

The Ekeler Family Scholarship



Monsignor John Ekeler (1899-1963) was an influential priest and leader in the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln from 1928 until his death in 1963. Most notably, he was pastor in Crete, Nebraska from 1941-1963 where he was Dean of the Crete Deanery and made a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII (1949). He also acted as pastor in Colon, Mead and Bellwood, Nebraska prior to settling in at Crete. He served the diocese from 1928-1963, and is considered a founder of Cathedral of the Risen Christ as he was instrumental in its founding and construction.

Monsignor was one of 10 boys born on a small, poor farm outside of Exeter, Nebraska. The family was blessed with a strong foundation in their German culture and the Catholic faith. One brother, Joseph Ekeler, is the grandfather of Mr. Jeremy Ekeler (principal of Cathedral School). Joseph's wife, Vione, moved to Lincoln in 1974 after the sudden passing of Joseph. It was here that she proudly claimed The Cathedral of the Risen Christ as her home parish until her death in 2004 (Monsignor Robert Tucker and Father Kenneth Borowiak officiated her funeral at Cathedral). Numerous grandchildren of Joseph and Vione attended Cathedral School, and Vione's name, as well as many of her children and grandchildren, can be found in the history of the parish as adorers, servers, and in various other capacities.

The purpose of the Ekeler Family Scholarship is to provide one full year of tuition+ to a Cathedral School student who comes from a parish* family in need; \$200 for uniforms and/or school supplies.

Representatives from the Ekeler family** will review applicants in an anonymous fashion. Applicants must meet the following criteria...

- Any K-8 student's family in need may apply; Free & Reduced lunch families are strongly encouraged.
- Students in grades 3-8 must maintain a C average or better in core content areas (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Religion).
- Be willing to provide tax information from the previous fiscal year if so asked by the family.
- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation with their child(ren).
- Provide a minimum of 10 hours of service to Cathedral School during the school year of scholarship.
- Be willing to meet a representative of the Ekeler family, and/or provide a letter of gratitude if chosen.



Joseph & Vione Ekeler (front) with their children Joyce, Joan, Thomas, Larry, James and Linda (L-R)

+If selected for the Ekeler Family Scholarship, the remaining tuition amount will be reduced to reflect the award.

**Students from Sister Parishes without schools may also apply: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Andrew, Cristo Rey, Saint, Mary's Denton, and Saint James.*

***Mr. Jeremy Ekeler has excused himself from this part of the process.*