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Catholic Leadership Scholarship also carries Bishop Maher's name

Bishop Leo T. Maher is known for his commitment to the furtherance of higher education. He also has been in the forefront of promoting cultural and ethnic diversity on campuses and schools throughout the San Diego Catholic Diocese.

With the advent of the Bishop Maher Catholic Leadership Scholarship at USD, he has been able to combine both of these causes.

Because of Maher's service and contributions to the University, which span more than two decades, USD established the scholarship in his name in 1979.

Since that time, an average of 100 to 120 USD students have been recipients of the Maher scholarships each year. Each student receives an average of $1,675 annually.

Gina Diaz, a USD international relations major who has qualified for the Maher scholarship for the third straight year, said the funds have "relieved the financial stress. The scholarship money also helped me pay for studying abroad (Spain) last year."
In addition to academic excellence and financial need, students must perform community service to qualify for a Maher Scholarship.

Diaz, an Imperial Beach resident, is a teacher's assistant for first graders attending catechism in San Ysidro.

Myla Anoche, a second-year Maher Scholarship recipient, performs her community service at St. Vincent De Paul Center.

Anoche, an 18-year-old Mira Mesa resident, is thankful that the scholarship introduced her to community service.

The Maher program is intended to assist Catholic undergraduates who demonstrate leadership capabilities to complete their education at USD, and take their place as leaders in society, according to Judith Lewis, USD director of financial aid.

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