



Island Catholic Schools

#1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

PARISH SUPPORTER APPLICATION ACTIVE PARTICIPANT

These days it is important to recognize that Catholic individuals and families participate in parish life to varying degrees. Each case is, in many ways, unique, being a function of many personal and social factors. In most cases the level of a family's activity in a Parish remains its own personal issue.

There are contexts, however, in which it is important to clarify a family's degree of participation. The tradition of offering to "active participants" in a Parish a reduced tuition at an Island Catholic School is one of those contexts. The histories of the Parish and School are intimately connected. Over the years there have been many examples of a mutual sharing of support and resources in service to the ultimate goal of building up the Catholic community in this area. In a sense, this tradition of a lower tuition for people who actively support the Parish Community represents recognition by the School of the financial and spiritual support given it by the Parish. From the Parish's perspective, it is important to us that those who benefit from this policy are indeed actively helping us nurture and support a community of faith here at the Parish.

The following is a list of criteria by which to determine whether a family qualifies as "active":

1. The family must be registered at the Parish.
2. The family must, in some combination, be sharing with the Parish its **Time, Talent, and/or Treasure**.
 - i. **Time:** Time is a gift from God... The questions for us are: how will we use that gift and will we use it to build up our community? Over and above returning to God a portion of that gift by responding to the Catholic guideline that we make every effort to join our community in prayer at a weekend Mass, time can also be shared by helping in the many chores and simple tasks that make up Parish life.
 - ii. **Talent:** There is a whole array of special tasks in a Parish that need people with a special interest in doing them. They can range from taking on a special role at Mass, to visiting a sick person, to serving in various leadership roles, or simply offering one's expertise when there is a special project. An organizational chart of the Parish is available which depicts all these different areas and the people responsible for them.
 - iii. **Treasure:** One of the guidelines given us by the church is that we accept responsibility for the financial support of our local Parish. To what extent a family can do this will vary with individual circumstances.

Active participants will be those who achieve any combination of some or all of these criteria. For some families, because of work schedules and other commitments, all they will be able to do is attend Mass and contribute financially. For others, their contribution may only be in sharing their Time and Talent. Active participants are those who help build up this Catholic community in whatever way is possible for them.

The form on the reverse side of this page should be submitted to the Parish Office and then dropped off by the parent to their local school or to the **ICS Central Office #1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street**, no later than **March 4th**. Island Catholic Schools will keep a master list of all families receiving a "parish supporter discount" and forward these names to each school.

Parents will not be required to complete the form annually, however, the Parish will be given a list each March to confirm that all families should remain on the list.

Families being accepted to the schools after March 4th can complete the form, follow the above procedure, and have their name added to the approved list.

