

REVENUE/EXPENSES

CEF PRIMARY REVENUE 2023-2024

Parish Contributions	\$714,890
Scholarship Campaign	\$684,612
Restricted Tuition/Family Funds	\$989,825

Total: \$2,389,327

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Grade/High School Scholarships	\$1,415,250
Kazma Restricted Scholarship	877,500
Other Restricted Scholarships	133,000
Leaders for the Future Program Grant	\$10,000

Total: \$2,455,750

PLEASE HELP US DO MORE

Each year, nearly 6,000 families apply for the Catholic Education Foundation scholarship and we are forced to turn half these applicants away due to lack of funds.

Every gift, large or small, allows us to say "yes" to more families who desire a Catholic education for their children.

Thank you for helping us make an impact and provide financial assistance to families in the Diocese of Joliet.

Go to www.cefjoliet.org to set up your monthly gift today using your credit card or bank account or scan the QR code with your mobile device.



CONSIDER A MONTHLY GIFT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

A recurring gift to the Catholic Education Foundation allows you to make a more generous - and affordable - contribution in balance with your other financial obligations.

\$50 Monthly - Provides a partial scholarship to a qualified grade school student for a full academic year.

\$100 Monthly - Provides a partial scholarship to a qualified high school student for a full academic year.

\$500 Monthly - Provides partial academic scholarships to nearly an entire grade school class.

CONNECT WITH US

Catholic Education Foundation

16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403
(815) 221-6127

www.CEFJOLIET.org



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

2024 SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) provides tuition assistance to the most financially deserving students attending Catholic elementary and high schools within the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois.



WE ARE THE AROMA OF CHRIST

Certain smells from childhood cannot be forgotten. We can all remember those scents of a brand-new school year. The smell of pencil shavings from a new package of pencils or the fresh smell of wax from a full box of perfect crayons can take us back to our first days of school.

This was true in the New Testament as well. There were smells that a person living in Roman-conquered cities could not forget following a Roman triumphal procession. St. Paul uses those memories to parallel Christ's triumphal procession as one that spreads the knowledge of him everywhere. He asks us to spread the Gospel through our actions: "For we are the aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." 2 Corinthians 2:15

We are the new pencils and fresh crayons in the lives of those we meet.

Last year, we received more than \$684,000 from generous donors to the 2023-2024 Scholarship Campaign. When we added that amount to other endowed scholarship funds and sources of revenue, we were able to provide scholarships totaling \$2,455,750.

But, even with that significant total, more than half of the scholarships needed are not funded, meaning many students lose the opportunity to receive a Catholic education because they can't afford it.



Messiah is 'at home' at All Saints — thanks to CEF

When Tazama Brackenridge's daughter gave birth to a baby while still a child herself, the responsibility of raising the baby fell on Tazama. She chose a very special name for him — Messiah.

"I intentionally named him Messiah after our Heavenly Father's only begotten son in hopes that he will allow the light from the Messiah to shine through him and in everything he does and everywhere he goes," Tazama said. "I am grandma, but now I am grandma and mom because I have guardianship of him. Both of his parents were children when they had him and neither were in a mental or financial place to care for him like he needed."

While Tazama was able to care for and raise Messiah, when it came time for school, she simply could not afford to send Messiah to a Catholic school — a school that a young man with a Godly name and a Godly upbringing deserves.

That is when the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) of the Diocese of Joliet, through the help of its generous donors, stepped in and offered a partial scholarship for Messiah to attend All Saints Catholic Academy in Naperville.

"I attended Catholic school and the benefits of that from when I was a child made a significant impact in my adult life as far as my morals and values," Tazama said. "I saw that Messiah naturally gravitated toward holiness and he loves God and loves Jesus. I always wanted him to get a faith-based education but I just could not afford it. With my income, I could not afford for Messiah to get an education at All Saints without financial support.

"We are all human and we do the

best that we can. I live paycheck to paycheck and take loans to survive. I still have to cover some of his tuition and I have rent and car payments and insurance and I am an independent parent — I am not married. I take pride in caring for Messiah, cultivating and nurturing him, and I am honored that God bestowed that trust upon me. He is a child that makes it a pleasure and without this help, Messiah would not be able to attend All Saints. What (the CEF and donors) do is truly the work of God."

Tazama said that since starting at All Saints, Messiah, who just turned six years old in late September, has blossomed and is a much happier young man.

"He is so happy all of the time. He is so grateful, and he loves structure. He is OK understanding that he can't have screen time and he accepts the corrections, he doesn't brag when he does great (with school work) and just shows me, because he already has expectations of himself," Tazama said. "Every place we go, people stop and say that there is something special about him. Sometimes my heart is heavy because I feel he deserves so much more, but he is just so grateful for everything all of the time. I asked him what he wanted for his birthday, and he wanted the different flavor marshmallows — he said if I got him the jumbo ones, it would be 'so awesome.' He tells me 20 times a day how much he loves me and he tells me that I am pretty much his mom because I take care of him.

"He is a blessing to me. He reminds me of hope, of love, of life, and of all of the good things that God has promised

us. "I think that All Saints has given him that extra boost of confidence to let the light of Jesus shine through him. I really believe wholeheartedly that Messiah is in an environment conducive to who he is — it is what he feels makes him complete," she said. "Before this, I saw some stress and there were times he was bullied and he tried to handle it in a Godly way, but he wasn't able to because he wasn't in that environment. We are prayer partners and because of that and the constant reiteration of the love of God and God's protection, that is how he handles it.

"I believe he is at home at All Saints and is where is supposed to be. I thank God for everyone that made it possible for him to get that foundation academically and spiritually and have it cultivated and nurtured."

