



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Mount Saint Benedict Foundation to support Diocese of Crookston evangelization efforts

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, December 1, 2018 – The Most Reverend Michael J. Hoeppner announced a grant of The Mount Saint Benedict Foundation to The Diocese of Crookston Catholic Community Foundation on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at the Convocation of Parish Leaders. The grant will be used to support evangelization programs inspired by the event. Funds will be distributed in \$50,000 installments over the next five years.

The Convocation of Parish Leaders brought together more than 700 representatives from parishes across the Dioceses of Crookston and Fargo November 30 through December 1. It flowed out of and was modeled after the national Convocation of Catholic Leaders held in Orlando during the summer of 2017. The purpose of the local convocation was to unite delegates under the common vision of responding to the call of evangelization through missionary discipleship.

Sister Shawn Carruth, Prioress of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, said the gift is being given in honor of the community's 100th anniversary in 2019. During the discernment process and meetings with various diocesan personnel, the phrase "helping move parishes from maintenance to mission" struck a chord with the sisters on the Mount Saint Benedict Foundation Grants Committee. "We were really persuaded that they had something that they were excited about and plans to draw other people into it – parishioners – to a broader kind of leadership and that just spoke to us," said Sister Carruth.

"Over the past 100 years, the Sisters of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery have blessed the diocese with their prayers, their hospitality, their works and their financial resources," said Bob Noel, Formator for the Office of Formation in Discipleship. He and Deacon Mark Krejci, Director of the Office of Formation in Discipleship, put together the grant proposal.

The grant request states that \$40,000 of each year's funding will be available to convocation delegates to support evangelization plans. Using mini-grants, they can pay for materials, hospitality, or evangelization opportunities. Delegates who apply will be required to have the consent of their pastor and a purpose that clearly supports evangelization. A grant application will be developed, and recipients of funding will be expected to complete a summary and accounting of the use of funds.

Each year, the remaining \$10,000 will support the Padre Apla Leadership Program. The program's goal is to help diocesan youth grow in leadership and missionary discipleship. It is named for Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest who served the Tz'utujil people of Guatemala for 13 years before he was martyred in 1981.

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