

# **DUNS SCOTUS FORMATION FUND HISTORY AND GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**

## **Who was John Duns Scotus?**

John Duns Scotus (1265/66–1308), a Scottish Franciscan friar, was one of the most important and influential philosopher-theologians of the High Middle Ages. His brilliantly complex and nuanced thought earned him the nickname “the Subtle Doctor.” Duns Scotus believed that God’s love for humanity was expressed through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the center and model of all creation, and that Christ was so important to the plan of creation that the incarnation would have occurred out of love, whether Adam and Eve had sinned or not. Scotus further reasoned that if love was God’s intention for creation from the beginning, then the Virgin Mary who gave human form to Jesus would be untouched by original sin. John Duns Scotus was beatified by Saint Pope John Paul II; his memorial is November 8.

## **What is the Duns Scotus Formation Fund?**

In 1930, the Friars Minor of Saint John the Baptist Province established a seminary for friars in initial formation named Duns Scotus College. It was sold in the 1990s and the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA received part of the proceeds to be used for Franciscan formation. The portion allotted to the National Fraternity is now the Duns Scotus Formation Fund (“DSFF”).

## **What can the fund do for us?**

To promote Secular Franciscan formation at all levels of fraternity, the DSFF provides financial assistance for formation-related needs that cannot otherwise be met. The DSFF is particularly concerned with the development of healthy formation teams and directors. It encourages joint projects among neighboring local and/or regional fraternities. It seeks to foster creativity in formation content and format.

## **How does the fund operate?**

An administrative board, chaired by the Minister of the National Fraternity, oversees the fund. Additional members are the National Treasurer, National Formation Commission Chair, President-in-turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, an appointed OFS Secretary, and three appointed OFS Members-At-Large.

Those requesting funds evaluate their formation needs and design a plan to meet them. They assess their resources and determine what assistance they may need to accomplish their plan. Then they submit a proposal to the board requesting a grant for their unmet financial needs. The board in turn evaluates each proposal and makes a determination of which proposal(s) it can support under the existing fund guidelines.

## **Who may apply for assistance?**

Any Secular Franciscan or group of Secular Franciscans needing financial assistance to improve formation may apply to the DSFF. Requests from individuals or from local fraternities must be made through the regional fraternity.

## **Applicant Guidelines for Grant Proposals**

The DSFF provides financial assistance for formation-related needs. Please note: except in cases of great financial need, funds will not be provided for the normal operating expenses of a region or local fraternity.

Content of Proposals: Grant proposals must have a formation component. Examples of potential subjects for proposals include but are not limited to the following:

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- National formation priorities and initiatives
- International formation projects
- Regional formation initiatives
- Joint initiatives among neighboring local and/or regional fraternities
- Co-development of formation programs with Franciscan institutions
- Leadership training
- Youth
- Vocations
- Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)
- Ongoing formation - special topics
- Spiritual assistance workshops
- Multicultural programs
- Translations of formation materials

Learning Modalities: The DSFF Administrative Board encourages the development of grant proposals that utilize diverse learning modalities such as the following:

- Experiential learning
- Distance learning
- Accessible modalities
- Video presentations / live streaming of events
- Interactive digital support for formation directors and spiritual assistants

Follow-up Report: Each grant recipient must provide a written report to the Administrative Board that evaluates the success of the project and includes a financial report within ninety (90) days of the completion of the funded project

### **Grant Cycles**

There are four funding grant cycles: July 1-September 30; October 1-December 31; January 1-March 31; April 1-June 30.

### **How To Apply**

#### **APPLICATION STEP ONE**

- Write a brief description of the intended project, one or two paragraphs. In this description include the goals of the project, those involved, a timeline, and the expected outcome. NOTE: Individual and local fraternity applicants should first discuss the project with the Regional Minister and Regional Formation Director.
- Send this brief description to the Duns Scotus Administrative Board via email at [dunsscotustrustfund@gmail.com](mailto:dunsscotustrustfund@gmail.com). The Board will evaluate the proposed project, discuss its merit, and determine if it qualifies for a grant. Within 30 days a member of the Board will contact the applicant to discuss the next step.

#### **APPLICATION STEP TWO**

- **Complete the Duns Scotus Grant Application Form in its entirety.** This document can be found on the NAFRA Website under Guidelines, Forms and other Resources – Duns Scotus Formation Fund. (See: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources/>) The grant application is available in both PDF and Word. When completed, save the file and add the applicant name to the end of the filename.
- Submit the completed application form electronically to the DSFF Board at [dunsscotustrustfund@gmail.com](mailto:dunsscotustrustfund@gmail.com)