



**Our Faith STO**  
a school tuition organization



Newsletter

October, 2021

**Dear Friends of the STO,**

**Donate Now**

If today were Dec. 31st, **over 2,000 students would not receive STO assistance in our Archdiocese next year.** This is a concerning number, so please consider donating now to the Our Faith STO. Fortunately, the most significant percentage of our donations are received Oct- Dec. as benefactors have their annual review meetings with CPAs and Financial planners. When you have your meeting, please discuss how an STO contribution and the corresponding 75% tax credit *could limit or even eliminate your 2021 Iowa Income tax liability.*

We're in the midst of harvest season. Did you know the **Our Faith STO accepts Gifts of Grain** as a donation option? If you're a farmer whose harvest is bountiful, contact me for details on how you can share your treasure rather than building larger barns (Luke 12:18)

I've fielded many calls recently about *Qualified Charitable Donations to the STO from those taking their required minimum distribution.* **Yes, you can donate using your RMD,** while not paying federal tax on your QCD, and receiving the 75% Iowa income tax credit. If you have questions, see your financial advisor, or give me a call.

Recently **we've streamlined the logo for the STO.** For years we've referred to the Our Faith, Our Children, our Future STO, as the Our Faith STO. Our logo has now been refreshed and aligns with our dba name and our website [www.OurFaithSTO.org](http://www.OurFaithSTO.org). I hope you like what you see. (take note in the upper left-hand corner)

**Lost and Found Department** In early Sept., we received donated securities from iShares and Vanguard valued at close to \$75,000. This donation did not come with a donor form or previous notification. If this donation is yours to claim your tax credit, call me with the exact ticker symbols and the amounts of shares. My phone number is (563) 556-2580 x296.

After you've finished reading this newsletter, I'd encourage you to watch a YouTube video from Anthony Digmann of Passionately Catholic. He asks the question, **Is Catholic**

**school worth it?** You bet it is! Check out the video, and please share the link.

<https://youtu.be/YOUfLVnDfBw>

Please do me a favor and tell your friends and neighbors about the 75% STO tax credit, and as always thank you for your support.

Blessings!

*Brian Zeman*  
Deacon Brian Zeman

## Why I choose to teach in a Catholic School?



**Linda Kramer**

Bellevue Marquette

38 years teaching

High School Science

### **Why do I choose to teach in a Catholic school?:**

I grew up in small-town Iowa and attended parochial school K-8. While searching for my first teaching job, I prayed that I would find a community similar to my childhood. The Marquette Catholic community made me feel safe and secure, but mostly I felt that I was a part of something far greater than myself. I have the opportunity every day to connect with students and faculty that reinforces the values of my childhood church and school. The Marquette community has helped me become the best version of myself that I could share with my students.

### **How has God affirmed that I've made the right choice?:**

Several years ago at Marquette's graduation mass, Fr. Phil Kruse's message to our departing seniors was to "get on the right bus, with the right people, going in the right direction." As I reflected on Fr. Kruse's homily, I had an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the years I spent in Bellevue as a member of the Marquette family "going in the right direction".

**Family Bio:** I've taught high school science at Marquette Catholic for 38 years. I live with my husband, Tom, in Maquoketa. We are the proud parents of Rachel, Alex, and Erica. All three are graduates of Sacred Heart in Maquoketa, Marquette Catholic in Bellevue, and Loras College in Dubuque.

## Family Stories from those helped by the STO

*The comments below were taken directly from 2021-22 STO applications*

I am a widow, so there is only one income,      The various Covid relief acts have really kept

mine. I've spent most of my late husband's life insurance paying for my kids' tuition, school uniforms, and bills. If I have to pay more, I will not be able to afford to send my children to this school.

**Cedar Valley Catholic school parent**

our family afloat. However, these programs will cease at the end of August 2021 The tuition assistance program offered by the Archdiocese of Dubuque has allowed our children to have the best elementary education available. We pray that any available assistance will allow us to continue

**All Saints Elementary parent**

**For more information contact:**

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The Archdiocese of Dubuque

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