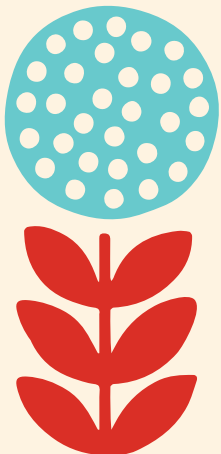




Catholic Schools
Endowment Foundation

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2022





Friends,

If you are like me, you might be finally feeling as if daily life is beginning to return back to what we used to call normal. I can see people's faces again and once again, communicate face to face.

Through it all we have been guided by a good and gracious God, and even in some of the most trying times of the past, we continue to be blessed and see His hand at work.

We should feel thankful that our Catholic schools across the archdiocese as a whole are seeing student growth. We should also be aware that there are still schools that have space available for deserving students and there are still families sacrificing a lot that still need our help with tuition assistance.

As we began our 2022 fiscal year appeal, I was initially unsure how donors would respond. The pandemic had a lot of negative effects on people. As it turns out, the importance of Catholic education provided by our archdiocesan schools remains a top priority for many of our friends and we are well on our way to reaching our \$1 million Annual Appeal goal.

We have also been engaging in conversations about estate planning and the many ways donors can use their estates to leave a legacy for both their family and their designated charities, while minimizing the effects of local estate taxes. As we are blessed during our lifetime, this provides a way for us to bless others far into the future.

Our Catholic school teachers, staff, students and parents have proven that they are truly a resilient group, which is why we are continuing to see individuals step up to support our mission to:

Provide tuition assistance to families who wish to send their children to Catholic schools.

It's a simple mission, but very powerful.

I hope you will join us.

Dennis Stoecklin, CSEF Board Chair



MAGAZINE

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Annual Appeal

We are pleased to report that our 2021-22 Annual Appeal has raised more than \$710,000!

We are well on our way to our **\$1,000,000 goal**. If you've already donated, thank you so much for your gift! Your support has a tremendous impact on families and the schools that serve them.

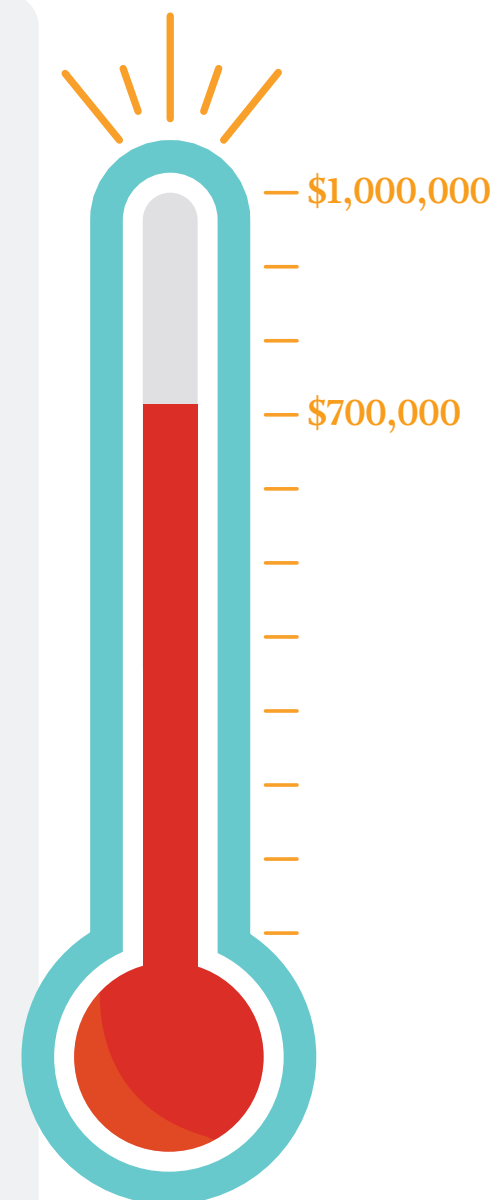
But if you haven't contributed yet, there's still time. **Won't you help us reach \$1,000,000 before our fiscal year ends on June 30?**

By contributing to this year's CSEF Annual Appeal, you are giving students across Western Oregon access to a Catholic school education where faith, academic excellence and community service are the cornerstones of learning.

CSEF relies on donors like you to help families afford this wonderful education for their children. **We have awarded more than \$525,000 to families for the 2022-23 school year.**

With your help, we can continue to distribute tuition assistance to families in need across 39 diocesan Catholic elementary schools, which serve nearly 10,000 students. Thanks to you, we've been able to distribute over \$1.3 million in a few short years, increasing dollar amounts and families served year-over-year.

Together, we can lower the barriers to Catholic school education for families in Western Oregon.



Oregon Catholic Schools: Resilience in the Face of Pandemic

Catholic school education has many unique benefits: academic rigor, small class sizes, extra support for students who need it and a shared commitment to high moral standards, to name a few. But how did schools safeguard these during pandemic? We reached out to principals to ask how they weathered the crisis and found their responses very encouraging! We heard from Amy Biggs of Cathedral School in Portland, Colleen Kotrba of St. Anne School in Grants Pass and Diane Ramsperger from St. Matthew Catholic School in Hillsboro.



1. How did your school and community respond to the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and distance learning?

Amy Biggs: Our students didn't miss a beat during the first shut down! Each student was given a daily schedule, including materials needed for the week. We had daily office hours for students who needed extra help. We even created a weekly art lesson and sent those home to provide extra enrichment for students. Our students and teachers worked extremely hard.

Colleen Kotrba: Throughout the pandemic, our small size has been a blessing. With an average of 15 students per class, we have been in person for most of the pandemic. Preschool through 3rd grade students have been in person full time since September 2020. While we had to start the 2020/2021 school year with our 4th and 5th grade class of 20 students coming in two groups for two hours each day, they were able to come back to school full time in November 2020 and have been in person since.

2. What did you learn about your community from their response to the challenge?

Amy Biggs: We have learned that our community is incredibly resilient, strong, and supportive. We banded together under excruciating circumstances and came out much stronger. Through all of this we showed that we are better together – we've built not just a community, but a family.

Our teachers and staff really rose to the occasion. They put aside their own feelings and worries and put the students first. During the first shut down in March, teachers taught remotely via Zoom and Google classroom. In September, they returned to school in person. Meanwhile, they kept things as normal as possible for students. With the constant changes in Covid-19 protocols and procedures, canceled activities, etc., they forged onward with a positive attitude and emerged as an incredible team that I am so proud to be a part of!



3. What are you looking forward to most in a cautious return to some semblance of "normal?"

Diane Ramsperger: Currently, we are moving towards normal. The preschool and hot lunch programs are back up and running great! Our Parent Club and the School Advisory Board have returned. Our theme this school year is: One Community Growing in Christ. Every day the students and teachers work hard at living our faith and striving for academic excellence. We look forward to the day we can have our students with their 'Buddy Partners,' where an older student is paired with a younger one for Mass and other activities. Above is a photo of our All Saints Day Mass with the 1st grade students dressed as a saint they chose to tell about.

Amy Biggs: To be honest, we have tried very hard to make our return to school "normal" for our students from the beginning. We are looking forward to seeing their smiling faces and expressions without masks, the ability to gather as a community, go on field trips and simply to put this behind us and move forward.



Colleen Kotrba: As with all schools, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about many challenges to our small school. Being in a small community and being a small school, our staff and families create a close-knit and supportive environment that was disrupted due to pandemic restrictions. Our teachers and staff have worked so hard to try to maintain communication and openness with families, but there is no substitute for being able to see each other, talk to each other and get to know each other in person.

But we've also seen growth. Distance learning in our public schools has brought us many new families, resulting in a growth from 92 students beginning in September 2020 to 114 students currently at St. Anne. We were even able to add a sixth grade class this year.

As we welcome our families back on campus, it is our hope and prayer that this close community environment returns quickly and with a renewed appreciation for our partnership between staff and families. May we never again take for granted the many blessings that come from being able to form a strong, close and supportive school community!

In Memory of Mary Jo King (1936-2019)

“Well, it’s rainy now,
but soon it will be
brighter,”

Mary Jo King would tell her children this whenever the clouds gathered and they were reluctant to come indoors. “She had that positive outlook throughout life and tried to share it with everyone,” said her son, Matt King. A force for good in Oregon’s Catholic community, Mary Jo King was a devoted wife, homemaker, community volunteer, mother to seven children and grandmother to thirteen.

According to Matt and his sister, Meg Conant, Mary Jo was a “no nonsense” kind of mom. She had a sense of persistence, grit and the will to do things the right way. There was no question that each of her children would play a sport, try a musical instrument and attend Catholic schools from elementary through high school. “She wouldn’t let us quit,” Matt said. “If you signed up for something, you had to see it through.”

Descended from Irish Catholics on her mother’s side, Mary Jo was a devout Catholic. She believed that Catholic school education would help shape her kids into accomplished and well-rounded adults. She put this belief into practice by volunteering for many years at All Saints School in Portland, where all seven of her children attended.



In addition to faith formation and strong Christian values for her kids, Mary Jo was also keen on Catholic education because it had a positive influence on her own life. She wanted to make sure her kids got the opportunity to create lifelong friendships, as she did in her own time at Catholic school. She would regularly meet her friends for a game of bridge, a round of golf at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, or a tennis match at the Multnomah Athletic Club and the Portland City League, where she was renowned for her competitive streak and devastating finesse with a lob.

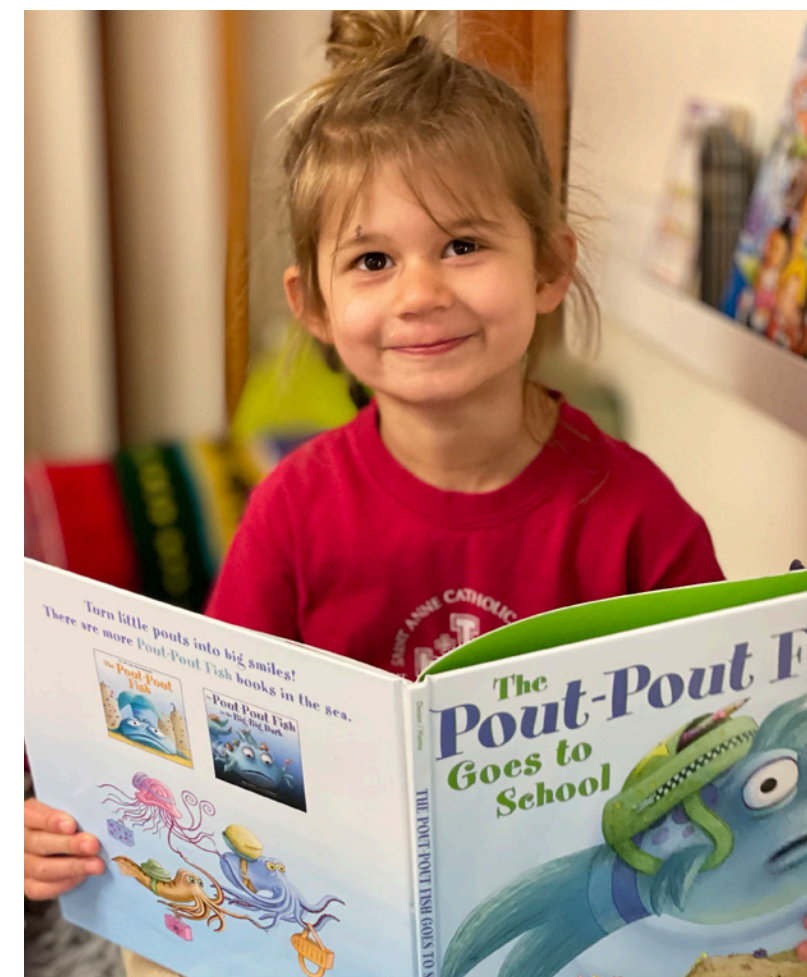
Mary Jo was also a generous donor to Catholic school education. In June 2020, the King family helped secure that legacy by partnering with CSEF to create the Mary Jo King Endowment Fund for Tuition Assistance. Their continued support through this permanent endowment has created life changing opportunities for families who would otherwise struggle to afford Catholic school. We at CSEF celebrate Mary Jo’s life and legacy and we wish to thank the family of Mary Jo King for their generous ongoing support. Thank you!

Planned Giving: Laying a Foundation for the Future

Many of our donors have included the Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation in their wills. They want to create a legacy through a planned gift from their estates. This is a way for donors to make a large, meaningful gift – one that they might not be able to make otherwise. Such gifts are the bedrock for a solid and sustainable future of providing tuition assistance to families in our diocesan schools.

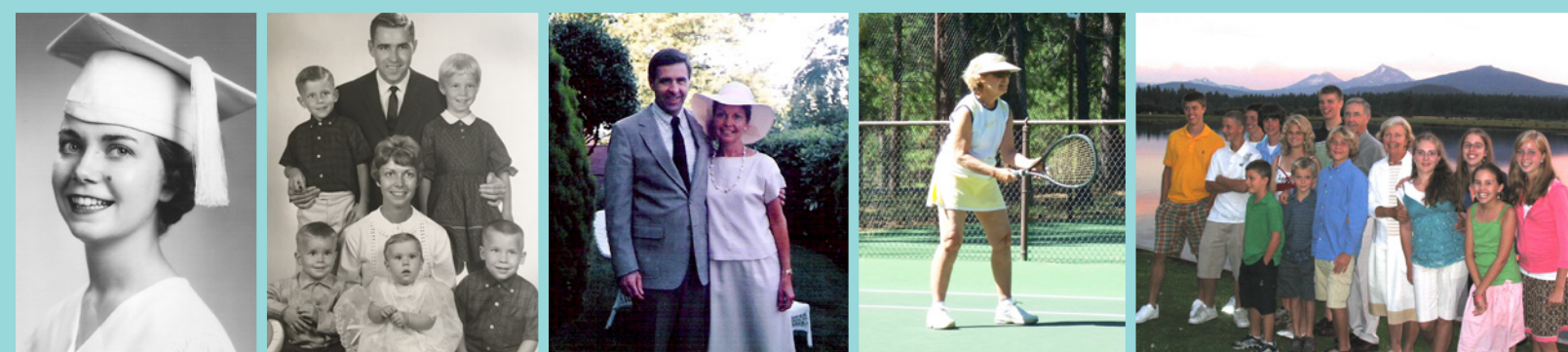
But planned gifts are not just for the wealthy: anyone who makes a will can make planned gift. In fact, planned gifts are truly among those rare “win-win” scenarios. Making a bequest – or giving through a will or trust – doesn’t affect your everyday cash flow. At the same time, it can have substantial tax benefits. This makes planned giving a simple, painless and smart way to support the causes that are important to you.

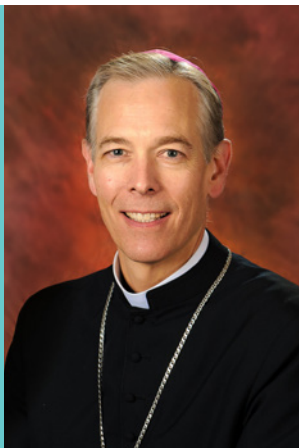
There are several ways to help. Gifts of appreciated securities are easy and tax efficient. A qualified charitable distribution from your IRA avoids the ordinary income tax on that amount. Charitable gift annuities or remainder trusts also have nice tax advantages as well as providing income. These are just a few examples.



At every opportunity, I like to share our mission statement: to provide tuition assistance to families who wish to send their children to Catholic school. It’s so simple and it resonates with our community, as is evident by your generous responses. In the long term, however, we hope that a robust endowment will also provide resources that will enable schools to move tuition levels closer to the cost of education. Increased tuition revenue will allow schools to hire and retain the best teachers and invest in classroom resources that create an inspiring learning environment, all while immersing our children in the important values of Catholic social teaching, forming them in faith to live as Christian witnesses in service to others.

Making a planned gift to CSEF is a wonderful way to affirm your belief in the value of Catholic school education by helping to keep it accessible to families for decades to come. Please consider creating a legacy for yourself, a beloved family member or friend with a generous gift to CSEF that will remove financial barriers for families of the future.





“With your help, our students and their families can achieve their dreams of a Catholic elementary education. Please give generously to CSEF.”

**Archbishop
Alexander K. Sample**
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Become a Monthly Donor

Supporting the mission of the Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation can be seamless with our recurring gift program. With a monthly commitment, donations are automatically deducted from your credit card or checking account. You choose how much to give and for how long, and you can change your amount or cancel at any time.

Monthly Commitment	Total Annual Gift
\$10	\$120
\$15	\$180
\$20	\$240
\$25	\$300
\$50	\$600
\$100	\$1,200

Your generous support will help make a Catholic school education possible for more children, no matter which Catholic school they attend or neighborhood they come from. Please consider a gift before our fiscal year-end on June 30. If you have questions, please contact:

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Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation of Oregon is a 501(c)3 that operates independently from the Archdiocese of Portland. Our federal tax ID number is 81-4541803.