

INSTITUTE FOR  
CATHOLIC LIBERAL  
EDUCATION

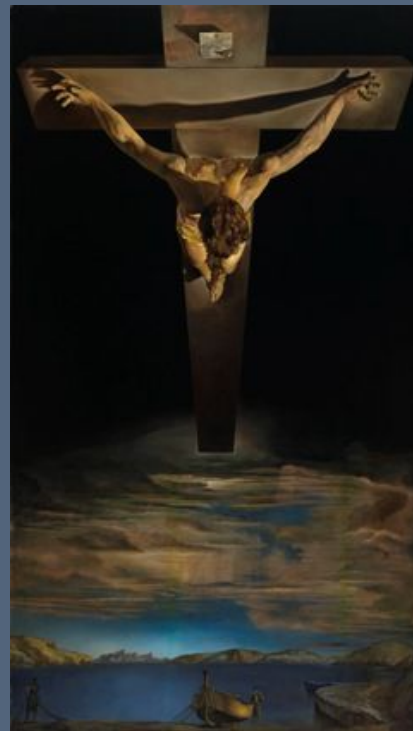
# Budgets and Fundraising

Rosemary Vander Weele  
April 1st, 2025

# OPENING PRAYER

I hunger for You, true Bread, living Bread, Bread of life. You know what my hunger is-hunger of the soul, hunger of the body-and You will to provide for the one as well as for the other. By Your teaching, by Your Body and Blood, You strengthen my spirit; You strengthen it abundantly, withholding nothing, except what I myself keep by the coldness of my love, the smallness of my heart. You have set a rich and abundant table for me, beyond anything imaginable, which I have only to approach in order to be fed. You not only welcome me, but You Yourself become my food and drink when You give Yourself wholly to me, wholly in Your divinity, wholly in Your humanity.

In Your infinite goodness, You have even set a table for my body, and Your Providence feeds it, clothes it, and maintains it in life like the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. You know my needs, my pains, my preoccupation with the past, the present, and the future; and You provide for everything with a paternal love. O Lord, why do I not confide in You, why do I not cast all my cares on You, certain that You will find a remedy for all of them? I entrust my life to You, the life of my body, my earthly life with all its needs and its labors, as well as the life of my soul with all its necessities, its pains, its hunger for the infinite. Only You can fill up the emptiness in my heart, only You can make me happy. You alone can bring about my ideal of sanctity union with You.



# Building a Budget

- Rely on support from **Finance Council or Board** to help build a sustainable budget.
- If you cannot add items to your budget for this upcoming year, **begin a list now** for the following year of must haves, for example:
  - **Professional Development**
  - *Mental health support*
  - **Parent Formation**
- Spend time in this process, work with your team to understand and make decisions for the **mission** of the school.  
Offer early bird specials on registration to help determine staffing needs.
- Have **specific** line items to approach **donors** for funding: specific scholarship opportunities (one that is not met through grants), endowment of staff position, *fine arts*, etc.
- We did not enter education to build budgets; you need knowledge and expertise in budgeting process, but be sure up ask for help. Know the needs of the school, enroll mission fit families, and help come up with ways to fill the gap.

Our Lady of Lourdes							
Statement of Activities - Summary							
31-Dec-23							
	Current						
	Month Actual	YTD Last Year	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Less	YTD Budget vs.	Annual Budget
					YTD Last Year	YTD Actual	
<b>Income</b>							
School (K-8)							
School Campus 2							
Pre-K (Pre-School)							
Pre-K (Pre-School) 2							
Athletic Activity							
Childcare (Day Care)							
Cafeteria							
Income Totals:	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Expense</b>							
School (K-8)							
School Campus 2							
Pre-K (Pre-School)							
Pre-K (Pre-School) 2							
Athletic Activity							
Cafeteria							
Expense Totals:							
Income - Expense:							

- Know your needs! Knowing the cost to educate and the **gap** you are working within is critical when talking to donors.

# Filling the Gap...Building a Budget

- **School Income:**

- Tuition
- Scholarships
- Registration fees
- Grants
- Grocery Cards
- Gifts

- **School Expense:**

- Teachers Salary
- Administration salary
- Substitute teachers
- Office Staff
- Professional Development
- Books (Non-Consumable)
- Classroom Supplies
- Maintenance
- Building repairs/  
Deferred Maintenance
- Marketing and advertising



# Fundraising Strategies

- Stay grounded in the mission!
- Be passionate about your mission, know what the Church has said about Catholic education.
- Get to know your donor base; who are the heavy hitters at the parish, who is passionate about education in your diocese?
- Have a parish wide event to teach parishioners about the renewal effort at your school...make it an enjoyable, inspiring event!
- *Relationships = Fundraising*





# Fundraising continued...



- Do NOT **overburden** families with little fundraisers throughout the year.
- Make parents **aware** of their fundraising obligations on the tuition contract. (Contribute item valued at \$125 for Silent Auction or pay the \$100 opt out fee.)
- Make parents aware of your philosophy behind fundraising strategies. **Always honor the Domestic Church.**
- Make fundraising events **centered on the mission.**

# From St. Anyone's Academy Tuition Contract

..."It is the goal of St. Anyone's Academy to keep tuition affordable. Yet, the difference between tuition and St. Anyone's Academy's educational cost for each child is significant. We are asking that each family commit to volunteering time and helping raise a part of this difference either through school fund-raisers or by other means and to aid in public awareness of the Academy. **Donations to St. Anyone's Academy are 100% tax deductible.**

**Fundraising** - Through the means of our auction/dinner, jog-a-thon, golf-a-thon, and other activities approved by the board, **we commit as a family to raising at least \$2,000 (or, we will make a donation by writing a check for that amount before May 15, 2024).**"

Note: SAA has only 3 Fundraisers a year: Moms', Kids' and Dads'.  
No 'death by candy, wrapping paper and magazines,' etc.

# Whom to ask...

- **Everyone** can contribute something.
- Have collateral that states cost of tuition, cost of education, etc.
- Set the expectation to families that everyone helps cover the gap, invite grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. If families are excited about their children's school, they are eager to help raise money.
- Don't badger parents about raising money every week/month, pick 3 or 4 times a year when you ask them to fulfill their commitments.
- Celebrate large gifts and grants publicly (+ reminder)
- Have you pastor support the school from the pulpit and encourage support from parishioners who do not have children. (Why is education critical right now?)
- Alumni

COST TO EDUCATE PER  
STUDENT:  
\$8,850

ANNUAL K-8 TUITION:  
\$6,720

AVERAGE TUITION  
RECEIVED PER STUDENT:  
\$4,400

AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILY  
RECEIVING TUITION  
ASSISTANCE:  
5.7 PEOPLE

55% OF STUDENTS UNABLE  
TO PAY STATED TUITION  
RECEIVE FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE

IN THE CURRENT  
ECONOMY OUR COSTS  
AND THE NEEDS OF OUR  
FAMILIES ARE CONTINUING  
TO INCREASE!

## Why Give?

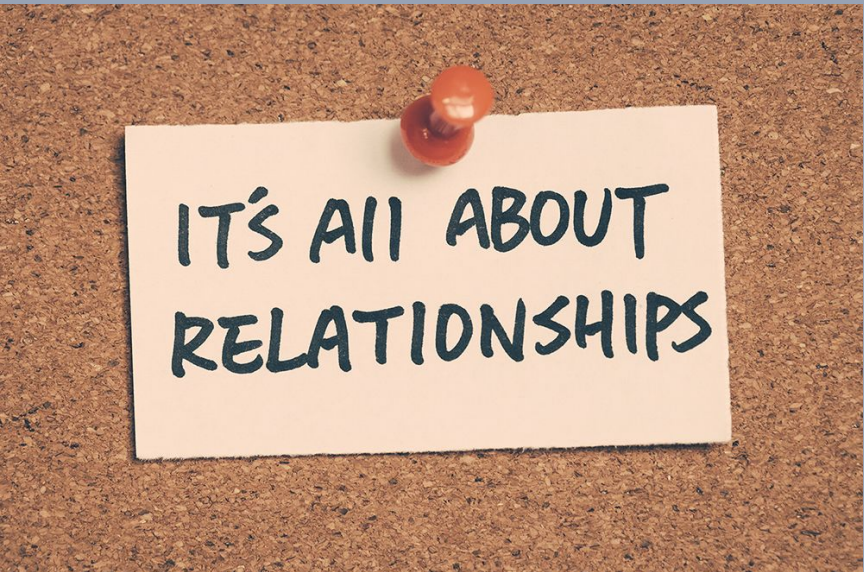
- *Our mission is centered on the authority given to parents by the Church as the primary educators of their children. Our partnership with parents creates a beautiful and supportive community that is one of a kind!*
- *We are authentically Catholic: our students attend mass four days per week; in addition to providing a quality education, we seek to form disciples of Christ who love their faith. Our rigorous Catholic Classical education prepares students to be lifelong learners committed to excellence in any vocation.*
- *While US Catholic school enrollment is declining, our school is growing! Since adopting the Catholic Classical model of education in 2011, our enrollment has increased 214%.*
- *Today our two campuses at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Louis parishes serve 340 students (preschool - 8th grade).*
- *We draw families from across the Denver metro-area, serving students from 46 zip codes.*
- *We strive to make Catholic education affordable for our families, many of whom have only one income and several children in school.*

## 3 Ways to Donate by December 31

- Place your check in the offertory basket any time this month noting, "school donation" in the memo line.
- Mail your gift to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Classical School, 2256 South Logan Street, Denver, CO 80210.
- Visit [www.lourdesclassical.org/donate](http://www.lourdesclassical.org/donate) and click "Donate."



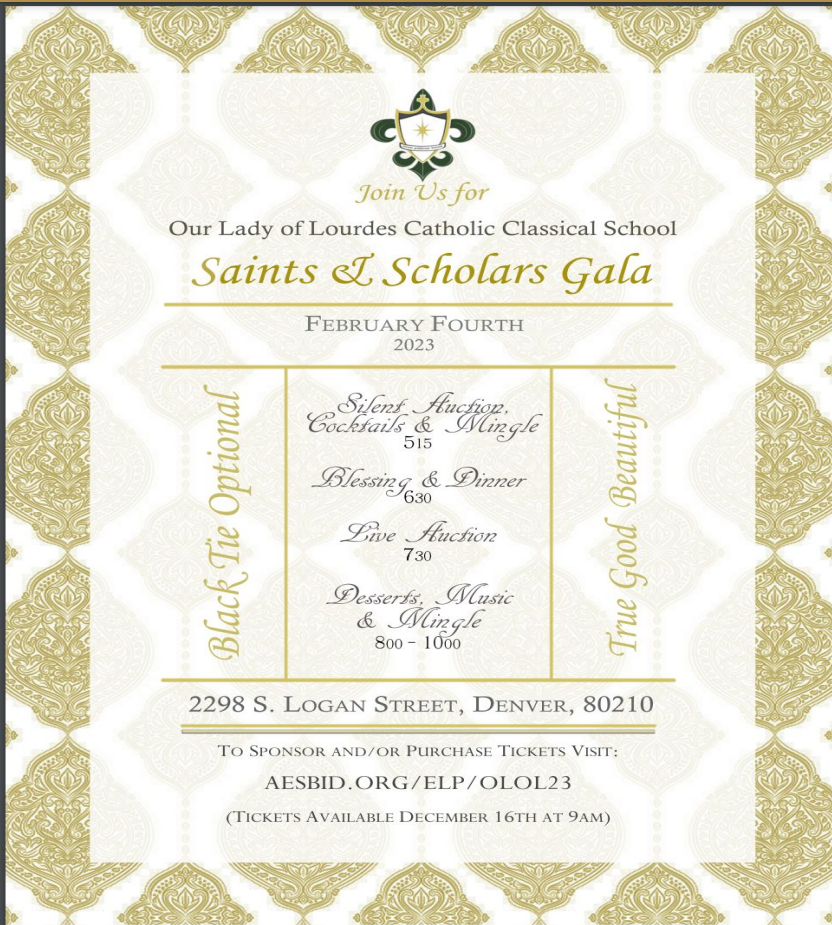
# Whom to ask...



IT'S ALL ABOUT  
RELATIONSHIPS

- Spend time with your pastor to list out the big donors in your area, or beyond. Dream big!
- Reach out to those on the list, invite them to Mass and to tour the school. Be relentless!
- Follow any connections/ leads offered to you.
- ***Share your story!*** Benefactors want to give to a school that is doing something right, not just surviving! Be on fire with your mission!
  - Annual Report
  - Annual State of the School
  - Financial Updates

# Relationship with Donors



- All donors want to see a return on their investment. Always invite them to:
  - Poetry recitations
  - Liturgical parties (All Saints Day Parade, Feast day parties, etc.)
  - Musical performances
  - Sporting events
- Make sure donors know well in **advance** the date of your gala, **ask BIG!**
- **Spend time** with donors in order to win their trust and confidence in your mission.
- Invite them to be part of your team in the proper capacity.
- **Gratitude and humility** are critical.
- **Development as MINISTRY** - bringing Jesus to philanthropists.

# In Summary

- Build your budget in support your mission.
  - Teachers
  - Professional Development
  - Curriculum
- Know the needs of your school in order to fundraise well.
- **Don't nickel and dime parents!**
- Fundraise well- put the effort and time into establishing fundraising events that work.
- List out your top donors. Add 5 more people to that list for the upcoming year. Invite donors in to tour the school and learn why your mission is critical to our Church and culture.
- Be passionate!
- **People Give to People!**
  - Ask BIG!
  - Tap into parent resources to help with fundraising events such as annual gala.
  - Create collateral you can share with donors who will share the great news about your school with others!
  - **Pray! Mother Angelica style.**





# Discussion and homework

## **Homework:**

Answer the following questions in a short write up:

1. What do you need help with in your budget? Who can support you?
2. Who are your current donors? Who are 5 new donors you can reach out to?
3. List key events to invite donors to attend.

Due April 22nd