

## **Monsignor John T. Mitchell Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship**

Cardinal Justin Rigali, then Archbishop of Philadelphia, announced on Monday, March 3, 2008, that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia had received a bequest to fund a scholarship in honor of Monsignor John T. Mitchell. Monsignor Mitchell served as a priest of the Archdiocese from 1939 through 1981. During that time, he was the Pastor of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes in West Philadelphia, where he was known for his faithful ministry to African American Catholics. In light of this, the Monsignor Mitchell Scholarship Fund will support high school students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who are Catholic and African American, with academic ability and financial need. One (or more, if economically feasible) one-year scholarship(s), up to \$2,000, will be awarded annually based upon the determination of the Selection Committee. Student recipients must reapply each year.

### **Criteria for selection:**

- **African American Catholic**
- **Academic Excellence** - with at least a cumulative “B” average - or the numerical equivalent thereof - at the time of the scholarship award.
- **Financial Need** – as determined by a completed SmartAid application [www.smartaidforparents.com](http://www.smartaidforparents.com) .
- **Commitment to Community Service** - service must be approved and consist of between 40-80 hours per academic year.
- **Attend or desire to attend a Roman Catholic High School** - an initial emphasis for candidate selection will be to attend high school in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as per the Trust.

### **Application requirements:**

- Meet all the criteria for selection as listed above.
- Family unit must be known or be active, practicing African American Catholics (attend Church regularly) and in good standing. A letter from your pastor is required.
- The criteria for academic excellence requires at least a cumulative “B” average (or the numerical equivalent thereof) utilizing the final grades of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the second trimester of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If applicant is a high school student, the final grades of the previous academic year as well as the first semester grades of the current school year must be stated. The numerical equivalent for a “B” grade is 84 to 89.

## **Application requirements (con't):**

- Student(s) must submit an essay addressing their desire to attend or continue at a Roman Catholic High School. The student is to write an essay of 500 words or less describing the following:
  - Why he/she thinks he/she qualifies for the opportunity to be a recipient of the Monsignor Mitchell Scholarship
  - What a scholarship to a Roman Catholic High School in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia would mean to him/her and his/her family;
  - How will a Catholic High School education help him/her now and in the future better serve his/her church and community?
  
- Student(s) agree to do a minimum of 40 hours / maximum of 80 hours of community service each year of scholarship. (Administrator will develop a form to document this service.)
  
- In a letter to the Selection Committee the parent or guardian is to respond to the following:
  - Explain the need of your family for a Monsignor John T. Mitchell Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship;
  - Explain your desire to continue a Catholic education for your child/children and the sacrifices you make to do so;
  - List specific activities you have been involved with in your parish or parish school during the past year.
  
- Application Deadline – March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Return all Msgr. Mitchell forms directly to:

Attn: Mr. Francis A. Farrell,  
Director of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of Catholic Education  
222 North 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**2017-2018 MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION FORM**

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Application deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> and must include:**

- Pastor's Letter verifying that the family unit must be known or be active, practicing African American Catholics (attend Church regularly) and in good standing.
- Academic Profile - please include copies of academic records including test results, grade school record, and information on academic scholarship test/interview at high school (if applicable).
- **Signed** Student Essay
- **Signed** Parent Letter
- Financial Needs Analysis – Student Aid Form should be submitted to SmartAid with requested financial documentation.

<https://smartaidforparents.com/>

***PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILIES TO APPLY TO SMARTAID FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS.***

- Letter/Statement of Recommendation from nominating party (i.e., Pastor, Elementary Principal, High School Administrator).

Human Potential: In narrative form, please assess the nominee's capability and desire to further his/her Catholic education. Indicate his/her potential, both academically and socially, to succeed in his/her pursuits, and the leadership qualities exhibited.

Parish, School, Civic, and Community Participation: In narrative form, please respond to the nominee's responsible participation in his/her community and, if possible, indicate the degree of parent/guardian support received.

N.B. All Student Essays and Parent Letters MUST be signed