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St. Gabriel the Archangel Church

Press Release

Our Sunday Visitor Awards Grant to St. Gabriel the Archangel Church

Educating the Catholic Laity

New Orleans, LA, May 6, 2015: St. Gabriel was the recent recipient of a \$25,000 grant from *Our Sunday Visitor*, a national Catholic publishing company. St. Gabriel sought the grant because of our strong parish values surrounding education of the laity in the faith, especially around the teachings of Vatican II.

Our Sunday Visitor is a national Catholic publishing company of a weekly newsmagazine of the same name, books, periodicals, apps, and other parish resources. OSV is the home of the OSV Institute which was established to carry on the vision of Archbishop John F. Noll who founded Our Sunday Visitor. He had a lifelong apostolate to educate the Catholic laity in the faith. OSV Institute seeks, supports and encourages innovative Church-related projects, programs, and activities which are in accord with Archbishop Noll's vision of love for the Catholic Church, his deep desire to create a laity well-educated in the faith, and able to articulate its teachings and evangelize the broader culture. St. Gabriel seeks to similarly reach these goals by helping select parishioners develop professional competency in lay ministry through graduate level studies at the Loyola Institute for Ministry; through an intensive Parish Leadership Formation Program addressing the theological, pastoral and spiritual formation of current and potential parish lay leaders; and through adult catechesis that provides for formation, spiritual growth, and social engagement.

Examples of programs offered include Scripture study, review and study of Vatican II documents such as *Dei Verbum*, Catholic Social Thought, pastoral skills training that addresses inclusiveness, power in groups, change and transition; Ignatian Spirituality, and other related topics. We have had regular participation by approximately 50 people in the Parish Leadership Formation program over the past two years and are preparing to start the third year. The grant will help to expand St. Gabriel's Leadership Formation and adult faith formation programs, and to incorporate a stronger marriage enrichment component. In 2014, OSV received and reviewed 75 applications for funds totaling \$2,190,224. They approved, in whole or in part, 37 applications (49%) and awarded gifts totaling \$694,544. The average gift was \$18,771.

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