

**Saint Mary School
183 High Ridge Avenue
Ridgefield, CT 06877**

The Saint Mary School Annual Fund

“Faith In Every Student”



OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL FUND

Saint Mary School is pleased to announce this year’s Annual Fund (the “Annual Fund”). As you may know, tuition alone does not cover all the expenses associated with operating our school. Each year we rely on the Annual Fund and generous parish support to make up this deficit. This year, the goals of the Annual Fund are to 1.) help meet school operating expenses and 2.) supplement teacher salaries to more competitive levels.

If we reach our goal, the Annual Fund will be our single fundraiser for this school year. If we are not successful, it will be necessary to have traditional fundraisers to meet our goals.

A successful Annual Fund will have the additional benefit of allowing our Home School Association (“HSA”) to continue focusing on sponsoring events designed exclusively to strengthen our Saint Mary School community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Does The Annual Fund Eliminate Traditional Fundraisers?

Yes, if we reach our Annual Fund goal this year, there will be no other fundraisers to benefit Saint Mary School. However, please note that modest “fundraisers” like the Scholastic book fair may continue in the discretion of our Principal Edward Brennan as long as they serve a core instructional objective (like the promotion of literacy). In addition, small fundraisers to benefit third parties like Relay For Life will continue as they are integral to Saint Mary School’s mission of serving our neighbors. The Annual Fund does not cover classroom dues, field trip fees, etc...

2. If Tuition Doesn’t Cover All Operating Expenses, Why Not Just Raise Tuition Instead Of Having An Annual Fund?

Saint Mary School is committed to providing an excellent Catholic education to as many students as possible. Simply raising tuition would burden a significant number of families to the point of forcing them possibly to seek other educational options. Thankfully, there have been families who have financially contributed more than tuition over the years, either through direct gifts or extraordinary support. This effort to keep tuition affordable has allowed our student body to grow.

3. Why Is It Important To Make A Contribution To The Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is vital to meeting our operating expenses and supplementing the salaries of our dedicated faculty. In addition, with your

support of the Annual Fund, Saint Mary School will be able to keep Catholic education affordable to as many families as possible. While every family may not be in a position to make the suggested contribution, we hope that every family will participate by contributing as much as they can. Please remember that Saint Mary School has a limited donor base compared to larger schools, therefore every donation is critical and very much appreciated.



Our Talented Middle Schoolers



4. What Will The Money Be Used For?

The goals of the Annual Fund are to 1.) help meet the operating expenses of our school (which include salaries, utilities, equipment, etc.) and 2.) to supplement teacher and staff salaries to more competitive levels through Appreciation Awards.

5. Is It Possible To Make A Contribution In Installments?

Yes, please contact Saint Mary School Business Manager Pam Rowella at (203) 438-7288 Ext. 233 if you would like to set up an installment plan. We ask that all contributions be completed by April 1st if possible. This deadline will allow time to determine the success of the Annual Fund and, if needed, plan a traditional fundraiser(s) before the end of the academic year should it be necessary to meet our goals.

6. Will We Receive A Tax Benefit From My Contribution?

Yes, since Saint Mary School is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation, your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please contact your tax professional for further information. Once your contribution is received, Pam Rowella will provide you with a written acknowledgement. Please note that contributions are tax deductible only in the year in which received by Saint Mary School, so please consider completing your contribution before the calendar year end.

7. Is There Anything We Can Do To Enhance Our Contribution?

Yes, many employers offer corporate “matching gift” programs. In some cases, contributions from spouses and even retired employees will be matched as well. Please take the time to determine whether your employer offers such a program – it could serve to multiply your contribution. Please contact Pam Rowella for any assistance or documentation you might need in order to facilitate a matching contribution.

Additionally, if you think your employer (or any other corporation to which you have ties) might be willing to make an additional financial contribution or gift of goods or services, please contact Pam Rowella or Principal Brennan.

8. Why Is 100% Participation In The Annual Fund Important?

Getting 100% participation in the Fund is critically important because Saint Mary School intends to explore more fully the possibility of receiving foundation grants. Foundations typically inquire about the level of participation by an organization’s constituents before awarding grants to a school like ours. A high level of participation is a signal that our community is committed to our school.



9. Can We Make A Gift Of An Asset. . . Like Securities?

Yes. Often, a gift of securities can bring the donor greater tax savings than a cash gift. The donor avoids paying capital gains taxes on the donated asset and also receives a charitable deduction for its full fair market value. Please consult your tax professional for advice.



10. How Do We Make A Contribution To The Annual Fund?

You will receive a phone call during the week of November 10 by a Parent Solicitor who will speak with you about the importance of the Annual Fund, answer any questions you may have and hopefully record your contribution amount.

Your pledge will be passed along to Pam Rowella who will then mail you a letter confirming your contribution amount. Along with this letter, there will be a return envelope so that you can make your contribution directly to Pam Rowella.

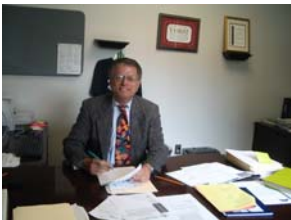


Please keep in mind that it is our children who ultimately benefit from this effort. Since the Annual Fund is an important part of Saint Mary School's financial health, every single contribution is needed and very much appreciated!

***Our Dedicated
Principal
and Staff***

11. Is Our Contribution To The Annual Fund Confidential?

Yes, the amount of your contribution will only be known by the Parent Solicitor who contacts you and Pam Rowella, who will receive the funds. No one else will have information about individual family contributions. Parent Solicitors understand the need to keep all conversations confidential.



12. Who Do We Contact If We Have Questions?

Please feel free to contact your Parent Solicitor or our Business Manager:

Pam Rowella
Saint Mary School
(203) 438-7288, Ext. 233
Email: rowellap@diobptedu.org



Saint Mary School – Annual Fund Appeal

Donation Form

We are grateful to those who have chosen to support the Annual Fund Appeal for Saint Mary School. Your generosity remains a vote of confidence in our efforts to provide the very best in a Catholic education to our children.

Please provide the following information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Donation Type: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Company Matching Gift
Name: _____

Company Matching Gift
Contact and Address: _____

Is This A Credit Card
Donation: Yes No

Gifts made to Saint Mary School are tax deductible as allowed by law. Our tax exempt identification number is 20-3204529. Please send this Donation Form to Pam Rowella at Saint Mary School, 183 High Ridge Avenue, Ridgefield, CT 06877 or call her at (203) 438-7288, Extension 233 or email her at ROWELLAP@diobptedu.org for more information or if you have any questions.