

Two families, same blessing

*Catholic Tuition Organization assists 17 percent of Catholic school students
in the diocese*

COUNCIL BLUFFS – Rosemary and Pat Mahoney have four boys who have attended St Albert Schools in Council Bluffs.

She is a medical transcriptionist and he is a plumbing contractor, a one-man show. Business has been slow for him for several years.

Thanks to financial support from the Catholic Tuition Organization, the Mahoney family is sending their children to St. Albert this year. One son is at a public school for extra reading help and may return to St. Albert.

Rosemary remembers what her Catholic faith meant to her while she was being raised, and thinks the education at St. Albert is crucial to her children having that experience.

“The Catholic Church and the Catholic faith are really big things for me,” she said. “You want your kids to experience that.”

At St. Albert, the Mahoney children learn things related to their faith that their mom believes they wouldn’t experience elsewhere.

“When somebody’s sick, they pray for them at school,” she said. “There would be something huge missing if they had to leave.”

This is the second year that the family has received a grant from the CTO.

“I’m very grateful to have that. It’s so much help to us,” Rosemary said.

She has shared with her boys that it is that generosity of others which enables them to attend St Albert.

“They understand it’s how they are able to go to that school,” she said.

One of her sons has written a letter of thanks to a donor. Being mindful of their blessing of assistance, she keeps after them for their grades.

“I tell them other people are investing in your future, so do a good job,” she said.

The Mahoney boys also work in the school cafeteria program, earning lunch and funds.

“It’s part of them knowing, they want to help,” she said. “They know that times are tough for everyone.”

While some families may hide the fact that they’re struggling, Rosemary wants to tell their family’s story and let people know it is okay to ask for help until they can get back on their feet again.

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DES MOINES – Richard and Rita Galvan, of St. Anthony Parish on Des Moines’ south side, are raising two grandsons. They want to send their grandchildren to St. Anthony School. Receiving assistance from the Catholic tuition Organization has been a great help.

“If it wasn’t for that, I probably wouldn’t be able to afford it,” said Richard.

He is retired from John Deere, and Rita often watches their granddaughter during the day.

One grandson has lived with the couple since birth. The other grandson moved in along with his father – the Galvans’ son – and then remained with his grandparents after his father was killed in a random shooting.

Richard believes the Catholic school is making a real difference in the lives of his grandsons. The St. Anthony community helped the family through tough times, such as when Richard and Rita’s son died. The parish went the extra mile in helping the boys secure sponsorships to Catholic Youth Camp,, Richard said.

“The more one hears about God, the more it helps in getting through life,” he said.

And, he added, “You wouldn’t hear that in a public school,”

“I feel you get a better education at St. Anthony’s,” he said.

Richard and Rita Galvan’s grandsons are among the 1,034 Catholic school students in the diocese who received CTO awards this year.

The family is thankful for the tuition assistance it has received through the CTO.

“I’m very grateful that they have something like that,” said Richard. “That has helped out so much. I really hope I’m able to send them there again next year.”

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