

Parish Name: _____

City or Town: _____



Matthew 25 Awards

Matthew 25 Awards assists parish's social ministries that complements the Mission of Catholic Charities

"Inspired by scripture and the Church's social teaching, Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens individuals and families of all faiths by providing innovative community-based social services throughout Maine." (Catholic Charities Mission Statement)

The *Matthew 25 Award* is a given to parishes directly serving vulnerable people in need, regardless of their faith affiliation. The award is designated to expand the capacity of a parish ministry to serve people or to help develop a new social ministry. It can be used to help purchase supplies or equipment needed for the ministry – *i.e.*: a dishwasher for a soup kitchen, computer, tables and chairs for a food pantry - even a vehicle for the ministry, etc. It can be used to start a ministry – *i.e.*: help pay rent to acquire space for a ministry, begin offering financial literacy services to consumers, start a program to teach independent living skills, start a mentoring program, etc.

The Award recognizes parishes providing "charitable service" as defined by Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, "*Deus Caritas Est*" (*God Is Love*). He listed three specific qualities of a Church-related charitable service which the parish social ministry must exemplify:

1. It responds to immediate needs and specific situations with more than "technical care", but with genuine love and heartfelt concern that enables others to experience the richness and totality of their humanity, made in the image and likeness of God. (DCE #31)
2. It is independent of parties or ideologies, but sees with the heart where love is needed and acts accordingly, utilizing planning, foresight and cooperation with other like-minded institutions. (DCE #31)
3. It is love given freely. It is not proselytism. The Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak. (DCE #31)

*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger and you made me welcome;
lacking clothes and you clothed me.
I was sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me ...
In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least
of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.."
(Mt. 25:35-36, 40)*

2022 Awards:

Applications due Friday of the Octave of Easter: April 22, 2022

Two awards to be given, one for \$5000 and one for \$3000.

Parish Name: _____

City or Town: _____

Application

Today's Date: _____

1. What is the name of the parish social ministry (*i.e.* the program or project that serves those in need)?

2. Please describe what this ministry does and whom it serves. Please provide specifics such as how often it operates, where it is located, etc.

3. Based on the principles above for a "charitable service" as described in *Deus Caritas Est*, please share with us the following information:
 - a. How does it respond to immediate needs and specific situations with more than "technical care"; but rather "with genuine love and heartfelt concern that enables others to experience the richness and totality of their humanity, made in the image and likeness of God. (DCE #31)"? Please give examples.

 - b. Is it independent of parties or ideologies so that it serves anyone, regardless of faith affiliation?
_____ Please give examples.

 - c. Is there a process to evaluate how the ministry is doing and then make adaptations based on that evaluation? _____ Please describe.

 - d. Does it collaborate with other social ministries in the broad community? _____ Please give examples.

 - e. Do people served need to pay to receive the service? _____ If they pay, can exceptions be made for those who cannot afford to pay?

[If this is a new ministry, please go to Question 6.]

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4. Approximately how many people were served in this ministry within the last calendar year?

5. How many volunteer hours were donated to this ministry in the last calendar year?

6. Does this ministry have paid staff? _____ If yes, please describe their role and what they do.

7. Is this ministry parish-based? _____ Yes _____ No. If no, please explain the relationship with your local parish.

8. Please describe how the funding will allow the ministry to serve more people.

9. How would the grant be used? Please be as specific as you can – and feel free to DREAM and IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES! **If seeking funding for more than one item or area, please rank them in order of importance and provide an estimated cost for each.**

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10. What is the cost needed to fulfill the request and how will the ministry be sustained beyond the possible funding from the Matthew 25 Award? (This could be financially, in-kind donations, volunteer time, etc.)

11. We get many requests and are not always able to fully fund projects/ministries, so are you able to operate the ministry/project without receiving your fully requested amount? If so, what minimum amount is needed?

Person Completing Application _____

Position/Title _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature of Person Completing Application/Title

Signature of Pastor or Priest Administrator

WE ARE CATHOLIC CHARITIES

A faith-based, non-profit organization, we have been serving the poor and vulnerable populations of Maine since 1966.

From food banks in Aroostook to child care in York County, our network of 650+ professionals and 700+ volunteers helped more than 56,000 of our neediest neighbors last year, answering want with generosity and replacing despair with hope.

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Guidelines for Granting Matthew 25 Awards

1. The ministry will be parish based and operated by the parish, or closely integrated with the parish.
2. Funding will be used for a direct service ministry that helps meet the basic needs of people living in the parish's communities. Funding should also be used to expand the capacity of a current ministry to serve more people or be used to start a new ministry.
3. Subsequent year grants may be awarded based upon number of other applications, the ministry's fit to the criteria of the award, and availability of funds.
4. Requests can be up to \$3,000 or up to \$5,000. (two awards)
5. Applications must be received by FAX, e-mail, or direct mail by the Parish Social Ministry office at Catholic Charities no later than the Friday following Good Friday each year). When we receive your application, we will send you an e-mail acknowledgement that we have received it.
6. A committee of Catholic Charities Board members, Advisory Committee members and staff reviews all applications. If more information about an application is needed, they will contact you. The Board makes the final decision.
7. The Pastors or Administrators and/or contact persons for the ministries are notified of the Award or grant selections by early June. The selected parishes will be announced in the next scheduled Parish Social Ministry E-News, and on our website.
8. Normally, the Matthew 25 Award is presented at a weekend celebration of the Mass. The bishop may preside at this Mass.

For more information or assistance developing your ministry and award submission, please contact your regional Parish Engagement specialist or:

Deacon Frank Daggett, PSM Director, 560-7822
E-mail: fdaggett@cmaine.org