

DEACON GERALD – TUITION PAYMENTS FOR CCE STUDENTS

It has been asked: “Why do parents have to pay for their children to learn about God?” This question was directed to me because of our decision to charge tuition for CCE attendance.

There is a lot of teaching about God that is available at no charge to parents. It is on the internet, in books, and on TV. Most of it is very inaccurate, or blatantly wrong. A parent must be sure what their children learn about God is The Truth. St. Anthony’s works hard to provide a CCE program that teaches only the Truth. We see ourselves providing a sound Faith Foundation to the youth as an aid to parents who are the primary teachers of their children about God and about the Christian Faith. Unfortunately, most parents have given that total responsibility to the Church. Most parents feel inadequate to provide this education for their children and are not willing to delve into the training necessary to give them a complete Faith education. That being said, whether one works at developing their own teaching skills, or they pass that responsibility on to someone else; there is a cost to training, books, and supplies for that effort.

St. Anthony’s has two paid employees who are paid approximately 40 hours each week “between them” to present a very fine program. These employees spend an additional 20 hours+ (unpaid) to ensure that your children get the best Christian education we can provide. In addition, there are approximately 20 volunteers who work to teach and assist in these efforts. All teaching staff, whether paid or volunteers, must have tools and supplies (including workbooks) in these classes to be effective.

Last year St. Anthony’s spent approximately \$40,000 on Religious Education. Of that money, less than half was spent on salaries. Someone must pay for those expenditures. We had a fundraiser to help pay these expenses and intend to do so again this year. It seems only right that parents, who are asking the Church to educate their children, would be willing to make the small investment we ask to help pay a small portion of these expenses. We see parents spending tremendous amounts of money to teach their children how to play sports or learn other secular skills. Why would any parent be bashful about investing in a program to provide their children with a solid Religious Education?

\$45 for a year’s worth of Religious Education seems pretty minimal to me. And \$40 dollars to help pay for the “retreat” expenses associated with 1st Communion and Confirmation preparation does not seem excessive. On the other hand, if anyone is “not able” to pay for their children’s tuition, the tuition can be waived, or entirely removed. In addition, there are numerous paths to have the tuition waived, one way is volunteering to help with the program.

PRAYER

FOR EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lord Jesus, in these evil times, when Your Bride, our holy Mother Church is beset with perils on every side, we beg You to obtain for us from Your Heavenly Father a greater outpouring of Your Holy Spirit in our struggle against the Prince of darkness.

Send forth Your Spirit of Wisdom and Love, O Jesus our King, that He may renew the face of the earth.

Grant that, by His Divine direction and under the patronage of our Immaculate Queen, Your Mother, by whom all heresies are destroyed, Christian education may become and truly serve as the humble handmaid of the teaching authority of the Church, assisting her bishops in teaching divine truths and kindling divine love in the minds and hearts of men.

Direct religious instruction in our schools and in all Catholic institutions of learning in America, O Spirit of Jesus, for the glory of God, for the sanctification of souls, and for the welfare of our country through the spread of true Christian culture. Make us and all Christian educators true bearers of Your Light and Life, Your Love and Peace and Holy Joy.

Lord Jesus, by Your Holy Spirit and Your Immaculate Mother, may Your Kingdom come and Your Church be glorified.

Police Officer's Prayer

Lord, I ask for courage.
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears
Courage to take me
Where others will not go.
I ask for strength of body
That I may protect others
Strength of spirit to lead others
I ask for dedication.
Dedication to my job, to do it well
To my community, to keep it safe.
Give me Lord, concern
For others who trust me
And compassion for
Those who need me
And please, Lord, through it all,
Be by my side. Amen



Policeman's Prayers to Saint Michael

Saint Michael, Heaven's glorious Commissioner of Police, who once so neatly and successfully cleared God's promises of all its undesirables, look with kindly and professional eye on your earthly force.

Give us cool heads, stout hearts, hard punches, an uncanny flair for investigation and wise judgment. Make us the terror of burglars, the friend of children and law-abiding citizens, kind to strangers, polite to bores, strict with law-breakers and impervious to temptations.

You know, Saint Michael, from your own experience with the devil that the policeman's lot on earth is not always a happy one; but your sense of duty that so pleased God, your hard knocks that so surprised the devil, and your angelic self-control give us inspiration.

And when we lay down our night sticks, enroll us in your Heavenly Force, where we will be as proud to guard the throne of God as we have been to guard the city of men. Amen.