



Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson

Youth Faith In Action Scholarship

Recognizing high school seniors who show commitment to service through their Catholic faith.

The annual Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson Youth Faith in Action Scholarship pays tribute to Mary for her devotion and service to children in schools and in honor of her life guided by her Catholic faith. Mary's heart was filled with love for God, family and children.

About Mary

Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson was a retired Madison-area nurse who served on the Catholic Charities board of directors and various committees. She was a devoted mother of five and grandmother of nine who enjoyed volunteering and directing her energies to helping others. She passed away on Dec. 6, 2013 from ovarian cancer. The Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson Youth Faith in Action Scholarship was established by her family and Catholic Charities in 2014.



The Award
\$2,000

Each to two seniors in the Diocese of Madison

2026-27 Application Requirements

Catholic Charities' Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson Youth Faith in Action Scholarship recognizes two high school seniors who have shown a commitment to community service with \$2,000 scholarships. Applicants will be evaluated on their past and current parish/pastorate and community service, leadership roles, and commitment to putting their faith in action in the future.

Application Deadline: Dec. 11, 2026

Residency: Diocese of Madison

Academic: High school senior during the 2026-2027 academic year; Plans to attend a college, university or technical school in 2027; Minimum GPA of 3.0

Criteria: Current member of a Diocese of Madison parish/pastorate; Parish/pastorate and community service, including leadership roles; Commitment to a future that encompasses a dedication to their faith in action.

Awards: Two awardees per year,

\$2,000 scholarship per awardee. Scholarships will be presented to recipients by Bishop Donald Hying and Catholic Charities Executive Director Shawn Carney on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 at Frassati Fest.

Application Materials:

1. Scholarship Application Form

2. Essay: A 300- to 400-word, typed essay describing a) how you have put your faith in action, b) how you will continue to put your faith in action in your life and c) the importance this holds for you and your community.

3. Personal Reference Questionnaire:

The questionnaire must be completed by a priest, deacon or director of religious education indicating your level of parish/pastorate involvement.

How to Submit: Applicants can a) use the electronic submission form at catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/scholarship OR b) attach all application materials to a single email and send it to scholarship@ccmadison.org.



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2025-2026 Application Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____

Overall GPA: _____ Anticipated Year of H.S. Graduation: _____

High School: _____ City: _____

Parish/Pastorate: _____ City: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Parent's Phone & Email: _____

Please summarize 3-4 parish/pastorate and/or community service projects or activities you have been involved in during the past three years.

1. _____

_____ Length of Service: _____

2. _____

_____ Length of Service: _____



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3. _____

_____ Length of Service: _____

4. _____

_____ Length of Service: _____

Describe your future plans for college, i.e. college you plan to attend and field of study.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

To complete this application, please attach:

1. A 300-400 word, typed essay describing a) how you have put your faith in action, b) how you will continue to put your faith in action in your life and c) the importance this holds for you and your community.
2. A completed Personal Reference Questionnaire from a parish/pastorate priest, deacon or director of religious education indicating your level of parish/pastorate involvement.

Send completed application/essay/personal reference questionnaire in one email to Catholic Charities at scholarship@ccmadison.org no later than December 11, 2026.

To submit application online, visit CCMadison.org/scholarship

608-826-8000 | CCMadison.org/scholarship



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2026-2027 Personal Reference Questionnaire

Reference for: _____

Please provide a reference for the above-named applicant who is applying for the Mary Jeanne Kennedy Anderson Youth Faith in Action Scholarship. Your answers to the following questions will assist the Catholic Charities Review Committee select the two scholarship awardees. Please return this to the applicant. They will submit with their other required materials. Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness.

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____

2. What do you consider to be the applicant's assets (skills, talents, interests, personal qualities)?

3. In your opinion, how would you assess the applicant's character and level of maturity?

4. In your opinion, how would you assess the applicant's level of spiritual development?



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2026-2027 Personal Reference Questionnaire

Character Traits

Regarding the traits that follow, please circle the word which best describes the applicant's character.

INVOLVEMENT: Consider his/her involvement in parish/pastorate, Diocesan and community service.

Excellent

Superior

Average

Poor

LEADERSHIP: Consider initiative, ability to see things to do, ability to plan and organize; self-confidence; competence with groups.

Excellent

Superior

Average

Poor

RESPONSIBILITY: Consider reliability, faithfulness to obligations and promises, perseverance and performance.

Excellent

Superior

Average

Poor

COMMITMENT: Consider attitude and evidence of commitment to spiritual development and putting his/her faith in action in the future.

Excellent

Superior

Average

Poor

Signature

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Parish/Pastorate: _____