



## **The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln Introduces the Good Shepherd Scholarship for Tuition Assistance for Families in Need**

*Catholic Diocese of Lincoln continues commitment to making Catholic education affordable to all students.*

The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln is pleased to announce the formation of The Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund to support low income students and families in need of financial assistance to attend our Catholic Schools. The Scholarship will benefit students that attend Catholic Schools in the Lincoln Diocese, by offering \$900 to \$1,300 per student in tuition assistance next year and increased in future years. The Good Shepherd Scholarship will have an initial commitment to provide scholarships for families who are within 200% of the national poverty level, but this may be expanded to include more students in the future, based on fundraising and support from donors.

Through the Good Shepherd Scholarship, along with individual school tuition discounts and localized scholarships, students will continue to benefit from affordable tuition in the Lincoln Diocese and families in need will be able to get additional financial assistance to cover tuition costs. The Diocese estimates that 1,300 to 1,500 students will receive Good Shepherd Scholarships this year, amounting to \$2 million to \$2.5 million in total scholarships. The Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund was established with the remaining funds in the Joy of the Gospel Campaign that were allocated to schools. Additional fundraising efforts will increase the fund in the future, ensuring access to an excellent, affordable Catholic education and for any student.

In addition, an announcement of a minimum tuition standard in Lincoln Diocese Catholic Schools was sent out at the beginning of the year. The minimum tuition standard was necessary to support a standard scholarship program across the Diocese. More importantly, though, it also increases the financial sustainability of the schools and the parishes that support them. The schools will be working on 5 year plans to increase minimum teacher salary levels and to ensure that parish assessments and support for the schools doesn't exceed a standard level. This ensures that parishes have the resources to support spiritual development in their communities through formative programs and mission work, while still supporting the important mission of Catholic education for our youth.

By coordinating the introduction of the Good Shepherd Scholarship with the announcement of a new minimum tuition standard, the Diocese is able to offer additional financial resources to schools that serve low income families and to support to families in need across the Diocese. "No child will ever be turned away from our schools because of financial need," said Dr. Matthew Hecker, Chief Administrative Officer of Lincoln Diocese Catholic Schools.

The Lincoln Diocese is nationally recognized for the benefits of our Catholic education system and the effect it's had on our students, families, parishes and communities. The foundation of our Catholic



education is based on offering affordable tuition to any family, which is supported through the financial assistance of our parishioners, benefactors and supporters. We have received many benefits from this support for affordable Catholic education, including an abundance of Priests, seminarians and religious. Through low tuition and the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund, our schools will be affordable for any family now and in the future.

Good Shepherd Scholarship applications will be available starting this February for the 2019-2020 school year. Additional information about the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at [www.goodshepherdscholarship.com](http://www.goodshepherdscholarship.com)

*The Catholic Schools in the Lincoln Diocese offer a safe and welcoming environment where Faith is nurtured and developed among students, teachers, staff and parents. Strong and dynamic academics are focused on forming the whole person; students are challenged to learn strong reasoning and thinking skills through a wide range of academic, religious, math, science, technology, performing arts, and athletic programs. A sense of outreach and service to others is fostered to provide a life-long orientation to helping others and giving back to the community.*

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