

# Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2026 Scholarship Program

## Scholarship Program Rules REVISED FOR 2026

### 1. Purpose of the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program

Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ is committed to the role of advancement and education in our personal and Christian lives. The Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program is intended to celebrate and reward the leadership and academic achievement of our Hispanic youth, and to contribute to the spirit and well being of the Hispanic Community.

### 2. Terms of the Program

In recognition of demonstrated leadership and accomplishments outside the classroom as well as academic performance, Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ will grant individual financial scholarships to selected students who meet the eligibility requirements of the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program described in section 3.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

To apply, an applicant must be a registered parishioner in the Diocese of Arlington, of Hispanic descent, and must be attending or accepted as a student in a post-secondary, accredited college or university program.

### 4. Application Process

Eligible students will complete the application packet and submit it with the required supporting documentation.

The packet will include a resume highlighting academic achievement as well as involvement in the world beyond the classroom: Church, arts, music, environmental stewardship, community service, athletics, or other areas of interest.

A personal essay is required responding to the topic identified on Page 5. Essays may be typed or hand-written. Your signature is required at the bottom of the essay for it to be accepted.

A letter of recommendation from a member of the clergy, youth program director, or a religious education teacher from your parish is required.

Additionally, the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Committee requires one personal letter of reference to comment on the applicant's character and/or academic performance. The letter must not be from a parent or relative; it should come from a counselor, teacher, employer, clergy, etc. Please ensure that contact information for the reference is included in the letter, as the Committee may contact the reference.

All letters of recommendation must be signed originals or emails sent directly from the rereference to AmigosEnCristoSMOS@gmail.com; copies or forwarded recommendations will not be accepted.

## **Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2026 Scholarship Program**

Please note that official transcripts of grades must be submitted. Unofficial transcripts and grade reports are not acceptable. Transcripts may be electronic transcripts from a school or university transcript service, or printed originals. Students currently enrolled in college must include all official college transcripts. High school seniors and college students who have completed less than one full year of post-secondary education must include their high school transcript.

Applications packets must be complete and submitted either by mail or hand carried to the Saint Mary of Sorrows Parish Center office. The mailing address is:

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church  
Attn: Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program 2026  
5222 Sideburn Rd.  
Fairfax, VA. 22032.

### **5. Application Deadline**

The application must be received not later than June 1, 2026 to be considered.

### **6. Selection Process**

The Committee will select award recipients on the basis of demonstrated leadership, active involvement in civic and/or religious activities, and academic performance, and quality of the essay. Selected award recipients will be notified by June 12th.

### **7. Obligations**

Award recipients must be enrolled in an accredited two or four year college or university for the year in which their scholarship is granted. Proof of enrollment must be provided to the Committee. Proof of enrollment could be a letter of acceptance for the upcoming academic year for new college students or transferring college students, or current transcripts for current college students.

### **8. Award Distribution**

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ dinner on July 11<sup>th</sup> in Farrell Hall. Scholarship checks will be sent directly to the financial services office of your college. Please ensure that you provide the address to the financial services office of your school, and your student identification number, if you have one.

## **Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2026 Scholarship Program**

### **9. Application Packet Check List**

Please ensure that each item on this checklist is provided in your application submission. Please sign this form below indicating that all items have been included in your packet. **Incomplete packets will not be considered for a scholarship.**

- a. **Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- b. **Application Form (Signed)**
- c. **Resume**
- d. **Personal Essay (Signed)**
- e. **Parish Letter of Recommendation**
- f. **Personal Letter of Reference (Signed by reference) or direct email**
- g. **Official Transcripts**
- h. **Proof of Enrollment**
  
- i. **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_
- j. **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2026 Scholarship Program

## Application Form

*Please type or print all information except signatures. Information must be legible or application may not be considered.*

Applicant Information:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Arlington Diocese Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of Post Secondary school that you plan to attend or are attending.*

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Years in College Completed:    0        1        2        3        4        5 (Circle One)

Major or Course of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Services Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ is the sole authority for selecting recipients based on criteria as set forth in the programs rules. This application becomes property of Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program.

*I acknowledge that decisions of Amigos en Cristo regarding the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program are final. I certify that I meet the basic eligibility requirements of the program as described in the program description and that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I agree to provide proof of the information that I have given on this form. Falsification of information may result in the immediate rescission of any scholarship granted.*

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2026 Scholarship Program

Personal Essay (500 to 750 words)

The Catholic Church is celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's entrance in Heaven. The Prayer of Peace of Saint Francis exemplifies his spirituality:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*Amen*

*How can this prayer help you to lead a Catholic life on campus?*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_