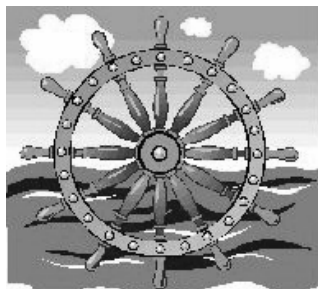


STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

Tom Orsi, Chair
Jane Allen
Francis Dwyer
Martha Dwyer
Arlene Gardiner
John Gibbons
Elizabeth McGrath
Walter Pannone
Raymond Vallee

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us. May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

COST-BASED TUITION/NEEDS-BASED AID

As mentioned in last week's bulletin insert, the subcommittee dealing with school finances is working on establishing potential tuition rates using the cost-based tuition/needs-based financial aid model. This model is quite different from the traditional model currently used in most parishes.

THE TRADITIONAL MODEL

- ♦ **Step One** under this method is to set the tuition at an amount similar to neighboring schools or at what school officials believe most parents can pay.
- ♦ **Step Two** is to figure out where the rest of the funding will come from to cover the cost of running the school.

The difference between the revenue earned through tuition and the actual cost to run the school is made up through fundraising and through a subsidy from the parish. In some parishes, the subsidy may be \$60,000-\$100,000, well above the mandated minimums required by the Diocese. Different tuition rates are set for in-parish and out-of-parish children. Automatic discounts are offered to families with more than one child attending the school, no matter what the parents' ability to pay may be. Teachers' salaries are quite low, often not exceeding \$30,000 after numerous years of service. **ONE PROBLEM:** the cost for every child is being subsidized by the parish even if the parents don't need a subsidy.

COST-BASED TUITION / NEEDS-BASED FINANCIAL AID MODEL

(used by Monsignor Clarke in Wakefield),

- ♦ **Step One** is to determine the actual cost to educate each child, including capital costs and adequate teacher salaries and benefits.
- ♦ **Step Two** is to set the tuition at that amount.
- ♦ **Step Three** is for parents who need financial aid to submit their financial data to an independent source, much the same way parents of college students submit their financial aid information each year.

Each parish in the Diocese is required to assist Catholic education by either paying into Diocesan financial aid funds, by supporting parish students attending Catholic schools, or by supporting its own school. Rather than subsidizing parents who have sufficient means, the mandated parish subsidy (including funds from other parishes whose students may attend our school) will be available to help those who truly require assistance. Automatic discounts will be replaced by objective assessments of need, even for in-parish students and multiple-child families.

Goal:

Quality Catholic Education that is Adequately Funded yet Affordable to All