

Active Contributing Parishioner - definition for establishing school tuition rates.

Starting school year 2010-2011 St. Mark Catholic School will only have two Tuition Rates available as follows: 1- registered, active, contributing parishioner of a Diocese of Raleigh parish and 2- other.

The definition of “**a registered, active, contributing parishioner**” is one who has been registered for at least the last 6 months, has contributed to their parish offertory in a regular identifiable way, attends Mass at their parish regularly, and shares their time and talent with the parish. Although no specific amount of regular offertory participation is being stated, there is one piece of information that may be helpful in your discernment. All local Catholic churches have agreed to send \$500 per year (approximately \$10 per week) to offset tuition costs for each of their students attending St Mark Catholic School provided the family is actively participating in their parish. This \$500 per student per year offertory support enables St Mark School to keep tuition rates lower.

Identifiable and regular offertory support also requires using envelopes, checks, E Debits, or any other way that permits posting donations by family name into the parish's data base system used to issue end of year statements. This data base is queried by the Pastor or authorized Parish Administrator to verify participation prior to signing the annual STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC PARISH PARTICIPATION form. This form is part of student registration paper work used to set student specific tuition rates. This data base also has a comment section where your time and talent stewardship work can be noted by the Ministry Director who is leading the program you support.

This change in tuition structure is at the directive of St. Mark's Finance Council in fairness to active parishioners that support the **ministry of Christian education** even though they do not have children attending our school. Parish registration without active participation does not qualify a family for the lower tuition rate out of justice to the whole parish community that actively supports education as one of their primary ministries.

Anyone that would like to see how the data base works is welcome to visit my office for a demonstration. If there are any unique situations that would best be worked in a private confidential discussion, please feel free to visit and share your thoughts with candor.

Best regards,

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