

## **Annual Fund FAQ**

### **1. WHAT IS THE ANNUAL FUND?**

The Annual Fund is our opportunity to unite as a community and make our school the best it can be. This fundraising effort is vital to our school's daily operations providing essential, unrestricted income to support the current-year operating budget for items not covered by tuition. Gifts to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible. Your monetary gift is an investment in your child's future because those funds directly benefit their experiences today.

The Annual Fund is made up of annual gifts from alumnae, parents, parents of alumnae, parishioners, faculty & staff, grandparents, foundations, vendors, and friends of St. Michael Catholic School. These unrestricted funds are added to the general fund of the school's budget for use in:

- Meeting current operating expenses
- Faculty enrichment programs
- Improving technology and classroom resources
- Enhancing the programs and services offered to the students
- Capital maintenance improvements

Traditionally, strong institutions have strong annual funds. An annual gift to the school remains a tangible vote of confidence in the total school program. Every gift of any amount is greatly valued and appreciated.

### **2. WHY IS PARTICIPATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGED?**

Participation in the Annual Fund not only shows financial support, it also is a reflection of a community's dedication to the mission of our school. Together, gifts enhance the quality of unparalleled resources and opportunities that our students receive this year and in years to come. Strong participation represents a community's vote of confidence in the mission of St. Michael.

### **3. WHY IS THE ANNUAL FUND NECESSARY?**

The Annual Fund allows St. Michael to say "Yes!" to items and programs that will further enhance a student's experience. Tuition and auxiliary income are simply not adequate to cover the operating expenses incurred at St. Michael Catholic School. The money raised from the Annual Fund is used to bridge this gap and balance our annual operating budget. Because of the generosity of our school families and parishioners, we continue to be able to keep our tuition rate below comparable private and parochial schools. This is important because it is one of the pillars of Catholic education – to be as affordable as possible for as many people as possible.

In addition, the Annual Fund enables St. Michael to offer all of the extras that make our

school exceptional and it allows us to respond quickly to unexpected, unbudgeted expenses.

#### **4. THE ANNUAL FUND AND THE SCHOOL BUDGET**

The Annual Fund is part of the 2020-2021 anticipated revenue for the school budget. This year's total annual fund goal is **\$450,000**.

#### **5. How much should I give?**

*There is no required amount per family. We hope that those who are able to give will prayerfully support at a level that is comfortable for their family.*

#### **6. HOW IS THE ANNUAL FUND RUN?**

The Annual Fund is the heart and soul of the Development Program at St. Michael Catholic School. The Development Office, along with the assistance of key volunteers on the Annual Fund Committee, coordinates the internal operations of the effort by organizing mailings, calling and acknowledging donors, and other communications.

The Annual Fund is run on a fiscal year basis. Solicitations for gifts begin July and all gifts recorded before June 30, 2021 will be credited during the fund year.

#### **7. WHY ARE VOLUNTEERS IMPORTANT TO THE ANNUAL FUND?**

The life blood of any school remains with the level of volunteerism a school can achieve to assist in helping with school programs. Our annual fund effort is no different. Volunteers serve as leaders for the different components of the Annual Fund and serve with various responsibilities.

Volunteers are extremely important because they are able to contact our different constituencies on a peer-to-peer basis. People are most likely to give if approached by someone who has shared the same experience and with whom they feel kinship. Whether soliciting a gift, or offering a name to the effort, volunteers are a visible sign of shared responsibility and interest.

#### **8. WHAT ARE GIVING SOCIETIES?**

Giving societies offer a way for all constituents to feel a sense of affinity with St. Michael Catholic School as members of a particular society. They give donors a sense of belonging to something special and provide an opportunity for all donors to feel connected, involved and a part of the overall giving program at St. Michael Catholic School. Each donation, large or small, makes a difference in our ability to reach our goal.

### ***St. Michael Catholic School Annual Fund Gift Societies***

## **Angelus Society Levels**

<b>Seraphim</b>	<b>\$10,000 +</b>
<b>Archangel</b>	<b>\$5,000 - \$9,999</b>
<b>Guardian</b>	<b>\$2,500 - \$4,999</b>

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## **Patron Levels**

<b>Defender</b>	<b>\$1,500 - \$2,499</b>
<b>Black &amp; Gold</b>	<b>\$500 - \$1,499</b>
<b>Tiger Pride</b>	<b>Up to \$499</b>

### **9. *WHAT ARE MATCHING GIFTS?***

Over 500 companies across the country will match their employees' gifts to elementary and secondary schools. Many companies will match gifts at a greater than one-to-one ratio. Donors must visit their human resources office to pick up the appropriate form, fill it out and send it to St. Michael Catholic School with their gift. The Development Office will take care of completing the form and returning it to the company's office to receive the match money. This is an easy and wonderful way to increase your support for St. Michael Catholic School. Matching gift corporations are acknowledged and the requesting donor receives credit for the gift which in turn is counted toward total giving and level designation.

### **10. *WHAT IS THE ANGELUS SOCIETY?***

**The Angelus Society** is a formal organization of lead investors in the future of St. Michael Catholic School. Membership is open to all individuals, families, or organizations who make a minimum \$2,500 annual gift to the St. Michael Catholic School Annual Fund. Each year the school counts on leadership gifts such as these to provide the backbone for program enhancements in the areas of technology, faculty enrichment, and student activities. Members of **The Angelus Society** will be invited to appreciation events hosted by the Pastor, Principal and Chairs in recognition of their leadership and generosity.

### **11. *I'm in! How do I make a gift?***

Gifts to the Annual Fund can be made by mailing a check or making a payment **online** with a credit card. You can pledge now and defer payment until later; you can also pay in installments if that is more convenient for you. Contact Director of Development, [Laura Dols](#), 713-621-6847, with any questions or concerns. The Annual Fund runs on the school's fiscal year calendar starting on July 1 and ending on June 30.