

APPLICATION



Marriage-Building Parish Grant Application

Funding made available through the Catholic Marriage Initiative Fund, the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and MarriageBuilding – Construyendo Matrimonios USA

APPLICATION FORM INFORMATION

WHAT IS A MARRIAGE-BUILDING PARISH GRANT?

Funding has been provided to award a *Marriage-Building Parish Grant* to three selected parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. These selected parishes will be open to piloting an exciting new strategy that seeks to revolutionize how a parish addresses and meets the spiritual and relational needs of its marriages and families. Each Grant will provide up to \$50,000 worth of organizational leadership and effective training from the staff of MarriageBuilding-Construyendo Matrimonios USA (MBUSA), a non-profit with over 40 years of experience in marriage and family ministry, with the collaboration of staff from the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Office of Intercultural Ministries and Office of Formation and Discipleship. This is a two-year partnership between each of the three selected parishes and MBUSA (with the Archdiocese of Atlanta offices noted above and the Catholic Marriage Initiative Fund, our major funder).

MBUSA, in collaboration with the Archdiocese, will operate as strategic consultants, trainers, and resource providers for the sake of advancing marriage and family life, evangelization and pastoral care at no expense to the parish. Also included will be promotional and training videos, banners and other innovative resources and materials, in both English and Spanish, that will better engage parishioners and mobilize marriages and families as catalysts of evangelization and discipleship. Participant workbook costs in some program offerings will be passed along to participants. Additional support in terms of time and talent will come from the Archdiocese and other collaborators.

The work of MBUSA will complement existing parish efforts and serve the larger scope of archdiocesan goals toward parish and family life renewal. Particular attention would be given to the following three areas of marriage and family life ministry: renewing marriage preparation by promoting a marriage catechumenate (marriage preparation that evangelizes and accompanies, connecting the couple to the community); ongoing accompaniment of married couples and families that supports Christian families as agents of evangelization and missionary discipleship; and pastoral care for marriages and for those with relational woundedness.

Key areas of focus and timing will ultimately depend on parish needs and discernment in consultation with the pastor and parish staff. In general, MBUSA would include training for leaders and volunteers to foster effective

marriage and family ministries, the establishment of pastoral care initiatives for marriages, and strategies to sustain long-term efforts beyond the confines of this Grant.

This Grant will provide culturally appropriate events and initiatives in the parish to foster ecclesial integration among the diverse cultural population in the Archdiocese.

Envisioned time commitments would include at least eighteen (18) months of preparation, programming and training, with six (6) months dedicated to sustainability.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THIS FORM?

It is recommended that the pastor, or his designee, complete this application. The answers to the questionnaire can be submitted as a Word document.

NOTES:

This document is not in any way an agreement or commitment.

We ask that all applications reach MarriageBuilding-ConstuyendoMatrimonios USA in care of the Office of Intercultural Ministries (lluzondo@archatl.com) no later than July 12, 2021. Parish notifications will be announced August 1, 2021.

PART A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date	
Parish	
Address	
Phone	Email
Pastor	Parochial Vicar
Person completing application and role if other than pastor	
Email	
Contact phone number	
Parish Website	

PART B: QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Provide your thoughts as to the value of having a dynamic and highly effective marriage & family ministry in your parish:

2. What are some of the efforts currently occurring in your parish in support of marriages and families?

3. What do you consider are the top strengths of the married couples in your parish?

4. What would you see as your priorities if your parish becomes a Grant recipient? (Please put 1's by the most important, 2's by somewhat important, and 3's for not so important)

_____ Married Spirituality session during Baptism Preparation and/or Marriage Enrichment during First Communion Prep

_____ Sacramental Preparation for Engaged Couples especially, with a renewed model of mentorship and accompaniment

_____ NFP instruction/marital chastity formation and support

_____ Pathways to the Sacraments (invitation to learn steps to be sacramentally married)

_____ Sacramental Preparation for Convalidating Couples

_____ Supplemental Preparation for Couples entering a second marriage

_____ Monthly Early Marrieds' Get-Togethers for marriage and community-building

_____ MarriageBuilding Friends – for ongoing marriage support and service to the parish and its marriages and families

_____ Marriage Education (Skills in Communication)

_____ Couple Prayer Series

_____ Parish Marriage Evangelization Team – for evangelizing married couples and parents

8. What kind of positive impact do you anticipate this project could have on your parish?

9. How does a dynamic marriage and family ministry strategy complement your parish's mission and vision?

10. Pastor: Please describe your level of commitment to this effort and to building a culture of marriage in your parish.

11. Pastor: One of the goals of this Grant is to evaluate its accomplishments in an effective way. As part of this process, a short survey of your parishioners at the beginning and at the end would be needed. Would you be willing to allow this? Would you see this as valuable to your parish's goals as well, and if so, how?

12. Pastor: Important to the success of this Grant will be engagement with your parish staff to ensure adequate understanding, support, and an opportunity to help staff give insights into the project. What input do you have for this gathering and when would be the most convenient time to bring this group of individuals together for this purpose?