

For the Record

Information included in the September 28, 2005 Channel 19 story on Sts. Cyril and Methodius Blue Ribbon Award was inaccurate.

The Catholic Church did not cut off funding to Sts. Cyril and Methodius School. The statement, the Catholic Diocese “yanked their funding” is false. The fact is that families of Sts. Cyril and Methodius School did not qualify for tuition assistance grants for the 2005-06 year.

Tuition assistance is administered by the diocese but provided by generous donors who give with the expectation and understanding that their contributions are disbursed to students in greatest financial need. All Catholic schools are informed annually that “need” is calculated according to both family financial need (determined objectively by PSAS, Private School Aid Services) and actual cost charged to parents. Sts. Cyril and Methodius tuition at \$1,665.00, is \$792.00 less than the average diocesan tuition of \$2,457.00. Students at Sts. Cyril and Methodius receive considerably higher tuition assistance from their parish than do other students in Catholic schools because of the very low tuition. Actual cost to parents is significantly lower than at other Catholic schools. Additionally, while Sts. Cyril and Methodius serves a significant population of families who live below the federal poverty level, 29 other schools have higher population living in poverty. In every case tuition at these schools is substantially greater.

Tuition assistance grants administered by the diocese funded 28% of the 10,800 applications received for the 2005-06 school year. Unfortunately families from St. Cyril and Methodius were among the 72% who did not receive funds because their need was not as great as that of many others and funds available were limited.