almost over. The new school year begins in just a few more days. As I prepare for the 2018-2019 school year, I would like to reach out to you with good news and a request for help.

Earlier this year, in the bulletin and on the website of the parish, we heard about the Tax Credit Scholarship Program which is across the state of Illinois. Up to 100 million dollars in scholarships will be awarded to students in kindergarten through high school. These scholarships will allow families with low-income to send their children to non-public schools such as our St. Alphonsus School. The funding for these scholarships comes from the residents of Illinois who pay income taxes, and choose to redirect part of their state income tax bill to support this program. Those who contribute to this new program will receive a state credit equal to 75 % of their contribution. What does it mean? Someone who donates \$1,000 to the scholarship program will see his or her state income tax bill reduced by \$750. This program redirects part of your state income tax bill to support Catholic education right here in your own parish.

So far three students will receive the scholarship to study at St. Alphonsus School this year. While these students are grateful with this blessing, many others, who already applied and are qualified, have been waiting because of the shortage of funding. These kids need your help.

Another good thing that I would like to stress is that when you donate to this tax credit scholarship program, you can designate your contribution for a particular school like St. Alphonsus School. Then, all the money is used for granting the scholarship to those qualified students who want to go to St. Alphonsus.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support St. Alphonsus School and at the same time to get the credit for your state tax bill. In the next few weeks, there will be more information about the Tax Credit Scholarship Program in the bulletin and on the website. An Archdiocesan representative will be here on Sunday, September 9th to give a better explanation to those interested. These gatherings will take place after the Sunday morning Masses. If you'd like to begin the donation process without assistance, the Archdiocese of Chicago has created a helpful tool which outlines the process. That information is available online here: <https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>.

Thank you very much for your support to the Parish, St. Alphonsus School, and students in need.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Joseph Le