

Dear parishioners,

Many of you are aware that the St. Paul Church community was able to create a scholarship fund to assist their graduating high school seniors with their higher education expenses. Perhaps many of you have read the summary of the awards in The Steubenville Register in past years.

I would like to provide you with a little more information about the scholarship fund. The St. Paul Scholarship Fund was established in 2008 after receiving a donation through the estate of Daniel Skinner. The Finance Council and Monsignor Patrick Gaughan added funds donated by St. Paul parishioners through the Diocesan Parish Share Campaign (DPSC). In 2016 additional funds were added from Christ the King, and the scholarship was expanded to include students from both parishes.

The purpose of the scholarship fund is to assist graduating high school seniors who have been admitted to two or four year colleges, universities, technical schools, or performing arts schools, with expenses related to their studies. High school seniors must submit an application which demonstrates outstanding academic performance; commitment to their community through service and high school activities; and participation in parish life through involvement in parish services, programs and functions.

Over the 10 years that the scholarship has been in existence, we have provided \$44,000 in financial aid to 48 graduating seniors from St. Paul and Christ the King parishes.

How do we ensure that we can continue providing these scholarships? That is the purpose of this letter. While the scholarship fund has been able to grow over the past couple of years, we do need to find ways to increase the base funding. The scholarship committee has requested that I ask our parishioners if they would consider making a donation to the base principal of the Scholarship Fund, thereby allowing us to use the interest to pay for the scholarships. The overall goal is to increase the number of scholarships we can provide.

I am asking each family to consider whether they can make a donation to the scholarship fund. June is a time when we are all thinking about education, graduation, diplomas, the future, and the wonderful memories of those times for each of us. For many of our students this scholarship helps with those small essentials, like books, computers, and technology fees that are a necessary part of their success.

Another option to consider is to include the St. Paul Scholarship Fund in your estate planning. We would like this fund to grow into an important asset for our graduating high school students, and be of financial assistance for their parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents who might be helping with college costs.

If you can help, please make your check payable to St. Paul Scholarship Fund and mail it to The Athens Catholic Parishes Office, 75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701; or you can use the envelopes in the pews and place it in the collection basket. If you would like additional information about the Scholarship Fund please contact Jacki Legg (jackimarie@hotmail.com). I can't tell you how pleased I have been to be able to continue this scholarship fund. We are fortunate to be able to help our parish students achieve their goals and be of help as a church community. It is my hope that we will not only be able to continue this program, but to grow it for the benefit of all our Catholic high school seniors.

Yours in Christ,

Father Mark Moore