



SAINT MARIA GORETTI

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

January 13, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin this new year, we have already begun to prepare for another year of catholic education for our young disciples. As you probably already know, our parish is one of only two parishes in Arlington that provides PreK-8 Catholic education. In addition, our parish financially supports Nolan Catholic High School. Our support of these schools is not only spiritual and physical, but also financial. As we have in the past for the upcoming 2016-2017, our parish will continue to support these schools through certification to receive the discounted rate of tuition for both schools. Recently, we met and reviewed the criteria used to determine eligibility and have made some changes to reinforce our Catholic and Franciscan identity.

In order to qualify for certification and receive the discounted tuition rate, you must meet the minimum following requirements:

- **Registered:** The family must be formally enrolled in our parish at the time of registration.
- **Active:** Families who are active should faithfully attend Mass each Sunday at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church.
- **Contributing:** Contributing families are supporting our parish financially through regular, consistent giving.
- **Involved:** Involved families and students will serve our parish community and the Church by using their God-given time and talents through volunteer activities fulfilling minimum service hour requirements.
- **Responsible Stewardship:** All tuition accounts must be kept current in order to qualify for any financial assistance or discounted tuition rates provided by our parish and school.

Formal enrollment is achieved through completion of the parish registration form. This can be done by paper enrollment, available in the parish Office; through one of our hospitality ministers after Mass, or online on our website at www.smgparish.org.

Faithful attendance means attending Sunday mass at Saint Maria Goretti at least 45 times per year. To measure this, we rely on the use envelopes and Faith Direct attendance cards being placed in the Sunday offertory. If you are currently utilizing faith direct and do not have attendance cards, you **will need** them going forward. Please note that we track only Sunday attendance for tuition rate purposes and not holy days and weekday masses. If you forget your envelope or attendance card, please use one of the white pew envelopes to track attendance. This is very important! You do not have to include money in the envelope for attendance to be registered. To determine eligibility **for the 2016-2017 school year, the measurement period is April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.** If you have questions, please contact the parish office.

Support through regular, consistent giving means financially supporting our parish regularly and consistently. I encourage all families to participate in sacrificial giving according to their means. Giving on your part makes it possible for the parish to do more for the school and the parish as a whole. Your consistent financial support is a manifestation of your honoring Church teaching, which stresses "...supporting the Church parish and all it strives to do to spread the Catholic Faith."

If you experience a financial hardship during the year, please do not wait until tuition decisions have to be made. Submit empty envelopes marked clearly with your name and address so that they count towards attendance. Financial contributions can be made up when you are able to do so.

Service hours are the method for determining **involvement**. Service hours are measured between **April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016** and must be reported to the parish office. A copy of the reporting form is available on our website at www.smgparish.org. In order to qualify for the discounted tuition rate, the minimum service hours are as follows:

Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School: The minimum amount of service hours required for a family at our parish school is 40 hours of service to the school. Students in grades 7 and 8 are also required to complete an additional 20 hours of community service; 10 of which must be in service to the parish as a demonstration of the student's appreciation to our parishioners for their support. Community service includes any volunteer activity benefiting the community. Service hours for the parish includes things directly benefitting the parish, such as altar serving, participating in the children's choir, serving as a hospitality minister, lector, cantor, or mass greeter but they do not include service hours earned at Kountry Karnival or the school. Hours can also be earned in social ministry, faith formation, and right to life activities. All 20 hours may be earned at the parish, but no more than 10 can be earned in activities that do not serve our parish directly.

Nolan Catholic High School: The minimum service hours required for Nolan students is 15 service hours performed at Saint Maria Goretti. Up to 7 hours may be performed for our Kountry Karnival.

Responsible stewardship includes honoring your agreements with our parish school. In order to continue to receive discounted tuition, school accounts must be kept current and payments must be made in accordance with the tuition agreement signed at registration. This allows the school to properly manage its finances and meets its own financial obligations in a timely and responsible manner.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or these outlined requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.

Please know that your families are always in our prayers.

God bless,

Fr. Luke Robertson, TOR
Pastor

Leah Rios
SMG Principal