Dear Salutation:

During this season of giving we have a singular opportunity to make a huge difference for our Catholic school students.

The new Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship (TCS) program allows you to make a gift of scholarships for in-need Catholic school students and receive **75 percent of that gift returned to you as an Illinois state income tax credit**. As we approach the end of the calendar year, this is a powerful way to support low-income students while earning a significant income tax benefit.

And there has never been a better time to take advantage of the TCS program. For a limited time, a group of generous donors has created a **two-to-one matching gift program**, which means that for every dollar you donate to Empower Illinois two more dollars will be donated to the scholarship fund and designated to our school. A matching fund pool will be available for new donations made to any of the more than 160 schools operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Now, when you make a gift to the tax credit scholarship program, you can:

* Help a student in need achieve a life-changing Catholic school education;
* Receive an Illinois state tax credit for 75 percent of your donation;
* Triple the impact of your gift through the matching gift program!

Our school can receive up to $100,000 in donations as part of this matching program. When those funds are matched, the total impact will be $300,000. But we must act fast. The matching gift program will only last until February 28, 2019 or until in matching funds is depleted. Any funds not used at our school before April 1will be used to meet the needs of other low-income families attending an Archdiocesan-operated school.If you want to capture a state tax credit to use in the 2018 tax year, we recommend completing the necessary steps by December 14, 2018.

Here is an example of how powerful this program is: a donor with about $75,000 in income could donate $5,000 which would 1) eliminate Illinois state income tax liability (approximately $3,750) and 2) provide $15,000 in scholarship support (after the $10,000 match). For a total of $1,250 (her donation of $5,000 minus the $3,750 in state credit), this donor has now provided three students with $5,000 in scholarships to use to attend a Catholic school of their choice.

At our school, we received <# of Scholarship> scholarships in this first year of the program, but we still have an additional <number of applicants> students who qualified for a scholarship but did not receive one due to lack of donated funds. Within the Archdiocese of Chicago, there are over 8,000 qualified students who did not receive a TCS scholarship. We want to raise enough funds to provide a scholarship to all qualified students.

**I humbly ask you to consider the gift of education as you look at your year-end giving in 2018**. By donating to the TCS program you can redirect some, or all, of your state tax liability to fund scholarships for families in need within our parish community and across the Archdiocese.

Yours in Christ,