

## **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope Grant Year 2025**

### **Strengthening Our Faith Grant Application – Cover Sheet**

*(Please save this form to your desktop, complete and return via email to Lauren O'Hara at:  
lohara@dioceseofcleveland.org)*

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant extension \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person if different from Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number/extension, if applicable, of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Tax ID \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Status \_\_\_\_\_

DRE/Pastoral Minister Signature of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Signature of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Project/Program Amount Being Requested (in whole numbers) \_\_\_\_\_

**Maximum Request \$15,000**

Category of Grant:

Please check only one:

Sacramental Formation for Parents & their Children

☐

Young Adult Formation including Newman Campus Ministry

☐

Parish School of Religion | Faith Formation for Children & Adolescents

☐

Adult Faith Formation

☐

## **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 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 sacrament preparation and beyond
- Materials that may be used within the home
- Support for parish-based living and learning about the Eucharist or Reconciliation
- Strengthening parent faith with the parish including Catholic school, parish faith formation and home-study families

## **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 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 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:**

- How might your parish enact an aspect of *A Flourishing Apostolic Church: A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Edward C. Malesic* with those in their late teens, 20s and 30s?
- How might your parish create intergenerational connections with a variety of young adults for small group faith sharing?
- Might an initiative be related to the Diocesan Week of Service, March 22 – 28, 2026 to engage young adults in service to those on the margins of local communities?

## **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, Worship, etc.? Please explain.
10. Has the pastor or administrator approved the contents of this grant?

Considerations for parish initiatives may include:

- Order 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
- Building generational relationships that connect them with each other as well as the larger faith community.

**Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope 2025**  
**Strengthening Our Faith Grant Application –**  
**Project Explanation**

**Project/Program Title**

*Please briefly describe your project/program in 10 words or less. You will have an opportunity to fully describe your project below. Examples: development and implementation of Sacramental preparation materials for parents/guardians for use with their children; support for Parish Schools of Religion to strengthen volunteer catechist formation, and curricular programming with service and retreat opportunities for students; enhancement of opportunities for young adults in Newman Campus Ministry to connect with their parishes and to deepen their faith; strengthening adult faith formation within parishes and diocesan-wide including a website dedicated to adult faith formation resources.*

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description** (See Suggested Criteria - attached and available under the Parish Catechetical Leader Group on the DigitalAcademy for assistance in writing your description.)

**Explain the project/program to be funded by this request.**

☐ How will this advance your mission?

**Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope 2025**  
***Strengthening Our Faith Grant Application – Project Explanation***

How does it support the accomplishment of your parish goals? Which goals?

What activities will ensure that you have met your goal(s) and objectives?

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***Strengthening Our Faith Grant Application – Project Explanation***

When the project/program is completed, what do you hope will have been accomplished?

If a program, do you anticipate it to be ongoing? Does your budget include a request for funding to continue the program? How will you measure success of the program/project?



**Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope 2025**  
***Strengthening Our Faith Grant Application – Project Explanation***

Have you received RIF funds in the past?      YES \_\_\_\_      NO \_\_\_\_

If so, have you submitted all required year end project reports? \_\_\_\_\_

**Numbers served by the program/project**

How many children/parents/adolescents/young adults/adults (indicate which group this program/project targets) will be given opportunities to strengthen their faith through this program/project? \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Budget**

What is the total cost of the program/project? Whole numbers only \_\_\_\_\_

Attach separate Budget Sheet with estimated line items for materials, resources, equipment and services

Please e-mail completed application to  
[lohara@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:lohara@dioceseofcleveland.org)

**Grant Applications for Round Fifteen of  
*Strengthening Our Faith* are due  
Friday, October 31, 2025**

**Grants for Round Fourteen will be decided  
by the end of January 2026**

**Grant Awards will be presented  
In February/March 2026**

## Strengthening Our Faith 2025 Budget Form

1.) Please provide a copy of the Parish/School <u>most current financial statements.</u> (Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Statement)
2.) Please provide a copy of the Parish/School Operating Budget for the current fiscal year.
3.) Any other financial information available that will assist in this distribution process.

<b>DISTRIBUTION REQUEST—PROJECT BUDGET</b>	
<b>Program/Project Title</b>	
Program/Project Costs:	<i>N.B., these are excluded from funding: pilgrimages, facilities, salaries.</i>
— Equipment	\$
— Catechetical Materials	\$
— Stipends	\$
— Other Costs	\$
Total Program/Project Costs	\$
Community served	
Number of people to be served by this Program/Project	
<b>TYPE OF REQUEST (check only one category)</b>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramental         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education, Faith Formation for Children &amp; Adolescents         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Formation         </div> </div>	
<b>SIGNATURES</b>	
Signature of Pastor/Administrator:	
Prepared by:	
Contact Person:	
Phone:	Email: