

Criteria for Tuition-free status for the academic year 2004-2005

It is the responsibility of Catholic parents to educate the children with whom God blesses them in their Catholic Faith. The Catholic Church has long realized the importance of providing assistance to parents in this very important task. An education at a Catholic school is not only widely recognized as a very valuable educational service in our society today, but even more importantly, it provides an environment where the Catholic Faith can be practiced, modeled and passed on to our future generations. The blessing of a Catholic education to complement the Catholic faith life of the Domestic Church (the home) is beyond price.

Unfortunately, with the rising cost of living, the cost of a Catholic education has risen proportionately. It is sometimes difficult for a young Catholic family to shoulder the weight of tuition at a Catholic school. We at Our Lady Queen of Mercy Catholic Church and School are committed to providing a good Catholic education to the practicing Catholic families of our parish without it being excessively burdensome to the family. Our Church is committed to tithing and supporting our school with such funds. Spreading this monetary burden over the whole parish will alleviate the intensified financial load which parents carried alone in years past.

That being said, during the academic year of 2004-2005, Our Lady Queen of Mercy will provide a tuition-free education to the families of our parishioners who meet the following criteria:

1. Continuous (family) membership in Our Lady Queen of Mercy Catholic Church since August 1, 2003.
2. All grade school children (K - 8th grade) living at home are enrolled in OLQM school during the academic year of 2003-2004.
3. Practicing the Catholic Faith as a family – minimally, this means going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.¹

If you have any questions or would like more information, then please contact us. We look forward to the opportunity to support our parents in preparing our children to live out their Christian faith in the third millennium and in preparation for eternity in Heaven!

¹ It is a serious obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. The *Catechecism of the Catholic Church* states, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin. (#2181)

Our Lady Queen of Mercy Catholic Church and School

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