

**2026 – 2027**  
**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 each of the following criteria and guidelines.*

**A. Criteria**

- a. The project coordinator **must** attend a Live Virtual Information Session.  
Virtual Information Sessions will be held on:  
Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM or 1:00 PM  
Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM or 3:00 PM  
Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM  
Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM  
Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
Email Shannon Ruiz at [sruiz@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:sruiz@dioceseofscranton.org) to register for one of the sessions listed above. Each session will be held on Zoom.
- b. Projects must conform to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.
- 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 must be a new or modified effort of the parish.
- g. Parishes may apply for up to 3 projects in a calendar year. **Each project requires an application and evaluation.**
- h. Funding may be applied towards stipends, materials and supplies, and program fees.
- i. 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 21st**. Pastors will also receive an email containing the application and supplemental information.
- b. Applications will be reviewed from **April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>**, and 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 30<sup>th</sup>).
- 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 17th**.
- b. Evaluation forms can be found on [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://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. Issue-based projects or campaigns (e.g. immigration reform, human trafficking, and addressing racial and economic inequalities)

**E. 2026 – 2027 Grant Committee Members**

Fr. Seth Wasnock, *Vicar for Clergy*

Mary Hallman, *Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life*

Eric Deabill, *Diocesan Secretary for Communications*

Joseph Strubeck, *Diocesan Secretary for Development*

Shannon Ruiz, *Development Coordinator for Catholic Social Services*

Fr. Ryan Glenn, *Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald*

Michael Sullivan, *Seminarian for the Diocese of Scranton*

*The Parish Social Justice Grants are funded by the Catholic Ministries Appeal*

