



## Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School Annual Fund Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the KMC Annual Fund?

A: The KMC Annual Fund is made up of gifts from parents, alumni, faculty and staff, parents of alumni, former faculty and staff, grandparents, and friends. In 2017-18, gifts from more than a thousand donors added up to \$385,013 in operating support. All these contributions have an immediate impact on the quality of the school and directly benefit KMC students.

Q: Why does KMC have an Annual Fund?

A: Simply put, it takes significant resources to operate a Catholic high school; even more than a parochial primary or middle school. The high school is larger, the curriculum is more complex and the needs of the faculty are more extensive in the high school setting.

The education income that KMC receives from its feeder parishes, all of which comes from the tithing of the faithful, does not fully cover the costs of a Catholic high school education. Like other parochial high schools, KMC relies on donations to help meet annual operating expenses.

For 2017-18, the gap between educational income from parish tithing and expenses was \$450,000 or about 8% of the budget. \$6,000 is the basic cost per student and on average, we receive \$5,500 from parish support, fees and other revenue, leaving a \$500 gap per student. Annual giving helps fill this gap.

The Crusader Annual Fund goal is \$450,000 to cover our Crusade:

\$5,500: Average support from parish and student fees  
-\$6,000: Basic cost to educate a KMC student each year  
**\$500:** Remainder per student covered by the Crusader Annual Fund

Q: What does the Annual Fund do for KMC?

A: The Annual Fund provides resources for the operating budget, which supports everything from the latest technology and hardware, to the best teaching tools and classroom equipment, athletic and arts programs, safety and security for the campus, maintenance and upkeep, financial assistance, as well as faculty salaries and compensation (maybe the most important!) --all aspects of the school from the nitty-gritty to the inspiring.

Q: I tithe through my church, why am I asked to give more?

A: By helping to cover the gap between the actual cost to educate a student at the school each year and parish support, your gift to the Annual Fund directly influences the educational experience students have at KMC. The availability of more resources equals access to more educational tools. It's the difference between good and great. Also, contributions to KMC are tax-deductible, whereas fees are not. When you donate to the Annual Fund, you help keep fees lower and your gifts could entitle you to a tax benefit.

From the foundation of the United Catholic Stewardship model for educational funding, the intention was for the Catholic high schools, which are not owned by a parish, (as opposed to the primary and middle schools that are directly connected to a parish), to have three funding sources:



- Parish direct support and subsidy (your tithe to your parish)
- Fees (i.e. tuition of non-Catholic students, grants, athletic/activity charges)
- Development, primarily from the Annual Fund and other donations

Some illustrate it as a three-legged stool- without all the legs, it would surely fall.

Q: What is the time period for the Annual Fund?

A: Each year, the KMC Annual Fund runs from July 1 through June 30 of the next year.

Q: Why not raise fees instead of asking for support?

A: The Diocese of Wichita Catholic Schools Office tries to keep fees as low as possible so as many Catholic families as possible are able to afford a Catholic high school education. Raising fees would unintentionally restrict the number of families who could attend the school. At the same time, we must maintain the excellence of our academic programs. Charitable contributions help us achieve both goals.

Q: Who else is asked to give?

A: Everyone in the KMC community is a stakeholder in our school, from our current students and parents, to grandparents, to our feeder parishes, to our vast alumni base and their parents, to our supporting businesses and special friends. The Annual Fund seeks to connect all of these invested groups for the betterment of our school. We ask support from all these stakeholders, who all have unique interests in keeping our school operating at the highest levels of success, or as a way to say thank you for providing a springboard for success that our alumni consistently and thankfully achieve. Every gift matters.

Q: Why is parental support so important?

A: While we rely on the generosity of alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends of the school, we find the most invested stakeholders are those who currently experience the significant value of a high caliber Catholic education at a cost that is a fraction of what they would pay in a tuition-based system. Parental support, both financially and spiritually, is the lifeblood of our continued success. Plus, this participation by our current parents is a sign to our alumni and friends, as well charitable foundations, that our value is recognized and appreciated by those who are most currently tied to our school.

Q: How much should I consider giving?

A: We hope that every parent will be as generous as possible. In the past, donations have ranged from \$10 to more than \$25,000. Gifts of all sizes are needed and welcome. Every dollar makes a difference, and every student benefits. We hope that every family will consider giving at least \$500. But all charitable giving, according to our stewardship way of life, should be sacrificial, generous and proportional to the gifts that God has given, and should never replace a gift to your home parish.

Q: How does the Annual Fund help the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund?

A: A percentage of all monies raised from the KMC Annual Fund support our feeder parishes that struggle financially to provide a Catholic K-12 education for their students. This is facilitated through the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund. So in essence, these funds ultimately benefit KMC with students from these parishes.

Q: What are my options for giving? What if I can't give at this time?

A: There are many ways to give. Pay now in a one-time gift, make a pledge now and defer payment until later, or you can also pay in installments, if that is more convenient for you. All pledged payments must be received by the close of the Annual Fund, which is June 30. We also encourage families to consider \$50 a month for 10 months, as part of our pledge program. You can set up payment arrangements and automatic withdrawals through the KMC Development Office.

Q: Do matching gifts count?

A: Yes. When you make a gift to KMC, you can double or triple its impact by checking with your employer to see if they participate in a matching gift program. Many companies and foundations match the value of charitable gifts made by employees and their spouses, board members, and retirees.

Q: Why should we have to pay for a Catholic high school education? We have been a part of the diocese our whole lives and have been giving to our parish as good stewards.

A: For this we thank you on behalf of all who benefit from Catholic education in the Wichita Diocese. We are all called as disciples of Christ to live as generous stewards of the gifts we have been entrusted with. It is only through everyone striving to live as full disciples of Christ that we can sustain Unified Catholic Stewardship, which provides the foundation for education within the Diocese of Wichita. Our diocese is the only diocese in the country to offer a stewardship model for education that extends through high school. Most Catholic high schools in our neighboring dioceses charge an average of \$8,500 per student per year of education, regardless of a family's tithing history. We are very blessed to live in the Diocese of Wichita.

Q: What more do I need to know?

A: A successful Annual Fund, supported by a large percentage of the KMC community, directly contributes to the experience students have at KMC. It also demonstrates pride in the school and reflects our belief in the education our institution provides. If you have any questions, please contact Chenay Sloan, Director of Advancement, at 316.636.9612 or [csloan@kapaun.org](mailto:csloan@kapaun.org).