



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

---

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260  
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

January 20, 2015

Dear Catholic School Parents, Families, Teachers and Administrators,

Maryland's bishops, through the Maryland Catholic Conference, are encouraging all parents, teachers and others within our school communities to "pledge" to participate in efforts urging their state legislators to enact the Maryland Education Credit. This pledge does not ask for money, but only a few minutes of your time during the legislative session from January to April, 2015.

The proposed Maryland Education Credit legislation would increase tuition assistance for Catholic school families by providing a state tax credit to businesses who donate to scholarship organizations. The proposal has wide bipartisan support and would also help Maryland's businesses to grow. Most importantly, it could help your family with the costs of your child's education. The legislation will help preserve and strengthen our Catholic schools, make Catholic schools more accessible for middle-income families, and make a Catholic education an option for many families who could not otherwise afford it.

Pope Francis has called all Catholics not only to pray for our elected officials, but to participate in the political process, calling such participation "one of the highest forms of charity." We are committed to sustaining the historic contributions that our Catholic schools have made to generations of families in Maryland, but we need your help. With the support of the tens of thousands of parents who send their children to our schools, we can demonstrate to our state legislators the importance of passing the Maryland Education Credit to our school community and families.

I sincerely hope that you will take the pledge to promise your support. The accompanying flyer explains the simple and easy commitment that the "pledge" entails. Pledging just these few minutes of your time could make a world of difference for our Catholic schools. You may pledge your assistance at: <http://www.educationmaryland.org/pledge>.

Thank you and may God bless you and our Catholic school community throughout the school year.

Faithfully in Christ,

Thomas Burnford, D.Min.  
Secretary for Education