



## *Celebrating 27 Years in Support of Catholic Education*

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For more than 150 years, Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Nashville – from Lawrenceburg and Loretto to Murfreesboro and Madison and across the mid-State – have made a difference in the lives of young men and women. These schools’ commitment to excellence in education, taught with the timeless truths of our Catholic faith and offered to all who wish it - regardless of financial status - has produced leaders across all fields, from business to the arts, from medicine to the alter, from athletics to education.

Making that exceptional educational experience accessible as tuition has risen across all of education was the reason the Advancement of Catholic Education (ACE) was created in 1992 with an initial \$800,000 gift. ACE is committed to supporting the mission of Catholic education by helping to meet the growing financial needs of parochial schools.

### *The Catholic Education Difference*

Numerous national studies point to the difference a Catholic education makes:

- Students in Catholic schools demonstrate higher academic achievement than their public school peers from similar backgrounds.
- Catholic school graduates enjoy higher earning potential than public school graduates.
- The Catholic school climate, mission and purpose positively impact student achievement and attendance.
- Catholic school graduates are more committed to a lifelong mission of serving others.

### *The ACE Impact*

ACE funds are designated for Catholic education within the Diocese of Nashville, primarily for tuition assistance. ACE has provided support through the parochial schools that has benefitted more than 300 families, making approximately 15 awards each year. Last year’s awards totaled over \$150,000. The fund was created to supplement other fundraising events at school such as galas, annual funds, and capital campaigns.

- Today, the endowment is valued at \$3.8 million
- Over the past 10 years ACE has awarded over \$2.5 million in grants, primarily for tuition assistance.
- There are 28 separate funds in ACE, with at least one for every one of the 19 schools in the Diocese.
- Applications are presented to ACE from individual schools each year and awards are presented, with a focus on those with the greatest need.
- In addition to the original endowment, ACE has created a second fund for immediate, emergency distribution.
- This year we introduced Welcome Grants which are two-year grants that will cover 50 percent of tuition for students new to Catholic schools for their first year of school and 25 percent for their second year. These scholarships will be available to St. Pius, St. John Vianney, and St. Edward. We will start with 30 students with the hopes to greatly expand this program as this endowment grows.
- Our Goal for this year’s event is \$500,000!

