

Religious Education Initiative

INTRODUCTION

We welcome any parishes who would like to renew, rejuvenate, or reinvent part or all of their religious education program to do so via this application! We want to equip, accompany and resource you and your parishes as best as we are able. If you are looking to try something new but do not want to be considered as a pilot parish, please still complete this application as we would like to be in touch with you and keep Bishop Ricken up to date as to the changes in your parish!

If you would like to be considered as a pilot parish, we will work to provide:

- Support, intentional time, and collaborative ideas from Julianne Stanz, Joe Tremblay, Maximus Cabey, Elisa Tremblay, and Maria Schuette
- Resources needed to make this shift possible .
- Mentoring/training/formation from possible outside apostolates such as FOCUS or Evangelical Catholic for example
- Paid conferences or trainings over the summer for those applicable to your area of need (i.e. small group training, parent outreach, evangelization to families, etc)
- Personal investment in the parish staff by diocesan employees who are committed to a small number of parishes to keep the pilot parishes a priority

This accompaniment will begin in March and will run for at least a year depending on the needs of your parish. We hope to work with you and respond to your personal needs as a parish.

PILOT PARISH CONSIDERATIONS

The pilot parishes are not required to overhaul an entire religious education and youth ministry program, although that is an option. Specific grades and target groups might prove to be more manageable for some parishes because the goal is not to overhaul a program for the sake of change, but to ensure that the parish staff is able to effectively focus and pray over specific changes. We entrust each of the modifications and changes to the Holy Spirit, the advocate and giver of all good things!

We ask that the following be considerations of your renewed religious education program:

1. The process has Pastor/Pastoral Leader Involvement and support
2. Religious Education and Youth Ministry Staff are on the same page and have close collaboration in these changes.
3. The target is to empower parents to be the primary educators and evangelizers to their own children and to make provisions in the plan for the process and formation of parents and families.
4. The process is conversion centered and rooted in the discipleship process.
5. Youth Ministry, religious education, family ministry, and adult faith formation provide a cohesive foundation to this process.

6. The process, although demanding especially in the beginning, is sustainable and spreads the responsibility across many people in the parish.
7. Open to Diocesan collaboration and other outside apostolate collaboration.
8. The pilot parish staff is committed to dynamic orthodoxy and discipleship.
9. The pilot parish has an articulate vision and a willingness to implement that vision(keeping in mind that not everything can be clearly predicted or planned).
10. The pilot parish commits to possibly mentoring other parishes beyond the 2019 academic year (For Example: Hebrews 10:25, at a CES course, etc).
11. The renewal of the religious education and youth ministry program is based in the kerygma which is infused into all aspects of the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The perspective pilot parish staff has an opportunity to explain their proposal with some diocesan staff members. The staff should include the pastor/pastoral leader, the business manager, and religious education and youth ministry staff. It might also include any family ministers, adult faith formation coordinators, and others who you might deem appropriate collaborators in this process. After doing so, each parish will be informed of the pilot parishes that were selected.

February 10	This application submitted to Carol Fountain at cfountain@gbdioc.org
February 15-28th	30-60 minute interview with Parish Staff and Diocesan Staff - feel free to bring a presentation, written explanation, video, etc. (but not necessary)
Beginning of March	Pilot Parishes are chosen
March - May	Meetings, mentoring, collaborating, resourcing pilot parishes
Summer 2018	Mentoring/Prep/training for implementation

8. List 3 potential challenges you might anticipate.

9. From what you know of your program and parish, why do you think this proposal will be better than what you are currently doing?

	YES	NO
10. Is your pastor and entire RE staff on board with this change proposed?		
11. Has your parish staff prayed extensively about these changes?		
12. Is parent outreach and evangelization a central focus of this change?		
13. Have you spent time with your pastor and RE staff envisioning and considering a variety of options?		
14. Have you asked parents about their feedback on this model (worked with a focus group of parents, surveyed parents, talked with parents one-on-one, etc)		
15. Is the kerygma intentionally infused into this new approach?		

Please submit this application to Carol Fountain at cfountain@gbdioc.org -- scan & send electronically, or mail hard copy -- must be received by February 10th.

Thank you!