



2018

# Goretti Group Program of Life

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10/19/2018



# Program of Life

for the  
Goretti Group Movement  
October 19, 2018 V3

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## 1.0 Nature and Aims:

- a. Goretti Group members are men and women organized in an Ecclesial Movement and governed by this Program of Life.
- b. Goretti Group members are people of all ages and states of life seeking to live and spread the joy of purity and who desire to rediscover the gift of authentic masculinity and femininity. Priests and consecrated can participate as associate members.
- c. The general aims of this Ecclesial Movement are:
  - a. to render glory to God and His Holy Will
  - b. the sanctification of its members
  - c. to live and promote the virtue of purity and the call to chastity throughout the world
- d. The specific aims and *means of implementation* of the Ecclesial Movement are:
  - a. to provide formation for its members for continued growth in the spiritual life and in virtues, particularly in the virtue of chastity.
  - b. *"Learn it."*
- e. to provide a spiritual community within the Catholic Church for those seeking to live a life of purity (the community is to provide healing, nourishment and means of growth for its members)
  - a. *"Live it."*
- f. to spread the joy of purity through personal witness and apostolate to the surrounding community
  - a. *"Share it."*

## 2.0 Spirituality:

Members should (have):

- a. a growing love for the Eucharist as experienced in Mass and Adoration
- b. First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- c. a deep devotion to Mary and the Rosary
- d. a regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so as to maintain one's purity, frequently asking the Lord for pardon and strength
- e. a devotion to and love for Maria Goretti, patroness of chastity and of this Ecclesial Movement
- f. a dedication to the revealed truth as taught by the Catholic Church
- g. zeal for bringing purity to all situations in life
- h. compassion, forgiveness and mercy on oneself
- i. compassion, forgiveness and mercy on others
- j. a non-judgmental, loving way of accepting others where they are in their journey towards purity
- k. growth in the virtue of humility leading to a sincerity of life that leads to true freedom



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- l. zeal for counteracting hatred with love and genuine charity toward the other persons
- m. embrace suffering and rejection as a redemptive offering for the conversion of souls
- n. pray for the graces of discipline, perseverance and patience with oneself amidst the challenge of living a chaste life in a secular culture
- o. express an evangelical joy so as to attract others to Christ.

## **3.0 Community Life:**

Goretti Group members should truly feel part of a family within the larger Catholic Church. In order to create this welcoming, close atmosphere, members can rely on the following means:

- a. the community-wide monthly Goretti Mass event to renew its members through the Sacraments, unite its members around a family meal, and to instruct its members through forms of education (study circles, educational speakers and inspiring testimonies)
- b. small grouping at least twice a month (depending on what the group can do)
- c. it is encouraged that members have a spiritual companion (another member of the Goretti Group) for support and accountability
- d. the music/traditions of the Goretti Group
- e. a hospitality committee (members with this charism will be identified and will reach out to newer members remaining close to them in between meetings following a concrete plan)
- f. a weekend annual retreat for and presented by the members themselves which can be held at the local, regional or national level

## **4.0 Life of Prayer:**

Goretti Group members are encouraged to remain close to Jesus and Mary and to grow in holiness through prayer. Each member should discern the direction that the Holy Spirit is setting for his or her own life of prayer and follow His inspirations. Spiritual Direction is recommended to assist members to grow in prayer. The following means, already available in the Church, are recommended to members:

- a. Sunday Mass (obligation), daily Mass when possible
- b. daily Rosary
- c. daily meditation of 15 minutes
- d. Morning Offering
- e. Night Prayers including the Consciousness Examen
- f. weekly adoration
- g. monthly confession
- h. fasting under guidance of a spiritual director

## **5.0 Formation:**



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Goretti Group members should be nourished in their quest for living purity and a holy life. Members should be formed in the tradition of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church to be able to reach out to society through the apostolate. Therefore, members should have an ongoing formation making use of the following means:

- a. Spiritual Direction preferably from an associate of the Goretti Group, or a local spiritual director
- b. a 3-year basic program of formation to include:
  - i. Introduction to the Spiritual Life
  - ii. Theology of the Body
  - iii. Moral issues of the day
  - iv. How to speak about chastity
- c. a continual plan of study (after the initial 3 years of formation) to be carried out either individually or within the small group using resources approved by the Goretti Group
- d. an annual retreat which will renew one's commitment to living and spreading the joy of purity
- e. recognizing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that the human person is both body and spirit, members will be conscious of living a healthy, balanced lifestyle in the areas of diet, exercise, sleep and recreation.

## **6.0 Apostolate:**

Goretti Group members first and foremost do apostolate in their daily life and dealings with those around them. Their purity will be a call, a challenge and a light to others. Their purity should cause intrigue. Members also commit themselves to formal apostolate. Some possible apostolates of Goretti Group members could include:

- a. working on local retreat team for new and existing members
- b. working to eliminate pornography, sexual harassment, human trafficking and grave offenses against human dignity
- c. putting on retreats for youth, parents/children
- d. speaking at schools, parishes, events
- e. acting as a spiritual companion to another member
- f. fulfilling roles/duties internal to the Goretti Group Mass, chapters, small groups and Board leadership
- g. working on Race for the Chaste community outreach teams

## **7.0 Membership:**

Members are people of all ages and vocations: single or married. Priests and consecrated can participate as associate members.

Members discern how they can give of their time, treasure and talent to contribute to The Goretti Group.



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The levels of membership within The Goretti Group are the following:

- a. “Committed members”: persons who make a formal, public commitment to live out and spread the charism of the Goretti Group. They do so by declaring their commitment during one of the assigned monthly Goretti Masses following the prescribed rite. Committed members have either completed the three-year period of formation through The Goretti Group or have demonstrated appropriate knowledge of equal formation by other means, subject to the approval of the local leadership.
- b. “Aspiring members”: persons who are discerning a formal commitment to The Goretti Group and who are working through the period of formation, familiarizing themselves with the teachings of the Church on chastity, striving to live accordingly. In as much as possible, aspiring members will have a sponsor, a committed member of The Goretti Group, to help them discern their commitment to The Goretti Group. Aspiring members will regularly meet with their sponsor throughout their time of discernment.
- c. “Friends and/or supporters”: persons who esteem and attend The Goretti Group activities, benefitting from the community’s joy and commitment to chastity.

## **8.0 Admission:**

Those people who have discerned a true calling to commit themselves to Jesus Christ and the Church through the charism of The Goretti Group will formally and publicly do so following the prescribed rite during one of the monthly Goretti Masses or at one of the annual retreats with the affirmation of the local Goretti Group leadership and the support of a sponsor.

## **9.0 Structure:**

The Goretti Group consists of a Board of Directors, the National Office, and the General Membership. The General Membership is organized according to local chapters. Local chapters form when a Chapter Core Team is put together and when they have followed the incorporation process. A Chapter Core Team consists of the following members:

- a. Chapter Coordinator (oversees the entire Chapter and other Coordinators, reports to and communicates with National Office, oversees local membership, sponsors, hospitality committee, maintains contact with local chaplain and Bishop)
- b. Chapter Liturgical Coordinator (oversees the monthly Goretti Masses and works closely with Chapter Coordinator and hospitality committee to ensure the members feel part of The Goretti Group community, contributes to organizing the annual retreat)
- c. Chapter Formation Coordinator (oversees imparting the three-year period of formation, meets quarterly with facilitators of small groups, oversees and approves of small group/individual plans of study, helps coordinate formation imparted at annual retreat, discerns if aspiring members have acquired adequate knowledge of



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the required material needed to become a committed member if obtained by means *other* than from The Goretti Group

- d. Chapter Apostolic Coordinator (oversees the apostolates of the local chapter, coordinates retreats/speaking engagements given by The Goretti Group to the local community, oversees new apostolates with approval from National Office and local Chapter Core Team)
- e. Chapter Financial Coordinator (oversees the finances of the local chapter, drafts and follows the chapter's annual budget, submits annual budget to The Goretti Group's Chief Financial Officer, collects monthly donations, distributes money as needed and according to the approved budget, sends monthly reports to the National Office, oversees local fundraising activities, sets up local bank account and ensures financial accountability practices are enforced (i.e. cash counting procedures).
- f. Chapter Chaplain: when possible, it is desired that each chapter have its own local chaplain, a priest who will support The Goretti Group's leadership, members, activities and serve as a Spiritual Director.

In addition to the Chapter Core Team, each chapter should be supervised by a local Advisory Board consisting of 2 or more members whose aim it is to assure that the local chapter is faithfully following The Goretti Group's Program of Life. The Advisory Board will periodically report to the National Office, oversee the local fundraising efforts and periodically audit finances. One of the members of the Advisory Board (this could be the Chapter Chaplain) will serve as the liaison between the Goretti Group and the local Bishop and church leadership.

Ideally, the Goretti Group movement will exist within the life of the parish, deanery and existing diocesan structures. Chapters may find a home where monthly Masses and apostolates are regularly offered. Formation of members will leverage existing diocesan programs and resources.

## **10.0 Government:**

The Goretti Group, as an incorporated non-profit entity, is governed by its Board of Directors and its By-laws. Its decisions are carried out by the National Office and the local chapters when applicable.

The Board of Directors is composed of the following members:

- a. President  
The President shall be the chief executive officer of corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and control the affairs of the corporation and the activities of the officers. He or she shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the





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Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws or which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

The President by virtue of his or her post shall function as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and shall preside at all the meetings of the Board of Directors. Except as otherwise mentioned by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws or expressly provided by law, he or she shall, in the name of the corporation, execute such deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, checks or other instruments, which may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Directors

b. Vice-president

The Vice President of the corporation shall become the acting President of the corporation in the event of the absence, inability or refusal of the President to exercise his or her duties and shall have all the rights, privileges and powers as if he or she had been a duly elected President.

c. Secretary

The Secretary of the corporation shall:

a) Certify and keep at the principal office, the original, or a copy of these Bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to date.

b) Keep the record of the minutes of the meetings of the directors with details of whether special or regular, how called, how notice thereof was given, the names of those present or represented and the proceedings thereof.

c) Be custodian of all the records and of the seal of the corporation and affix the seal, as authorized by law or the provisions of the Bylaws, to duly executed documents of the corporation.

d) Exhibit at all reasonable times to any director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney on request thereof, the Bylaws and the minutes of the proceedings of the directors of the corporation.

e) Perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

d. Treasurer

The Treasurer of the corporation shall:

a) Have charge and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors.





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- b) Receive and give receipt for, monies due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever.
- c) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation as may be directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for the transactions.
- d) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the corporation's properties and business transactions, including accounts of assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses.
- e) Exhibit at all reasonable times the books of account of any or all of his or her transactions as Treasurer and financial records to any director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request thereof.
- f) Prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify, or cause to be certified, the financial statements to be included in any required reports.
- g) Perform all duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

e. Other elected members:

The Board of Directors shall decide from time to time, whether to have new officers with new designations.

## **11.0 Finances:**

The Goretti Group, in order to function and carry out its mission within the Church, needs sufficient and robust financing. In order to accomplish this:

- a. The Chief Financial Officer from the National Office along with input from the Executive Director will submit an annual, balanced budget to the Board of Directors for approval each year.
- b. Each local Chapter will submit a balanced, annual budget to the Chief Financial Officer for approval each year.
- c. Both the national and local chapters will turn in a monthly report of income/expenses to the Chief Financial Officer as required by federal and state governments in order to keep The Goretti Group's finances transparent and each local chapter



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accountable. The Board of Directors will oversee and hold the Chief Financial Officer and the National Office accountable for its financial dealings and record keeping.

- d. Fundraising will be a top priority at both the national and local levels. Fundraising may be achieved in the following ways:
  1. Fundraising events (e.g. Race for the Chaste, dinners, Father/Daughter dance, etc.)
  2. Goretti Group apostolic activities that pay for themselves and sometimes yield a profit (e.g. retreats). Any such profit will be turned into the local Chapter Financial Coordinator and registered as income.
  3. The friendship of benefactors through person to person contact or through the national annual appeal
  4. Local Chapters will be responsible for covering funds required to sustain their operations, management and apostolates. This can be achieved through free will Mass collections, retreat participation fees and participation in the National Office annual appeal.



## PROGRAM OF LIFE - APPENDIX A – FAQ(S)

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### 12.0 APPENDIX A –FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) about the Gorette Group

#### 1) Question: In short, what is the Gorette Group?

- A movement that helps people learn, live and give God's pure love.
- For an individual, it is a means to grow in purity by joining with others to gain formation, support and apostolic fervor.
- For the family, it is a means through which couples grow in God's pure love for one another and transmit the school of pure love to their children.
- For the church, it is a means by which the baptized can purify their heart, see God and follow their vocation to the consecrated life or to Holy Matrimony.

#### 2) Question: What is Gorette Group's niche?

Response: Niche is a term often used in business to differentiate a service provided.

- Although this is a fair question, it is akin to asking "What is the church's niche? The church does not have a niche; it is made up of many different members who are all Christ's body. This body manifests itself in love through a variety of ways. The Gorette Group is called to be an ecclesial movement of the Holy Spirit within the church.
- Gorette Group was originally set up to provide many services, but always with the goal of uniting the Body of Christ to learn, live and give God's pure love. In the past, we provided Chastity Leadership Training, a national Speaker's Bureau, Confirmation Retreats, Race for the Chaste Community Outreach, parent child retreats, Theology of the Body study circles and the Monthly Mass.
- Today, we are working with church leaders to become an approved lay movement. Our beliefs, ideas and aims are captured within a document we call a Program of Life. Our hope is to exist as an infusion of the Holy Spirit within the life of the parish and greater institution of the church. Meanwhile, we continue our Gorette Mass of the Sacred Heart and periodic apostolic outreach according what the Holy Spirit inspires and our resources permit.

#### 3) Question: What will the Gorette Group movement look like?

Response: The Holy Spirit continues to reveal this. Our hope is to fuse structures from existing models within the church to provide formation, support and apostolic programs for our members.

- See Gorette Parish & Diocesan model for a visual of how the movement might manifest at the parish and diocesan level.



## PROGRAM OF LIFE - APPENDIX A – FAQ(S)

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- The Goretti Program of Life covers our nature and aims, spirituality, community life, life of prayer, formation, apostolate, membership, admission, structure, government and finances.

### 4) Question: What can the Goretti Group do for a parish pastor?

Response: As the Goretti Group solidifies as an ecclesial movement, it will

- Provide additional people to assist pastors in establishing, renewing and sustaining a lay movement to learn, live and give purity within the parish
- Assist pastors with a focused plan to unite, form and engaging his flock to live and give pure love within his parish through
  - Common retreat experience
  - Small groupings
  - Established plans and resources for apostolate
- Renew parishioners through the First Friday Goretti Mass of the Sacred Heart in collaboration with other priests
- Renew & form of parishioners through parent-child events & other apostolates
- Provide support to parishioners struggling with pornography, gender identity, contraception, forgiveness, shame, infidelity, modesty, fornication. How?
  - Growth in sacramental life
  - Witness of others
  - Support of community with common goals
  - Formation in the church's teachings regarding life and love (ex. TOB)

### 5) What is chastity?

- We prefer to reference purity because “chastity” is oftentimes misunderstood. It is NOT:
  - simply abstinence, or saying no to sex, but rather saying yes to love
  - about repression, but about freedom
  - about the past, but about a bright future in forgiveness
  - about condemnation, but salvation
  - just for single people, but a virtue we need in every state in life
- It is the virtue that
  - allows us to direct our sexual desire in accordance with authentic love
  - provides internal peace because it ensures integrity of body and spirit
  - points to our ultimate purpose in life: to give and receive love in unity
  - respects the power of life and love endowed in each of us
  - allows for stages of growth
- It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and is gained when the Spirit enters one's temple



# PROGRAM OF LIFE APPENDIX A – FAQ(s) cont.

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6) Question: Why build a movement and an organization around one virtue, chastity?

- For the same reason that Mother Theresa began to serve the poor dying people in the streets of Calcutta
  - She heard a call from our Lord
  - She saw a broken humanity that needed Our Lord's healing love
  - Goretti Group is not a social project, but a movement of the Spirit
  - Members of the Goretti Group are the body of Christ called to
    - heal the wounds caused by sexual sin and to be a light of joy, hope and reconciliation
    - support the preservation of purity
- Chastity is foundational to marriage; marriage is foundational to the family; the family is foundational to society, to vocations, to the church and to love of God.
  - Sexual intimacy is meant to be a bodily expression of wedding vows
- Lust leads to death in many forms; pure love conversely leads to life
  - Lust leads to death of marriage
    - due to infidelity
    - blinds individuals from choosing suitable spouse
  - Lust leads to death in abortion due to a contraceptive mentality
  - Lust leads to death of vocations in every form due to sexual abuse
  - Lust leads to death of adult persons due to crimes of passion
  - Lust leads to death of freedom: human trafficking and enslavement

7. Are members of the Goretti Group elitist who judge those who aren't living purity as less than themselves?

- Goretti Group members stand in judgment of no one, but solidarity in our common need for a Savior and in our baptismal call to share the Gospel
- Many members of the Goretti Group participate because they have tried the ways of the world and experience woundedness as a result
- Goretti Group is not an elitist club; it is for everyone who hears a call to direct our desires in accordance with authentic love and to receive the gift of love

8. Where does the Goretti Group name come from?

- The Goretti Group is named after St. Maria Goretti
  - Martyred defending her purity
  - Forgave her aggressor and made way for his conversion
- Lessons from Story of Maria Goretti
  - Simple life of grace leads to heroic virtue
  - Forgiveness of ourselves and others creates miracles
  - Lust leads to death; Pure love conquers all and leads to eternal life
  - We are all called to live a countercultural form of martyrdom

9. What is the Theology of the Body (TOB)?

- It is the working title of St. Pope John Paul II's catechesis on human love and erotic desire delivered in 129 Wednesday audiences from 1979-1984.



## **PROGRAM OF LIFE APPENDIX A – FAQ(s) cont.**

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- It is a deeply theological treasure that will be unpacked as a major study for decades. It is not “light” reading but has been simplified by many authors.
- It covers critical themes such as our purpose in creation, our redemption, our destiny and the goodness of our bodies in pointing to the mystery of the Trinity.

10. How does the Goretti Group try to share the message?

- Through modeling God’s pure love in our own relationships
- Through sharing in it a clear and compassionate way to our inner circles
- Through relating deep theological themes in a simple and relatable way
- Through helping others to see how chastity is a means to gain the unconditional love we all desire
- Through retreats, small groups and organized apostolates.



# **PROGRAM OF LIFE - APPENDIX A – FAQ(S)**

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# PROGRAM OF LIFE APPENDIX B GORETTI PARISH & DIOCESAN-WIDE MOVEMENT MODEL

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## 13.0 APPENDIX B – GORETTI PARISH & DIOCESAN-WIDE MOVEMENT MODEL EXPLAINED

**Purpose of this Document:** The purpose of this document is to explain Figure 1: Goretti Parish & Diocesan-wide Movement Vision.

### **Summary:**

Figure 1 is a detailed visual depicting the way in which the Holy Spirit can manifest itself within the existing church structure through the Goretti Group Movement.

### **Introduction & approval:**

The Goretti Group movement is best introduced into a new church through an existing parishioner who has a calling to learn, live and share God's pure love. This parishioner will become an ambassador to work alongside Goretti Group leadership to establish a movement within the parish with the permission and encouragement of the pastor.

### **Implementation:**

1. **Step 1.** The parish ambassador will be appointed:
  - a. a diocesan or deanery formation guide who will assist the ambassador in identifying existing online and in-person opportunities for formation in spirituality, morality, Theology of the Body (TOB) and effective communication/evangelization. This formation coordinator should try to maintain a strong relationship with appropriate diocesan offices and leverage existing resources, as well as various existing ministries with similar charisms.
  - b. Full-time Missionary who will assist with parish coordination and implementation according to parish needs and missionary gifts. The missionary will bring new energy and support to assist with retreats, small groups and evangelization within existing programs of the church.
2. **Step 2.** The parish ambassador will identify, with the help of parish leadership and Goretti Movement, 12-33 potential candidates for sponsorship to a three-day retreat. The retreat will:
  - a. Allow participants to have a profound deepening of their relationship with Christ and other members of his body through the Sacraments
  - b. Allow participants to be inspired by God's plan for life and love through a mix of pre-approved testimonies, spiritual and theology of the body talks.
  - c. Equip the participants with the tools and community necessary to continue to strengthen their relationship with God's pure love
3. **Step 3.** Parish ambassadors follow up with retreat participants reminding them of the



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opportunities offered to them during retreat for

- a. Goretti spiritual companion
  - b. Small groupings
  - c. Formation
4. **Step 4.** Following the retreat, ambassadors will personally invite participants to participate in a retreat reunion at the Goretti Mass & Fellowship where retreatants will have the opportunity to
  - a. give witness to how God worked in their life during the retreat. Retreats will be planned the last weekend of the month or 1 week prior to the planned Goretti Mass.
  - b. link into small groupings (after first opportunity during retreat)
  - c. get involved additional formation in TOB, spirituality and chastity
  - d. get involved in delivering the next retreat
5. **Step 5.** Small grouping that have been formed and meet regularly will further solidify by providing apostolic services within parish when called to do so according to their talents and the parish needs (not all are called to do formal apostolate, but all are called to live purity joyfully) (apostolic examples: Helping with parent/child events, organizing events to host professional speakers, teaming on the next retreat, providing pre-approved talks to existing parish programs (RCIA, faith formation, youth and young adults etc.)
6. **Step 6.** Once parishioners have committed to regular apostolate, they will have an opportunity to renew themselves through more silent and contemplative retreats provided by members of the Goretti Group and staff.



## Goretti Parish-based Movement Vision



Goretti Staff Coordination  
& Consult



Parish Coordinator



Young Adult Missionary



Missionary Torch

