

# St. Ambrose Parish

APRIL 24, 2022  
BEEHIVE

## Love your parish within its limits



A parish can be disappointing. We want it to be healthy and vibrant, growing and missional, faithful and generous, but we often see more problems than triumphs, more fear than courage, and more weakness than strength in our local congregations. We are not always an attractive lot. When we look outside the walls of our parish, we see so many needs in our communities and across the globe: We want to care for the poor, proclaim the gospel, fight injustice, support struggling families – the list is endless.

Our imagination is excited by what a parish could accomplish, but then we often feel let down at how meager our work actually is. Are we destined to be perpetually disappointed? Every parish has limitations and challenges: physical location, finances, narrow networks, and history shape each and every congregation. The long Covid-19 pandemic has increased the difficulties for many, resulting in less involvement and more mental health challenges, less relational connection and more political polarization.

If we are honest, it can make us feel hopeless. But what if, instead of looking at a parish's limits as mere hindrances, we begin to see them as signs of God's work and promise? What if recognizing our limitations could nurture love, real community, and healthy mission?

Three principles can help us, liberate us to see the larger work of God, and ground us in God's promises.

Years ago, someone told me the story of a man who dated lots of women but kept breaking up with them. One woman was brilliant but couldn't relax. Another was beautiful but had an annoying sense of humor. Yet another had an amazing career but didn't share his intellectual interests. On and on it went. This man had a mental picture of the perfect woman, but she was a superhuman, not a real woman.

What was the result of his thinking? He walked a path of loneliness and disappointment rather than finding real love with a real person. Similarly, we often create an impossible image of Church. Some parishes have amazing music or impressive programs, and we want that. Other parishes tutor neighborhood kids, support homeless shelters, or find jobs for the unemployed, and we want that too. We hear of gifted preachers, pastors who know how to be fully present with the sick and elderly, and congregations that are richly diverse, while our own congregation is missing some or all of that. Every local parish has the concrete particularity of these circumstances rather than those, and consequently does this but not that – and, of course, we often focus on the that and feel perpetually disappointed.

In the 1930s, young German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was preparing pastors for ministry. In the process, he showed them how social structures affect the life of the parish. For example, a charismatic pastor might stir people to

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# Love Your Parish Within Its Limits

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action, but misuse of that attractiveness could destroy healthy communal life. Bonhoeffer emphasized that little was more deadly to a community of faith than a romanticized view of “community-life.” Unrealistic ideas easily disconnect us from our actual communities. *“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest, and sacrificial,”* Bonhoeffer observed in his book, ***Life Together***.

One of the most healing and powerful actions pastors can undertake is to appreciate the people God has gathered there. For some, constructing impressive plans and visions is much easier than Paul’s call to widen our hearts to the exasperating people around us – but widen our hearts we must (2 Cor. 6:11, 13).

God sends his grace for all the people who show up, and he teaches us to listen with interest to one another’s stories, to uphold one another in our heartaches, and to discover each other’s gifts and senses of calling. These people, gathered here and now by God, come not in power or perfection, but in their need to worship Christ.

A parish community is where you can move beyond hypothetical models of Church toward a life of giving and receiving profound grace, forgiveness, and love.

We are a strange and awkward group of people who don’t always blend naturally. Our limits and our togetherness are part of God’s call to serve in this place, and they are an indispensable part of his enabling us to do so.

We have all seen children who, having received presents for Christmas, notice a toy that another kid got and decide that toy is all they want. Similarly, we can all imagine how great life would be if we had the talents or resources of other people or parishes. This applies to us as individuals and as groups. And when things are especially challenging for parish leaders, it can be hard to even see the good that has been given, because we feel overwhelmed by the hardships and disappointments. Maybe we need encouragement to look again with grace.

All people – whether rich or poor, educated or not, big parishes or small ones – all of them have gifts. The goal is to figure out what in particular God has given and how he has equipped this specific set of people, and then to nurture and employ those gifts for service in God’s kingdom.

God knows all the needs in his Church and world. And he knows that no individual, no local congregation can meet them all. God is not panicked or disappointed by this fact. He created each of us to depend upon him, others, and the earth. Only when we see our place within the much larger work of God can we move from disappointment with our local parishes into joy and gratitude for the contributions we get to make.

Ignoring our parish’s limits can lead to trying to develop ministries that fit neither genuine needs nor our abilities, and we miss out on what God is doing. Loving our parish within its limits, acknowledging both its assets and weaknesses, allows its people to serve together without feeling disappointed that they can’t be everything to everyone.

Unlike Cross-Fit or garden clubs or any other organization designed to attract similar personality types, a parish collects people who often do not naturally fit together. Sociologically, this looks like a massive disadvantage, but theologically it is a beautiful gift. God gathers us with all of our differences, united only by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, into the fellowship of the Spirit and the Father’s love. What binds a parish together is not believers’ goodwill or shared vision, but the Spirit of Christ.

We do not generate the Church; rather, we are liberated to participate in it with joy. Still we tend to forget: This is Christ’s Church. As much as we love God’s people, he loves them more. He loves us more. He is more committed to the life and health of his Church than we could ever be. Only when we drink deeply of that truth can our life together be driven by joy and hope rather than by frustration or manipulation.

Our strength, determination, and vision do not bind our parishes together into a Church – that is God’s work. God’s Spirit grows his fruit among his people – a fruit given to be enjoyed, especially by those starving for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, and truth. Given the Spirit-led nature of the Church, we can acknowledge when God closes doors or reminds us that we can only do so much, and that is okay. Jesus promises to meet us in and through his imperfect people.

Loving our local parish within its limits requires that we resist the temptation to idealize community but instead embrace the people God has brought to us. We love Jesus in and through fellow believers rather than in spite of them. And this allows us to see our own specific congregation as a small part of God’s much larger universal work. Thus, we’re freed to view other parishes and Christian groups not as threats or competitors, but as co-laborers with whom we can rejoice.

God loves his Church and promises to love the world through an unimpressive gathering of sinners. Our confidence is not in our faithfulness, but in his.

God knows our limits better than we do, so by loving others well, limits and all, we participate in God’s work without being crushed by it. May God help us to love the real, local parish that we are part of, because it and we belong to him.

*By Kelly Kapic, a theology professor at Covenant College and an elder at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church in Georgia. His latest book is: **You’re Only Human: How Your Limits Reflect God’s Design and Why That’s Good News.***



# All Things Considered

Ten days ago, Rory Bolger, Dale Krajniak, Mike McInerney, and I met at Grosse Pointe Park city hall for a 90-minute meeting with GPP city manager, Nick Sizeland, Patrick Droze (principal engineer, OHM Advisors), and Pat Thomas (superintendent of the GPP Department of Public Works).

In the course of the meeting and post-meeting walk-around, several matters were clarified. This summary was prepared for us by Dr. Bolger:

- *Three catch basins in the center of the St. Ambrose parking lot drain to the storm line in Hampton Avenue, which takes stormwater flow to Patterson Park, not to the Jefferson Interceptor which backed up after pump failures last summer.*

- *The southernmost catch basin in the parking lot appears to provide venting for the Fox Creek Enclosure. It was not immediately clear where flow into that catch basin ended up.*

- *The proposed performing arts center between East Jefferson and the parish property will provide a new storm line to Jefferson, helping to remove stormwater both from its premises as well as from Maryland Avenue (runoff from about ½ acre of impervious surface). That new storm line will alleviate some of the load from the Jefferson interceptor, better protecting parish property.*

- *GPP DPW staff expects to conduct dye tests this week on each of the numerous catch basins on St. Ambrose property to determine whether any flow might be tying back into the Ark.*

- *OHM will inform us when the site plan for the performing arts center*

*has been prepared to reflect measures required by the Wayne County Stormwater Management Ordinance.*

- *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) likely makes it undesirable/untenable to curb-in the grade door at the top of the emergency stairway exit from the Ark."*



and engineering consultant. It bodes very well for future collaboration.

All of us left the meeting very satisfied and pleased with the answers that were provided and with the candor and cooperation shown by the city



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It was edifying to celebrate Holy Week services for a crowd – or for an assembly that passes for one these days. There was nothing stranger in my priesthood than Holy Week 2020, the first year of the pandemic, which limited attendance to ten persons for ceremonies held in the church building.

And from the comments I received from some, you were also appreciative of the opportunity to pray actually in the Lord's house with a sizeable number of your parish family.

There is strength in numbers. No private prayer replaces the solidarity and strength which comes when the Church assembles for Liturgy. The Lord commands us to gather together in real time and in real space. As Pope Francis reminds us, *"In the midst of isolation when we suffer from a lack of tenderness and opportunities to meet each other, when we experience*

*the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: Christ is risen and is living by our side."*

While worship here at St. Ambrose last weekend felt like something more normal, a look at the numbers indicate that we still have a way to go in returning to patterns of mass attendance we enjoyed pre-pandemic.

A recent Pew Survey from March 7-13 showed that in the U.S., only 27 percent of Christian respondents attended services in person that month, compared to 67 percent who typically did before the pandemic.

Last September, when Covid was surging and hospitals were reaching capacity, the percentage of persons attending in-person services in the U.S. was about the same, 26 percent. But remember the Pew Survey was

completed before Holy Week, so it may not be accurate since Protestant, Catholics and Jews feel especially attached to our High Holy Days which transpired after that survey. In this regard, attendance numbers for us here at St. Ambrose fell into line with other numbers from across the nation – maybe slightly better – since our attendance inched-up every weekend during March.

So, let's assess Holy Week at St. Ambrose. In round numbers, we saw 150 persons for the Holy Thursday Mass; 175 for Good Friday Services; 150 persons for the Easter Vigil; 250 for the first mass and 300 persons for the second Mass on Easter Sunday.

All these numbers are remarkably increased from the previous two years. Compared to the data we salvaged from pre-pandemic Easter Vigils (by per-person candle count) this is low. Back then, we were drawing congregations of between 300-500 persons.

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## All Things Considered, cont

*Continued from page two...*

In the category of **Something is Better than Nothing**, let's agree with Pope Francis that "...online Masses and spiritual communions do not represent the Church." Archbishop Vigneron said. "While watching Mass online or on TV has been a means to help Catholics nourish their souls when they could not be present for Mass, we must remember that it cannot become the norm. God did not come to us virtually. He came to us — and continues to come to us — in the flesh."

It has been suggested that online broadcasting of Masses will hurt us in the long run. In that regard, let me again quote Pope Francis: "This is the Church in a difficult situation that the Lord is allowing, but the ideal of the Church is always **with the people and with the sacraments** — always."

Nationally the Pew Survey showed that, viewership of live-streaming services in all denominations remained steady: 28 percent last September and 30 percent in March. Our televised presence would hold to that.

Our "Stations for Justice" viewership declined about 20 percent this year. This could be attributable to a two week late start; a platform change; and a less aggressive social media push.

There was a wild difference between our online viewership for Holy Thursday and Good Friday which averaged only 15 viewers each. Convincing Catholics that Holy Thursday and Good Friday services are worth their time — in person or on line — remains a monumental task.

We do better when it comes to the Easter Vigil which has become something of a "reunion" Mass for those who have entered the Church as adults during that ceremony in previous years. A quick show of hands at our Vigil this year showed that about half had received one sacrament of Initiation at this parish. The identity that these former catechumens and candidates feel to this place and people is a grace attributed to the Vatican II reform of the RCIA, the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults.

In addition to those in attendance at the Easter Vigil, an additional 140 viewers logged onto our broadcast of that liturgy — internationally. The pattern emerges. People want and need to connect with us at significant moments like Easter, be it in person or online. It's a place to begin.

TRP

## Student Opportunity Scholarships

I am eager to share with you details about a signature gathering campaign that has the potential to positively impact the education of many students in the state of Michigan. We plan to gather 340,000 signatures to establish "Student Opportunity Scholarships" so that parents can access funding to meet their child's educational needs. Archbishop Vigneron and his brother bishops from throughout Michigan are supportive of this initiative.

Find additional resources and details from Paul Stankewitz, Public Policy Advocate for the Michigan Catholic Conference at the address below. In addition, I encourage you to watch and share this two-minute video providing an overview of the initiative: <https://www.facebook.com/LetMikidsLearn/videos/487435399661035/>

**We are asking for your assistance in this important educational effort by collecting signatures after Mass on May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>. [Note that the forms and materials are already in our rectory office. Solicitors need to view: <https://www.let-mikidslearn.com/how-to-circulate>] Petitions can be done at any time, but must be in Lansing by May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Please reach out to Paul Stankewitz ([pstankewitz@micatholic.org](mailto:pstankewitz@micatholic.org)) or me ([knaus.laura@aod.org](mailto:knaus.laura@aod.org)) with questions or to request additional petitions. Thank you for your assistance with this important effort.

Laura Knaus

Interim Superintendent of Catholic Schools

## Abuse Prevention

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include: • Loss of faith and trust in God. • Post-traumatic stress disorder, and indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches. • A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide. The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche, and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse.

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm, and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also try to isolate their victims and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim-assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused. In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.

USCCB

## The Buzz

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter! (For Orthodox Christians, today is Easter!) In fact, there is really nothing happier than Easter. It can't be celebrated in just one day, nor even in just one week as is Passover by our Jewish brothers and sisters. In fact it is celebrated on our calendar as a "week of weeks" (7 days x 7 weeks = 49 days + 1 next day = The Fiftieth Day / Pentecost).

Easter is the core of our Faith; there is nothing more important, and it actually gives meaning to everything before and after it. That's why we are reminded (cf. "Easter Duty" – by official Church Precept if you need it) to be in full Communion with the risen body of Christ at least during this time each year. But why limit yourself? There is no better way to live all year round, because I guarantee if you let it, it will last forever!



If you have really taken the plunge into life-made-new by a faith relationship with the risen Lord, you know there is no happier way to live. And too . . . it is not too early to start thinking about people you know who would like to explore becoming Catholic or completing their full initiation. Reassure anyone thinking about such things that the adult process here at St. Ambrose is relaxed and informal. The only wrong inquiry is the one not made. So encourage such a person to give me a "no-obligations" call at 313-822-2814 (ext. 2) to see how we might be of assistance to them in their exploratory journey of faith.



Speaking of Initiation Sacraments . . . the Easter season will continue with our First Communion children celebrating this sacrament again at a specially solemn liturgy in just two weeks or so. Eastertide also includes another Initiation Sacrament – Confirmation (for adults and older teens) – permitted in parish churches throughout the season. Or one might choose to celebrate it with *confirmandi* from all over the Archdiocese at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Pentecost, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Contact us immediately if you have never been confirmed as a Catholic and you recognize that the risen Lord is calling you to this sacrament of deeper relationship with Him through, with, and in the Holy Spirit. The process of preparation is adult-oriented: individualized and relaxed – no pain, yet still a lot to gain! (P.N.: Pass this info along to those contemplating marriage in their future. Confirmation comes up regularly as a question and invitation. Foresight and action now make this all go so much easier! We take great joy in helping this process along.)



Speaking of education in a totally different vein ... note the article on the previous page entitled "Student Opportunity Scholarships". It introduces an initiative to gather 340,000 signatures for a ballot proposal that would give Michigan parents access to funding for their children's education. Archbishop Vigneron and the bishops of the state support this. The petition/signature forms must be returned to Lansing by May 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll have them in church.

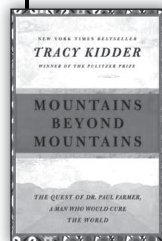
The Archbishop's support for this as an attempt to further implement his personal priority in Synod-16 for Catholic schools. Most people who remember the Church of the 1960's and earlier, associate schools as an integral part of parish life. Abp. Vigneron seems to find high value in restoring elements of the Church of that era. Agree? If so, sign the petition. You may have another angle on this project; I'd be interested in hearing all about it.



And speaking of synods ... have you caught anything about what's going on with a national Catholic Synod in Germany? I sense the process there has been 180° different from Detroit six years ago. Reactions from conservative quarters all over the world have been coming in to the German bishops. Stay tuned; this is still in progress.

*Wesołego Alleluja!*  
Chuck Dropiewski

## Marcellina's Book Club



### Mountains Beyond

**Mountains** takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Dr. Paul Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" – a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, **Partners In Health**. At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope, and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains": as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too.

The author, Tracy Kidder, also graduated from Harvard. He has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Award and many other literary prizes. The book and its audio are available through Amazon.

## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the  
St. Ambrose Catholic Community  
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums

**Minister of Music:**

**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor

**Secretary:** Mary Urbanski

### Sacramental Celebrations

**Masses:** On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

**Baptism:** Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

**Penance:** As announced and by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

**Funeral:** Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

### Directory

**Parish Office:** 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

**Tel:** (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

**Email address:** stambrose@comcast.net

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** stambrosechurch.net



## Liturgy Schedule

**Monday, April 25**

*St. Mark, evangelist*

**Tuesday, April 26**

*Easter Weekday*

8:30 a.m. – Mass – John Witherell;

Stella Esperti

**Wednesday, April 27**

*Easter Weekday*

**Thursday, April 28**

*St. Peter Chanel, priest & martyr*

*St. Louis de Montfort, priest*

7:00 p.m. – Mass - Raymond Tessmer;

Giovanni Morreale

**Friday, April 29**

*St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor*

12:00 p.m. – Funeral – Mary Bellanca

**Saturday, April 30**

*St. Pius V, pope*

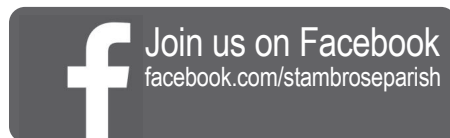
4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

**Sunday, May 1**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



## Scriptures for the Second Week of Easter

**April 25**

1 Pt 5: 5b-14

Ps 89: 2-3, 6-7, 15-17

Mk 16: 15-20

**April 26**

Acts 4: 32-37

Ps 93: 1-2, 5

Jn 2: 7b-15

**April 27**

Acts 5: 17-26

Ps 34: 2-9

Jn 3: 16-21

**April 28**

Acts 5: 27-33

Ps 34: 2, 9, 17-20

Jn 3: 31-36

**April 29**

Acts 5: 34-42

Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14

Jn 6: 1-15

**April 30**

Acts 6: 1-7

Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Jn 6: 15-21

**May 1**

Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41

Ps 30: 2, 4-6, 11-13

Rv 5: 11-14

Jn 21: 1-19 or 21: 1-16

## The Third Sunday of Easter

April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses are celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Under the Center for Disease Control guidance, people in counties with low or medium Covid-19 community levels no longer need to wear masks indoors unless they are immunocompromised or at "high risk" for severe Covid-19. Currently Wayne County shows a LOW level of risk. This might change week-to-week, but for the present time, St. Ambrose Parish is lifting the mandatory mask requirement for weekend masses. We will maintain it for funerals and weddings. At all community levels, the CDC recommends people get vaccinated and boosted, and get tested if they have symptoms.

To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to YouTube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6bUqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6bUqPct5xFg)

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

**On Sunday, April 17, 2022**

in envelopes we received ..... \$8,786.00

in the loose collection ..... \$6,016.65

in electronic donations ..... \$4,258.12

for a total of ..... \$19,060.77

**Over budget for the week..... \$8,960.77**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 627

Number of envelopes used ..... 101



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jerry Scopel, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Ernie Ament, Vince LoCicero, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Richard Strowger and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid .

## Legal News

In 2020 our Archdiocese made the decision to separately incorporate all of the parishes as Michigan non-profit corporations. By July 1, 2021, 166 parishes were incorporated (including St. Ambrose), and as of February 1, 2022, another 43 were incorporated.

This leaves only five that will be incorporated in the near future when minor legal obstacles are resolved. A key part of the incorporation process is to transfer all parish real property to the individual parish corporations.

After considerable time and effort, deeds have been executed conveying the parish properties to the new parish corporations, which means the corporations will own their properties under both civil and canon law. The deeds are being recorded with the local Registers of Deeds.

Existing Archdiocesan Policies and Procedures will remain in effect, with one exception: legal documents such as listing agreements, purchase agreements, leases, easements, etc. will be executed on behalf of the corporation by a parish corporation officer, who in most cases will be the Pastor or Moderator as President of the corporation. This will take place following formal approval by the parish corporation Board of Directors, customary review by the Properties Office, and approvals by the College of Consultors (in all cases) and the Archdiocesan Finance Council (in the case of sale transactions).

# HOW IT WORKS ...

*You have questions. We have answers.*



**If Let MI Kids Learn is successful, voters want to know, how will it work? What will the process be? What steps will families go through to apply?**

## **BACKGROUND:**

There are two ways to make laws in Michigan. One is with the cooperation of the Governor, signing bills into law that have been agreed on by the Legislature. The other way is with a *citizen petition drive*.

The policy before you - *Let MI Kids Learn* - has the sole purpose to provide additional financial resources to parents for their children's education. It will also provide a tax credit for the individual donors and businesses that contribute to a scholarship fund for K-12 students, up to \$500 million in tax credits statewide.

Whether their child opts to stay in the public school, and needs help with something the school can't provide, or a family is desperate to make something work outside of the public school system and simply doesn't know how to make it financially possible - this will provide options. It will also allow the generous men, women and businesses who yearn to help connect dollars with children - a tax credit.

## **WHY THIS. WHY NOW.**

Some will make the valid point: *"We already have enough money in public education. If kids need resources, why not just use what is already there?"*

We agree that there is a ton of money in Michigan's K-12 education budget (\$19 Billion to be exact) but if we have all learned anything over the past few months *the education bureaucracy is not easy to maneuver, it is not easy to change.*

*Thousands of students in Michigan are suffering from learning loss, struggling in educational systems that do not work for them and their families. But parents at times are limited with how to get their child better situations and opportunities. They don't have time for us to wade through educational bureaucracy - they are desperate for help now.*

Some ask, *"Well, why can't this be done through a non-profit organization? Why do you have to have this big of a project?"* State legislation is needed to create a tax incentive (credit) that will encourage private donations.

## **CUTTING EDGE FOR MICHIGAN**

We believe this is the way to bring more partnerships to families in need and donors who are willing to assist. But we are not the first ones to do it. [23 states have similar policies.](#)

Find more resources on our website at [www.LetMIKidsLearn.com/resources](http://www.LetMIKidsLearn.com/resources).

Email us at [info@letmikiidslearn.com](mailto:info@letmikiidslearn.com) with questions we have missed!



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Registration details at choironevoice.org | Cost \$90 (Payable Via Paypal)

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