

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH POLICY
SCHOOL TUITION SUBSIDIES

At Baptism, we joined the family of God. We are called to share in the teaching mission of Christ. We do this mainly through our own personal witness and more formally by supporting our local Catholic schools. As a family of Our Lady of Mercy Parish (OLM), we ought to reflect on our response to this call.

Increasingly, our Parish is faced with many pressures for school subsidies. During these times of limited financial resources, we are challenged to ask: **How do we support Catholic education as well as exercise good stewardship?**

In order for a proper understanding and guidance on this matter, our Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Education Committee have jointly formalized a Policy on School Tuition Subsidies.

1. There are three types of parish subsidies to the Catholic School.
 - Capital expenses are the responsibility of the parish.
 - Operating Subsidy from the parish pays for the income necessary to balance the school's operating budget.
 - Tuition Subsidy assists those families who qualify for the parishioners rate.

2. A family who **actively participates** at OLM Parish qualifies for the Category One rate. Active participation means that **ALL** the following conditions are met:
 - The family is registered at OLM and has been for at least one year
 - The family practices their faith and attends Sunday Mass regularly at OLM and
 - The family supports the parish by using envelopes

3. A family who **actively participates in another parish may qualify for assistance from that parish.** In this case, such family should seek a Tuition Subsidy from **that parish.** All parishes in the diocese share in this responsibility and we encourage you to discuss your situation with your pastor. For clarity, OLM parish does not give a Tuition Subsidy in this matter and looks to your parish to provide this service.

As guidance to those who belong to another parish, an "Out-of-Parish" Tuition Subsidy letter form is available at the school. This form can be completed and signed by your pastor. In the absence of a signed letter, the non-parishioner tuition rate will apply.

4. A family who does not meet the aforementioned guidelines **must pay the equivalent Category Two rate for the ensuing school year.** For clarity, if the family is NOT an active OLM parishioner as defined in item 2 above or belongs to another parish, please **do not request** the tuition subsidy from OLM Parish.

5. Although the space in our Catholic Schools is limited, priority is given to Catholic families. No child is deprived of a Catholic education because of a family's inability to pay. A family, who values the Catholic faith, attends Mass weekly, and actively supports the parish in other ways should discuss any special needs with the pastor of the parish where the family is registered.

Please Note: Registration cannot be accepted for families who have outstanding accounts owed to the school. All arrears must be paid prior to registration date. Families experiencing financial difficulties are asked to contact their pastors (of the parish where they are registered and attend mass) prior to registration date. All families who are not registered with the parish may bring an "Out of Parish Subsidy" letter signed by their pastors to assist with their fees.

Please read these policy guidelines carefully. Please understand that the policy reflects diocese-wide guidelines. With your help, OLM Parish can become better stewards of your gifts to support Catholic education for our children. Let us become more conscious of how our Parish community shares in the teaching mission of Christ ... and to be Christ like in our manner of responding to the call and needs of our times.

Policy approved by the OLM Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Education Committee.

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