ANNUAL CATHOLIC Thanks Giving APPEAL

Education is one of those services which in our life continues to be a desire for our people, but also continues to increase in cost. The Diocesan Tuition Subsidy program offers the opportunity for our people to help those who cannot afford a Catholic education for their children and yet choose this form of education. Over the past eight years you have assisted us in offering this educational opportunity for hundreds of children. The stories of a few of them are told here.

● Susan will be a senior at Nazareth Academy next year. She's a quiet girl and works hard at her studies. Her mother has been in and out of hospitals ever since Susan can remember, and her father is disabled. When she's not in school, Susan spends most of her spare time watching her younger brothers and sisters. Those who attend morning Mass at Susan's parish can count on seeing her there every day.

Susan has been able to attend Nazareth Academy only because she has received Diocesan Tuition Subsidy. She has worked after school -- cleaning classrooms, washing chalkboards, and even washing out waste baskets -- to make up what Diocesan Tuition Subsidy has not covered.

Susan would like to continue her education after high school, but is not sure if she'll be able to go full time.

"If I can't go to college, at least I know that I was able to go to a Catholic high school," she says. "That means more to me than anything else."

● Mrs. Smith was on welfare the years her husband was in prison. Even when he was released it was difficult for him to get a job. She worked in a department store and her husband was finally able to get a low paying job. Throughout this period, their five children were in a Catholic school because of the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy program. When the family lost one apartment, they successfully found another one near the same neighborhood school. The mother has faithfully worked in the parish over the past 10 years. The children have a good attitude toward schoolwork.

This family is trying to make it on its own. They value highly the Catholic schools and see the Church living out what it teaches.

Division of Education 1983-84

● Janie is a single parent raising a school aged child on her own. Her former husband has disappeared from the scene and has not provided any financial assistance. Janie and her son live in a small rural community where jobs are not plentiful. However, she does have work at a medical facility. Her earnings cannot cover the cost of a Catholic education for her son. She was most grateful for a Diocesan Tuition Subsidy which allowed her to start Stephen in a Catholic school.

The total number of Catholic secondary school applications for the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy was 254. The diocese awarded 83 with a total of $28,740.

The elementary Catholic schools sent 532 applications and 282 were awarded subsidies totaling $95,832. This program has grown from 324 applications to 793 in just three years. Unfortunately, 203 applicants who fitted criteria to receive subsidies could not be funded because money ran out.

*** The children pictured here are randomly selected students in Catholic schools. They have no direct connection with the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy program.**

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