

ST. THOMAS MORE GUILD

AN ORGANIZATION FOR LAWYERS IN THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK



The St. Thomas More Guild announces its 19th annual scholarship for students attending Catholic elementary and high schools during the 2025-26 school year.

One **\$1,200.00** scholarship will be awarded to a student attending a Catholic elementary school, and one **\$1,600.00** scholarship will be awarded to a student attending a Catholic high school.

Thomas More was born in London, England on February 7, 1478, the son of Sir John More, a prominent judge. More has been described as “a man for all seasons”. He was a literary scholar, eminent lawyer, gentleman, father of four children and chancellor of England. He was a deeply spiritual man, so he would not acknowledge King Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church in England. King Henry VIII had broken ties with Rome and refused to acknowledge the Pope as head of the Church because the Pope refused to grant his divorce from his wife, Catherine of Aragon. More would not compromise his own moral values to please the King who tried desperately to win his chancellor to his side. The King knew that More was a man whose approval counted, a man whose personal integrity no one questioned.

Although Thomas More was committed to the Tower of London to await trial for treason, he remained true to his moral values and his Christian faith, refusing to betray his conscience even at the cost of his own life. His story is an example of great courage. In 1935 Thomas More was canonized as a saint and is the patron saint of lawyers.

If there are any questions about the scholarship or procedures, please contact scholarship chair Catherine Dines Kettner at stmgwny@gmail.com or see our website www.stthomasmorewny.org.

John M. Baxter, President

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to all students currently in grades 6-11 who will attend in the 2025-26 academic year a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Buffalo.
2. All scholarship applicants must submit an essay on the following topic:

St. Thomas More gave up his life rather than abandon his Catholic faith. He was a lawyer, an important government official, a loving husband and father, a brilliant scholar and writer. When the king ordered him to do something that he knew was wrong, he refused and was put to death.

Identify someone that you consider to be a modern St. Thomas More who has made a sacrifice to follow his or her faith. Explain why you chose that person and what specifically makes that person a modern-day St. Thomas More.

3. The essay must be typed. The maximum length of the essay is 500 words.
4. The application must accompany the essay. The current grade of the student should be placed in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the essay. The essay must not contain the writer's name or school.
5. The Scholarship Application and essay must be mailed to:

St. Thomas More Guild, Inc.
P.O. Box 35
Buffalo, New York 14201-0035
6. The application and essay must be postmarked on or before **April 11, 2025**.
7. Winners will be contacted after April 30, 2025.
8. The essay will be judged according to the grade level of the student, and the judges will not know the identity of the applicant during the judging process.
9. Scholarship awards are paid jointly to the winner and school.
10. The awards will be presented at the annual luncheon which will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center on May 14, 2025.

**ST. THOMAS MORE GUILD
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Name of Student _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

School currently attending
and grade level _____

School you will attend
next year (if unsure,
list all possible schools) _____

Academic average _____

Describe your community service _____

Student's signature

Parent/Guardian signature