2 suburban Catholic schools to close in June

By Alyssa Gabby
Chicago Tribune

Two west suburban Catholic grade schools will close this summer, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced Thursday, citing an “overwhelming financial cliff” after the loss of a state tax credit scholarship program.

The Archdiocese cited the expiration of the state tax credit scholarship program for school choice.

In a statement, the Archdiocese said, “The schools have been open for a combined 196 years. In Kids grant money goes toward covering a student’s tuition. Student tuition covers only a portion of funds that Catholic schools in the archdiocese need to operate, the Office of Catholic Schools said. The aid is based on the individual student, but they rely on donations and subsidies from parishes, among other channels, to round out spending budgets. “More than half the students at our two schools rely on these scholarships,” said the Rev. Bartholomew Juncer, pastor of St. Odilo School. “These are hard-working families who want a Catholic education for their children.”

The announcement is the latest in a series of closures by the state in Maricopa County. The number of schools closed due to financial pressure has increased in recent years as state funding for schools has declined. The state’s budget cuts have forced schools to raise tuition and cut programs, exacerbating the financial strain on families. The closures have also raised concerns about the availability of quality education for young people. The Archdiocese has expressed its commitment to providing quality education for all students and has been working to address the financial challenges faced by the schools.

As the Archdiocese deals with the financial challenges, it is also facing criticism for its handling of the financial crisis. The Archdiocese has been accused of mismanaging its finances and failing to address the financial problems of the schools. The Archdiocese has denied these allegations and has stated that it is working to address the financial challenges faced by the schools. However, the Archdiocese’s handling of the financial crisis has raised concerns about its accountability and transparency.

The Archdiocese has also faced criticism for its closure of schools in predominantly minority neighborhoods. The Archdiocese has stated that it is committed to providing quality education for all students and has been working to address the financial challenges faced by the schools. However, the Archdiocese’s closure of schools in predominantly minority neighborhoods has raised concerns about its commitment to providing quality education for all students.

The Archdiocese is not alone in facing financial challenges. Many Catholic schools across the country are facing similar financial challenges due to declining state funding and rising costs. The Archdiocese’s closure of schools highlights the challenges facing Catholic schools and the need for a comprehensive solution to address the financial challenges faced by the schools. The Archdiocese has expressed its commitment to providing quality education for all students and has been working to address the financial challenges faced by the schools. However, the Archdiocese’s handling of the financial crisis has raised concerns about its accountability and transparency.

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