

September 26, 2005

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

With the help of the New York State Catholic Conference in Albany, my brother bishops and I have been urging Governor Pataki and our representatives in the state legislature to enact education tax credits to help all parents offset the cost of educating their children whether they attend a public, charter, independent or religious school. While education tax credit legislation has been pending in the state Legislature for some time, significant grassroots support from Catholic individuals and families is needed for it to be enacted into law. It is for this reason that I call on you to participate in a statewide postcard campaign.

The purpose of the postcard campaign is two-fold. First, the cards will be used to help demonstrate the level of support for education tax credits across the state. Secondly, the campaign will serve as an opportunity for you to join the Catholic Advocacy Network along with thousands of Catholics from around the state to continue to act on this and other public policy issues important to you and me, such as those that affect families and children, the poor and vulnerable, the elderly and the infirm.

Education tax credits can help every family, regardless of where they send their children to school. This legislation will help parents offset the costs they incur in their child's education and will encourage corporations and individuals to make greater contributions to schools. **It is therefore, absolutely critical that as many parishioners and parents as possible participate in this campaign.**

It is especially important that you include your e-mail address if you have one. E-mail will ensure that we keep printing and postage costs low and not divert funds that are more urgently needed elsewhere.

This campaign will not be successful without the continued involvement of Catholics across the state. Thank you for your help in making this campaign a success!

With every good wish, I remain
Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester