

SUPPORTING PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

With cases of COVID-19 affecting family members, friends and priests in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development has been assisting parishes in need of personal protective equipment (PPE).

We have distributed more than 11,000 masks and 1,600 ounces of hand sanitizer to parishes. We also have distributed more than 125 gallons of disinfectant to use in cleaning churches and pews after each Mass in an effort to maintain a safe environment and encourage parishioners to return to Mass safely.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience with these precautions as we do our part to assist in reducing the spread of the virus. It is a small act of charity that promotes the health and well-being of others and can help Oklahoma and the nation eventually emerge from this crisis.

By following these guidelines carefully, we will be able to continue to celebrate public Masses and receive the nourishment we need through Holy Communion.



SUPPORTING VOCATIONS

Archbishop Coakley and the vocations team of the archdiocese were excited to announce that 26 men were studying for the priesthood this year. This is one of the largest cohorts in recent history!

Seminary education is one of the largest line items in the budget every year. One of the many ways people can support seminarians is through the Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education held each August. The proceeds from that dinner go into the Saint John Vianney Endowment Fund held at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

This year, the dinner was held virtually with more than 100 people in attendance over Zoom. If you didn't get a chance to join us that night, watch Deacon Rodrigo Serna's story online at archokc.org/dinner. The dinner raised more than \$200,000 and the endowment has grown to \$850,000 with an additional \$1 million coming from the One Church, Many Disciples Campaign. Thank you for your support of seminarians and your support of vocations.

Another way you can support vocations is by praying for young men and women discerning their call to religious life. To aid in this prayer effort, the archdiocese established the Serra Club of Oklahoma City. This group meets monthly on the third

Tuesday of the month at the Catholic Pastoral Center for fellowship, prayer and education. Each month, a different speaker talks about their vocation story and how we can grow a culture of vocations in the archdiocese.

To learn more or to attend an upcoming meeting, visit serraokc.org.



SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

In 2019, the Tax Credit Scholarship program raised more than \$950,000 to help lower-income families gain access to the high-quality education provided by Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

For the 2020-2021 school year, \$900,000 was distributed in scholarships across 19 Catholic schools for more than 360 children. With an average scholarship amount of \$3,900 for high school students and \$1,900 for elementary and middle school students, these scholarships are truly life changing.

The Tax Credit Scholarship program is now busy soliciting gifts for 2020. With a goal of raising \$1.2 million, the program is on track with informational receptions, mailings and digital media to get the word out about this incredibly tax advantageous way to give.

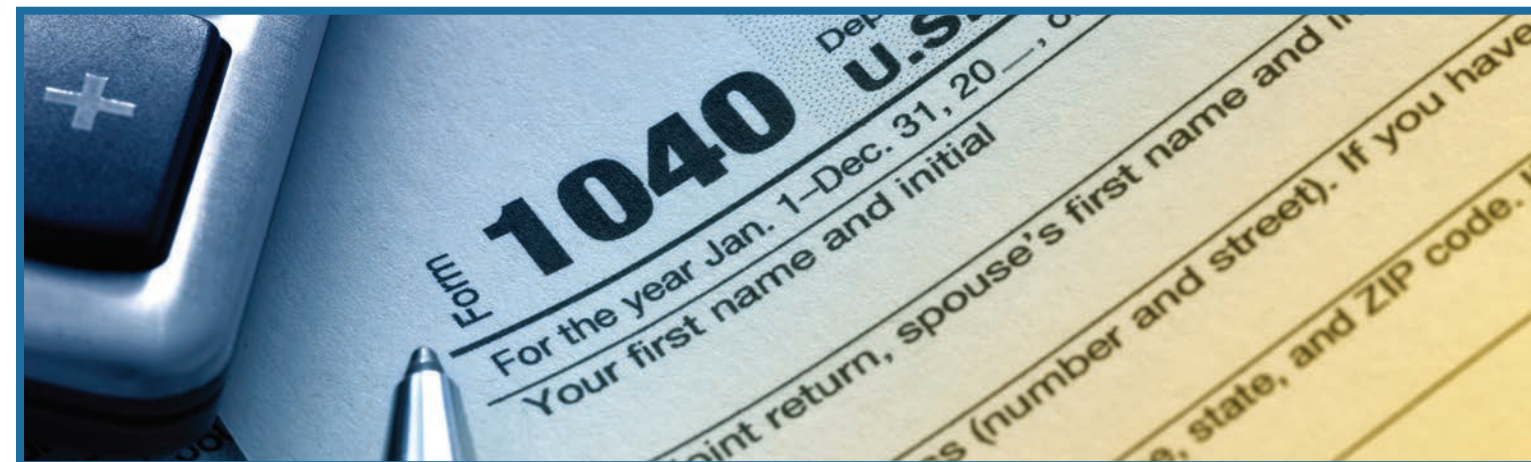
Another big win for Catholic schools this year was the chance to help Saint Anthony Hospital. When COVID-19 forced schools to use remote learning in the spring, principals decided to donate their remaining hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes and gloves to the hospital. In return, this fall, SSM Health Saint Anthony donated 1,200 face shields to teachers and administrators at Catholic schools to help keep them safe.

At the end of January, National Catholic Schools Week will kick off with the 5th Annual Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast on Friday, Jan. 29. The event is being planned now and we are excited to welcome Mary Pat Donoghue, the Executive Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat of Catholic Education, as the speaker. It's sure to be an amazing event!

To learn more about the Tax Credit Scholarship, go online to archokc.org/tcs.



TAX ADVANTAGEOUS GIVING



In March, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (or CARES Act) became law. It provided 335 pages of actions by the federal government that were designed to protect individuals and the nation during the pandemic. Most noticeably the funds provided most adults who file taxes with \$1,200 checks to stimulate the economy.

Included in the legislation was a clause that allows for up to \$300 in charitable gifts to be taken as an "above-the-line deduction" for those who take standard deductions on their taxes.

By giving a gift in 2020 to a qualified charitable organization – like the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City or a parish – you can deduct up to \$300 from your income. This allows donors who do not itemize their deduction to gain a benefit by supporting the Church.

Please visit archokc.org/give for ways to make a tax advantageous gift to the archdiocese. Before filing your taxes, consult a tax professional to take advantage of this unique situation if you are eligible.

OCMD PARISH PROJECTS

Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore finished their phase of the One Church, Many Disciples Campaign in May of 2019. From there, they got right to work. Thanks to the generosity of the parish community, the parish has been able to complete several projects that were part of their parish campaign.

The old parish school received a new roof and was completely remodeled. Now, it serves the growing youth and young adults of the parish by providing space for learning about and growing in their faith. The old convent has been renovated and is now the Adult Education Center with three separate spaces for the discipleship and evangelization program. Both buildings received technology upgrades, and are now spaces designed for ministry.

At the same time, thanks to a grant from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, the parish was able to purchase live translation devices so programs can be presented in English and Spanish.



All of this was made possible by gifts to the One Church, Many Disciples campaign. Each parish kept a portion of the funds raised from the local parish community to be used in projects at the church.

