

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the fund is to provide funding for three specific objectives dispersed on an annual basis through a grant application process.

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

To assist schools and parish religious education programs in improving salaries and benefits.

- Although it is the responsibility of the parish/Catholic school to provide just and equitable wages for employees, they may apply to this fund for assistance to meet this need. A parish/Catholic school must provide a long-term plan to finance improved salaries as well as cost-of-living adjustments.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

To provide assistance for special needs to our parish religious education programs and specifically to the Religious Education areas in our Catholic schools.

- Catholic schools and religious education programs may apply to this fund for grant funding for special one-time needs such as material resources, start-up costs for a program, etc.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

To provide adequate in-service, professional development, religious and other educational opportunities for the teachers in our parish religious education programs and Catholic schools.

- Catechists, directors of religious education, youth ministers and religion teachers in Catholic schools may apply to this fund for finances with which to achieve and maintain the competency standards as defined by the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership and the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, as well as for further theological and catechetical study.
- Catholic schools and parish religious education programs may apply for assistance in financing catechist training, adult faith formation, and other theological or pastoral programs for the benefit of their teachers and staff.