

# Critical Needs Scholarship 2018–2019

## The purpose of the Critical Needs Scholarship

This scholarship provides lay employees of the Archdiocese of Chicago with the opportunity to complete essential studies which meet the *Renew My Church* vision set forth by Archbishop Cupich in February of 2016. These critical needs and priorities of the Archdiocese are explained by the seven benchmarks laid out by the Archbishop for all parishes (*which includes parish schools and schools of religious education*):

1. *We bring people to Christ.* The parish strives to evangelize its members to live more fully as intentional disciples. In turn, the parish's intentional disciples are continuously evangelizing other by making known the presence of the Church and Christ's mercy in the midst of the community.
2. *We support each other in knowing Christ more deeply:* The parish enables a lifelong process of deepening one's faith and relationship with Christ by passing on the church's teaching and Tradition to parishioners of all ages.
3. *We encounter Christ and receive nourishment through prayer and worship:* the parish is intentional in developing a culture and tradition of prayer, devotion, and well-prepared liturgy, with the Eucharist as the "Source and Summit."
4. *We build bonds among each other to sustain our life in Christ:* The parish represents a genuine Catholic community that is conscious of its solidarity in Christ with the entire church of Chicago and the Universal Church. It is inclusive and harmonious, respecting and appreciating diversity in all its forms as an asset in worship and community life.
5. *We transform the lives of others through service as Christ's missionary disciples:* the parish prepares and sends parishioners as missionary disciples into the world to transform society with the joy and truth of the gospel. The parish is a beacon of faith and an advocate for justice and peace, reaching out in love to all who are in need, on the margin of society, or who live in fear and loneliness.
6. *We respond to the call to holiness by journeying together with Christ:* The parish accompanies the baptized on life's journey to become more Christ-centered, resistant to sin, merciful, continually attentive to building a mature, well-integrated adult spirituality, and committed to charity, peace, prayer and virtue.
7. *We take responsibility for administration and leadership of the parish as good stewards of the gifts Christ has entrusted to us:* the parish thrives under the visionary leadership of the pastor, who works in collaboration with his associates, staff, and the laity to ensure that the parish's mission can fully flourish as a result of proper administration. The parish fosters a culture of stewardship

and a spirituality of gratitude that inspires parishioners to generously share the gifts Christ has entrusted to them in support of the mission of the church through the parish, the archdiocese and in the world.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Full-time and benefits-eligible part-time lay employees of the Archdiocese of Chicago, including employees of high schools owned or operated by religious congregations, who have already completed two years of service may apply. Scholarships are awarded based on critical needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago and availability of funds.

## **DEGREES/COURSES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

- Master of Arts degrees
- Baccalaureate degrees (only if the candidate already has an Associate degree or a minimum of 60 hours towards the B.A.)
- Courses towards earning a certification or meeting a specific need
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## **Offer 1/3 reduction in tuition**

- University of St. Francis
- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Lewis University
- Loyola University
- Saint Xavier University
- Benedictine University
- Catholic Theological Union
- University of St. Mary of the Lake

Application to the college or university is a separate process and should be done prior to or concurrently with the Critical Needs Scholarship application.

## **AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE \*please note change**

The Archdiocese of Chicago pays up to \$3,000 per academic year and the participating college or university waives 1/3 of the tuition cost. The candidate assumes the remaining 1/3 of the tuition cost. If you plan on taking 1 course during the 2018/2019 academic year, please contact our office. Other restrictions may apply.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications are available from your pastor, principal, or agency director. You may also download the application or request a hard copy directly from the Institute by contacting us:

Institute for Lay Formation  
University of St. Mary of the Lake  
1000 E. Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060  
(847) 837-4550  
ilf@usml.edu

Completed applications must be postmarked by **May 1, 2018**. Faxes cannot be accepted.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A committee drawn from Archdiocesan leadership representing the various areas of critical need meet mid-June to review applications, prioritizing them based on Archdiocesan needs and the financial need of the applicant.

### **Regarding the Application Process**

- A. The following situations would qualify for this scholarship under the benchmarks:
  1. Lay people working in cluster parish environments particularly in the areas of children, parents and family catechesis.
  2. Catholic school teachers seeking certification and training as Principals or other certifications (*especially in economically challenged areas of the Archdiocese*) that support *Renew My Church*.
  3. Lay people who are preparing to better serve African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Polish immigrant communities.
  4. Lay people focusing on evangelization of teens and young adults.
- B. Candidates for the scholarship need to renew annually in order to continue to receive scholarship monies during their course of studies.
- C. So as to be good stewards of the resources set aside for this scholarship program, it is important that each candidate demonstrate how their course of studies will concretely support the *Renew My Church* vision for the Archdiocese.
- D. While the scholarship ordinarily provides for \$3,000 per academic year for each approved recipient, many students only use a portion of that amount. So as to provide for as many students possible, each applicant has to show how much of the \$3,000 allocated will in fact be needed. This way, more students will be able to benefit from the limited resources available.