

Published on *St. Louis Review* (<http://stlouisreview.com>)

[Home](#) > Families, pastors express thanks for Alive in Christ scholarships

Families, pastors express thanks for Alive in Christ scholarships

By *Anonymous*

Created 10/23/2013 - 2:30pm

Submitted on October 23, 2013

Jennifer Brinker | jbrinker@archstl.org

Main Image

 [198432 web today and tomorrow 20130916 9818.jpg](#) [1]

LISA JOHNSTON | lisajohnston@archstl.org

Jenifer Gannon enrolled her son, Bradley, in the local public school district when he was in kindergarten. As a single mom, it was what she could afford. But after a year, she didn't feel settled. The atmosphere just didn't feel family-oriented.

A product of Catholic education herself, Gannon decided to send Bradley to Sacred Heart School in Florissant for first grade. She paid the full amount of the tuition, but it was a struggle. The following year, Gannon learned about the Alive in Christ Scholarship Program. It was just what she needed to make the tuition affordable and give her son the gift of a quality education in a faith-based school.

Bradley, now a third-grader, is thriving in his new environment. "I was really nervous, being a single mom. But it's been a blessing," said Gannon. "It's been nothing but acceptance. The families are amazing. We have so many friends there. Being with these people has been great."

Gannon said receiving a scholarship from the Alive in Christ program was like winning a "mini lottery. My payment is now affordable."

In its second year, the Alive in Christ Scholarship Program, which grew out of Archbishop Robert J. Carlson's Mission Advancement Initiative, is bearing much fruit. Parents, pastors and principals are expressing their gratitude for the program, which has awarded approximately \$5.4 million in scholarship assistance over two years. For the 2013-14 school year alone, more than 2,500 scholarships have been given to students.

"Providing tuition-assistance scholarships to families throughout the archdiocese to attend or remain in our elementary schools is vital to growing enrollments and a key component to the future viability of our schools," Archbishop Carlson said when the scholarship program was established.

The scholarships are based on economic need, with eligible students receiving up to \$2,000. Applications are available from individual schools and parishes, with applications

submitted directly to the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation. All information is confidential. Scholarship funding comes from a parish assessment established through the archdiocesan Mission Advancement Initiative.

Program administrator Laura George noted that the scholarships follow the students through the eighth grade, as long as families meet eligibility requirements on an annual basis. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

George said in two years, the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation has processed about 6,000 scholarship applications from 101 Catholic elementary schools in the archdiocese, which clearly indicates "the need is there," she said.

Several others have expressed their gratitude for the scholarship program.

Father John Paul Hopping, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Ferguson, said that the parish school has clearly benefited from the Alive in Christ scholarship program. "A couple of our classrooms have completely filled up," he said. "It has helped us fulfill our mission as a mission outreach to the Hispanic community. We were able to offer scholarships to people who otherwise would not be able to be here at all."

Sheila and Dave Roth have desired to give their five children a Catholic education, so when they learned about the Alive in Christ Scholarship program, they applied.

The couple own Ste. Genevieve Butcher Shop in Ste. Genevieve, and four of their children attend Valle Catholic Grade School or High School.

"It can be tough to raise a family of seven on a small business," Sheila Roth said. Thanks to the scholarship they received for their youngest son, Peter, a third-grader, the family is able to "build a foundation for life. As parents we are the primary educators, but after that, our Catholic school provides the building blocks for what they will need for the rest of their lives."

[Local News](#) ^[3] [Archdiocesan offices](#) ^[4] [Religious education](#) ^[5] [alive in christ scholarship](#) ^[6] [archbishop robert j. carlson](#) ^[7] [mission advancement initiative](#) ^[8] [today and tomorrow foundation](#) ^[9]

[Local News](#) [Archdiocesan offices](#) [Religious education](#) [alive in christ scholarship](#) [archbishop robert j. carlson](#) [mission advancement initiative](#) [today and tomorrow foundation](#)

Source URL (retrieved on 10/25/2013 - 8:07am): <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2013-10-23/families-pastors>

Links:

- [1] http://stlouisreview.com/sites/default/files/article-images/198432_web_today_and_tomorrow_20130916_9818.jpg
- [2] <http://stlouisreview.com/comments>
- [3] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/section/local-news>
- [4] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/archdiocesan-offices>
- [5] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/religious-education>
- [6] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/alive-christ-scholarship>
- [7] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/archbishop-robert-j>
- [8] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/mission-advancement-0>
- [9] <http://stlouisreview.com/category/tags/today-and-tomorrow>