



Diocese of San Jose

Office for Parish Services

To: Catechetical Director/Coordinators

From: Lupita Vital, Director for Hispanic Apostolate *lv*
Sandra Torres, Associate for Hispanic Apostolate *st*

RE: St. Pius X Awards Banquet

Date: February 2, 2016

The St. Pius X Awards Banquet is one of the highlights of the year for parishes in the Diocese of San Jose. This annual banquet provides a special opportunity to recognize and honor those catechetical volunteers who have generously and lovingly given of themselves for 10, 25, 30, 35, and more years in service to the community.

The banquet this year will be the **46th** such event held in Santa Clara County. It will take place on **Thursday, May 19th, 2016** at **Villa Ragusa, Locate at 35 South Second Street, Campbell, CA 95008**. You, your pastor, staff, present and past recipients and spouses are all invited to join us for this special celebration. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with no-host bar at 6:30 p.m.

As always, our goal is to keep the cost of the banquet as low as possible while providing an event worthy of those being honored. The price of the dinner is **\$47.00** per person.

Forms for the banquet and awards are available at www.dsj.org/piusx. The completed forms should be returned with a check to the **Office for Parish Services, Attention Pius X** by **March 31st at the latest**. If you have more names than will fit on one form, please copy it. Please **email** a picture and a brief statement about the ministry of anyone who will receive an award for 25, 35, 40, 45, or more years of service.

With **this** memo you will find a clarification of the St. Pius X Award along with some guidelines for determining who should receive it.

Along with the form for the St. Pius X Awards, there is also a form for requesting **certificates for five years of volunteer service**. Please complete this form and return it along with the form for the St. Pius X Awards Banquet. The five-year certificates will be given to the parish DRE/Coordinator during *Welcoming & Commissioning Day* to present them on Catechetical Sunday.

As we celebrate the 34th year as a diocese, it is most appropriate to celebrate those who have contributed mightily to building the Church of San Jose through their dedication to catechetical ministry. We sincerely hope that your parish will join with other parishes at the St. Pius X Awards Banquet in showing your appreciation for the invaluable ministry of these special people.

St. Pius X Award Guidelines

Introduction: The following is to help clarify the purpose of the St. Pius X Award and to help parish catechetical leaders determine who will receive it.

The St. Pius X Award is an award given by the Diocese of San Jose to recognize and honor those who have volunteered for 10 years in catechetical ministry in the parish. This award is normally given at the St. Pius X Awards Banquet.

The St. Pius X Award is for people who **volunteer** as catechists as well as those who contribute to catechetical ministry in other ways, for example, as aides, office assistants, special program assistants, etc. This also includes those who work with the catechumenate and those who work with Liturgy of the Word for children. Within this broad framework, parish catechetical leadership and the pastor determine who is eligible for the St. Pius X Award.

For the St. Pius X Award the number of years of voluntary service in catechetical ministry is cumulative and may include service in other dioceses.

At the St. Pius X Awards banquet special recognition is also given to those who have served as catechetical volunteers for 25 years and for every 5 years thereafter.

Another award, a certificate of recognition, is available for those who have given five years of volunteer catechetical service. The certificate of recognition is given in the individual parish at an appropriate time such as Catechetical Sunday. Certificates of recognition are available from the Diocese and should be requested by the parish at the same time that they indicate who will be receiving St. Pius X Awards.

Summary: The awards for voluntary catechetical service are:

5 years - a certificate given at the parish on *Catechetical Sunday*

10 years - a pin and a certificate given at the Pius X Awards Banquet

25 years - a plaque given at the Pius X Awards Banquet

30, 35, 40, 45 - a framed certificate, given at the Pius X Awards Banquet

50 years - a papal blessing