Material Selection Guidelines for Parishes

There are many organizations and companies that produce and distribute video/DVD/audio materials that are relevant to the Catholic faith. However, how does a Catholic parish determine if a media resource is appropriate and approved for promotion/distribution?

These guidelines were developed by the Diocese of Orlando Bishop Grady Memorial Library which follows the guidelines for materials which are selected for inclusion in the Bishop Grady Memorial Library (BGML), a repository of DVDs located in the Diocese of Orlando Chancery.

The BGML exists to support parish catechetical leaders in their efforts to form Catholics in the faith. The materials are specifically designed to meet the needs of those involved in faith formation in parishes. Special emphasis is given to material in the areas of Sacraments, saints, liturgical seasons and catechesis regarding the Roman Catholic Church.

Additional information about using movies within ministry is found in the Social Communications Policy 5.0.

The following guidelines should be used for selection of media materials:

Relevancy to Mission. Does the material meet the mission objectives of your entity?

Credibility/Authority of the Author/Creative Body/Producer/Director/Publisher. Does the material come from an established Catholic and credible source?

Third Party Validation. Are there favorable reviews from reputable print or online sources, such as the USCCB, the Vatican, scholarly journals, library journals, literary journals, news journals?

Bishop’s Review. Does the material include an Imprimatur/nihil obstat, which means it has been reviewed and approved by a bishop or a censor liborum?
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**Instructional Content and Intent.** Is the material presented in dramatized or entertainment format? Preference is given towards material of instructional value as opposed to materials in a dramatized or entertainment format

**Quality of the Product.** Is the material well produced with quality images, sound and editing?

**Appropriate to Level of the User.** Is the material appropriate to the age, understanding and language of the user?

**Timeliness/Currency of the Material.** Is the material current to the corresponding knowledge base and relevant to the audience?

**Price and Availability.** Is the material reasonably priced and available in an appropriate time frame?

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