

January, 2008

Dear Applicant,

The full application for the 2008 Archdiocese of Cincinnati Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) Challenge Grant is now available. This application packet is available as an email attachment MS Word document or PDF document, or it can be downloaded (PDF or Word Format) from our website at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction/orbgrants.html>.

Two challenge grants of \$500.00 each will be awarded based on ORB involvement:

- one for “best new participating parish or school,”
- and one for “most improved previous participant.”

Please be sure to read general information/FAQ and criteria sections in advance of completing the application. Eligible recipients of the challenge grant are those that participated in promoting Operation Rice Bowl activities and collections at their parish and/or school during Lent of 2008.

In brief, applicants are part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and have met the following criteria:

1. Efforts for ORB engaged more than one parish or school population
2. Incorporated ORB materials and/or information into school or parish worship services
3. Connected efforts for ORB to the Catholic Social Teaching Tradition especially in relationship to Global Solidarity
4. Identified new leaders in parish or school who will continue to part of this or other justice ministries (application demonstrates evidence of parishioner involvement in project).
5. At time of application, recipients have also collected and submitted the Rice Bowl donation to the Archdiocesan Finance Department at 100 East 8th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. (Please indicate “ORB” on the memo-line of your check.) Please note: applications are not evaluated by the amount collected.
6. Recipients are able to indicate projected use of *Challenge Grant Funds* in ways that continue to strengthen or develop parish or school efforts for CST or social justice.

Preference will be given to applications that:

- stimulate on-going and/or follow-up activities;
- involve multiple segments of the parish or school.

Again, please note in the general information/FAQ and criteria sections that you can submit your proposal in hard copy, or as an email attachment. The deadline is Monday, May 30, 2008.

Thank you,

Cori Thibodeau
CRS Diocesan Director

Laura Libertore
CSA Operation Rice Bowl Challenge Coordinator

ORB Challenge Grant 2008

Criteria:

1. Efforts for ORB engaged more than one parish or school population:

Examples:

- Parish Youth group and Adult small faith community or St Vincent de Paul Society
- Parish Education and formation: RCIA, Religious Education classes and adult education classes
- Multidisciplinary school approach: Religion, Social Studies classes, English and Reading classes
- School – student population as well as creative involvement of families

2. Incorporated ORB materials and/or information in to school or parish worship services

Examples:

- Special ORB prayer service incorporated into Lenten Prayer service
- Distribute Lenten “prayer eggs” in bulletins or have a prayer tree
- Use prayer intentions throughout Lent in mass and in prayers services or in announcements
- Use ORB resources to enhance the stations of the cross

3. Connected efforts for ORB to the CST teaching Tradition especially in relationship to Global Solidarity

Examples:

- Classes can select one of the Operation Rice Bowl countries or a principle of Catholic Social Teaching, and describe what it means to them through writing, drawing, newspaper clippings, or any other visual media.
- Assign an ORB country to each grade level in your school, learning groups within your class, or in Religious Ed classes. Students research the country throughout Lent and present a report at the end of Lent.
- Adult faith groups: Use the Operation Rice Bowl Home Calendar Guide to provide content for the weekly conversations.

4. Identified new leaders in parish or school who will continue to part of this or other justice ministries

Examples

- Identified an ORB coordinator who will implement ORB each year
- Increased the number of people who serve on your social or social action committee

5. Projected use of funds will continue to strengthen parish or school efforts for CST or social justice

“Projected use of funds” can cover a myriad of projects in your parish or school that enhance or strengthen Catholic Social Teaching or reflect a social justice component, AND

1. represent a range of approaches (e.g., education, advocacy, media, linking faith and justice), AND
2. show how the project will be incorporated into parish or school life.

6. At time of application, recipients have also collected and submitted the Rice Bowl donation to the Archdiocesan Finance Department at 100 East 8th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. (Please indicate “ORB” on the memo-line of your check.) Please note: applications are not evaluated by the amount collected.

Submission deadline is May 30, 2008

Challenge Grant 2008 General information/FAQ

1. What is Catholic Social Teaching?

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. It offers moral principles and coherent values that are badly needed in our time. In this time of widespread violence and diminished respect for human life and dignity in our country and around the world, the Gospel of life and the biblical call to justice need to be proclaimed and shared with new clarity, urgency, and energy.

2. What is the Catholic Social Action (CSA) office?

The Catholic Social Action office is committed to empowering Archdiocesan parishes, schools, Rural Life conferences, and other faith communities within the diocese to bring forth the gospel call of peace and justice. We offer a wide range of workshops, training, and resources to empower the church to live out Catholic social teaching.

Parish Social Ministry arises out of our baptismal promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves” and “striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being”. Such ministry includes but is not limited to and community organizing (CCHD), advocacy (legislative advocacy and education, Bread for the World, Network, etc.), formation and education (collaborate with Parish Rel. Ed and School, Salt and Light or JustFaith Adult Ed, etc.), direct service and outreach (St Vincent DePaul, Soup kitchens, Food banks, etc.), prayer and worship, special issues, etc.

3. Who administrates the ORB Challenge Grant? The ORB Challenge Grant is administered by the Catholic Social Action office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

4. Who can apply for the Challenge Grant? Entire parishes, parish faith communities or committees, Parish Religious Education and Faith Formation ministries, Parish Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Parish Social Action or Social Outreach ministries as well as entire schools or specific class rooms may apply for an ORB Challenge Grant.

5. What are the grant amounts/categories: In 2008, two Challenge Grants of \$500.00 each will be awarded based on ORB involvement:

- one for “best new participating parish or school,”
- and one for “most improved previous participant.”

6. Where do the funds come from? The Challenge Grants fund uses income from the CRS 2007 Diocesan Grant and the annual ORB Collection*

7. To whom is the CSA office accountable? The Catholic Social Action office will make disbursement reports to the Catholic Social Action Commission, the Catholic Social Action Regional Parish Collaboratives and to Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

* Twenty-five percent of ORB collection remains within the archdiocese to support hunger and poverty alleviation and education efforts.

8. How do I obtain an application? This application packet is available as email attachment MS Word document or PDF document, or it can be downloaded (PDF or Word Format) from our website at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction/orbgrants.html>

9. What is the submission deadline? *Challenge Grant Applications* must be postmarked by **Friday, May 30, 2008.**

Send to: Cori Thibodeau, CRS Diocesan Director, Catholic Social Action Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 266 Bainbridge Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45402-2278

Or send an email attachment to: csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org

If you have any questions about this grant process, please contact: Cori Thibodeau at (937) 224-3026 or cthibodeau@catholiccincinnati.org

5. Generally describe the “Big Picture” or overall plan for using ORB resources or activities in your parish or school:

- Describe in detail: One area or effort in which you were successful (what and how)

- Describe in detail: One area or effort in which you would make improvements (i.e. upon hindsight or reflection you would do differently)

6. How did use of ORB impact your school or your parish community?

7. Do you intend to continue using ORB for future Lenten reflection? How might you boost or advance your efforts?

8. How will you use the \$500.00 grant to enhance CST at your parish or school?