

March 23, 2019

Dear Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators,

Enclosed are the application and the brochure for the **Social Justice Trust Fund (SJTF)** grant program, a Diocesan grant program made possible through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. As you know, the SJTF grant program provides financial support for parish-based social justice projects either within the parish or the greater community.

The grant process remains the same as previous years. **All grant applications will be due June 14th, 2019** and will be reviewed in early summer by the Social Justice Trust Fund Committee. Parishes should expect to hear back about funding by **August 2019**.

This year, we especially encourage applications to support programs based around social justice and Catholic Social Teaching. We recognize the impact and benefit of programs which serve the direct needs of parishioners and community members, including food pantries and meal providers. Seeing these needs, however, challenges us to examine the **root causes of poverty, isolation, and food insecurities** in our communities.

Special consideration will be given to programs that support:

- ❖ **Social justice and advocacy**
 - Some examples include: attendance at the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) in Washington, D.C., parish postcard campaigns, advocacy training sessions.
- ❖ **Education and formation**
 - Some examples include: resources on Catholic Social Teaching for youth and young adults, retreat/reflection opportunities for social ministry team members.
- ❖ **Ministries for persons with disabilities**
 - Some examples include: funding for tutoring for special needs students, training for ministries such as Special Religious Education Development (SPRED).

The Office for Parish Life also supports **Challenge Grants** in the \$10,000-\$25,000 range for projects that will establish a sustainable structure for some area of social justice ministry. These programs will involve collaboration between parishes or with other agencies. For a Challenge Grant application packet please contact me at 570- 207-2213, ext. 1101, or via email at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org. The deadline for these grants is July 1, 2019.

Thank you for supporting your parishioners in their efforts to live out Catholic social teaching in all aspects of parish and family life.

Sincerely,

Katy Windels
Coordinator for Service and Social Justice
Office for Parish Life