

Model Grant for After School Program Incorporating *THE SEED OF GOD* resources

Location: Small Suburban Parish wishing to reach out to neighboring Hispanic congregation.

Nature of Program: After School Program one afternoon a week during the school year.

Staff: Two trained catechists in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, with assistants, including a deacon who serves both congregations. One of the catechists is a retired teacher of English as a Second Language, and the deacon is a mentor of adults learning English as a Second Language.

Participants: Approximately 15 children ages 3-12 and about 6 of their moms. Child care for infants and toddlers may be provided or they may choose to sit in laps or play at the feet of their moms and begin absorbing the richness of this work.

Purpose: To provide an atrium experience for the children (with the possibility of later establishing an atrium at the Hispanic Congregation). While the children are in the atrium with one catechist and assistants – the parents will be mentored in English by the other catechist and deacon, using Presentations from the Catechesis as the background for language development. This will give the parents and children common experiences in both spiritual and language dynamics. Woven into this setting will also be an opportunity for discussion and an exploration of social and parenting skills.

Resources: In addition to the furnished atrium, THE SEED OF GOD books will also be used. This can serve as a connection between the atrium and home and also between the parent and child for mutual reading enjoyment. These bi-lingual English/Spanish books, written in simple language, serve as an early reader for both parent and child - while providing the bases for spiritual growth. The themes of the books have grown out of experiences in the atrium.

Suggested Distribution: Each child will receive their own personal copy of The Good Shepherd (including siblings). Each parent will receive a full set

– for use in class and to take home. There will be 2 sets for the host church and 2 sets for the Hispanic church. In each case a boxed set will be made available for the parish priest to use in Baptismal and Sacramental preparation and one unboxed set for the atrium (which includes the future atrium at the Hispanic Church.) There will also be an unboxed set for each of the 2 Mentors to use in preparing their sessions.

Listed below are the Prices:

\$30/boxed set

\$25/unboxed set

\$6 for individual books

Discount of 20% for quantities of 10 or more.

Shipping in US: \$6, or 10% of sale over \$60.

Distribution and Prices:

15 *Good Shepherd* booklets = \$72

6 unboxed SEED OF GOD sets for parents = \$144

1 boxed set for host parish = \$29

1 unboxed set for host atrium = \$24

1 boxed set for Hispanic congregation = \$29

1 unboxed set for Hispanic atrium = \$24

2 unboxed sets for Mentors classroom use = \$48

Price set on 12 unboxed sets with 20% discount, plus two undiscounted boxes.

A similar plan might be used in cases when a different format from *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is used. The books are relevant to the basic teachings of the Christians faith – in settings both Catholic and Protestant – and would be complimentary to many types of Christian Education, Bible School or After School programs.