**Context for Ministry Project**

**Requirement:**

It is assumed that the individual working toward becoming a postulant is:

* A member in good standing in his/her worshiping community
* Known by the cleric, and has communicated with him/her
* Somewhat familiar with the hopes and needs of the worshiping community and the community in which the church is located

**Rationale:**

It is important for the person in the process, the cleric, and the Diocese to be able to discern the extent to which the individual is able to: (1) recognize a ministerial need within the worshiping community and/or the local community (2) do whatever is necessary to plan a means of addressing that need, (3) seek approval to implement the plan, and (4) carry the plan through to its completion.

This project is intended to help demonstrate that the aspirant/applicant has the ability and skills to do that which will certainly be expected of him/her as a deacon.

**Description:**

* The pre-approved project (COM Chair and School Director) may address a need within the worshiping community or within the larger community, or one that relates to both. In any case, the proposal should be discussed with one’s cleric and elicit his/her approval and support.
* Once the project is agreed upon between the aspirant/applicant and his/her cleric, it should be submitted to the COM chair and School Director for approval. One sheet of paper should be enough to outline the project. It should include: (1) name of person and contact information, (2) Church name, (3) title or description of project, (4) purpose of the project, (5) anticipated results (potential benefit to the church and/or local community or both).
* The length of time needed to complete the project may vary, depending on its nature. It is not necessary for it to encompass an unduly long period. See some of the examples included in this attachment.
* The proposal may be submitted online to the COM chair and School Director. They will respond in an expeditious manner so as to give the aspirant/applicant the ability to begin as soon as possible.

**Final Report:**

Once the project has been completed, a final written report should be sent to the COM chair and School Director. They will acknowledge completion in writing, and then forward copies of both the proposal and the final report to the Canon to the Ordinary, who shall keep the “official” Diocesan file for the individual

**Examples:**

Some of the projects that others have planned and completed in the past include:

* Introducing the community’s CROP Walk for hunger to the worshiping community and eliciting their support in joining others to march that day and to support those who did.
* Choosing a worthwhile charity currently not supported by the worshiping community and creating a worshiping community fundraising event to offer one- time support for that charity.
* Meeting with college students at the school’s Diversity Department to share information regarding what the Bible says about homosexuality, leading a discussion, and then doing follow-up for a period of two months so that others might become involved in creating mutual respect and understanding.
* Initiating a partnership between the worshiping community and a service organization in the community, and working to establish an ongoing connection for ministry.
* Creating an extensive demographics report on the local community.
* Recruiting church members to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, scheduling and planning the training in conjunction with the church priest, deacon or lay person who will oversee the training, help do some of the training, and then assist the worshiping community in submitting the names of those trained to the bishop for licensing.