

“Go” Grants

Program Requirements for 2020

Previously, the Catholic Education Foundation has awarded Ministry Grants to those seeking to build, create, and develop initiatives within the parameters of Catholic education, educational faith formation, or evangelization/outreach.

This year, the CEF has strategically aligned the Ministry Grant Program with Pope Francis’ call to missionary discipleship and Bishop Conlon’s pastoral letter “Go, He Said.” While the pandemic has caused great financial need in many parishes, we believe an intentional investment in three areas will not only help parishes to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19 but also to build a culture of Missionary Discipleship in the parish and throughout our diocese.

We encourage you to apply, if your initiative lies within the sphere of Catholic Education and within the parameters of the three areas listed below. The Ministry Grant Committee values initiatives that are bold and creative and beyond status quo. Special consideration will be given if your initiative has the potential to elevate your ministry during the pandemic.

- I. **Culture of Encounter** – before becoming a missionary disciple, one must first be a disciple – and every disciple of Jesus has experienced a life-changing encounter with Him. We desire that all parishes in the Diocese of Joliet be dynamic places of Encounter where all may come to know saving love of Jesus Christ. How might your initiative best build a culture of encounter at your parish?

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to this unfailingly each day” (Evangelii Gaudium, 3).

- II. **Digital Reach** – perhaps now more than ever, parishes should be present in the digital environment. Many parishes have initiated live-stream Masses, website improvements, online giving and more; but how might your initiative help your parish to digitally reach into the lives and homes of those who cannot or will not step onto the parish campus? A high priority for this grant parameter will be based on need and on lasting impact – all parishes need to enter the digital arena, but we must continue beyond the pandemic.

“It is no longer merely a question of ‘using’ instruments of communication, but of living in a highly digitalized culture that has had a profound impact on... our ability to communicate, learn, be informed and enter into relationship with others” (Christus Vivit, 86).

- III. **To the Peripheries** - we don’t have to go far to reach the peripheries of our modern culture. With a focus on the families, friends, and workplaces of missionary disciples, we quickly reach those who are lost, hurting, and in need. The Church always stands for the poor and the marginalized – through pandemic, plague, or other otherwise. What initiative could help your parish or ministry to “Go” to the peripheries, to invite, welcome, & draw all people to Jesus and His Church?

“Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘peripheries’ in need of the light of the Gospel” (Evangelii Gaudium, 20).