



FEATURE STORY

Divine Word Parish shines bright with record-breaking 2023 Angel Scholarship Fund contributions

Divine Word Parish, Kirtland emerged as a beacon of hope and support for Catholic education through its support for the Angel Scholarship Fund in 2023. This vibrant parish achieved an extraordinary milestone by raising more than \$50,000 for ASF — an impressive feat that makes it the top fundraiser among parishes without their own school and highlights its dedication to fostering educational success within the community. The funds raised will go to the school designated by each donor. Nineteen different schools have been beneficiaries of contributions made by Divine Word parishioners.

Father Dave Woost, Divine Word pastor, expressed his gratitude, saying, “Our parishioners are always generous and do amazing work in giving their time, their talent and their treasure. It’s great to see our community’s outreach and support through so many ministries. The Angel Scholarship Fund is really important, because Catholic education really does make a difference in how kids are taught and the life lessons that they learn, so we did our best to let our people know that this is something worthwhile, and how the tax benefit makes it even more attractive.”

ASF contributions will have a lasting impact on many lives, offering students the chance to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential. ASF provides tuition assistance to students across the Diocese of Cleveland, and helps to ensure a quality, faith-based education is within reach for every child, regardless of their family’s financial situation. Ohio taxpayers who contribute to this fund can benefit from a 1:1 state tax credit, making it a win-win for both donors and students. Founding parishioner Joe Mahovlic has

been integral in helping to get the word out. “Participating in the tax credit program is easy, and our support is very helpful to young families that struggle to pay tuition,” he said.

The Munitz Family belongs to Divine Word and are firm believers in Catholic education, with children Leo (fifth grade), Susan (sixth grade), and Kristine (seventh grade) all attending St. Anselm School. Autumn (ninth grade) attends Lake Catholic High School. Adoptive mother Gail is very appreciative of the family receiving three Angel Scholarships in 2024. “When the pandemic came, I was trying to homeschool, but I came to realize that God wanted them in Catholic school. The Angel Scholarship helps to make that possible.”

The Munitz children live their faith through weekly Mass attendance, and the three older children enjoy being Mass servers. Autumn has been serving for seven years. They are especially grateful to be in a Catholic school and for the dedicated teachers who make their favorite classes even more special. For Kristine, that’s social studies. Susan enjoys language arts; Autumn likes science, and Leo loves reading maps in social studies.

As Divine Word Parish celebrates its remarkable achievement, the community looks forward to continuing its support for the Angel Scholarship Fund in 2024, reaffirming its role as a cornerstone of hope and generosity within the diocese. †