

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
March 9, 2022 Edition

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

Resources for Parish Catechetical Leaders:
Ukraine Resources:



- Catholic Relief Services created a CRS Emergency Factsheet on the current escalating crisis in Ukraine, where CRS is supporting Caritas Ukraine as it prepares to respond to urgent humanitarian needs, including evacuation, food and safe shelter.
[View the CRS Emergency Factsheet here >](#)
- The USCCB International Justice and Peace Committee have a web page that showcases the recent public statements on Ukraine can be [found here](#).
- America Magazine article on where to give to help Ukraine can be found at [this link](#).
- Catholic Prayer for Ukraine and free prayer printables from Catholic Icing are found at [this link](#).
- Just War tradition in the Catholic Church
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church (begin with paragraph 2307): <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p3s2c2a5.htm#2309>
 - USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/theological-and-moral-perspectives-todays-challenge-peace>
 - Brief National Catholic Register article: <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/dmq-just-war-2-s3rijmxb>

Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa Grants Now Open for Submissions:



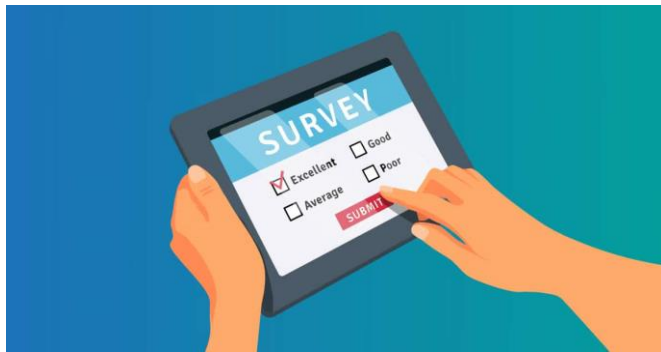
For the 2022 CFSWIA Grant Program, the Catholic Foundation is prepared to award two types of grants to the parishes, schools, and other Catholic entities within the Des Moines Diocese: Cornerstone Grants and General Foundation Grants.

Please know that this year, and for years to come, our grants are being provided through CFSWIA and from the IGNITE! Campaign Diocese of Des Moines. One of the areas that the Diocesan IGNITE! Capital Campaign is raising funds for is to grow and strengthen our diocesan Parish Renewal programs within our parishes. The funds available to grant to this purpose will increase as the campaign progresses, and as gifts are made into this fund, using only a portion of the annual fund value each year. CFSWIA will facilitate issuing all of the grants described here.

Please note that some of our normal criteria will not be enforced (ie: speaker fees, consumables, etc.) for the Parish Mission Renewal grants. For more information, please reach out to [John Gaffney](#) or [Sue McEntee](#).

We'd love to work with you and your grant application to assure you the best possibility of receiving an award! Join us for the following webinars on March 24 at 2:00 pm using [this link](#) for registration.

Lifelong Formation in Faith Survey for Formation Leaders – Please Complete Soon:



As we move forward into a post-pandemic landscape, we at the Diocesan offices are looking to you to help us chart the path forward on professional formation opportunities that would be helpful for your specific ministry in lifelong formation in faith. Please complete this survey as soon as possible.

Here is [the link](#) to complete the survey which has 14 questions. The questions ask for the following information:

- Questions 1-5 are demographic information
- Questions 6-10 have to do with the logistics of the professional sessions
- Question 11 includes a variety of potential topics for you to select the ones that would be most helpful for you and your professional role in the parish
- Questions 12-15 are optional but help us in finding other topics that would be of interest to you, local and national colleagues who would be good facilitators for these sessions, and if you would be interested in being part of the 2022-2023 planning team.

Your help will allow us the opportunity to plan a variety of gathered sessions with all involved in lifelong formation in faith as well as more individual sessions for specific ministries (youth ministry, RCIA, adult faith, religious education, or sacramental preparation).

Let [John Gaffney](#) know if you have any questions. The survey uses Google Forms from his g-mail account which is jabgaf@gmail.com. However, the survey is anonymous unless you decide to enter your name on the last question.

Faith in Action – Be Part of the Diocesan Chrism Mass by pouring the Sacred Oils:



The Chrism Mass will be held at 5:00 pm on Friday April 8 at 7:00 pm. Sherri and I are working with Sandy Riesberg on recruiting volunteers who can help during the Mass pouring the sacred oils into the vessels to be distributed to parishes.

The pouring of the oils must be done during the Mass so the volunteers would not be participating in the Chrism Mass. Our task is to recruit teen and/or adult volunteers from parishes to help. It

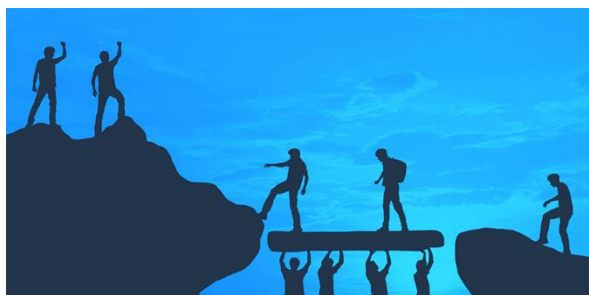
would be a wonderful experience for current Confirmation and RCIA candidates since this Chrism will be used at their Confirmation Mass. Each teen volunteer would also receive service hours. We need 30 to 35 for this project. Sandy Riesberg will provide more information for those interested, but ideally they would arrive around between 4:30 and 5:00 pm wearing clothes that can get dirty in case they spill oil on themselves.

If you can help with recruiting and teens agree to help with the project please do the following:

- Contact Sherri (ssimmer@dmdiocese.org) or me (jgaffney@dmdiocese.org) and let us know the number and names of the teens
- Please let us know if we can e-mail an information sheet directly to them and their parents or if you would like that to be sent to you (include teens and parent's e-mail address)

The Chrism Mass is beautiful and many people from around the diocese work very hard to make the celebration look like the many faces of the diocese. Even if your teens or adults may not be able to assist, I encourage you to have them attend as part of their formation. Thank you for your help.

Build the Bench – Eight New Franciscan at Home for you to enjoy:



Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute launched eight new workshops guaranteed to connect with a variety of leaders in your parish community.

- The Sacrament of the Eucharist
- Eucharistic Discipleship
- Dealing with Crisis and Conflict from a

Christian Perspective

- An Introduction to Spiritual Combat
- Sacramentals in the Life of the Church
- In Spanish: Tres Modelos del proceso de RICA
- In Spanish: Catequesis eficaz en la pastoral juvenil
- In Spanish: Fundamentos filosóficos de la catequesis

As you consider how you might make use of these workshops and the other 150+ titles on the Franciscan CI system, I encourage you to think of creative ways to **use these formation tools in groups**. In seeing the many imaginative ways the workshops are being used by parishes and schools, I have noted that group settings are often as much or sometimes even more effective than solely individual use of this formation, especially to grow team cohesion, and as a way for people to experience a workshop for the first time.

If you have not signed up for your free account, contact [John](#) and he will help onboard and get you started. What are you waiting for?

March Important Dates:

- March 9 – [Saint Frances of Rome](#)
- March 15 – [Saint Louise de Marillac](#)
- March 17 – [Saint Patrick](#)
- March 18 – [Saint Cyril of Jerusalem](#)
- March 19 – [Saint Joseph](#)
- March 24 – [Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero](#)
- March 25 – [The Anunciation of the Lord](#)

