

Annual Appeal at St. Didacus

The Annual Giving Campaign at St. Didacus is a community tradition, now in it's 3rd year. Our goals for the 2011-2012 school year are:

- 100% participation of community members
- \$60,000

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions below to learn more about the Annual Appeal.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Does St. Didacus Parish School Have an Annual Appeal?

- At St. Didacus Parish School, the tuition covers only a portion of the actual cost of educating our students.
- The Annual Appeal was established to assist in covering program expenses that are not covered by tuition income.
- Gifts to the Annual Appeal supplement everything from teacher and staff salaries, to extracurricular activities and maintenance of our campus.
- The campaign allows the school to sustain its academic excellence in the Catholic tradition.
- The campaign also assists in defraying tuition increases in subsequent years through the Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Who Gives to the Annual Giving Campaign?

- Parents, grandparents, Advisory Board, alumni, alumni parents, friends, parishioners, faculty and staff, and corporations who have employee matching gift programs contribute to the Annual Appeal.

Why Does Participation Matter?

- Tuition covers only 85% of the cost of educating each student.
- Giving to the Annual Appeal is a part of our culture at St. Didacus School and we value all gifts whether large or small.
- Every gift counts and makes a difference!
- High rates of participation say a lot about the commitment of the St. Didacus School community to the work the school does with children.

- Participation rates are important confidence indicators – they tell grant-making foundations that look at many schools that our school has a highly supportive community that responds when called upon and believes in the school.
- Also, your philanthropy can make a difference in your own tax status: all gifts to the Annual Appeal are fully tax deductible according to the IRS.

How much should I give?

- Only you can decide how much to contribute to the Annual Appeal each year.
- It is our hope that everyone in the community will follow the families and supporters who preceded you and make St. Didacus School a philanthropic priority.
- The current difference between what is charged for tuition and book fees and the actual cost of educating each student is **\$2,000**.

When should I give?

- The Annual Giving Campaign runs from November to June of every school year. A gift is welcomed and appreciated at any time during this period.
- All members of the community are first asked to pledge in November.
- Since the success of the Annual Appeal factors into the decision about future tuition increases, we appreciate gifts made as early as possible.

Why not set tuition high enough to cover expenses?

- Higher tuition might keep some families from enrolling their children.
- We want to make a Catholic education available to as many parishioners and neighborhood families as possible.
- Community members are asked to give as much to the Annual Appeal as they are able; those who can give more are encouraged to take a leadership role.

Are families who receive financial aid asked to contribute?

Yes. Everyone in the St. Didacus School community is asked to participate with a contribution to the Annual Appeal. Every gift counts, regardless of the amount. Helping others is a foundation of our Catholic faith.

Ways to make a charitable gift:

- Cash – Contributions of cash and checks are welcomed. Checks and money orders should be made payable to “St. Didacus Parish School” with Annual Appeal noted.
- Recurring Monthly Gifts – Many donors find that a monthly check or debit is a convenient way to donate to the Annual Appeal by spreading the gift over several months.
- On-line donations can be made through the school’s website: stdidacusparishschool.org.
- United Way (UW) - To support the school through the United Way Campaign, donors must write in St. Didacus Parish School on your forms.
- Employer Matching Gifts – Your gift may be matched by your employer.
- Planned Giving - Supporters can help insure the long-term security of the school through planned giving. Gifts of this type may be made in the form of a will bequest, life insurance beneficiary or through a retirement plan.

Gift Recognition

Every gift is recognized on the Annual Appeal section of the school’s website. Gifts are recognized by the following gift levels.

St. Didacus Society	\$10,000 and above
Sisters of Mercy Circle	\$5000-\$9999
Principal’s Roundtable	\$1,000 - \$4999
Distinguished “Padres”	\$500 - \$999
Honor Roll	\$250 - \$499
Head of the Class	\$100 - \$249
Teacher’s Pet	up to \$99

Donors may elect to have their donation be anonymous.

Our “Outstanding Contributors to Catholic Education” plaque in the school hallway is inscribed with the names of donors contributing at the \$5,000 level and the \$10,000 level for a single gift or continuous gifts that total \$5,000.