

Credentials and Content Criteria for Speakers Archdiocese of San Antonio

Awakened and energized by the Spirit, let us strengthen our commitment and intensify our efforts to help adults in our communities be touched and transformed by the life-giving message of Jesus, to explore its meaning, experience its power, and live in its light as faithful adult disciples today.

Our Hearts Were Burning within Us #183

In the Diocese catechesis is a unique service performed jointly by priests, deacons, religious and laity, in communion with the Bishop.

General Directory for Catechesis #219

Parish catechetical efforts should be in harmony with the catechetical goals and objectives of the diocese.

National Directory for Catechesis #60

To provide authentic leadership and stewardship of the Catholic Faith in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, all speakers contracted for presentations on faith and morals within the Archdiocese of San Antonio should be carefully screened. All presenters on faith and morals should be credible examples of the Catholic Faith, able to speak of and to share their experience of Life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. To uphold a common Archdiocesan-wide standard all presenters should:

be capable of effectively communicating the Spirit of Jesus Christ in the Gospel;

be able to address the challenge of proclaiming the Faith in a culture that is often hostile to Gospel values;

be able to develop and make their presentations in harmony with the teachings, doctrines, and practices of the Catholic Faith;

be attentive to the level of faith, knowledge and experience of participants, as well as to the genuine pastoral needs of the Church in this particular time and place.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio requires all parishes, organizations and agencies to exercise great care in selecting and inviting presenters to speak. The following criteria must be confirmed *prior* to contracting a presenter who will address issues of faith and morals.

A. In Good Standing

- a. The presenter should be in good standing and receive endorsement from the (Arch)Diocese from which the presenter comes. **OR...**
- b. The presenter should be in good standing and receive endorsement from the Episcopal Moderator of the national/local organization to which the presenter belongs. **OR...**
- c. If non-Catholic, the presenter should receive the endorsement of the Bishop, Synod Leader or professional organization to which the presenter belongs.
- d. If the presenter has a recent letter of endorsement from their (Arch)Bishop, Episcopal Moderator or professional organization, it may be submitted as evidence of good standing.

B. Background Information

- a. The requesting parish, organization or agency will obtain a current copy of the vitae from the presenter.
- b. *The inviter may want to request a biographical sketch of the presenter and any other pertinent information which would be helpful in publicizing the speaker.*
- c. The requesting parish, organization or agency should be familiar with published articles and books, if any.

C. Target Audience

- a. The presenter should have demonstrated experience with the size audience to be addressed.
- b. The presenter should have demonstrated experience with the theological sophistication of the audience to be addressed.
- c. The presenter should have demonstrated experience with the length of the presentation to be given.

D. Content

- a. Content must be in harmony with the teachings, doctrines, and practices of the Catholic Faith.
- b. An outline of the content should be agreed upon prior to contracting.
- c. Contact with other locations which have used this presenter for this content can be helpful in determining the effectiveness of the presentation.

**A copy of the letter of endorsement is to be sent to the Archdiocese of San Antonio c/o Department of Educational Services
Attn.: Sister Therese San Miguel, OSF**

Form Letter of Endorsement of a Speaker

(In your form please include the following information)

Bishop _____

Diocese _____

Address _____

It is our desire to have the following person make a presentation in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Speaker Name: _____

Event: _____

Purpose for Event: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

I ask you to respond **YES** or **NO** to the following questions regarding adherence to the teachings of the Church as stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Yes or **No** Is this person faithful to sound Catholic teaching?

Yes or **No** The above named person is of good moral character and reputation and is fully qualified to serve as a presenter.

Date: _____ Signature _____ Title _____