



# THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

## And The SMG Assistance Fund

### FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

#### **What is the SMG Assistance Fund?**

Every year St. Maria Goretti Parish gladly spends over \$250,000 on assistance programs and ministries that benefits our church families, children, youths, young adults, adults and seniors. ***The SMG Assistance Fund is the means by which the Parish can partner with our parishioners to support, sustain and expand these beneficial assistance programs and ministries:***

- ***Catholic School Education Tuition Subsidies.*** SMG pays reimbursements to regional Catholic schools Mater Dei, Corpus Christi, St. Mary, St. Jude and other eligible schools so that children of our Parish families can gain a valuable Catholic school education by attending these schools at reduced tuition rates.
- ***Catholic School Education Tuition Assistance.*** SMG supports financially needy families' efforts to have their children get a Catholic school education by offering financial assistance to families according to their need.
- ***Parish Religious Education Program (PREP).*** SMG subsidizes our quality Parish Religious Education Program to cover the program's costs that are not covered by tuitions paid by the families.
- ***Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Tuition Assistance.*** SMG supports financially needy families' efforts to give their children valuable exposure to our quality Parish Religious Education Program by offering financial assistance to families according to their need.
- ***Children, Youth, Young Adult, and Adult Ministries.*** SMG subsidizes ministries for all ages to cover the costs of programs that are not covered by nominal fees and/or free-will donations.
- ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).*** SMG fully subsidizes our valuable and hands-on Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults so that there is never any cost to all welcome participants.
- ***Eldercare Assistance Program.*** SMG subsidizes and sponsors the St. Maria Goretti Eldercare Assistance Program by partnering and sharing the cost with Catholic Housing & Community Services to have a licensed and experienced social worker on call to provide support and guidance for seniors and their families by providing choices, recommendations, and answers in times of uncertainty for all issues that are unique to that stage of life.

#### **Why are we partnering with the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia (CFGP)?**

Our Parish will retain a greater portion of our donations for funding our vital assistance programs and ministries if we donate through the CFGP. The CFGP rate of return on investments is averaging 4% annually, a much higher rate than currently being offered through savings accounts (0.06%). Additionally, the CFGP has a very low 1.25% fee for managing our funds. ***Importantly, when you donate to the SMG Assistance Fund through the CFGP, your donations will not be subject to Archdiocesan assessments.***

For example, let us say that you donate \$100 to the Parish. Currently, SMG receives only \$88 from that donation, due to various Archdiocese assessments. However, if you donate that same \$100 to the SMG Assistance Fund (managed by the CFGP), SMG will receive \$98.75 (due to the 1.25% management fee) and \$4.00 due to the 4% annual return rate. This means that SMG will receive \$102.75 for your \$100 donation (\$98.75 + \$4.00 for the 4% annual rate of return = \$102.75) compared to the \$88 our Parish currently receives for the same \$100 donation.

#### **How are contributions to the SMG Assistance Fund invested?**

The CFGP manages the contributions and chooses investments in accord with Catholic values. Contributions will be invested in a mix of money market, stock, and mutual funds. As economic changes occur within the fund, the fund's performance will fluctuate; however, the CFGP past performance shows history of very

positive returns on its managed funds.

### **Why are we introducing the SMG Assistance Fund now?**

The Parish chose to present this information now since many parishioners choose to give sizable donations during the year, whether from annuities on pension plans, end-of-the-year work bonuses, or even special donations to the Church. By making parishioners aware of the SMG Assistance Fund, we can retain more of those donations for our Parish needs.

### **Are there other parishes in the Archdiocese who have partnered with The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia?**

Currently, over 30 parishes in the Philadelphia Archdiocese have partnered with The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia for various parish needs, including Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish in Hilltown, St. Jude Parish in Chalfont, and St. Helena Parish in Blue Bell.

### **How do I contribute to the SMG Assistance Fund?** There are a number of ways you can contribute:

**Blue SMG Assistance Fund Envelope:** In your Monthly Envelopes Mailing. Checks can be made payable to **SMG Assistance Fund**. NO cash in the blue envelope as we will be sending them to the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia.

**Donation Sent Directly To The SMG Assistance Fund :** Parishioners can send their donations directly to the CFGP SMG Assistance Fund lockbox at the following address:

SMG Assistance Fund  
c/o The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia  
PO Box 71224  
Philadelphia, PA 19176

### **Credit Card or Electronic Check**

Donations via Credit Card or Electronic Check can be made on the CFGP webpage at the address below.

<http://www.thecfgp.org/donate/smg-assistance-fund>

Your donation can be set up as a recurring monthly gift or as a tribute gift in honor, memory or support of someone you love. Gifts can also remain anonymous.

**Stock Transfers and Estate Planning Donation** options are also available. If interested, please contact CFGP at (215) 587-5650.

### **Will I receive an end-of-the-year donation statement for my taxes?**

Yes, **donations to the SMG Assistance Fund are tax deductible**, so you will receive a tax statement from The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia.

### **When can I give my first donation to the SMG Assistance Fund?**

Since our fund is already established you can start donating today.

### **Is there any additional cost to me to contribute to the SMG Assistance Fund?**

None. We are providing an option to maximize the donations we already receive so that more of the funds can stay within our Parish. We are sincerely appreciative and deeply blessed for all of our parishioners, and for your love, generosity, and support of St. Maria Goretti Parish.

### **Do these assistance programs and ministries that I will be supporting benefit me in any way?**

The assistance programs and ministries that you partner with St. Maria Goretti Parish in supporting are available to benefit all parishioners in all walks of life. There is something that can bless any family, child, youth, young adult, adult or senior. We invite and encourage everyone and anyone to be blessed by these programs and ministries:

- ***Catholic School Education Tuition Subsidies.*** Please make every effort to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of our Lord thru Catholic Education at our regional schools. Contact Mater Dei Catholic School ([materdeicatholic.com](http://materdeicatholic.com)), Corpus Christi Catholic School ([ccslansdale.org](http://ccslansdale.org)), St. Mary School ([stmaryschoolcal.org](http://stmaryschoolcal.org)), St. Jude School ([stjudeschool.com](http://stjudeschool.com)) or other school of your choice.
- ***Catholic Education Tuition Assistance.*** If you think that you and your family cannot afford a quality Catholic School Education for your children, well think again! St. Maria Goretti Parish is here to help. Reach out to SMG Pastor Father Chung thru our Parish Center offices, or contact SMG

Business Manager Douglas Smith at [douglas.smith@stmariagoretti.net](mailto:douglas.smith@stmariagoretti.net).

- ***Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)***. We encourage all families to enroll their children in the valuable and quality SMG PREP program. Everything children learn in our programs plants seed on rich soil for building a strong relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, and a foundation in faith that will last a lifetime. All children in our programs learn in a safe and supportive atmosphere. We offer several opportunities to meet the needs of our parish families including Traditional Faith Formation Classes, Sunday Family PREP, Home-Based Catechesis, and Adaptive Faith Formation Class. Contact our Director of Religious Education, Maria Richardson at [maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net](mailto:maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net).
- ***Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Tuition Assistance***. Do not let financial considerations prevent your children from experiencing the benefits of our quality religious education program. Families who need financial assistance are welcome. No family will be turned away. Contact our Director of Religious Education, Maria Richardson at [maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net](mailto:maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net).
- ***Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Adult Faith Formation***. From the young to the old, from the spiritual beginner to the spiritually mature, from the shy to the outgoing, everyone can benefit from SMG's various ministries. Deepen your faith while you fellowship with members of our church family. Contact Youth Coordinator Tyler Grant at [tyler.grant@stmariagoretti.net](mailto:tyler.grant@stmariagoretti.net) for participation in fun and active yet spiritual activities in our Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and contact Maria Richardson at [maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net](mailto:maria.richardson@stmariagoretti.net) to engage with those of a kindred faith and a like generation in our Adult Faith Formation Ministry.
- ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)***. Are you or perhaps someone you know seeking Baptism or full Communion with the Catholic Church? Please accept our invitation to discern God's call to full membership in the Catholic Church through the RCIA Ministry. Adults interested in full participation in the Church and learning more about Jesus, Sacred Scripture, the Sacraments, Prayer and much more are openly to welcome faith formation sessions held weekly at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. Contact Al Pandolfo at [pandolfo7@netscape.net](mailto:pandolfo7@netscape.net) for participation in this vibrant ministry.
- ***Eldercare Assistance Program***. Are you, or do you know, a senior who can benefit from the advice, support and intervention of an experienced and caring social worker who specializes in the issues that are unique to the elderly? Contact Amy Juarez at [ajuarez@chs-adphila.org](mailto:ajuarez@chs-adphila.org) for hands-on help for any senior issue at no cost to you or your loved one. Do not try to walk your path alone, not when SMG and the Eldercare Assistance Program are available to walk with you.