

May 5, 2010

Dear Parents,

In this difficult economy, we wish to thank St. Cecilia School families for making Catholic education for your children a priority. We want to inform you about the availability of funds for tuition assistance for the 2010-2011 school year.

For many years, St. Cecilia School has been able to provide tuition assistance to families through the generosity of donors and foundations and from interest earned on the parish's Monsignor Collins Endowment Fund. Unsurprisingly, these challenging times continue to have an affect on the parish and school.

Next year, we will use \$70,000 from the interest on the Collins Fund as revenue for the 2010-2011 school budget. The School Finance Committee has allocated \$40,000 of this amount for operating expenses and \$30,000 for tuition assistance. As always, tuition assistance is only made available to families who participate in the life of the parish and school and have financial need.

We are aware that economic conditions have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Given this, we anticipate that requests for tuition assistance will exceed available resources. In justice, families applying for assistance must make school tuition a high priority in the family budget. Before applying, the Finance Committee respectfully requests that each family thoughtfully consider:

- Looking at your budget in a realistic way, how much can you afford to pay each month for tuition?
- What steps has your family taken to cut back on extra-curricular expenses?
(Families receiving financial aid will not be able to participate in the school music program.)

We will keep the process of applying for these funds personal and confidential. If you would like to apply for financial assistance with tuition, please email Sister Marilyn to obtain an application form: mmiller@stceciliaschool.org

When submitting your completed application, you must attach:

- Your 2009 federal tax return, and
- A letter which indicates your reasons for applying for assistance, the ways in which you participate in the life of the school and parish, and your family's efforts to make the payment of tuition at St. Cecilia School a priority

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer assistance from the Collins Fund if you are receiving aid from the BASIC fund.

*The deadline for the completed application is **Friday, May 21, 2010**.* A response letter will be mailed to all applicants during the month of June.

Sincerely,

Monsignor Michael Harriman, Pastor

Sister Marilyn Miller, Principal