



THE MURRAY INSTITUTE ENDOWMENT

What is the Murray Institute?

Founded in 1992, the Murray Institute is a collaborative effort of the University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Its purpose is to help increase the number of qualified administrators, teachers, and catechists in Catholic education by enabling employees in the parishes and schools of the archdiocese to earn graduate degrees at no cost. In return, they commit to serving the archdiocese in Catholic education for at least three more years. In addition to its four master's degree programs, the Institute offers several tuition-free, non-degree projects that help educators who are not able to make the time commitment to earn an advanced degree but still want enhanced abilities to educate in the fullness of Catholic tradition and truth.

In September 2005, Bishop Gregory of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, at the 100th anniversary celebration of the National Catholic Education Association, challenged the Catholic educational community to "address the critical need to attract, educate and retain quality teachers and catechists at all levels of ministry. This includes training programs that will attract and prepare local and diocesan leadership for our educational and catechetical programs." He added, "This will require cooperation between the leadership of schools, religious educators, and colleges and universities."

The Murray Institute has been helping to meet this challenge for more than a decade, but today the Institute itself needs help to reach a broader audience and achieve positive outcomes for additional educators in schools and parishes.

What is the Murray Institute's most pressing need?

Since the program began, more than 400 archdiocesan employees have earned graduate degrees in educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, religious education and administrative licensure through the Murray Institute. Each degree includes a significant core of graduate theology courses to ensure that the archdiocese's educators are deeply formed in the Catholic faith and able to maintain the quality of catechesis that is necessary.

While the cost of providing graduate education to archdiocesan employees increases, the skills needed to reach a more-diverse parish and school population likewise multiplies. In addition, a considerable turnover in teachers, administrators and parish workers is expected to occur in the next 10 years in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The Murray Institute operates solely off of income generated by endowment funds. The original endowment for this type of educational assistance was established in the archdiocese in the 1960s. Since then, contributions and commitments have brought the total to \$11 million. This amount supports about four degree programs per year, which falls short of the number of degree and non-degree initiatives that the Murray Institute would like to fund. For the Institute to meet the needs of Catholic educators and to achieve its original goal of \$20 million, an additional endowment contribution of \$9 million is required. Increasing the Murray Institute's endowment is vital to fulfilling the need for better educated, more theologically formed teachers and parish ministers in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

How will my contribution to the Murray Institute help?

Every contribution to the Murray Institute endowment increases the income that the fund generates. As more income is generated, more students can participate in Murray Institute graduate degree programs and non-degree projects. The endowment has been built to its current level with gifts of all sizes, and, hopefully, the fund will increase with a similar variety of contributions.

Enlarging the Murray Institute endowment is a pressing need, one that everyone who is concerned with the quality of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis should confidently support. It will strengthen the theological, teaching, and administrative abilities of educators and enhance the caliber of Catholic education to the benefit of many generations to come.

Gifts may be sent to:

The Murray Institute
The University of St. Thomas
1000 LaSalle Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

For more information contact the Murray Institute Office at 651-962-4883 or murrayinst@stthomas.edu .