



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

CRRR Catholic Newspapers Task Force

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

11:00 a.m. – Noon Eastern / 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Central

Call: 1-866-469-3239 Attendee access code: 219 864 93

Notes

Present: Noel, Cait, Susan, Steven, Jennifer, Malachy

Discussion began with a review of eligibility requirements for applying to OSV which Pat had outlined in a previous email to the TF.

The General Requirements are most clearly stated in the Application <<http://www.osvinstitute.com/26>> and include:

- a) Listing in the current publication of The Official Catholic Directory. Applicant must be listed or have received formal notification of approval from the Ordinary of the applicant's diocese or proper ecclesiastical authority.
- b) Applicant must be organized as a non-profit organization and must have received a ruling or determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the applicant's exempt status. Please attach a copy of this letter.
- c) A letter of support from the local Ordinary or proper ecclesiastical authority must be included.
- d) Describe below applicant's general purpose and activities. Provide names of Board of Directors.

The short story is that the CRRR as an organization cannot submit the application for two reasons,
CRRR:

1. Lacks “a ruling or determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the applicant’s exempt status.”
2. Is not listed in the “current publication of The Official Catholic Directory.”

Yet this is not a problem if another non-profit organization is able to submit the application on CRRRA’s behalf.

Malachy noted that CLA is listed in the OCD under the section for National Catholic organizations with individual IRS rulings. When CLA applied to OSV for a grant relating to CPLI, Cardinal George of Chicago signed the letter. Jennifer noted the CRRRA Board will be discussing both tax-exempt status and/or incorporation as a nonprofit organization next week.

After discussion on whether another non-profit organization is able to submit the application on CRRRA’s behalf, members agreed not to submit an application by December 10, in part because no organization is able to do on such short notice and in part because CRRRA itself could do a better job of ensuring an appropriate proposal for OSV with a longer time frame. There is another target date in April deadline.

Pat also noted the planning grant application indicated OSV would want right of first refusal on marketing any products emerging from the grant. CRRRA intends to create a freely accessible directory and digital repository but important to address the question of what role there might be for OSV – on the planning committee, co-sponsor, or advisor? Similarly, what kind of partnerships might be useful with Catholic newspaper publishers? Another question is how to demonstrate use. The grant application wants to see how the result is used. Is there an opportunity to partner with a school? Questions raised about what it means to work with publishers of Catholic newspapers and other.

Malachy suggested CRRRA join other organizations such as Catholic Press Association, ALA, ATLA, ACHA and others in an affiliate status. Jennifer noted CRRRA doesn’t yet meet the ALA requirements for 10 years existence and 400 members. She will put this issue on the CRRRA Board agenda for December.

Cait reported on her phone call with Sue Kellerman, Penn State, regarding state LSTA funds for digitizing newspapers in Pennsylvania. Apparently, the definition of newspapers has excluded “church newspapers” in the past. Cait will submit an application to digitize the Philadelphia Catholic newspaper. CRRRA can encourage and assist members in applying for funds to digitize individual Catholic newspapers. CRRRA is not eligible to apply for LSTA are federal funds directed to each state for state organizations for digitizing. The TF sees a different but important coordinating role for CRRRA in doing the environmental scan, building an online directory, encouraging digitization and developing a digital Catholic newspaper repository.

The group mentioned several other foundations, including Lilly, Pew, Knights of Columbus, Koch (Gainesville, FL), Catholic Foundation in Dallas, and Raskob. Some, such as the Catholic Foundation, are focused on diocesan activities within their statistics. Koch is interested in providing Catholic resources to the general public, Catholic schools and the mass media, which could perhaps be an expanded audience for our proposal on Catholic newspapers. They fund 700 grants per year ranging from \$500-\$1M and accept letters of request from Jan 1- May 1. Agreed to submit in January.

Raskob Foundation accepts requests Dec 8-Jan15 for May board meeting.

Cait, Pat and others with access to Fadica's *Catholic Funding Guide* will consult for other foundations of possible interest. All TF members will explore opportunities including grants that are for states only.

Next meeting: Wed. Jan. 4th at 11:00 Eastern.

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 219 864 93