

Tips and Talking Points for Parish Mass Presentations

- The typical GRACE Mass presentation comes just before dismissal. People are ready to go. Keep your talk to 3-4 minutes and keep it strictly on topic. Five minutes is too long.
- Concentrate on motivating people to register online at www.gracescholars.org Providing too much information can work against your efforts to motivate.
- **Identify GRACE with the Georgia Catholic Bishops**

What would you do to send a child to Catholic School? Would you fill out a simple form?

GRACE Scholars is an important initiative for Georgia's Catholic bishops. GRACE was co-founded by Archbishop Gregory and Bishop Boland in 2009. Currently, Archbishop Hartmayer of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and Bishop Parkes of the Diocese of Savannah are supporters of GRACE and believe in Catholic schools. Supporting GRACE is a key strategy for making schools more affordable and accessible.

- **Describe GRACE as a movement**

*Officially the state of Georgia identifies GRACE Scholars as a Student Scholarship Organization (SSO). **It is the only Catholic Student Scholarship Organization in the state.** GRACE is more than an organization. **It is a movement – a movement devoted to the Church of tomorrow.** Currently, more than 1000 students are receiving GRACE awards and remain eligible for financial aid. That is like adding a very large Catholic school with bricks and mortar costs.*

The 2024 State Tax Credit Cap is \$120 million and there are increases in individual Tax Credit Limits as well as increases for Owners of S Corporations, LLCs, and partnerships. See www.gracescholars.org for details.

- ***GRACE is a way to make a difference in the lives of children and youth and is a good investment in children and families***

All GRACE scholarships are based on financial need and are evaluated annually by each school to determine need. Scholarships go to students whose families would struggle to afford Catholic school without financial help. They are families with the faith, but not the means to give their children a Catholic education. The students are first admitted to the schools on the basis of merit. They have shown that they can do the work.

- **An incredible tax benefit**

If you pay Georgia income taxes, you are eligible for an incredible tax benefit. The benefit is so amazing, you may wonder if it is too good to be true.

*So what is this amazing tax benefit? It is a 100% state income tax credit. That is right. Every dollar you give **reduces** your tax bill by a dollar. You get your money back! It is a no cost gift.*

- ***Be upfront about the process but stress its simplicity***

We encourage you to pre-register online at www.gracescholars.org. Please take a few minutes to complete a simple form, registering for the tax credit now, to open the doors to a Catholic education for a student tomorrow. You will be reminded in January on when to make your donation.

- ***Reach out to skeptics***

Still not sold? Are you asking, what's in it for me? I have one word for you: empowerment. You can choose how your tax dollars are spent. How often can we do that? You can donate to GRACE and get a tax credit, a worthy and highly transparent cause.

- ***Wrap up***

Thank you for allowing me the time today to talk about GRACE Scholars. Please take part in this simple tax credit program that will change the lives of children and their families. It is your faith in action.

A representative will be in the narthex to answer your questions.

Thank you and God bless.