



# Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

## Policy for Outside Speakers Invited or Honorees Selected by Catholic Healthcare Organizations

In an attempt to allow for timely consideration of requests for approval of outside speakers and honorees at events sponsored by Catholic health care organizations, the following policy and permission request form are promulgated.

### RATIONALE:

When a forum discussing matters of faith is either provided at or promoted within the parishes, schools and/or other Catholic institutions, the faithful have the right to expect that what they hear will be consistent with the teachings of the Church and with the pastoral direction of the Diocese (cf. Can. 229§1). Similarly, the Bishop has the solemn responsibility to “firmly defend the integrity and unity of the faith to be believed” (Can. 386§2). Therefore, it is the Diocesan Bishop’s responsibility to do what can be done to assure guest speakers and honorees meet this expectation.

### POLICY:

Any person under consideration to give a presentation on matters of faith, spirituality and/or morals at an event sponsored or promoted by a Catholic health care organization, where such person comes from outside the Diocese of Sioux Falls or is non-Catholic, must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop *before* invitation is formally extended to him or her. This policy applies particularly to presentations that are extended to audiences involving the general community.

Consistent with the policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Catholic community and Catholic institutions also should not honor those who have acted in opposition to fundamental Catholic moral teachings. Examples of such acts might include public records of voting, financial support, or statements that have been made which are in direct conflict with the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. To avoid the suggestion of an endorsement of their actions, individuals who have acted in this way, no matter the substance of their body of their work or the topic of their presentation, should not be presented with awards, honors or extended platforms for speaking (cf. *Catholics in Political Life*, USCCB, 2004).

### EXAMPLES OF TOPICS THAT *MIGHT* ADDRESS MATTERS OF FAITH, SPIRITUALITY AND/OR MORALS:

medical ethics  
ministry

prayer/devotionals  
marriage and family life

social justice  
respect life

catechetics

### PROCESS:

Requests for permission to invite a particular speaker must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Bishop. If the permission request form that has been offered by the Diocese is used, it must be signed by an individual with appropriate authority within an institution. Supplemental information such as *curriculum vitae*, a listing of published works, and/or examples of past presentations (topics, outline, etc.) should accompany the signed forms. Invitation to present should not be extended until permission from the Bishop has been granted. Depending on the information that is provided, discernment over the appropriateness of a particular speaker will typically be completed within 3-4 working days.