

# Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Memorial High School Freshman Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND STARTED IN MEMORY OF LT. FATHER JOSEPH VERBIS LAFLEUR

With the help of a North Carolina couple, a scholarship fund has now been started in honor of Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a local World War II military chaplain who perished during service to God and his country in 1944. The scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students of Sacred Heart in Ville Platte, which Father Lafleur attended as a boy; to Opelousas Catholic in Opelousas, where Msgr. Colliard helped him to enter the seminary; and Vermilion Catholic in Abbeville, because of Father Lafleur's dedication to the youth of the area during his assignment as associate pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church.

Last year Loretta and Alex Theriot were down from North Carolina for a stay in the home they maintain in Denham Springs. On a visit to a local religious shop they discovered But He Dies Not, a biography on Father Lafleur. As they learned more about Father Lafleur's life and legacy, the Theriot's made a generous contribution to the Father Lafleur Memorial fund and also learned of the efforts to establish an additional scholarship fund in the priest's memory. In October 2011, the Theriot's offered another donation matching up to \$50,000 in local donations. The Friends of Lt. Father Joseph Lafleur continues to seek donations to complete the scholarship fund with a principal amount of \$100,000 and the hope is to have the funds raised over the next year.

Donations can be mailed to Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur Endowment Fund  
C/O St. Landry Catholic Church  
1020 N. Main Street  
Opelousas, LA 70570

Or made out to Father Lafleur's Fund and added to your local church donations.

Mr. and Mrs. Theriot have also generously agreed to donate the funds for the 2020 scholarships. Therefore, the scholarships are scheduled to be awarded this year in May, with the applications due by April 1, 2020, so that a committee to select the recipients may review them. The application process is open to any eighth-grade student who wishes to attend either Sacred Heart School in Ville Platte, Opelousas Catholic in Opelousas, or Vermilion Catholic in Abbeville. The applicants will be judged on:

- A submitted essay expressing his/her knowledge of the life witness of Lt. Father J.V. Lafleur
- Involvement/leadership in his/her church parish, school and community
- Pastor's testimony of the applicant's faith, church involvement, character, values and verification that the applicant is a registered parishioner committed to Mass attendance • Financial need

Scholarship forms and additional information on the essay portion requirements may be requested by contacting St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas at 337-942-6552 or Carrol and Richard Lafleur at 337-948-6130.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the application carefully. Provide information and answer all questions fully.
2. Notify your school authorities of having made an application for this scholarship grant. Request that the school principal or counselor fully complete the questionnaire contained in the application. Obtain from your school a complete transcript of your academic grades record. The questionnaire and grades record should be placed by

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the principal or counselor in a sealed envelope and **must be included with your application at the time of filing**. This required information will not be accepted or made part of your application if mailed separately.

3. You may attach up to 5 personal references or recommendations (**one must be from your Pastor**) from additional priests, church youth leaders, teachers, employers, coaches and evidence of awards (academic, community, church, etc.) that you received and personal accomplishments. However, this information including references, which should be submitted in sealed envelopes, **must be included with your application at the time of filing**, and will not be accepted or made part of your application if received separately.
4. Each application with attachments **must be received IN ITS ENTIRETY by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 15, 2024**. Entries received after this date will not be considered.
5. Mail your completed application, following the guidelines specified above, to:

Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Scholarship Committee  
c/o St. Landry Roman Catholic Church  
1020 N. Main Street  
Opelousas, LA 70570

6. Winners of Scholarship grants sponsored by the “Friends of Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur” will be announced in May of 2024. Winners will be immediately notified by mail. Applicants may check the Fr. Lafleur website ( [www.fartherlafleur.org](http://www.fartherlafleur.org) ) for winner postings.

### Application Checklist

#### Eligibility:

The “Friends of Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur” is the sponsor of three scholarships of up to \$1,000. One scholarship is to be awarded per eligible school. A 2019 advancing Roman Catholic 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from public, private or parochial school who will be registered and enrolled as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at the following Roman Catholic Schools is eligible to apply:

Opelousas Catholic High School Opelousas, Louisiana  
Sacred Heart High School, Ville Platte, Louisiana  
Vermilion Catholic High School, Abbeville, Louisiana

This award is open to Roman Catholic students who are residents of Louisiana. Awards may be applied to tuition payments only and will be payable only to the school listed above. The Scholarship is only for the selected student’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

Below is the complete information on the scholarship regarding eligibility for scholarship awards.

Applications will be judged on:

- Learned knowledge of the virtuous and heroic life witness of Lt. Fr. Joseph V. Lafleur communicated through a minimum 2-3 page single spaced essay. (Font is to be Times New Roman, size 12 only; black lettering and single-spaced. The student's name and date must appear on page 1 at the top left margin of the student essay.)

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Information on Fr. Lafleur's life can be obtained from the following texts: "Man Among Men"; "Thos Roses have Crossed to the other Side"; "But He Dies Not"; documented interviews of those who knew/encountered Fr. LaFleur.

- Involvement/Leadership in their Catholic Church Parish, school, and community
- Pastor's testimony of applicant's faith, church involvement, character, values and verification that the applicant is a registered parishioner who is committed to Sunday Mass and Holy Days - Financial need

Checklist:

The application must include materials in the following order:

- The Application Form
- Lt. Fr. Joseph V. Lafleur essay
- Middle School Principal or Student Counselor Evaluation
- Student's Academic Grades transcript
- Pastor's testimonial letter (see above) and 4 optional additional references, recommendations, information on awards, etc. Limit such additional information to a maximum of 4 items.

All documentation MUST be received at the same time. Failure to submit all elements at the same time will result in reflection of the application.

### **APPLICATION FORM**

Please type or print clearly:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS:  
\_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

IS FATHER LIVING AT HOME? YES / NO

IS MOTHER LIVING AT HOME? YES / NO

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME: AGES \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WILL ATTEND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEXT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WILL ATTEND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

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NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WILL ATTEND COLLEGE NEXT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WILL ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL NEXT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT & FAMILY ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ CATHOLIC PARISH.

PARISH ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

The following questions are to be answered by Parent/Guardian:

1. Have you received any financial aid toward tuition, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which high school does your child plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the annual tuition at this school? \_\_\_\_\_
4. State why this scholarship would be of help to your child (ex. Spiritually financially etc)

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5. What influence has Fr. Lafleur's life story had upon your child?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Follow the detailed instructions contained herein in preparing your application. You may use the back of the application or additional pages to list any special information the Scholarship committee should consider in evaluating your application.

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TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, COUNSELOR OR PARENT IN THE CASE OF HOMESCHOOLING.

1. Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Enclose a complete transcript of the applicant's academic grades record and class standing.
4. Is there any academic information not included on the applicant's transcript that you feel the committee should know or consider? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think the applicant's character and reputation make him/her a representative of your school and an apt candidate for a scholarship award by the "Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Scholarship Endowment Fund?" \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL SUPPORT DATA

Please evaluate the student using 1 – Excellent 2 – Very Good 3 – Average 4 – Below Average 5 – Poor

6. SELF-DIRECTION AND DISCIPLINE:  
Dependent ( ) Gets along well with peers ( ) Works well alone and with others ( )
7. WORK HABITS:  
Displays those habits of student which lead to achievement ( )  
Completes assigned tasks ( ) Is prompt ( ) Concentrates well ( ) Locates information ( )
8. INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:  
Participates in class discussions ( ) Is a good leader as well as a group leader ( )  
Participates in voluntary activities ( ) Is admired by others ( ) Sportsmanship ( )
9. Estimate of Applicant's likelihood for academic success in high school ( )
10. To the best of your knowledge, will the applicant attend Catholic high school without aid?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Has the applicant obtained financial aid for use in attending Catholic high school next year?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is your considered recommendation to this committee concerning this applicant for the "Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Scholarship Endowment Fund"?  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

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This completed form, together with a copy of the student's academic grade record and class standing should be given to the applicant in a sealed envelope so that it may be included with his/her completed scholarship application.