

# DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

## SPEAKER APPROVAL POLICY

### For Presentations on Topics of Faith and Morals

#### **Introduction**

Catholic speakers who demonstrate fidelity to basic doctrinal norms and moral teachings, and deliver their messages in appropriate ways, encouraging both clarity and unity, play a significant role in the life of our Church, affirming the faith and presenting opportunities to the faithful to manifest God's Kingdom more fully. Parishes, Catholic schools, Diocesan offices and other organizations within the Diocese of Youngstown occasionally invite speakers to enhance events and gatherings. The invitation to any speaker or honoree is an opportunity to evangelize, catechize or better form the Faithful. Anything which may cause confusion, scandal or incite disrespect or dissent from the Catholic Church's faith, morals and/or discipline must be avoided.

#### **Requirements for Clergy, Religious, Lay Speakers and Musicians**

1. Submission of a completed "Diocesan Speaker Request Form" to the Office of the Vicar General at least 3 months in advance of the intended event. Consideration will be given to a different time frame upon request.
  - Completed forms must include detailed information about the prospective speaker, type of ministry, and topic of presentation and purpose of the proposed event.
2. Speakers who are clergy or members of a religious order must submit a letter of good standing from their diocesan bishop or religious superior and lay persons must submit a letter from their pastor or (arch) diocesan official indicating they are a Catholic in good standing. The letter needs to be signed and dated within three months of receipt, with a visible diocesan/parish seal.
3. All presenters or speakers MUST provide the documentation of their Safe Environment Training and the date of their last background check indicating they are in full compliance with their diocesan safe environment policy.
4. The Diocese of Youngstown reserves the right to approve speakers prior to the invitation being extended.