

Email address rose.brennan@foundationsinfaith.org

General Information

What is your first name? Rose

What is your last name? Brennan

What is your job title pertaining to your parish or the Diocese of Bridgeport? Coordinator

What is your phone number? 111-222-3333

What is the name of your parish or Diocesan program? St. John Paul II Parish

Please provide your parish or Diocesan program's street address, city, and ZIP code 123 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 12345

What is the name of the priest overseeing this program? Fr. Smith

What is the priest's email address? frsmith@email.com

Grant Program

Please select the grant program for which you are applying. St. John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Faith Formation

St. John Paul II Fund: Grant Program Selection

Please select the St. John Paul II Fund grant program for which you're applying. Parish support grant

St. John Paul II Fund Parish Support Grant Application: Project Information

What is the name of your project? St. John Paul II Youth Choir

Please describe the program for which you are requesting funding.

More than ever, the children of our parish have been feeling isolated from their peers due to the ongoing pandemic. Through this project, we can both foster connections among children in similar age groups and introduce them to the incredible power of sacred music. As we have a diverse congregation, we want to ensure we are incorporating liturgical music from many different cultures and backgrounds so members of the youth choir can both learn about cultures other than their own, and celebrate their own heritage through music. One of the guiding principles behind this proposal is a quote most often attributed to St. Augustine: "Singing is praying twice." We want to show these children that they can learn about and express their faith in many ways, and one of those ways can be through liturgical music.

How does this project reflect innovation? How does it differ from approaches used by your organization in the past?

I believe this project is innovative because my parish has never incorporated youth into music ministry of any type, and I believe it's truly untapped potential. It's important not only to incorporate young people into the life of our parish, but to make them feel involved and empowered to have a voice in it as well. Being a part of our music ministry often comes with a lot of respect, and if children know they can also have a "respected" position in our parish, I think it will encourage them to act like it as well -- all while making beautiful music in the process!

Please provide the approximate amount of people comprising this project's core leadership group and their age ranges.

20-30 children ranging from fourth grade to high school. We are certainly open to incorporating more young people into the program as time goes on, but believe this is an adequate amount to start off.

Please indicate the intended age ranges of the program's participants

Elementary school age
Middle school age
Teenagers

If there is another relevant age-qualifier you'd like to include for the program's participants (pre-First Communion, post-Confirmation, etc.), please indicate it here. Otherwise, please skip this question.

Elementary students beginning from fourth grade and above.

What will the participants be doing as it relates to learning about and living the Catholic faith?

Our participants will not only be learning and singing songs, but they'll learn about the liturgical process as it relates to music ministry. For instance, why do we sing the Gloria during this part of the year, but not that one? What goes into selecting the music for different feast days, solemnities, or other important parts of the liturgical year? What's stopping us from singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" during Lent? Having the youth

participate in this way will give them a deeper understanding of the Catholic liturgy and the role sacred music plays in it.

Where will the participants be gathering or meeting?

Practices will take place once during the week and in the hour before a selected Mass on Sunday.

How frequently will the group meet throughout the year?

Twice a week throughout the year.

Please indicate your program's start date.

September, 2022

Please indicate your program's end date.

June, 2023

Why is this program or project important to your participants?

Music is an unbelievably powerful force in our lives. The sooner we can introduce it to our young people, the better.

Who has been involved with the project design or idea for this grant request?

Myself, our adult music ministry coordinator, our DRE and our youth ministers.

St. John Paul II Fund Parish Support Grant Application: Youth Engagement

How are you planning to incorporate the youth's voice into your program?

Once we have our starting group, our choir will elect an "executive board" of sorts. These will be post-Confirmation teenagers elected to president, vice president, secretary, and parish liaison roles. Choir members in these positions will meet regularly with our youth choir director to brainstorm and to share questions and concerns with them. We invite all choir members to share their thoughts and opinions with our choir director directly, but having other young people in leadership roles will be extremely important to both model good behavior and to serve as a go-between for the choir members and the choir director and parish as a whole.

Have youth voices been engaged specifically in the project or program design? How so, or why not?

Yes, absolutely. It was actually a member of our teen ministry who first approached our choir director with the idea. He'd noticed a lot of the teen ministry members enjoyed listening to music and singing together, and thought that might be of interest for a potential program at our parish.

Would you be open to engaging youth at a higher level in the future? Why or why not?

Of course! We're toying with the idea of having "section leaders" for each of the vocal parts (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) to have more leadership opportunities, and we'd be open to hearing other ideas from our youth choir members as well.

St. John Paul II Fund Parish Support Grant Application: Program Evaluation

Please identify a goal of your project and how you will specifically measure its success.

More youth involvement at our parish. I'd love to see members of the youth music ministry participating in other parish ministries, such as lectoring or altar serving (during services they're not singing at, of course), or age-appropriate youth ministries.

Please identify a second goal of your project and how you will specifically measure its success.

Implementation of a weekly Children's Mass. Our parish currently offers four Masses on Sunday, and we'd like to specifically designate one of them as a "Children's Mass," in which the youth choir would sing, young people would lector, altar serve, and be gift bearers, and the homily would be specifically directed toward them.

Please identify a final goal of your project and how you will specifically measure its success.

Empowering our youth to speak up. Much of this project was seen to fruition by one member of our teen ministry. We're hoping seeing this project to fruition will inspire other members to begin their own ministries at the parish that largely feature youth at the center. We want the youth to at least be in the front seat of their faith formation, and we think seeing a project like this be successful will help them do that.

On a scale from 1 to 5, how innovative do you think this project is?

4

Do you plan to collaborate with another group within your parish or the larger community?

We're planning to collaborate extensively with our adult music ministry.

Budgeting and Reporting

Please indicate the amount of funding you are requesting.

\$10,000

Please click the following link to download the budget form. Once complete, please upload here.

[File 1](#)

Did you receive funding from Foundations in Faith last year?

Yes

Did you submit a final report for previously funded Foundations in Faith projects? Please note submitting a final

Yes

report is required for further funding from Foundations in Faith.

Accountability and Expectations

Who do you report to or receive guidance from? Our pastor, Fr. Smith

How often do you meet with this person? Weekly.

If a grant is awarded, funds are to be spent as you described in this application. If there is a change related to how funds will be used, approval from the Director of Foundations in Faith is necessary or funds will need to be returned. I understand.

Foundations in Faith will periodically share pictures and stories to promote the good works of the Foundation and the Diocese. By submitting this application, you give us permission to share photos and communications about your work with the larger community. I understand.

Submit your grant application

Please type your full name below, which will serve as an e-signature. Once you proceed to the next page, your application will be complete. Rose Brennan

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