

Mini-Grants Request for Proposals
Supporting Professional Development toward Benedictine Raven Courses
Sponsored by the Benedictine Institute

The purpose of these mini grants is to provide stipend support (\$400) for faculty time needed for their professional development in preparation to integrate a Benedictine perspective into one or more of their courses. The goal is to generate a course proposal that would fulfill the Benedictine Raven designation in the Integrations Curriculum. Proposals will be reviewed and granted on a rolling basis until May 31, 2022.

Requirements:

- 1) The \$400 stipend must be used in support of individual faculty members spending time educating themselves on elements of a Benedictine perspective (practices, values, and heritage) and how these elements can be integrated into a disciplinary or Integrations Curriculum course. Applicants must provide a brief description of how they will use their time to increase their understanding of a Benedictine perspective, including specific readings, consultations, and/or activities in which they will engage.
- 2) Recipients must invest in this professional development time prior to June 30, 2022. [If this timeline does not fit your plans, there may be similar mini grants available in the 2022-23 academic year]
- 3) Recipients must submit a Benedictine Raven course proposal to the GECC prior to June 30, 2022. Applicants should compose their Benedictine Raven course proposal in a Word file rather than only on the Forms Manager course proposal form. Then they will need to email the Word copy of their Benedictine Raven submission to Rodger Narloch at RNarloch@csbsju.edu no later than June 30, 2022. This step is necessary to receive their stipend.

*Note. The GECC does NOT need to have reviewed the proposal by June 30, 2022, to be eligible; rather, the course proposal must simply be submitted to the GECC and to Rodger Narloch by that date.

*Note. Faculty members who have already submitted a Benedictine Raven course proposal in AY2020-21 or 2021-22 are eligible to apply for these mini grants if they can explain how they will invest significant time before June 30, 2022, to further develop their understanding of a Benedictine perspective and/or how it will be integrated into their course.

Preferences and limitations:

- 1) Mini grants are available only for faculty teaching courses to which they plan on attaching a Benedictine Raven designation. Since the following courses are not eligible for a Benedictine Raven, mini-grants will not be issued for faculty development toward the following courses: any course that does not have THEO 100 as either a pre-requisite or a co-requisite, any course that fulfills Theological Explorations or Theological Integrations, or any course taught in the Theology Department.

- 2) In the event that the number of quality proposals exceeds available funding, preference will be given to proposals connected to 200- or 300-level courses.
- 3) A faculty member is eligible for only one mini grant even if they submit Benedictine Raven proposals for multiple courses.
- 4) Faculty members collaborating on a single course should apply a joint proposal and would, collectively, only receive one stipend.

Additional support:

The Benedictine Institute has many resources available to support your professional development around Benedictine content. Many of these resources may also serve as possible assigned readings/videos for your students. These resources are available at <https://www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute> and include:

- Benedictine Raven Resources page → This webpage lists a wealth of text and video resources on all things Benedictine, including history, Benedictine values, the Rule of Benedict, our campuses & monasteries, etc. You can browse them to get a sense of what is available for you and your students.
- BEN Talks → Similar to TED Talks, BEN Talks are short educational videos which help viewers gain a better understanding of the Benedictine history and values that shape the culture of our community. Watch and listen to monastic members share the wisdom of *The Rule of St. Benedict*.
- Archived Lunch & Learn talks → Watch previously recorded presentations reflecting various aspects of the Benedictine perspective. Most of these are 20-30 minute long. Speakers include local monastic members but also others such as: musicians John McCutcheon and Jordan Sramek, authors Kathleen Norris and Jessie Bazan, artist Richard Bresnahan, and faculty members Bob Bell, Martin Connell, and Noreen Herzfeld.
- Archived Benedictine Bits → These provide short, two-paragraph tidbits of information about various aspects of Benedictine history and values as well as Benedictine connections to places on our campus.

Furthermore, the Benedictine Institute is happy to support faculty by:

- Providing you with a free copy of *The Rule of St. Benedict*.
- Loaning out (or in some cases buying you your own copy of) other books on the Benedictine perspective. We have an extensive library of Benedictine books that are listed on our Benedictine Raven Resources page.
- Consulting with you about potential Benedictine resources you might use in your courses.
- Assisting in identifying and coordinating guest lectures by monastic members.