Paulina plans to attend college and ultimately expand her family's food truck business, as well as offer pro-life advocacy to young women. “I can’t imagine my life without this scholarship,” says Paulina. “I have had great opportunities, great teachers, and great support. My Catholic education has helped my family grow closer together in faith.”

To CEF donors, I want to say thank you very much, and God bless you. This scholarship has done a lot of great things for me, and my faith motivates me to find what I can give back to others.” Learn more about Paulina’s story at cefks.org.

IMPACT

OF YOUR GIFTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR:

$2.5 MILLION
A record amount of scholarships given in school year 2019-20 so far

1,518 STUDENTS receiving a CEF scholarship

MORE STUDENTS NEED YOUR HELP

Your gift will be a game changer for students and families who fear they can’t afford to attend or remain in Catholic schools. By supporting our Campaign for Scholarships, you can give the gift that changes the trajectory of students’ lives – for the better.

Make room in your heart for giving. And we’ll make room for another student.

Visit cefks.org/donate

JOIN US FOR GAUDEAMUS - OCTOBER 24TH, 2020
OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER

Questions? Contact Amy Meara at AMeara@archkck.org, or (913) 721-1574, or visit cefks.org/events.
THE STATE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

In April, more than 600 Catholic leaders joined a conference call with President Trump, making the case that Catholic schools need financial assistance. Kansas City Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Vince Cascone attended the call.

“We’re really scared about September,” Cardinal Dolan told the president. “There’s a sense of urgency about this...parents will have more difficulty and there’s a threat that many schools could close.” Other clergy made a case for support, too.

“Catholic schools are integral to the U.S. education infrastructure,” explained Archbishop Gomez. “We are an important part of essential services, too.” Catholic schools have provided millions of meals during the pandemic.

The president acknowledged the benefits of Catholic schools, especially in service to low-income students through scholarships like those that CEF offers. Cardinal O’Malley agreed, saying, “No institution in the country is as successful in moving children from poverty to middle-class as Catholic schools.”

He noted that Catholic schools educate for less than half the cost of public schools, saving taxpayers $24 billion per year. In Kansas, state revenue is estimated to fall short by about $1.2 billion this year. If just 30% of private school students migrated to public schools next school year, it would cost the state an additional $138 million.

“No institution in the country is as successful in moving children from poverty to middle-class as Catholic schools.”

-Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Boston

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FIND INNOVATION IN PANDEMIC

While many elementary schools have struggled through remote classroom instruction, Catholic schools in our Archdiocese have kept rigorous education and faith development at the forefront of the 4th academic quarter.

“We’re looking at this as a great opportunity,” said principal Tim Conrad of St. Patrick’s Catholic School in Kansas City, Kansas.

Like many of our Catholic schools, St. Pat’s has found great success and opportunity in its continuous learning plan - much of which Conrad attributes to the quality of the school’s teachers. With fall enrollment already up, they’re looking forward to continuing the innovation into next year.

St. Pat’s is expanding its STEM curriculum, focusing on robotics, engineering, and medicine. They also plan to utilize Title 1 funds and support through the federal CARES Act to initiate a free, virtual summer school program for students who fall below grade level.

“The bottom line,” said Conrad, “was how can we make this great for kids, and how can we take this opportunity and make it innovative and productive.”

Read the full story at cefks.org/blog and subscribe to get updates.