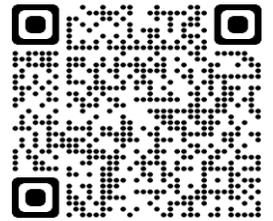




St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Inc.
Florida Council of Catholic Women
National Council of Catholic Women
St. Maria Goretti Education Scholarship Award
Catholic Senior High School Young Women's Essay Contest
"Here I Am Lord"
MISSION STATEMENT



The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. SPDCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and Society in the modern world.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR THE ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOLARSHIP

Dear Applicant:

Please read the following Instruction Page before filling out and submitting your Application Form.

Choose one of the three (3) topics below. Write an essay on your chosen topic.
Essay must be 500—750 words.

1. What does the Eucharist mean to me? How can you share this with the World today?
2. How can I say yes, as the Blessed Mother said yes?
3. Here I am, Lord. How will I continue to courageously live my faith?

The Award for the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SPDCCW) Scholarship Essay is 1st Prize is \$1000.00; 2nd Prize and 3rd Prize are \$500.00 each. The Essay Contest is open to active Catholic 12th grade high school young women entering College or Vocational Training.

Essays and Letters of Recommendation must be sent to **Mary Woltman, Chairman of SPDCCW Essay Contest at: 11628 Taylor Rd., Thonotosassa, FL 33592.** **Essay must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2025.**

Also submit an email copy of the essay to woltmanmom.catholicvoice@gmail.com. Winners will be notified by email and invited to share their Essay at the 57th Annual St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention Bishop's Dinner on Friday May 2, 2025 at 6:45 PM to be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton (Brandon) 10220 Palm River Rd, Tampa, FL 33619. Each winner will receive three complimentary Dinner tickets for themselves and two guests. Additional Dinner tickets may be purchased for \$65.00 each.

Yours in Christ,

St. Maria Goretti Scholarship Committee

Mary M Woltman, Chairman woltmanmom.catholicvoice@gmail.com

Lynn Erickson

Darcie Maldonado

Missy Garrett

Reverend Joel Kovanis, Spiritual Advisor



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APPLICATION FORM FOR ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOLARHIP AWARD



(Please Print)

- 1. Last Name:** _____ **First Name:** _____
- 2. Mailing Address:**
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
- 3. Cell Phone Number:** _____
Email Address: _____
Parish now attending: _____ Phone: _____ Zip Code: _____
- 4. Date of Birth:** Month: _____ Date: _____ Year: _____
- 5. Please attach the following with the Application:**
Letters of recommendation from the Pastor/Associate Pastor/Spiritual Advisor/ Faculty Member/Youth Group Leader (Choose 2) Home Parish: _____ Pastor: _____

- 6. Name and address of High School now attending:**
Name: _____
Address: Street: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____
- 7. Name and address of Youth Group you attend, if applicable:**
Name of your Youth Group Adult Leader: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
- 8. Name and Address of parent or legal guardian (s):**
Name (s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Contact Phone Number: _____
- 9. On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a typed Essay of 500 to 750 words answering the question you have chosen from the three (3) topics listed above.**



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Saint Maria Teresa Goretti

Patroness of purity, young women, and victims of assault

(Italian: [Ma'ri:aTe'rɛ:za Go'retti]; (October 16, 1890 – July 6, 1902) is an Italian virgin-martyr of the Catholic Church, and one of the youngest Saints to be canonized. She was born to a farming family. Her father died when she was nine, and the family had to share a house with another family, the Serenellis. Maria took over household duties while her mother, brothers and sister worked in the fields.

One afternoon, Alessandro, the Serenellis' 20-year-old son, made sexual advances to her. When she refused to submit to him, he stabbed her 14 times. She was taken to the hospital where she died forgiving him. He was arrested, convicted and jailed. During imprisonment, he repented. Perhaps one of the first miracles attributed to St. Maria Goretti is what speaks most of her character. Nearly six years after her violent murder by Alessandro Serenelli, she appeared to him in his jail cell. She had forgiven him as she lay dying in 1902 after he stabbed her to death for refusing his sexual advances.

After 27 years, he was released from prison and visited her mother to beg forgiveness, which she granted. He later became a lay brother in a monastery and died in 1970. She was beatified in 1947 and canonized in 1950. She is especially venerated in the Congregation of the Passion (Passionists).

Prayer: *‘O God, author of innocence and lover of chastity, who bestowed the grace of martyrdom on your handmaid, the Virgin Saint Maria Goretti, in her youth, grant, **we pray, through her intercession**, that, as you gave her a crown for her steadfastness, so we, too, may be firm in obeying your commandments.’ Amen*

Born	October 16, 1890 Corinaldo, Province of Ancona, Marche, Kingdom of Italy
Died	July 6, 1902 (aged 11) Nettuno, Province of Rome, Lazio, Kingdom of Italy
Venerated in	Catholic Church
Beatified	April 27, 1947, Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City by Pope Pius XII
Canonized	June 24, 1950, Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City by Pope Pius XII
Major shrine	Nettuno, Province of Rome, Lazio, Italy
Feast	July 6 (General Roman Calendar & Passionist Calendar)
Attributes	lily; farmer's clothing; martyr's palm
Patronage	Victims of rape, crime victims, teenage girls, modern youth, Children of Mary