

One of our new programs that we are starting is a *Family SPONSORship Program*. With the economic conditions that are hitting Michigan, some families are having a very difficult time meeting the financial fee of registration and/or tuition that are associated with sending their child(ren) to St. Michael's School.

Parents select "sponsors" for their child when they have him or her baptized. These sponsors are to, "pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor." (LSB, p.269)

This *Family SPONSORship Program* works in a similar manner. Although it is completely anonymous and the parents or sponsors don't pick each other, the sponsor helps a family in the ongoing instruction and nurture of the child(ren)'s Christian faith, by helping to pay for their educational fees and promise to keep them in their prayers. It also is an example of the Christian love we have for our neighbor by assisting them when they need the help the most. This sponsorship may be for a year or two or full the child's full academic career here at St. Michael's.

A sponsor could be any family that wishes to assist another family, a couple, a graduate or former St. Michael's family who has moved out of the area but wants to support Christian education, or even a group or organization from St. Michael's. A sponsor can cover the difference between what a family owes and what they are able to pay, or they can give a lump sum of money annually.

Before we can offer any assistance to school families we need to have a list of available and willing sponsors. Even though you are able and willing to be a sponsor does not necessarily mean you will be selected. It all depends on who will match up with whom. If you know of someone out of the area who might consider being a sponsor, please share this information with them or share their name with me so I may contact them. If you would like more information, please contact me or a Board of Education member.