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Dear Principals,

Each year the Social Services Office of Catholic Charities, working with the Catholic School Office, endeavors to get the word out to parents and guardians of children in our Catholic school system about the Earned Income Credit (EIC), the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. These programs provide vital tax benefits for working parents that qualify - even if they did not earn enough income in 2015 to owe income tax. This year eligible families may qualify for as much as \$6,242 from the EIC and even more if they also qualify for the Child Tax Credit.

It is instructive to know that 40% of Missouri's families have income of less than \$33,000 per year. These families need access to every available economic tool that might enhance their ability to adequately provide for their families; EIC, CTC, and VITA are essential for them. The boost provided by the EIC and other valuable federal tax credits provide many working families the opportunity to pay their household bills and meet their children's needs through difficult economic situations.

As with an ever growing number of things the EIC/CTC/VITA materials now are accessible electronically only. To find the downloadable materials that can be printed and sent home with each student click on the [Tax Credit Outreach Kit](#) for all the information needed related to the Earned Income Credit, the Child Tax Credit and free filing through the VITA program. Printable materials such as [posters, flyers, graphics and press releases](#) are available as well.

I hope you will take advantage of these materials, which may help families that are finding it hard to make ends meet financially and that qualify for these important tax benefits. Please help your school children's parents claim the tax benefits they have earned!

Sincerely,

Barbara Ross
Director of Social Services