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Special Needs Ministry Grant Application

Date:

Dear ,

In accordance with Gospel values and in agreement with the Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities,[[1]](#footnote-1) the Diocese of Lansing is committed to supporting parish initiatives in welcoming, including and catechizing individuals with special needs. Realizing “…*the unique gifts disabled individuals have to offer the Church, we wish to address the need for their fuller integration into the Christian community and their fuller participation in its life”* (USCCB 2020). Therefore, the diocese announces the following:

Through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus Councils in the State of Michigan, the Diocese of Lansing is currently able to implement a program of modest grants for Special Needs Ministries. Grants are available to support both of the following: new programs and events designed to welcome, include and catechize those with special needs; or events which bring about awareness of Special Needs within the parish community.

Some examples:

* **Friendship Facilitation for those with Special Needs*:*** 
  + Diocese of Lansing Peer to Peer Ministry[[2]](#footnote-2)
  + Implementation of: “How to Welcome, Include, and Catechize Children with Autism and Other Special Needs: A Parish-Based Approach”[[3]](#footnote-3)
* **Special Needs Liturgies:**
  + Special Needs Mass
  + Sensory-Friendly Mass
  + Mass for the Deaf[[4]](#footnote-4)
* **Special Needs Catechesis:** 
  + Purchase of adaptive learning resources for teachers and parents
  + Purchase special needs sacramental preparation materials[[5]](#footnote-5)

Parameters for Grant Proposals

Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate collaboration with one or more neighboring parishes in your region of the diocese or proposals that can be implemented at multiple parish sites.

**To apply for a grant**, a parish must submit the attached application by e-mail to Cathy Blatnik and Tracey Keating, Co-Coordinators of the Special Needs Ministry at [specialneedsministry@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:specialneedsministry@dioceseoflansing.org)

The Diocese of Lansing will strive to respond to your proposal within two weeks.

If your proposal is funded, the diocese will provide up to 50% of the funding for the project at a maximum diocesan outlay of $1,000.

Within six months after the program is concluded or the event has occurred, the parish must submit to Director of the Office of Catechesis, a final report, explaining how the funds were spent. This report will include whether the program or event succeeded in welcoming, including, or catechizing individuals or families with Special Needs. The final report should clearly state the measure(s) by which the parish is determining success. Please explain your results and how you measured the effectiveness of your activities (ex. Number of people who attended event or program, number of catechists who received Special Needs training or participated in Special Needs teaching, number of Special Needs individuals who received Sacraments, and/or comments from participants.)

Sincerely,

Tim Carpenter

Office of Catechesis

[tcarpenter@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:tcarpenter@dioceseoflansing.org)

Cathy Blatnik & Tracey Keating

Coordinators of Special Needs Ministries

SpecialNeedsMinistry@dioceseoflansing.org

Application

**Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Region / Vicariate / Parish(es) /**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Director/Contact Person for the proposed Endeavor/Program**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Cost of proposed Endeavor/Program**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (this amount can be up to 50% of the Cost of the proposed Endeavor/Program.)

**Purpose of Grant**:

*Please provide a written summary of your proposed plan. Why are you implementing this project and what do you hope to achieve with it?*

* *Include goals, list of resources, implementation, specific activities and outcomes expected.*
* *Include plans for sustaining the project and long-term sources/strategies for funding upon completion of proposed grant.*
* *Evaluation – Please explain your expected results and how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. (Ex. Number of people expected to attend event or to be served by program, number of catechists who plan to participate in Special Needs training or teaching, number of special needs individuals who plan to strive to receive Sacraments.)*

1. “Pastoral Statement of U S Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities | USCCB.” www.usccb.org/resources/pastoral-statement-u-s-catholic-bishops-persons-disabilities-0. Accessed 9 Apr. 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/outreach-ministry/specialized-ministries [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://store.loyolapress.com/how-to-catechize-children-with-developmental-disabilities [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Gualdoni, Jamie. “‘Everyone Matters, and Everyone Is Loved.’” Faith Magazine, 1 Oct. 2020, faithmag.com/everyone-matters-and-everyone-loved. Accessed 9 Apr. 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Pastoral Statement of U S Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities | USCCB.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)