

**DIOCESAN SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS**

**Office for Religious Education and Catechesis**



**Catholic Diocese  
of Columbus**

**A PROGRAM OF  
THE BISHOP ELWELL FUND  
FOR  
CATHOLIC EDUCATORS**

# **DIOCESAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS**

## **I. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In the spring of 1981, The Bishop Elwell Fund for Catholic Educators created a new program which awarded monies for religious educators. At that time Bishop Herrmann offered aid to high school religion teachers who had not yet fulfilled diocesan high school religion certification requirements. In the fall of 1981 this scholarship aid was extended to all religious educators. The Elwell Fund is administered by the Office of Religious Education and Catechesis.

Scholarships are granted for academically accredited courses in theology, religious studies, and religious education. Courses may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit.

This scholarship program provides one-half the cost of tuition for one course, and must be met by grants from the parishes or schools in which the religious educators are employed. In consideration of the funds received, the applicant agrees to continue employment in the Diocese of Columbus for one semester for each course for which scholarship funds are received. The applicant agrees to repay all of the funds if s/he is unable to meet this commitment. Also, applicants are obliged to repay both the diocesan award and the parish/school award if they do not successfully complete the course.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS**

The following religious educators serving in parishes or schools of the diocese are eligible for scholarship funds and are encouraged to apply:

### **TEACHERS:**

- Diocesan high school religion teachers
- Diocesan high school teachers in departments other than religion  
who have their principal's encouragement to move into teaching  
religion
- Catholic elementary school teachers
- Parish school of religion catechists

### **ADMINISTRATORS:**

- Chairpersons of religion departments in diocesan high schools
- Catechetical leaders of parish schools of religion, salaried and unsalaried
- Catholic school principals

### **III. PROCEDURES**

A. Application forms are obtained from the Department of Religious Education. Completed applications for scholarship funds should be sent to:

The Diocesan Scholarship Program for Religious Educators  
% Office for Religious Education and Catechesis  
197 East Gay Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-3277

B. Applications must be submitted by July 1st for Fall quarter/semester, November 1st for Winter quarter/semester, February 1st for Spring quarter/semester and April 1st for Summer classes.

C. A committee appointed by the Bishop review the applications by July 15th, November 15th, February 15th, and April 15th. This committee consists of a catechetical leader of parish school of religion, a school principal, a pastor, a representative from the Education Department and a representative from the Department of Religious Education.

D. All applicants are notified of the committee's decisions by August 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and May 1st. Successful applicants are notified of the amount of their award at this time.

E. Applicants who receive scholarships must forward (or have college or university forward) a transcript showing successful completion of the course.

### **IV. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS**

The scholarship committee uses the following criteria in awarding scholarships:

- A. Money for the scholarship must be available from the Bishop Elwell Fund.
- B. The applicant must be currently working, full-time or part-time, salaried or unsalaried, in a school or parish of the diocese.
- C. Scholarships are limited to one course per applicant per quarter or semester, unless money is still available after all eligible applicants have been awarded scholarships in the fiscal year. (This exception applies only to grants for summer courses.)
- D. The course must be in theology, religious studies or religious education.
- E. The course must be taken for academic credit, undergraduate or graduate.
- F. The appropriate local authority (pastor or principal) must agree to provide an amount equal to the diocesan award.

G. Decisions about scholarships must take into account the following prioritized categories of applicants:

1. Full-time and part-time high school religion teachers in diocesan high schools who have not yet fulfilled diocesan high school religion certification requirements
2. Catechetical leaders of parish schools of religion, salaried or unsalaried  
Chairpersons of high school religion departments  
High school religion teachers who have fulfilled the requirements for high school religion certification  
Catholic elementary school teachers
3. Catholic secondary school principals  
Catholic elementary school principals  
Catholic elementary school teachers in self-contained classrooms  
Parish school of religion catechists  
Secondary teachers in departments other than religion who have been encouraged by their principals to begin teaching religion

H. Decisions should take into account the relative strength of the written recommendations.

I. Decisions should take into account the relative benefits to the co-sponsoring institution.