

Catholic Diocese of Arlington Tuition Grant Program

Program History

HISTORY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

During his tenure as Bishop of Arlington, Bishop Keating established the *Parish Allocation for Catholic Education (PACE)* Program. In doing so, he offered the following rationale for implementing this policy:

“In 1972 the Bishops of the United States proclaimed that ‘We call upon all members of the Catholic community to do everything in their power to maintain and strengthen Catholic schools which embrace the threefold purpose of Catholic education’ (To Teach As Jesus Did, #118). In keeping with that statement, the support of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community.”

In maintaining that spirit of support, yet understanding of the concerns pastors expressed regarding the lack of restriction on their financial contributions that were annually transferred to the schools’ operating budgets, Bishop Loverde asked Father John O’Neill in May of 2002 to chair a committee to review the *PACE* Program.

The result of Father O’Neill’s committee was the introduction of a new initiative entitled *The Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program*. With the implementation of this new program during the 2002-2003 academic year, several noteworthy enhancements were made:

Every parish in the Diocese would participate and offer an annual contribution based on the parish’s yearly operating income (as reported on the Diocesan Parish Report) and not on the number of student parishioners attending a Catholic school.

All funds received from the parishes would be credited directly to the tuition accounts of needy families each year and not into the school’s general operating budget.

This initiative, which remains in practice today, responded to many pastors’ desires to seek a more equitable method of determining and restricting parish contributions to families who desire a Catholic school education but lack the financial means to afford this expense.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM

- **2002-2003 Academic Year** (*Tuition Grant Program approved by Bishop Loverde*) **\$1,093,631**
 - *Note: Total funds (\$1,093,631) match prior PACE contributions.*

- **2003-2004 Academic Year** **\$1,050,953**
 - *Note: Amount lowered due to several parishes' adjusting their annual reports and outstanding parish contributions by year's end.*

- **2004-2005 Academic Year** **\$1,059,042**

- **2005-2006 Academic Year** **\$1,177,572**

- **2006-2007 Academic Year** **\$1,250,000**

- **2007-2008 Academic Year** **\$1,350,000**

- **2008-2009 Academic Year** **\$1,350,000**

- **2009-2010 Academic Year** **\$1,750,000**