



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

February 5, 2018
Month of the Hidden Life of Jesus

Dear Catholic School Families:

Despite the ever-increasing cost to educate a child in New York State, families like yours continue to make sacrifices to send your children to one of our excellent Catholic schools. Your devotion to your children's education is apparent to all of us in the Archdiocese of New York. As you know, we work tirelessly to keep our schools affordable by offering millions in financial aid and getting our tuition rates well-below the actual cost of educating a child. Unfortunately, your hard work to make ends meet does not seem to be appreciated by some elected officials in Albany.

As you know, in recent years we have advocated fervently for the Governor and lawmakers in Albany to pass the Education Tax Credit legislation, which would substantially assist parents in covering the cost of tuition. Despite enjoying early support from Governor Cuomo and the majority of legislators, the Assembly leadership backed away in deference to the powerful public school teachers' unions.

More recently, the governor publicly stated that private schools in New York would receive a 3 percent increase in state funding when, in fact, the proposed budget will actually cut state funding to many Catholic schools by an average of 4 percent! This would not have been the case had the governor not vetoed legislation to restore the funding formula to our schools. Unless the formula is restored, additional costs will be passed on to our schools and families. This is especially egregious when you consider the amount of money Catholic schools save taxpayers every year through the sacrifice of tuition-paying families. Furthermore, the state's tax department may deny our families the full benefit of the federally expanded 529 plans for K-12 tuition, which would provide even more help to our families in paying K-12 tuition. **Simply put, these tactics drastically undercut our ability to provide the quality, affordable Catholic education our families expect and deserve.**

I am asking all of our Catholic school parents and families to contact Governor Cuomo and their state representatives and encourage them to take steps to support our schools and tuition-paying families. Please go to www.nyscatholic.org and click on "Catholic Schools Need Your Help" to lend your support to our efforts.

Only by coming together with a united voice can we convince state government that we will not allow our rights to be infringed. Together, we will ensure that our Catholic school system will thrive and endure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York