
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Request for Distribution of Funds from the Religious Education and Catechist Formation Endowment

Catechist Enrichment Grant

Catechetical Leadership Personnel (Directors or Coordinators of Religious Education) of our diocese assist parents in their role as the primary educators of their children. DREs and CREs do this by coordinating and directing various religious education programs in the parishes of the diocese. These programs assist parents and all adult parishioners in their own faith development as well as the faith development of youth. Also, these DREs/CREs are responsible for the training of the catechists – those who actually teach and share their faith with the participants of parish catechetical programs – by providing catechists formation opportunities.

It is essential that our parishes have qualified personnel to achieve all the responsibilities of the administrative position of Director or Coordinator of Religious Education. It is also equally essential that the catechists of our parishes be qualified to share their faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church with conviction and accuracy.

Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope Capital Campaign:

To assist in the formation of catechetical leaders and catechists for their respective roles, an endowment for Catechist Formation and Religious Education was created through the *Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope* capital campaign. Money from this endowment is available to:

- ◆ Assist in the professional training of the Catechetical Leadership Personnel of the diocese;
- ◆ Support catechists in attaining or advancing their certification in the Diocesan Catechist Formation Process;
- ◆ Supply media and catechetical/adult enrichment materials; and
- ◆ Enrich programs for adult faith formation

Funds for professional training for Catechetical Leadership Personnel are available through the **Catechetical Leader Grant** program which is available on a different application. Support for catechist formation in the Diocesan Catechist Formation Process at the Evermode Institute is funded through the **Catechist Formation Grant**, a program that is administered directly by the Office for Catechesis. The **Media and Enrichment Materials Grant** is available on a separate application for parish leaders to request funds for materials that supplement adult faith formation programs at the local level.

The **Catechist Enrichment Grant** is designed to provide funding for enriching adult faith formation through programs offered by the Magis Center and Ruah Woods. The Magis Center offers a Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics that addresses the survey trend that shows that young people leave religion due to a perceived contradiction between faith and science and/or a lack of evidence for God. This certificate program will help equip catechists to stop this trend by providing science-based, contemporary evidence for God, Jesus, the soul, the Catholic Church, and her moral teaching. The Theology of the Body course from Ruah Woods Institute will help catechists develop a deeper understanding of God's plan for human sexuality.

Magis Center:

Magis Center's Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics equips catechists to answer the tough questions students have about Faith. This certificate program includes seven online courses, 1-2 hours of formation each. Topics include:

- Evidence of a Transphysical Soul
- Evidence for God from Contemporary Science
- Proof of God and Relevant Questions
- Evidence for Jesus and His Divinity
- Why the Catholic Church
- Happiness and Purpose in Life
- Making Sense of Suffering

Ruah Woods Institute:

The Introduction to the Theology of the Body for Educators course includes one workbook and three online sessions about St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body teaching. The online sessions are about one hour each. The course license is valid for one year and can be shared with the entire catechetical team. Additional workbooks can be included in a grant request. The license also includes a two-hour practicum session on how to implement Theology of the Body. English and Spanish editions are available.

Procedure:

- Applications for the **Catechist Enrichment Grant** will be mailed to pastors and parochial administrators annually and will also be available on the diocesan website.
- There is no deadline to apply for funds. Applications can be received at any time.
- Please indicate the number of licenses needed for the Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics course, if any. Circle "NO" if you are not requesting funds to a license for this program.
- Since one workbook is included with the license purchase for the Introduction to the Theology of the Body for Educators course, please indicate the number of additional workbooks needed, if any. Circle "NO" if you are not requesting funds to a license for this program.

Other Information:

- Awards are based on funds available and the number of qualified applications received, therefore, partial grants may be awarded.
- It is recommended that parish leaders wait for official notification of an approved amount being awarded before purchasing any licenses in case funds are not available at the time the application is received.
- The Office for Catechesis will complete an **annual report** of the amount of grant money dispersed to parishes and a summary of the projects these grants helped fund.

Religious Education and Catechist Formation Endowment Catechist Enrichment Grant Application

Please Type or Print:

Parish _____

Pastor/Parochial Administrator _____

Project Coordinator _____

Coordinator's Title/Position in Parish _____

Coordinator's Email: _____ Phone: _____

YES NO Magis Center's *Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics* # of licenses needed _____

YES NO Ruah Woods Institute's *Introduction to the Theology of the Body for Educators* course
(includes one workbook). Please include _____ additional workbooks.

Pastor Approval:

I certify that catechists in my parish will participate in the enrichment program(s) noted above.

_____ Date _____

Pastor/Parochial Administrator Signature



There is no application deadline for this grant program

Catechist Enrichment Grant Committee
c/o Office for Catechesis
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
1615 W. Washington St.
Springfield, IL 62702-4757

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date grant received:	
Committee review:	
Application disposition:	
Award letter sent:	
Check request submitted:	
Check mailed:	
Annual report submitted:	

Or email to: catechesis@dio.org