

Dear Saber Family,

Life can have its uncertainty but faith will always bring us hope and see us through. Manistee Catholic Central School has been the foundation for spiritual, intellectual and physical growth, but most importantly... a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Over the past few months, our Manistee Catholic Central School community was hit with devastating news regarding the financial status of our school. It has brought about many questions and an outpour of emotions. It began with the discovery of uncollected past due tuition stemming back a number of years. The school has also endured frequent changes to the administration resulting in a lack of oversight that allowed expenses to significantly outpace revenue. Unfortunately, this information was not made known, nor was it ever presented, to the Foundation.

Father Mitchel Roman and Father Michael Linguar, both priests at Divine Mercy Parish as of June 2023, have reached out to the Catholic community with transparency and an appeal to come together to reach a resolve. The unpaid tuition is substantial. Every effort is being made to collect on tuition owed, but it is unlikely any significant amount will be collected. Even if all of the tuition were to be collected, it will not be enough to save or sustain the school as it operates today. ***Immediate funding is needed as we are preparing for the 2024-2025 school year.***

There are efforts being made to develop new programs to attract more students, find new revenue streams, and reduce costs to make MCC financially viable for the future. In addition, a significant investment in an endowment must be made to supplement tuition revenue and steps are needed to create more thorough oversight. Manistee is not a wealthy area and cannot support a substantial increase in tuition rates. As for the building, God is already clearing the path to handle these infrastructure concerns. A Christ-centered education shouldn't just be for inner cities or wealthy areas. Christ came for all of us. He makes all things new, and we are confident MCC will evolve into something even greater if given a chance.

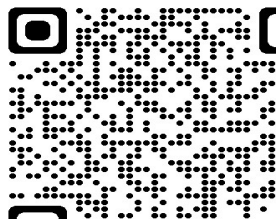
Manistee Catholic Central School has taught and instilled the importance of values, tradition and family that withstand a lifespan and carry on to generations that follow. In a world seemingly working to cancel God, we have the greatest opportunity to share and spread His Word. It has also brought a choice to our community and when a community has choices to offer, it becomes appealing to families and businesses considering relocating. The school is a vital staple in our community and our lives. It is also important for us to remember and recognize the tremendous sacrifices of the men, women, and families before us. They had a vision of what this school could mean for our children and our Christ-centered community. We owe it to them to see this through with that same passion, just as we owe it to our current students and staff to keep the dream alive.

The Manistee Catholic Central Schools Foundation felt compelled to reach out to each and every one of you. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and operates as a *separate entity* of the school directed by a Governing Board. Donations to the Foundation are invested long term. There are accounts within those investments designed to specifically help the school's general budget, tuition, teacher's needs and miscellaneous/emergency necessities. The money invested in the Foundation will always support Catholic education even in the unforeseeable event the school is no longer in need.

It is with a heavy heart that we appeal to you as Alumni, supporters and family. This is a very critical time for our school. A time we had hoped would never come. We have weathered many challenges over the years, but it has always been our faith and school family that has brought us through. May this be the same, once again.

We truly need your help now to save the school. If you are able to donate in any way, please direct your donation to:

- *Manistee Catholic Central Schools Foundation (MCCS Foundation)* by personal check, mailed to **PO Box 43, Manistee, MI 49660**
- Visiting www.manisteccsfoundation.org, scroll to Giving Online
- Through **Zeffy** by scanning the QR code below
(Zeffy is the first & only free online fundraising platform for non-profit organizations)



Please know the Manistee Catholic Central Schools Foundation takes their fiscal responsibility very seriously and will be overseeing your donation and its distribution. Thank you for your consideration and/or donation. Donations are tax deductible. If you would like to donate to the endowment fund, solely, and not the school's 2024-2025 school year operations, please contact one of the officers listed below.

May God continue to bless our Catholic community. Contact information is listed if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Manistee Catholic Central Schools Foundation

President - Dale Kowalkowski dalekowalkowski@gmail.com (231 233-5615) Class of '74

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