

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITMENTS**

### **Practice of the Faith and Stewardship**

As the primary purpose of our school is to assist parents in the religious education of their children, all families are expected to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation throughout the year. In addition, you are asked to support your parish and school by giving back to God a portion of His blessings through a sharing of your time, talent and treasure. This sacrificial giving of ourselves is called *Stewardship*. We depend on good Stewardship from all parishioners, especially our school families, to keep tuition as low as possible while offering a first-rate Catholic education for their children.

Our approximate per-pupil expenditure each year is currently \$3,000, less than half of the amount spent by Lincoln Public Schools. The \$600 in tuition and fees you are asked to pay covers approximately 20% of educational costs, with the remaining 80% coming from various parish Stewardship endeavors. Our hope is to boost Sunday tithing each year from all parishioners, so we may cover annual increases in costs without raising tuition.

All parishioners - including our school families - have a vital obligation to practice sacrificial tithing (perhaps 5 - 10% of family income) to support our church and school. Your Stewardship of Treasure gifts may be divided as you see fit among our three areas of need:

- Sunday Collection: Families are encouraged to place an offering envelope in the collection each week, or to sign up for our E-tithing program. Tithing is the primary source of funding for our school.
- Building Fund: Pledge payments to the Building Fund are used to pay off the remaining parish debt from the construction of our new church and parish hall/school lunchroom.
- Charity and Stewardship Appeal: This fund-raising appeal conducted each spring supports the spiritual and social works of charity in our Diocese, and provides a major source of support for our grade school.

### **Parental Service Program**

**Parents are asked to be an active part of the school community by giving at least 20 hours to the school or parish over the course of a school year.** There will be volunteer opportunities, such as church cleaning, upkeep of grounds, and special projects throughout the year. Parents are asked to track their hours on cards or sheets provided.

**Parental involvement is intended to help parents teach children, by example, that service is an important part of being a Christian.** In addition, it shows children the high value that parents place on their education by their involvement in the school. It also helps the school free up funds for other needs. When making specific commitments of time and talent to the school, please call in advance if you are unable to fulfill the commitment.

The Lincoln Diocesan policy requires that volunteers submit to a background check and view the twenty minute video, "Somebody Told."

### **Parent-Teacher Organization**

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is dedicated to continual improvement in the educational experience of our children through parental involvement in the life of the school. The organization strives to foster open communication between parents and teachers; create opportunities for social interaction between families, teachers, administration and staff; provide a forum to showcase the talents and accomplishments of the children; and raise funds for the accomplishment of these objectives.

Parents or guardians of students attending North American Martyrs School are members of the PTO and are expected to attend and to volunteer at school functions.