

2025 – 2026
Diocese of Scranton
Parish Social Justice Grant
Criteria and Information

The Parish Social Justice Grants are designed to help parishes respond to the US Catholic Bishops' reflection on Parish Social Mission, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*. This will empower the parish's efforts to educate and raise awareness of social concerns and strengthen their resolve to create cultures of encounter and work for justice.

To be eligible for funding, a project must satisfy the following criteria and guidelines.

A. Criteria

- a. Projects must conform to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.
- b. Projects should fall within the parameters of [*Communities of Salt and Light, Reflections of the Social Mission of the Parish*](#).
- c. Projects must be entirely nonpartisan when engaging in political activities. Projects whose primary focus is partisan political activity are not eligible.
- d. Project funds must be managed and dispersed directly by the parish and not allocated to other organizations.
- e. Funding requests should be in the \$250 - \$5,000 range.
- f. Projects should be a new or modified effort of the parish.
- g. Projects which encourage collaboration among other parishes will be given priority.
- h. Youth and Young Adult participation in projects is encouraged.
- i. Parishes may apply for up to 3 projects in a calendar year. Each project requires an application and evaluation.
- j. Funding may be applied towards stipends, materials and supplies, and program fees.
- k. Funding for construction costs, appliances, or salaried employment cannot be offered.

B. Timeline

- a. Applications will be made available on the Diocesan website on **April 24th**. Pastors will also receive an email containing the application and supplemental information.
- b. Applications will be reviewed from **April 28th to May 31st**, parishes will be notified of their grant status via email by the middle of June.
- c. It is preferred that projects be completed by the end of the grant cycle (end of April) but may extend to the end of the fiscal year (June 30th).
- d. A project report is required upon completion of the project.

C. Evaluations

- a. Mid-year and end of project evaluations are to be completed by the project leader in a timely manner. Mid-year evaluations are due **December 15th**.
- b. Evaluation forms can be found on www.dioceseofscranton.org
- c. Parishes that do not complete their evaluations will not be eligible for new grants.

D. Suggested Projects (See “Project Suggestions” for project additional ideas and funding amounts)

- a. Book or film discussions on Catholic Social Teaching
- b. Speaker series on Catholic Social Teaching
- c. Educational programs offered by JustFaith or Network
- d. Large group trainings - intercultural competency, bias awareness, anti-racism, civil dialogue
- e. Individual leadership training designed to enhance social justice ministry skills
- f. Building intercultural relationships within and across parishes
- g. Expanding religious education materials or liturgical art to feature Hispanic and Black Catholics and greater cultural diversity
- h. Issue-based projects or campaigns (e.g. immigration reform, human trafficking, and addressing racial and economic inequalities)

E. 2025 – 2026 Grant Committee Members

Mary Hallman, *Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life*

Eric Deabill, *Diocesan Secretary for Communications*

Joseph Strubeck, *Diocesan Secretary for Development*

Shannon Kowalski, *Director for Service and Mission*

Fr. Cyril Edwards, *Pastor – Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton*

Jacob Mutchler, *Seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton*

The Parish Social Justice Grants are funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal

