



DIOCESE OF LANSING
COMMISSION ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
MINI GRANT: TO INFORM & INSPIRE

Grant Tips for Projects that Amplify Catholic Social Teaching

The [Diocesan Commission on Catholic Social Teaching](#), is committed to funding projects that engage in direct teaching and pedagogy of the principles of **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**. The four key principles of CST are:

- **Dignity of the Human Person** – The recognition that every human life is sacred, from conception to natural death, because the human person has been created in the image and likeness of God and has been given a unique purpose by Him.
- **Solidarity** – Springs from the recognition that everyone’s well-being is interconnected. It includes the sharing of spiritual and material gifts.
- **Subsidiarity** – The organization of society that ensures decisions and responsibilities are managed by the most local authority capable of addressing them effectively.
- **Common Good** – The set of social conditions that enable individuals and communities to flourish according to God’s plan. It includes three essential elements: respect for the human person, the promotion of the community’s well-being and full development, and a just social order sustained by stability and security.

All principles of Catholic Social Teaching outlined in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* are deserving of consideration.

Who Can Apply

If you are interested in applying for a grant, you need to be:

1. Parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, and other Catholic apostolates within the Diocese of Lansing.
2. Parishioners and parish staff members are especially encouraged to present their ideas to their pastor. A letter of support from the pastor must accompany the grant request.

Note: All applications must be submitted through a parish, Catholic high school, Catholic Charities agency, or another canonically established public juridic person. Individual applications cannot be accepted.

1. Instill the Virtue of Social Charity

We support educational projects that explicitly teach Catholic Social Doctrine. We hope these projects lead to a lasting commitment to Catholic Social Teaching through meaningful formation. Your proposal should inspire ongoing understanding, action, and growth in the virtue of charity within the community.

2. Serves Our Parishes or Parish Schools

We are particularly interested in projects that directly teach and serve the parishes and parish schools within the Lansing Diocese.

3. Prioritize Education and Formation

We value projects that educate and form individuals in CST, such as:

- **Workshops, seminars, and training sessions** on CST principles.
 - **Projects that specifically mention CST principles** in the promotional materials, demonstrating a strong and genuine commitment to advancing the mission of the grant.
 - **Catechetical programs** or series on Catholic Social Doctrine.
 - The purchase and distribution of magisterial **CST materials and textbooks**, such as the Catechism, Compendium, or papal encyclicals.
 - **Curriculum development** for parish schools integrating CST into teaching.
 - Approved **CST formation and catechesis programs** for parish staff or volunteer leadership.
 - **Programs** blending Catholic Social Doctrine with practical application components.
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4. Avoid These Common Pitfalls

While we encourage creativity and passion in your proposals, please note that we typically do not fund:

- **One-time pastoral events:** For an event to be considered, it must clearly incorporate CST. One-day retreats or youth gatherings will not be considered unless they include a dedicated CST formation component. For example, “We will include a guided reading and discussion of Chapter 4 from the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*,” or “John Smith will present on the CST principle of Subsidiarity.”
- **Projects that do not incorporate CST:** We are committed to supporting only those that clearly reflect and teach CST principles.
- **Direct services:** Such as food pantries or Catholic Charities—funding for these is typically available through other Catholic grant sources.
- **Travel expenses:** We do not fund travel for service trips or service work.
- **Mission trips:** We do not fund mission trips, whether local or international. However, we may fund pre- and post-trip CST training to help participants integrate CST into their service.
- **Staff salaries:** These are not eligible for funding.

However, if you believe your project might offer a unique CST opportunity, feel free to share your ideas. We are open to hearing how your project can meet our goals in new ways!

5. Be Clear, Be Specific

Make sure your proposal clearly explains:

- **Objectives:** What will your project achieve in relation to catechizing and teaching CST? How does it serve the mission of the Church and further an understanding of CST?
 - **Timelines and milestones:** What are the measurable steps and outcomes?
 - **Budget:** Provide a detailed budget showing how the grant will be used effectively.
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6. Collaborate and Build Partnerships

Consider teaming up with other local organizations, parishes, or schools to strengthen your project. Collaboration fosters a deeper sense of community, amplifies the catechizing and understanding of CST, and helps maximize the impact of your initiative.

7. Show Alignment with Diocesan Priorities

Ensure that your project aligns with the priorities of our Diocese. The more your project reflects our collective vision, the stronger your proposal will be.

8. Tell Us How It Went and Get Reimbursed

Did you achieve your goals? Have you helped us inform and inspire more parishioners in the Diocese of Lansing?

Mini grants are given in the form of reimbursements for itemized, pre-approved expenses that will only be granted as a reimbursement to a parish, school, or diocesan entity upon the submission of (1) a final financial breakdown report, and (2) a completed [feedback form](#).

Ready to Apply?

You can find the application form here. www.dioceseoflansing.org/mini-grant-application

We look forward to hearing how your project will deepen understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and inspire a more just, compassionate, and faith-filled community!

If you have questions or want more information, email Michael Andrews, mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org