

SAINT LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2026 Annual Report



“In the One,
We are One.”

— + —
Episcopal Motto of – Pope Leo XIV

Second Annual Gala Invitation on the Back Page.
Join Us!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to thank so many of you for your great generosity over the years. Last year, we marked our 60th Anniversary of the founding of our School and so many of you contributed to our Annual Appeal which set a record for our School Fundraising.

Our School provides excellent and personalized instruction for all who desire a Catholic Education, but as all of us know, all costs continue to increase and so, for this School Year of 2026-2027, we have anticipated our Operating Expenses to be approximately 3 Million Dollars.

Our Total Enrollment in Pre-K through Eighth Grade is currently 302 students, and so that current per student cost is about \$9,935. Obviously, we could not set Tuition at that amount, since most of our families could not afford it, so, as we have done since my arrival here, we set Tuition individually for each family seeking reduced Tuition, guided by the STS Criteria, a nationwide service that seeks to evaluate the need of each family. I anticipate that this year our Tuition Income will be about 62% of Total Operating Costs, which then leaves a "shortfall" of that remaining 38%, this year, about 1.4 Million Dollars.

We meet that "shortfall" each year due to the generosity of so many and our Annual Appeal is critical in that endeavor. So many of our Parishioners have responded through our EITC and SPE, those Pennsylvania Tax Credit Programs available to both businesses and individuals and, we hope to receive about \$525,000 from these contributions for the upcoming School Year, leaving that "shortfall" of about \$615,000 to be met through this Appeal and our Parish Subsidy from our Sunday Collection.

As with the last couple years, an Anonymous Donor has come forward again this year and pledged \$200,000 to serve as a Matching Gift for all gifts that we are able to secure before November 1st.

So, I humbly ask if you will join me in our efforts to raise and surpass that goal. I have personally pledged \$5,000 for this goal and ask that you please join me!

We are experiencing a time of transition in our Leadership in our School and I am delighted to announce our recent hiring of Mr. Brian Malek to serve as our new Principal. Mr. Malek comes with a wealth of experience, having served for 11 years as a 5th Grade Teacher, then for 2 years as an Assistant Principal and Academic Support Teacher, and then 10 years as Principal at Central Manor Elementary School. As his Assistant Superintendent for Penn Manor School District wrote in his recommendation, "Brian has proven to be the gold standard of what a servant-leader should be, possessing not only exceptional qualifications but also the warmth, integrity and character necessary to lift up an entire school community."

As we begin this new era with Mr. Malek as our Principal, I ask that you join me at our Parish and School Gala that will be celebrated on November 7th after our 4:30 pm Mass. It will be a time for all of us to meet Mr. Malek, and to hear of some of his hopes and aspirations for our School.

Of course, we thank all of our dedicated and devoted Teachers. They have worked tirelessly with Mary Jo Diffendall, our Interim Administrator, and Michelle Navickas, our Vice Principal, particularly during this time of transition.

I humbly ask that you consider a gift to our Annual Appeal and I look forward to seeing many of you on November 7th for our Parish and School Gala. May God bless you for your generosity and may He continue to bless our Parish and School.

Monsignor Hahn



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parishioners of Saint Leo the Great, strive to provide a Christ-centered family, empowered by the Spirit, to live the Catholic tradition of Word and Sacrament, welcoming all within and outside our parish, by drawing all parishioners into a believing, worshipping, celebrating, and serving community.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Leo the Great Catholic School exists to develop disciples of Jesus Christ within a secure Catholic atmosphere. We endeavor to strengthen the covenant between school and family to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially.

AS WE REFLECT

As we reflect on the past year...

-  The Legacy Annual Appeal continued into its second successful year thanks to the incredible generosity of our faithful donors.
-  One of the happiest days of the fall was Grandfriend's Day. Seeing grandparents and special friends filling our halls with smiles and laughter was a joy for everyone.
-  Our First Annual Gala was an evening that brought together our school and parish community while raising important funds to help offset the cost of tuition.
-  We rejoiced as Father Hahn was named a Monsignor, a well-deserved honor that was celebrated with great pride throughout our parish.
-  Another year of tremendous success was our Annual Golf Tournament, which not only brought friendly competition, but also helped offset the cost of tuition for our families. Thanks to a generous \$100,000 matching gift, the response from our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and donors was truly inspiring. Because of this collective effort, we are also blessed to announce that there was no tuition increase for the coming school year.
-  Two significant milestones within our parish family...we congratulated Father Thomas Kappes as he was given his first parish in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, and we celebrated Deacon Drew Heidelbaugh's ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Harrisburg.



SPE

Please participate in the SPE (Special Purpose Entity) program if you don't already Redirect your PA State Income Tax to Saint Leo the Great School. If you are not sure you can participate, check your PA-40 tax return. If you pay \$3,500 or more in PA Taxes, you can participate! By doing so, you help support our school.

Friends and family can also participate in this program to help reduce your tuition. By participating you receive a discount on your tuition after you have made your SPE payment.

For more information about this great program, please go to our website or email mkardas@stleos.org or mdiffendall@stleos.org.



ANNUAL APPEAL

WE HAVE A MATCH AGAIN THIS YEAR!

We have an anonymous donor who has pledged \$200,000 to match all gifts we secure.



2427 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601



Saint Leo the Great School

Second Annual Gala

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Learning and Living the Gospel of Christ



CATHOLIC. EXCELLENT. AFFORDABLE.



Sponsorships Opportunities:

Please prayerfully consider a
Sponsorship for our School Gala

Exclusive Event Sponsor - \$15,000

- Ten (10) Tickets to the Gala
- Verbal Recognition and Signage
- Full Page Ad in the Program

Food Station Sponsor - \$3,500 (4) Sponsors Needed

- Four (4) Tickets to the Gala
- Receive Verbal Recognition and Signage at the Food Station

Open Bar Sponsor - \$5,000

- Six (6) Tickets to the Gala
- Verbal Recognition
- Half Page Ad in the Program

Dessert Station Sponsor - \$2,500

- Two (2) Tickets to the Gala
- Receive Verbal Recognition and Signage at the Dessert Station

Deadline for Sponsorships Opportunities is Friday, October 23, 2026

Your contribution of items, service or sponsorship directly supports Saint Leo the Great School.

All contributions are 100% tax-deductible and will be recognized in our Program.

If you would like to donate, we accept in-kind gifts in the form of live auction items.

For questions, please contact Mary Jo Diffendall at 717-394-1742 ext. 323.

PLEASE JOIN US!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

AFTER THE 4:30 MASS IN OUR PARISH HALL

\$75.00 PER TICKET (Adult only Event)

Please use the QR code to register

Table of 10 \$700

(please supply us with a list of your table guests)

Hors d'oeuvres and Open Bar

Dinner and Dessert Stations

Dancing

LIVE AUCTION

Cocktail Attire