



*Call for Proposals: Science and Spirituality Grant Program
Exploring Science and Spirituality*

In support of Portsmouth Abbey School's Catholic and Benedictine commitment to helping "young men and women grow in knowledge and grace," and the Benedictine belief that "love of learning is grounded in wonder, undertaken in humility, and fueled by the hunger for truth," the Center for Science and the Liberal Arts welcomes grant applications from students, faculty and monks of Portsmouth Abbey who are interested in pursuing continuing education, leading special projects, or producing research at the intersection of science and spirituality. By encouraging hands-on projects examining fundamental questions of human life and society in light of scientific and technological innovation, the Center for Science and the Liberal Arts seeks to provide the Portsmouth Abbey community transformative encounters with the intellectual and spiritual life. Applicants will submit proposals to an interdisciplinary Review Committee, which will consider funding for a variety of individual and group initiatives. The Center for Science and the Liberal Arts is an initiative of the Science Department at Portsmouth Abbey School and the Portsmouth Institute for Faith and Culture.

All Portsmouth Abbey students, faculty, and monks are invited to apply. Priority will be given to collaborations across departments, offices, and student organizations. We also encourage efforts that involve collaboration between students, faculty, and monks.

These grants align with three areas and support:

1. **Original Research:** Develop original research on a topic related to the intersection of science and spirituality. Examples include producing a guided research project exploring bioethics; interviewing experts and publishing as podcasts/videos; producing research on the complementarity between modern physics and Thomistic cosmology; funding costs associated with presenting research at an academic conference. Funds can support a variety of developmental needs, including technical equipment, printing costs, associated honoraria for speakers/interviewees, research material, and more.
2. **Community Enrichment:** Create opportunities for integrating our Catholic and Benedictine mission with the intersection of science and spirituality. Examples include hosting a guest speaker or panel discussion; organizing a reading and discussion group, film screening or artistic performance; leading a student or faculty workshop; funding student essay contests. Funds can support speaker honoraria, event costs including food, and more.
3. **Continuing Education:** Pursue continuing education at the intersection of science and spirituality. Can be undertaken individually or as a group. Examples including helping underwrite registration and travel costs to attend professional or student conferences; purchasing a digital subscription to study the intersection of science and spirituality in order to enhance course/pursue further study or formation.

Please Note: Applicants may receive no more than one grant per academic year.

- Applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis until funds are depleted.
- Please allow at least three weeks from date of submission until notice of decision.

- All projects must demonstrate some benefit to the Abbey community as a whole.
- Final reports are due within two weeks of completion of the initiative.

Lemaître Grants

The Lemaître Grant is named after Georges Lemaître (1894-1966), a Belgian Catholic priest, theoretical physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and professor of physics at the Catholic University of Louvain. Lemaître was the originator of the “Big Bang theory” of the origin of the universe, calling it the “hypothesis of the primeval atom,” and later calling it “the beginning of the world.” He was also the first to theorize that the recession of nearby galaxies can be explained by an expanding universe, which was observationally confirmed soon afterwards by Edwin Hubble.

→ Two awards up to \$2,500 each per academic year designed to support planning and implementation of one or more of the three areas listed above.

Examples of Lemaître Grant projects:

- New faculty training
- Student special workshop
- Panel discussion
- Course materials
- New annual event
- Research projects by students, faculty, or monks
- Registration fees and travel costs associated with attending conference (examples listed below)

LeJeune Grants

The Lejeune Grant is named after Jerome Lejeune (1926-1994), a French pediatrician, geneticist, and father of five who discovered that Down syndrome was caused by an extra copy of chromosome 21. His later work identified several other diseases caused by chromosomal abnormalities, all of which together earned him the William Allen Award, the world’s highest honor for genetics. On January 21, 2021, Pope Francis declared Lejeune’s heroic virtues, and Lejeune was named “Venerable,” a necessary step towards being declared a saint.

→ Five awards up to \$500 each per academic year designed to support the planning and implementation of one-time initiatives that engage one or more of the three areas listed above.

Examples of LeJeune Grants:

- Guest speakers
- Purchasing technical equipment or research materials
- Student groups/organizations attending off campus conferences
- Research projects by students, faculty, and monks
- Sponsoring a campus event

Deliverables:

All projects will be expected to deliver the following items before the end of the grant period:

- ▶ Written Report: Grant recipients are expected to produce a 500-word report describing their project and its benefits to the recipients and the Abbey community as a whole. The post will be shared on portsmouthinstitute.org and may be published in other official Abbey forums.
- ▶ Recipients may be asked to share their work with the community at school assemblies or other gatherings.

Applications: [Details on application requirements and application submission form available here.](#)

For more information, please email Mr. Fisher (cfisher@portsmouthabbey.org) or Dr. Zins (szins@portsmouthabbey.org).

Schedule:

Applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. Please allow at least three weeks from date of submission until notice of decision.

Review Committee:

Mr. Christopher Fisher, Dr. Stephen Zins, Mrs. Susan McCarthy, Fr. Andrew Senay, O.S.B., Mrs. Aileen Baker

About the Center for Science and the Liberal Arts

The Center for Science and the Liberal Arts reflects an innovative partnership between the Department of Science and Portsmouth Abbey School and the Portsmouth Institute for Faith and Culture. The Center provides a central hub for activities and research promoting the intersection of science and the liberal arts. The mission of the Center is to *inspire both knowledge of and a sense of wonder towards God and the created order*. The Science and Spirituality Initiative is a program of the Center for Science and the Liberal Arts dedicated to promoting an exploration of the intersection between science and spirituality. The Science and Spirituality Initiative includes a speaker series and an innovative grant-making program for students, faculty, and monks. The Initiative is supported by an anonymous grant facilitated by John Forstmann '60.

Conference examples include:

- University of Notre Dame [McGrath Institute Science and Religion Seminars](#)
- [Veritas Forum](#)
- [AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, Religion \(DoSER\) Conferences](#)
- [BioLogos conference](#)