



September 21, 2023

Dear St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School Families,

Thank you to all who attended our meeting this evening. If your family was unable to attend, please note that the primary topic discussed was the future of St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School (SMGRCS).

Over the past decade, SMGRCS has experienced a significant and increasingly sharp decline in enrollment. During the 2017-18 school year, SMGRCS enrolled 219 students. Enrollment for the current academic year stands at 147, a 33% decrease.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has provided substantial and unwavering support with \$8,532,853 in financial assistance over the last decade. This support was extended hoping that SMGRCS would strengthen its enrollment, boost donor revenue, and achieve financial sustainability. Regrettably, and despite abundant collaborative efforts, enrollment and revenue have continued to decline in a market where the financial resources required to continue operating have increased. Given the ongoing challenges to advance the school toward a sustainable enrollment and philanthropy model, the Archdiocese is no longer able to continue to bridge the increasing gap between annual operating expenses and revenue.

Faced with an increasingly uncertain future for the school community, an independent exploratory committee, comprised of Goretti alumni and school supporters, is exploring the possibility of transitioning SMGRCS to an independent Catholic school. It is the committee's intention to formulate and share plans before the end of the 2023 calendar year. The Archdiocese fully supports any effort to preserve the presence of a Catholic high school in the tri-state region, and is hopeful that the independent committee can establish a model that enables it to sustain itself financially, while maintaining the quality of the student learning experience.

The pathway to an independent school model comes with significant hurdles:

1. SMGRCS must be in a financial position to renew its lease of the Crestwood campus, which expires on July 31, 2024, without financial support from the Archdiocese, or find a new space for the academic campus for the 2024-25 school year.
2. Alternatively, to construct a new academic building on the St. Ann campus, the school must raise the necessary funds. A 2022 feasibility study estimated a project budget of \$15.4 million with a three-year timeline for design, permitting, and construction. When adjusted for the annual construction cost escalation (8%), the total investment required for the new building is approximately \$21 million by 2026.
3. The school must demonstrate the ability to sustain revenue that can meet critical expenses: salaries, benefits, utilities, and other essential operating expenses that preserve the safety and vitality of the learning experience.

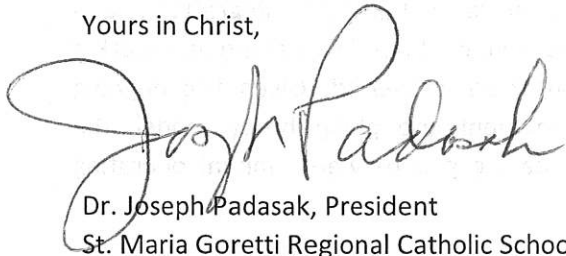
If, after careful consideration, the exploratory committee determine that operating as an independent Catholic School for the 2024-25 academic year is not feasible, St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School will cease operations at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Should the decision be made to cease operation at the end of the 2023-24 academic year, the Archdiocese pledges its full support to ensure that families who wish to continue with Catholic education can seamlessly transition to another Catholic school. Additionally, we would explore opportunities to collaborate with representatives of the alumni association to meaningfully preserve the legacy and history of St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic High School.

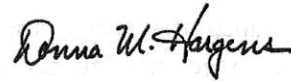
For a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions and additional resources, please visit St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School's website at www.Goretti.org. For direct inquiries or further assistance, please contact Dr. Summers, at asummers@goretti.org.

We regret the sadness and disappointment this decision will cause and promise that we will do everything we can to support the St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School community during this time of transition.

Yours in Christ,



Dr. Joseph Padasak, President
St. Maria Goretti Regional Catholic School



Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent
Archdiocese of Baltimore