

## **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope**

### *Strengthening Our Faith*

#### **Suggested Criteria to Assist in Writing a Sacramental Formation for Parents and their Children Grant**

**Empowered Parents and Faith-Filled Families:** Catholic parents and families must be a primary consideration in planning, and programming so that they are empowered to develop a rich and vibrant Catholic faith within the home as domestic church. Parishes serve as lifelong partners with parents in this effort.

1. Are preparation materials consistent with diocesan guidance for sacramental preparation?
2. What new technology equipment will you need? Are the software and other materials you are seeking compatible with your current technology?
3. How does your grant complement and/or supplement your texts and programming?
4. Will this grant request strengthen the role of parents as witnesses and teachers of our faith?
5. Are you willing to share materials, training and formation opportunities with a neighboring parish?
6. Have you included parental training and ongoing support for introducing the new faith formation materials? Is the parish programming accompanying and coaching parents in their role? Will the funding provide intentional and systematic faith formation of the family?
7. How does this grant build capacity for more effective ministry? Would funds help to launch your initiatives? How will the parish sustain them over several years in order to be effective?
8. Has the parish been considering this program but did not have the funds to address it?
9. Has the pastor or administrator approved the contents of this grant?

#### **Considerations for Parish Initiatives Might Include:**

- Baptismal Preparation materials
- Retreat speakers, retreat team development
- Mentoring families during preparation and beyond
- Materials that may be used within the home
- Support for parish based living and learning about the Eucharist

## **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope**

### *Strengthening Our Faith*

#### **Suggested Criteria to Assist in Writing a Parish School of Religion | Faith Formation for Children and Adolescents Grant**

Faith Formation Programming assists missionary disciples to sustain and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ supported through regular prayer, faith sharing and scripture reading.

1. Is this grant intended for early childhood, elementary, middle or high school faith formation?
2. Are the curriculum and materials consistent with diocesan guidance for catechetical formation?
3. What new technology equipment will you need? Are the software and other materials you are seeking compatible with your current technology?
4. Does your grant complement and/or supplement the parish's religious education texts and programming?
5. Explain how the program will include comprehensive preparation, promote certification and ultimately provide well-formed adults willing to apprentice children and young people in the faith. What opportunities for ongoing growth and development do you offer for volunteer catechists who teach in PSR and faith formation programs?
6. Does your program include liturgical and service opportunities? Explain.
7. Explain how your program will support the families, especially parents in the catechetical formation of their children.
8. What is your plan of action to maintain the strength of your program? What additional funds are available to you?
9. How will you evaluate the effectiveness of your PSR or Faith Formation Program?
10. Has the pastor or administrator approved the contents of this grant?

#### **Considerations for Parish Initiatives Might Include:**

- Early Childhood Faith Formation (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Pre-School, Kindergarten)
- Special Needs Catechesis
- Middle School or Adolescent Catechesis
- Family Faith Practices (retreat in a bag, meal-time prayers and other faith-based activities)
- Parenting Skills including faith conversations
- Liturgical Year Celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Parish Feast)

## **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope**

### ***Strengthening Our Faith***

#### **Suggested Criteria to Assist in Writing an Young Adult Formation Grant**

Young adults are people in their late teens, twenties, and thirties who represent diverse cultural, educational, vocational, social, political and spiritual backgrounds. They may be single, engaged, married, married with children and possibly single again.

1. How is this project providing young adults an opportunity to search for meaning, solidarity and social engagement? Does the project allow for a variety of Catholic practices? Is it sensitive to different spiritualities?
2. How does your grant accommodate the life circumstances and milestones of young adults such as the need for babysitting, provision of a meal, and the need for faith-sharing and the development of small Christian communities based on interests or lifestyles of young adults?
3. What new technology equipment will you need? Are the software and other materials you are seeking compatible with your current technology?
4. How are young adults engaged in the implementation of the project? Do you have a team of young adults who will assist? Is this grant request a response to the needs expressed by the community? How could you share the materials with a neighboring parish or several parishes in your district?
5. If you are seeking a grant for Newman Campus Ministry, have you exhausted your ability to receive a grant through the Newman Foundation, or would this grant supplement a Newman Foundation grant?
6. Is this a grant that needs to be sustained over several years in order to be effective? How will you address that need?
7. Has the parish been considering this program but did not have the funds to address it?
8. Has the pastor/administrator or Newman Campus Minister approved the contents of this grant?

#### Considerations for parish initiatives:

- To connect young adults with Jesus Christ through spiritual formation and direction, religious education and formation, and vocation discernment
- To connect young adults with the Church through evangelizing outreach, formation of the faith community, and pastoral care
- To connect young adults with the mission of the Church in the world through forming a Christian conscience, educating and working for justice, and developing leaders for the present and future
- To connect young adults with a peer community through developing peer leadership and identifying a young adult team for the purpose of forming faith communities of peers (*Sons and Daughters of the Light*, 28-41)

## **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope**

### ***Strengthening Our Faith***

#### **Suggested Criteria to Assist in Writing an Adult Faith Formation Grant**

Adult faith formation ministry must engage the particular needs and interests of the adults in each local community. To be faithful and effective it will offer, over time, a comprehensive and systematic presentation and exploration of the core elements of Catholic faith and practice – a complete initiation into a Catholic way of life. It will do so in a way that is accessible to adults and relates to their life experiences, helping them to form a Christian conscience and to live their lives in the world as faithful disciples of Jesus. (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, No. 65)

1. Are the topics and materials consistent with the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, the *Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*?
2. Does your grant complement and/or supplement the current thinking and best practices on adult faith formation found in the Church's catechetical documents?
3. What new technology equipment will you need? Are the software and other materials you are seeking compatible with your current technology?
4. Is this grant request a response to the needs expressed by a significant number of adults in your parish or a survey that reveals this need? Has the Disciple Maker Index indicated a need to strengthen adult faith formation? Explain.
5. Is this a grant that needs to be sustained over several years in order to be effective? How will you fulfill this need?
6. Has the parish been considering this program but did not have the funds to address it?
7. Have you considered providing a program that would include neighboring parishes?
8. If you represent a diocesan office, can you substantiate the planning for implementation in the diocese that has preceded your request of this grant?
9. If you represent a diocesan office, do you intend to collaborate with any other diocesan offices such as Missionary Discipleship, Marriage and Family Ministries, Office of Human Life, etc.? Please explain.
10. Has the pastor or administrator approved the contents of this grant?

Considerations for parish initiatives may include:

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Small Group Bible or Faith Studies
- Catechist Formation Workshops or Certification
- Dimensions including Liturgical Understanding, Moral Formation, Prayer, Community Life and Missionary Spirit
- Parish participation and learning in the National Eucharistic Revival