

History of the James E. Pierce, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award

Knights of Columbus Councils regularly conduct “Round Tables” where they meet with the Pastors of the Churches that they serve to ask “what can we do for you?” At one such round table discussion in 2010, the Knights of Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council met with the Pastors of both Annunciation and St. Clement Mary Hofbauer parishes. At that meeting, while several ideas were floated around, Fr. Thomas A. Walsh, OFM Conv, Pastor of Annunciation, had but one request – “Could you do something to encourage the parishioners of Annunciation to send their children to St. Clement’s School?”

Since the number one discriminator in helping a family decide whether or not they can send their children to a Catholic School is usually the tuition, it was decided that a Scholarship Fund would be created. And thus the James E. Pierce, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award was born. As of the presentation of the 2018 awards, the Scholarship fund has presented \$24,000 in awards.

How We Do It

The Scholarship is funded through various projects and fundraisers that our Council conducts throughout the year. Ten percent of the Net Profits from any fundraising activity that we conduct that is not earmarked for a specific charity or cause is directed to the Scholarship Fund. Since our Monthly Cash Bingo is our most consistent general fundraising activity, it is also our chief source of revenue for the scholarship fund.

Deadline for applications is March 1st of each year and the reviewing committee meets during March. Winning applicants are notified in the April/May time period. Checks are sent to the school(s) as soon as we verify that the child/children are enrolled for the coming year. For example, awards made in 2019 would be for the 2019-2020 academic year.

What You Need To Know

- The Scholarship ONLY applies to families who are registered parishioners of the Church of the Annunciation, Inc. parish.
- The scholarship award is only applicable to families who wish to send their children to St. Clement & St. Michael School.

- The scholarship is not based on Financial need but there are other criteria.
- There is no set amount of money to be awarded. Past awards have been in the range of \$1,500 to \$3,000, depending on the number of applicants and the amount of money in the fund.
- The deadline for submittals is March 1st.
- Awards are generally presented by May 1st.
- Award checks are made payable to the school. No checks are made payable to individuals.
- Applicants do not have to have any affiliation with the Knights of Columbus.
- Applications are available in the Knights of Columbus display in the back of Annunciation Church during January and February of each year, or they may be obtained by contacting the Financial Secretary of the Council, Walter Wankowski, at 410-866-6546.

Other Scholarships

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus also sponsors other scholarships. The criteria are different.

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus is the sponsor of several High School scholarships for its members and for Catholic Students in general. Below is the complete information on these scholarships and information regarding eligibility for scholarship awards. Awards may be applied to tuition payments only.

Application period is from October 1, 2018 to February 1, 2019. All applications must be received in their entirety by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 1, 2019.

The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship

Designed to assist members of the Knights of Columbus holding membership in councils within the jurisdiction of Maryland in paying tuition for their sons and daughters at accredited Catholic High Schools, two (2) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years, and one (1) additional grant of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years funded by the Maryland Knights of Columbus Insurance Advisors, will be awarded. Awards will be made on the basis of academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year

is contingent on continued academic success. The children of deceased members are also eligible, provided the member was in good standing at the time of death. Funds are applicable to tuition only.

The William J. O'Brien Jr., Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship

Three (3) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years will be awarded. Eligibility for a grant under this program is open to Catholic students who are residents of the State of Maryland. Affiliation with the Knights of Columbus is not required. However, children and grandchildren of a member of a Knights of Columbus council within the jurisdiction of Maryland are also eligible. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or must be students at accredited Catholic High Schools. Applications will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year is contingent on continued academic success. Funds are applicable to tuition only.

Applications and additional information for these scholarships can be downloaded from the State Council Web Site at www.kofc-md.org



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