

Eastern Niagara Vicariate Parish Tuition Assistance **Guidelines**

Parishes strive to provide the fullest opportunity for our young people as they grow in faith and knowledge of God. DeSales Catholic School provides a complete education based upon the Gospel. Each parish in Eastern Niagara County is committed to supporting active parish members with **Parish Tuition Assistance**.

To provide parish assistance to parents wishing to have their children attend **Grades K-8** at DeSales, a common criterion has been worked out with all of the parishes in the Eastern Niagara Vicariate. The following criterion will be used to determine whether a family will receive **Parish Tuition Assistance**:

1. **Parish Registration/Sunday Mass Attendance** – Tuition Assistance is available to any family that is registered and active in a parish. The family must be registered in a parish for at least a year and attend Mass on a weekly basis with their children. It is most certainly paramount that our children are allowed to worship in a parish faith community on Sundays in order to understand that they are nourished in faith at the parish celebration of the Eucharist.

If a family transfers from one parish to another within the vicariate then a period of at least six months to a year would be required prior to the requesting of tuition assistance. Because of the Journey of Faith and Grace and the merging of parishes, this will not apply to those affected by a parish closing.

2. **Active Parish Participation/Ministry** – In order for a vibrant parish to continue to carry out its ministry it is essential that all members participate within the parish. It would be required that anyone requesting assistance would take part in the ministry of the parish as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, choir member, or as a volunteer in the numerous activities of the parish. This would provide another opportunity for our young people to see the close connection between faith and service.
3. **Stewardship/Financial Contribution** – The financial support of any parish is crucial for its overall growth and ministry. It is expected that a family requesting Parish Tuition Assistance would contribute weekly to their parish offertory according to their means.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide a solid foundation for both DeSales and the parishes in Eastern Niagara County. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of raising our children in the practice of the faith. Together we can meet the challenge of providing both a strong Catholic school education and vibrant parishes in which our children mature in faith, hope and love.