

**TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICY for the “OTHER PARISH SUBSIDY”
FOR ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH**

In order to be considered for tuition assistance known as “Other Parish Subsidy” [OPS], the following criteria must be met:

1. The family must be a registered member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for at least one year [12 months] prior to the request for tuition assistance.
2. The parents or guardian of the child(ren) seeking consideration for OPS tuition assistance must be an active member according to the parish definition of the word *“parishioner.”
3. The parents or guardian of the child(ren) seeking consideration for tuition assistance *for the amount they are responsible for*, are encouraged to fill out a Private School Aid Service Form. In order to protect privacy, the completed Private School Aid Service Form will be analyzed and scored by an outside firm designated by the Diocese of Gary.
4. A Private School Aid Service Form may be completed and turned in to the parish office for every school year in which tuition assistance is requested from the parish.

For those students accepted for the OPS tuition assistance program, the following criteria must be maintained, Per Policy On Catholic Education, Diocese of Gary as promulgated by Bishop Dale J. Melczek: “parishes without a school who have Catholic parents who wish to send their children to a host parish school, must pay the difference between the actual cost of instruction and the parishioners tuition rate.” This amount is known as the “*OTHER PARISH SUBSIDY*”.

Line “C” of the Diocesan policy states: Catholic parents who *do not support their parish* pay a tuition that is equal to the actual cost of instruction.

The Federal Government does not allow the Church to establish a specific dollar amount as a minimum contribution in order to be eligible for Tuition Assistance.

However the Bishop’s policy does require you to be a supporting member of the parish to be eligible for the subsidy. It is from the bible that we receive our guidance for the call to title unto the Lord, thus to “support the parish” mission.

It is in the Bible, Jacob makes this vow to title: *“If God remains with me, to protect me on this journey I am making and to give me enough bread to eat and clothing to wear, and I come back safe to my father’s house, the Lord shall be my God. This stone that I have set up as a memorial stone shall be God’s abode. Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you.”* *Genesis 28:20-22*

Families applying for the tuition subsidy are asked to use this biblical tradition of tithing to guide them in making their own parish contributions.

