

PARISH/SCHOOL FACILITIES USAGE POLICY

The facilities of the Parish/School were provided through God's benevolence and primarily by the sacrificial generosity of Parish members and other Catholics, and thus, the primary purpose of Parish/School facilities is for use by the Parish/School and other Roman Catholic Church entities and organizations. Although Parish/School facilities are not generally open to the public, in the spirit of Christian charity and service to our community and in fostering the teachings of Jesus Christ, a limited pre-approved use of Parish/School facilities by individuals and organizations that are not a part of the Roman Catholic Church (sometimes referred to as "Unaffiliated Organizations") may be permitted. As a condition of being allowed to use Parish/School facilities, Unaffiliated Organizations must expressly agree that they will respect the religious nature of the facilities and abide by the within policy. For purposes of this policy, the terms "facilities" or "facility" include any and all Parish/School buildings and grounds, whether on the Parish/School's main campus or on other Parish/School property.

Parish/School facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing or advocating beliefs or practices, or for activities that conflict with or are inconsistent with, the faith or moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. At all times, the principles of the Roman Catholic faith must be respected in the manner in which Parish/School facilities are used. Accordingly, Parish/School facilities may never be used in a manner that contradicts the mission of the Roman Catholic Church, including but not limited to:

1. Events that celebrate actions that are contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church,
2. Events that support behavior that is contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church,
3. Events that promote conduct, products and activities that are contrary to the tenets and principles of the Roman Catholic Church, or
4. Conduct inconsistent with Roman Catholic Church teachings regarding the sanctity of human life.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the Parish/School may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to the Roman Catholic faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the Church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity and would be a grave violation of the Church's faith and religious practice.

Second, it is very important that the Parish/School present a consistent message to the community and that the Parish/School staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the Roman Catholic faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message the Church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion by Parish/School members and the community because they could reasonably perceive

that, by allowing use of its facilities, the Parish/School agrees with or condones the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

The Pastor (or the Principal of a non-parish school) must approve all uses of Parish/School facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to Parish/School members, their immediate families and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization or sponsored activities of the Parish/School, and then to other Roman Catholic organizations.

Unaffiliated Organizations (entities, groups or persons requesting facility use that are not part of the Roman Catholic Church) must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of Parish/School facilities are consistent with this Parish/School Facilities Usage Policy by completing a Parish/School Facility Reservation Request and Affirmation form upon request of the Parish/School, and must sign the Parish/School Facility Usage and Indemnity Agreement of which this policy is an integral part. The Pastor is the final decision-maker concerning the use of Parish/School facilities in accordance with the within policy.

NAME OF FACILITY USER: _____

By: _____
Signature of Authorized Agent of Facility User

Print Name

Title

Date: _____

PARISH/SCHOOL: _____

By: _____
Signature of Pastor of Parish/School Principal of Non-Parish School

Print Name

Title

Date: _____