

## **SCRIP IS A GOOD DEAL ALL AROUND**

By: Fr. O'Dell

As most of you know, we sell **SCRIP** at St. Therese to benefit the Bishop O'Gorman Catholic School system. Some people aren't really sure what **SCRIP** is and why it is beneficial to purchase it. So, the purpose of this article is to try to address some of those issues.

Actually, the term **SCRIP** comes from industry and the military. At the turn of the 19th century, industries such as coal mines and logging companies owned "company towns" where workers could live at a reduced rate. Instead of money for wages, they were paid in **SCRIP**. Pieces of paper that they could trade in for rent and groceries at the company store. The same thing happened in the military. Soldiers could trade in their **SCRIP** at the Post Exchange for the things they wanted to buy.

Today, **SCRIP** is usually used as a fundraising program. Large, retail companies make the agreement that a certain percentage of the money that is generated from the sale of cards for use with their merchandise will be returned for a designated charity. So, if Hy-Vee has the agreement that 3% of any **SCRIP** sold for Hy-Vee will be returned to a charity like the Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools, that means if you buy a \$100 dollar Hy-Vee Card - \$3 is given to the school system.

Some common misconceptions about **SCRIP** are these: 1) The person buying the card is really donating the percentage to the charity. So, if you buy a \$100 Hy-Vee Card, you will only be able to use that for \$97 dollars of groceries. That is absolutely not true. Whatever the face amount is on the card is what you can spend. The retailer is the one who is donating to the charity. The donation comes at no cost to you. 2) You can only use the card for certain items. That is also not true. A card at a retailer is good for any item that is sold by the store. 3) **SCRIP** expires after a certain time. That is also not true. A \$100 card will be still worth a \$100 a year from now. They don't expire. 4) If you buy a **SCRIP** card in Sioux Falls, it can only be used in Sioux Falls. Again, this is true if the store that is selling the **SCRIP** only has locations in Sioux Falls. If I buy an Applebee's Card in Sioux Falls, it is good at any Applebee's location in any state or city. 5) You have to use the entire card at one time. In 99% of the cases, this is not true. The **SCRIP** cards function like debit cards. Your purchases are subtracted from the balance each time a sale is made until there is nothing remaining on the card. Very few **SCRIP** items are simple certificates anymore.

**SCRIP** is a good deal because: 1) They are convenient - you can buy them here and you can use them anywhere, just like a credit or debit card - no fuss and no muss. 2) The cards we sell represent local vendors like Sunshine, BP, Pizza Ranch, Hy-Vee, Lewis Drug and many more. You are helping to support local businesses. 3) **SCRIP** helps to support our Catholic School system. We have our own Catholic elementary school that we share with St. Lambert. Several others are within easy driving distance. Catholic Schools receive no aid from the government. **SCRIP**, a no cost service to you, makes the Catholic School option viable for those desiring to use it in the future. 4) By buying **SCRIP** at St. Therese, you are taking away fundraising efforts from other local charities. I suppose to some extent that this is true. If you buy **SCRIP** here, however, you can still buy it at other locations, too. You could even divide you order between several charities depending upon where you make the purchase.

**SCRIP** is a good deal. It's a good deal for the charity that it helps support. It's a good deal for you because it's convenient and you always get what you are paying for. Think about using **SCRIP** whenever you can. God Bless you.