



April 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

Applications for the John Paul II Character in Leadership Scholarship are now available. These scholarships are traditionally funded by donations from current and past School Board members. This year, three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded, one each to a current 5th, 6th, and 7th grader to be used toward next year's tuition. Students who have applied in the past may reapply.

To qualify, a student must:

- be in 5th, 6th or 7th grade and have attended School of the Incarnation for at least 3 years
- be in good academic and disciplinary standing
- not be related to a member of the School Board
- submit a completed application packet and all required materials **on or before May 1, 2026**

The scholarships will be awarded to students who exhibit outstanding character, show concern for others, and contribute to the school's community through their leadership in academics, extra-curricular activities, and service. The application process includes an original student essay, list of service activities, and two letters of recommendation, all of which are described in detail in the application packet. We encourage students to provide teachers and other recommenders with *at least one week's notice* when they request letters of recommendation. Students, please note the dates of spring break when asking a teacher to complete the recommendation.

Each application will be assigned a number and names will be removed before review to ensure objectivity. Board-appointed representatives will review all applications, and the School Board and Principal will award the scholarships at our closing school mass in June.

If your child is interested in applying for this scholarship, you may print the application found on our school website, www.schooloftheincarnation.org, under "Resources."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Millie De Simone'.

Millie De Simone
School Board Vice Chair



The John Paul II Character in Leadership Scholarship

Sponsored by the School Board of School of the Incarnation

Application

This scholarship honors students who exhibit outstanding character, show concern for others, and contribute to the school's community through their leadership in academics, extra-curricular activities, and service.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

A completed application packet must include the following items and be submitted to the Development Office **on or before Friday, May 1, 2026;**

- **This** application cover sheet
- **Activities List** – Include a list of all current school, church, community, and service activities in which you have been involved **during the 2025-2026 school year** and describe your involvement.
- **Two** recommendation forms:
 - Recommendation #1: MUST be completed by a **current** teacher
 - Recommendation #2: MUST be completed by a church/community leader, school club moderator or coach from an activity/sport/club that you participate in.

Notes to students on recommendations:

1. Please ask your recommenders nicely.
 2. Allow them enough time to complete the form. At least a week is preferred!
 3. Be sure to thank your recommender. They are doing you a favor!
 4. Put your name on the recommendation form.
- Typed essay – refer to the insert in this packet for specific information on the essay.
 - The hand-written rough draft or outline for the essay.



Recommendation Form #1 (MUST be completed by a current teacher)

The John Paul II Character in Leadership Scholarship honors School of the Incarnation students who exhibit outstanding character, shows concern for others, and contributes to the school's community through their leadership in academics, extra-curricular activities, and service.

Student Name _____

Qualities	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely
Exhibits maturity				
Respectful demeanor				
Assignments done on time				
Respected by peers				
Participates in class				
Works well with peers				
Demonstrates leadership qualities				

Circle one: **Highly Recommend** **Recommend** **With Reservation** **Do Not Recommend**

On a separate piece of paper, please provide several sentences (NOT TO EXCEED 250 WORDS) to elaborate on your recommendation. In your role as their teacher, please attest to your observations on their qualities as they pertain to academics, service, leadership, and character. Focus and elaborate on what makes this student **unique**, since reviewers will be reading many recommendations from other students in this grade.

Signature _____

Printed Name/Title _____

NOTE: Please return the completed form in a **sealed envelope** to the Development office **by May 1, 2026** with the student's name on the outside of the envelope for inclusion in his or her application packet. Students have been instructed to give you at least one week to complete the form. Forms should not be returned to the student.



Recommendation Form #2
(MUST be completed by a community/church leader, school club moderator, or coach from an activity that you participate)

The John Paul II Character in Leadership Scholarship honors School of the Incarnation students who exhibit outstanding character, show concern for others, and contribute to the school's community through their leadership in academics, extra-curricular activities, and service.

Student Name _____

Qualities	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely
Exhibits maturity				
Respectful demeanor				
Prepared/Meets deadlines				
Respected by peers				
Actively Participates				
Works well with peers				
Demonstrates leadership qualities				

Circle one: **Highly Recommend** **Recommend** **With Reservation** **Do Not Recommend**

On a separate piece of paper, please provide several sentences (NOT TO EXCEED 250 WORDS) to elaborate on your recommendation. Please attest to your observations on their character traits as they pertain to service, leadership, and work ethic in your role and relationship with the student. Focus and elaborate on what makes this student **unique**, since reviewers will be reading many recommendations from other students in this grade.

Signature _____

Printed name/title _____

NOTE: Please return the completed form in a **sealed envelope** to the school office **by May 1, 2026**. Mailing address: *School of the Incarnation, Attn: Meghan Brown, 2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054*. Please put the student's name on the outside of the envelope. You may also email the completed form to mbrown@schooloftheincarnation.org. Form must be received by the date provided to be included in his or her application packet. Students have been instructed to give you at least one week to complete the form.



School of the Incarnation

John Paul II Character in Leadership Essay

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Think and prepare carefully
- Apply your best writing skills to this assignment
- Include a **hand-written** rough draft or outline to show your thought process
- The essay itself should be **typed**

ESSAY QUESTION

Pope John Paul II had a special connection with young people. Even as a young parish priest, the future pope devoted much of his time and energy to young people--playing soccer, teaching religion, and leading philosophical discussions. Throughout his papacy, John Paul II continued to reach out to young people. By establishing World Youth Day, and personally participating in it, the Pope demonstrated the affection and care he had for young people.

At World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II told the young people, "The future starts today, not tomorrow." Why do you think he felt this was an important message for young people to hear? How does it apply to your faith as a young person?

Write an essay between 400 and 600 words to answer this question.

CHECK YOUR ESSAY TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE:

- Focused on the topic, organized your thoughts, and answered the question.
- Made your essay personal. (We should learn something about you by reading it!)
- Included relevant information and elaborated to enhance ideas.
- Used variety in your vocabulary and sentence structure.
- Paid attention to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.