



# ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE

---

## OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

September, 2023

Dear Supporters of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Mobile,

Our Catholic schools offer outstanding education and formation in Gospel values, which provide our children with an excellent foundation for the future. Despite the generous efforts of our schools and parishes to provide tuition assistance, not every family can afford the cost of a Catholic school education.

Americans cherish the freedom to choose, but only parents with sufficient financial resources can choose which school is best for their child. A decade ago, the State of Alabama enacted a scholarship program to provide scholarship funds for low and modest-income families, so that these families can also choose which school is best for their child. This year, the scholarship program was expanded to include more middle-income families and students with unique learning needs. This will allow us to reach even more families who need financial assistance in our Catholic schools.

Through this program, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund (AOSF) has provided hundreds of scholarships to families within the Archdiocese of Mobile. I urge you to support the AOSF, especially now that so many more families can benefit from this program. It is people like you who make this support possible. Your prompt tax credit will make sure that these families will continue to receive the blessing of a Catholic education, **and it won't cost you a penny. This letter is NOT asking for a charitable donation.**

Through the Alabama Accountability Act, you can support the AOSF at no expense because these are dollars you are already required to pay in Alabama State Taxes. Let's say you had \$1,000 taken out of your paycheck last year in Alabama Income Tax. The state allows you instead to send that \$1,000 directly to the scholarship program and gives you credit as if you paid your taxes normally to the state. Simply put, through this program, you can redirect the money you would normally pay in taxes to Catholic school students in need of financial assistance. It's truly that simple and costs you no money out of pocket.

Last year, these tax credits ran out before the end of the year, so please consider acting immediately so that the many children seeking a Catholic education within the Archdiocese of Mobile can find their home here within our Catholic schools. *Quarterly taxes are due September 15 and taxpayers can write a check directly to the AOSF.*

You may also visit [AlabamaScholarshipFund.org/donors](http://AlabamaScholarshipFund.org/donors) for more information about AOSF and further instructions on how to claim your tax credit. If you have questions in the process, feel free to reach out to Hailey Kerstiens, our Archdiocesan communications coordinator at [hkerstiens@mobarch.org](mailto:hkerstiens@mobarch.org).

Sincerely in the Lord,

Chad Barwick,  
Superintendent of Catholic Education