

SCRIP

There are now four ways to spend your money. Cash, check, charge, and **SCRIP**. Of these four ways only **SCRIP** will help raise much needed funds for Catholic education here at St. Charles School.

WHAT IS SCRIP?

SCRIP is a program that sells gift certificates to be used as payment on all your everyday purchases—everything from food, gas, clothes, restaurants, to travel. The SCRIP distributor purchases large volumes of certificates from participating retailers. These certificates are then sold, at a discount, to St. Charles School. St. Charles sells the certificates, at face value, to its families and supporters and earns a profit (2-25%) from the difference. The certificates you purchase are **actual store certificates** and **cost you nothing extra to buy**. When using SCRIP certificates, you simply pay for the purchase with certificates instead of cash, check, or credit card.

HOW CAN SCRIP ACTUALLY SAVE YOU MONEY?

St. Charles would like to make it **each family's responsibility to raise \$175** for the school between now and June 30, 2003, the end of our fiscal year, through SCRIP purchases. If each family registered for next year does this we would have the potential for raising **over \$60,000** to help offset rising costs, keep tuition increases minimal, and provide funding to address special needs. **Your participation does make a difference!** With 52 weeks in the year, that means that you only need to average \$66.67 a week in purchases to make your goal based on purchases with a 5% discount. Of course, profits increase dramatically as you go beyond buying just grocery certificates and purchase from other retailers who offer higher discounts. So how does SCRIP save you money? In addition to a successful SCRIP program helping to hold down the rising cost of quality education, your family can see a decrease in tuition costs by earning **TUITION CREDITS**. After reaching the \$175 Scrip goal for school support, 75 % of the profit a family earns can be taken as a tuition credit in the semester after it was earned. Families have the ability to earn hundreds of dollars in tuition credits if they fully. To increase your tuition credit, you may also encourage friends and relatives to buy SCRIP on your behalf. Just request that extra order forms be sent to you or pick them up in the office and make sure that you are designated on the order form as the family to credit when the order is returned. Over 100 families at St. Charles earned tuition credits totaling over \$10,000 in 2002/2003. Many of these credits were in the hundreds of dollars.

HOW DO YOU BEGIN?

The first thing to do is assess your shopping needs for the week. Are you going grocery shopping? Need gas? Is a birthday coming up? Going out to dinner? Vacation plans? Next review the St. Charles Order Form. The order form lists all of the participating stores and some catalogs where we feel our St. Charles families shop. Also included is a copy of the SCRIP Retailer Discount List. This list includes all the national retailers that participate in the SCRIP program and gives you specifics about usage guidelines for the certificates issued by the individual retailers. You can order from any of these retailers in the "Other Orders" section of the order sheet at any time. Please save the SCRIP Retailer Discount List as a reference. You can also view the extended participating retailers list at the Great Lakes Scrip Center web-site www.glscrip.com.

Once the school year starts, the form will be sent home every Friday with the child you designate and be due back by 9:00am the following Monday. Orders will be returned to you through the same child on Friday unless other arrangements for pick-up are noted on the order form.

THE CLOSING STEPS

Fill out the order form, selecting which store certificates you wish to purchase and in what quantities and denominations. Tally each column and fill out the total. **Check is the preferred method of payment. Please make checks payable to St. Charles SCRIP.** On the order form you can also calculate the profit that your order is earning by taking the dollar amount you order from each retailer and multiplying it by the percentage that retailer offers. Keep a running total of your earnings on the sheet provided. You can verify your totals with Diane Keucher in the school development office.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1) **How long are certificates valid?** The expiration date varies by certificate but the shortest time we have seen is 1 year. You will not need to plan to use the certificates immediately after you purchase them. In fact, some families like to accumulate them over a period of time as if saving up for a special purchase.
- 2) **Are the certificates good only in the Bloomington area?** No, these are national retailers so the certificates are valid anywhere a participating store is located.
- 3) **How do the debit cards work?** They look like a credit card with the magnetic strip on the back. Encoded into the magnetic strip is the value of the card. When you go to the gas station or the store the card will be swiped. The amount you are purchasing will automatically be deducted from your card. The difference will be what is left on the card for you to use the next time.
- 4) **Can I get change for my certificate?** That varies from store to store. Many store will give you change if you have used 90% of the value of the certificate. That is just a guideline. The best answer is to consult the Participating Retailers List and to ask before you use the certificate.
- 5) **Can I use the certificates to pay on a store's charge account?** JC Penney is the only store where SCRIP is accepted for charge card balances but you must go into a store to pay.

**Buy the certificates! Go shopping! Support St. Charles!
The only work you have to do is fill out a form!
What could be easier?**

SCRIP = FREE MONEY!!!

We do it for our children!