

Memorandum

To: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Parish Staffs

From: Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr. Director for the Department Evangelization

CC: Deacon Thomas Berg Jr. Chancellor; Fr. William Hahn-Vicar for Clergy; Fr. Adam Streitenberger-Vicar for Evangelization; Fr. David Arroyo-Vicar for Hispanic Ministry

Date: 3/8/2024

Re: **Guidelines for Vetting Apostolates**

To ensure that all ministry partners are in good standing with the teachings of the Catholic Church and specifically serve to assist in the Diocese of Columbus' ministerial, evangelization, and catechetical efforts the following Diocesan guideline on the vetting of Apostolates has been instituted.

The Diocesan guideline/policy applies to any Apostolate that desires to provide ministerial outreach within the Diocese of Columbus. This policy/guideline aims to assist Pastors, Principals, Parish Directors of Religious Education, and Administrators of any Catholic institution or organization in the Diocese of Columbus as they consider inviting a Catholic apostolate to assist in the formation of the Catholic faith toward the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus.

It is the responsibility of the Pastors, Principals, Diocesan Directors of Religious Education, and Administrators to present potential Apostolates to the Office of the Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop or designated Diocesan official e.g., Vicar General, Chancellor-Moderator of the Curia, Sr. Director for the Dept. of Evangelization will be entrusted to make a final assessment on the approval of any Apostolate inquiry. Note: The Diocesan Department for Evangelization has been tasked to assist with the review process of all Apostolate inquiries.

Apostolate suitability requires that the organization in question be in good standing with the Magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church. Specifically, this means that the Apostolate in question must be in doctrinal harmony and fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church as revealed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Any Apostolate that publicly promotes or advocates views that are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church will not be approved.

Pastors, Principals, Parish Directors of Religious Education, and Administrators should make a prudential judgment after appropriate research about the suitability of an Apostolate concerning the criteria mentioned above. Generally, the invitation of any Apostolate should be an opportunity to evangelize and catechize the faithful. Thus, anything which may cause confusion or scandal or incite disrespect or dissent is to be avoided.

Required Documentation: Note the Diocesan Policy can be accessed online at: www.columbuscatholic.org under the Department of Evangelization



For Apostolates

1. A letter of endorsement/recommendation from an appropriate Ecclesiastical authority (Bishop, Vicar General, Priest in good standing that directly represents the Apostolate).
2. Proof of having completed Safe Environment Training of all parties associated with the Apostolate (where applicable).
3. Apostolate Mission Statement.
4. Apostolate Board of Directors.
5. Apostolate web address.
6. Curriculum Content.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr. Direct for the Department of Evangelization mdelatorre@columbuscatholic.org.