



**ST. JOSEPH
EVANGELIZATION
CENTER**

FIRE – Funding Initiative for Renewal and Evangelization

Dear Parish Leader in the Des Moines Region,

Jesus said, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” (Lk 12:49) How you help your parish to accomplish this mission of Jesus and the Church?

The St. Joseph Evangelization Center is pleased to continue a parish grants program begun last year and aptly named ***FIRE - Funding Initiative for Renewal and Evangelization***.

The program is straightforward and can largely be described in three steps:

- 1.) Your parish imagines and designs possible ways to initiate pastoral renewal and evangelization.
- 2.) A parish leader completes and submits the attached application.
- 3.) Grant allocations are determined and funding dispersals are made late June/early July.

\$30,000 in seed money is allocated for release to parishes in the Des Moines Region to support pastoral renewal and evangelization efforts in the 2025-26 year. Primary criteria for *FIRE* is that a ministry initiative be:

- a.) Sustainable – likely to continue beyond grant year
- b.) Innovative – out-of-the-box approach (and not merely a continuation of existing ministry)
- c.) Shareable – potential for other parishes to learn and benefit from the initiative

Eligibility is not limited to strictly catechetical or evangelizing initiatives. Any pastoral activity that fits the above criteria and serves the great commission of Jesus to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19) will be considered for funding.

Please review the application found in the same email containing this letter. (You will also find the FIRE FAQ sheet there.) Note the deadline of May 23rd. Parishes may submit up to three ministry proposals.

I welcome the chance to discuss this grant program with you and other leaders in your parish. Don’t hesitate to be in contact by email or phone.

Thank you for all the ways you pour yourself out in love for Christ Jesus and the people of God!

Come, Holy Spirit!

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