

Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants

**Guidelines for Completing Application – 2010**

(Tip: A careful reading of these Guidelines may save you time and energy!)

Grants in this program are made to help young people who are active in the parishes of this diocese pursue their post-secondary school educational goals. Grants may be used at accredited two- and four-year undergraduate colleges as well as at accredited training and technical institutions.

In making these grants, the committee of clergy and lay members of the diocese appointed by the Bishop considers candidates on the basis of their participation in the life of the church, their demonstrated financial need and evidence of energy and initiative in attaining their educational goals.

Applicants must provide the following to the Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants Committee, 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01103 by **February 15, 2010**:

1. A completed copy of the **Application Form**. (front and back/page 1 and 2)
2. A **comprehensive essay** on a separate sheet of paper describing your special interests and activities, academic or otherwise; your Church participation; how you have earned money toward your expenses; your hopes for the future; and anything else you wish the Committee to know in considering your application. The Committee gives great weight to this statement so prepare it thoughtfully.
3. A copy of your **academic record** covering at least the last year and this year to date.
4. A reference from the rector/vicar of your home parish on the **Clergy Reference Form** provided. If your parish is currently without a rector, ask the senior warden either to complete the reference form or to designate someone else in the parish who is familiar with your parish involvement, past and present.
5. One additional reference on the enclosed **Reference Form** from someone who knows you well, e.g. a teacher, youth group leader, employer, neighbor, etc.
6. In addition to the completed application, academic grades and the references, the applicant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form (available free at your school) and send it as directed. **Do not send the FAFSA to this Committee.** FAFSA forms are also available from [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). In response, the U.S. Department of Education will send you a

**Student Aid Report (SAR).** Send a copy (not the original) of the SAR with your Bement/Waterfield Application or as soon afterward as you receive the SAR. The SAR may also be handed in at the time of the required interview with a member of the Bement/Waterfield Committee (see item 8).

7. The Committee strongly recommends that you make the requests for your grades at your school and for your references early enough to provide people sufficient time (three to four weeks if possible) to respond prior to the February 15 deadline. Providing them with a stamped, business-sized envelope addressed to the Committee (see above) will be an appreciated courtesy and is likely to insure timely mailing. It is also important to submit your completed FAFSA as early as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  
8. **Required Interview:** The Committee's final decision will be greatly influenced by your personal interview with a member of the Committee, a list of whom will be sent to you on receipt of your completed Application. The interview enables the Committee member to become acquainted with you as a person and to insure that your application has all the information needed. The person who interviews you will speak on your behalf at the May meetings of the full committee when grant awards are determined. Call a Committee member near you to arrange an interview between April 1 and May 15. By that time, you may have more definite knowledge to bring to the interview as to where you will be attending college in the fall, your exact financial needs and additional funds available to you through other grants or loans. If you fail to arrange an interview with a member of the Committee, your application **cannot be considered**.

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**Note:** These grants are made possible in part by income from a generous bequest of the late Miss Mary Bement many years ago.

In 1998, William S. Waterfield, Jr., left a bequest to the Diocese to provide additional funds for educational grants. Mr. Waterfield was a lifelong member of St. John's Parish in Worcester. When the original St. John's Church was razed to make way for interstate highway construction in 1962, he created the design for the replacement structure incorporating significant architectural features of the original church.

These awards represent an investment by the Church in its young people. The goal of the Committee is to provide some support to as many applicants as possible. The maximum annual award at this time is \$1,500.