

# **SECTION FOUR - Faith Formation**

## **POLICY 4.1      Inviting a Presenter or Preacher**

It is becoming increasingly common for parishes, archdiocesan committees, Catholic organizations and schools in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, to invite a presenter or preacher as part of a faith formation, evangelization or spiritual development event. The inviting group selects a particular presenter or preacher because of his or her potential to attract an audience to the event.

This policy was developed by the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan and the College of Consultors to guide persons, committees or groups to make well-informed and beneficial decisions regarding those they invite to present, preach and teach in Catholic venues and at Catholic-sponsored events in the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop is the shepherd of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan and is mandated to teach, govern and sanctify them. The Archbishop requests that hosts and organizers of events satisfy themselves that the information to be presented is in compliance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

### **1. Policy application**

This policy applies to Catholic venues, Catholic entities, and Catholic events that address certain themes and subjects.

<b>Catholic venues</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parish churches (nave and/or parish hall)</li><li>○ Catholic schools</li><li>○ Catholic school division offices</li></ul>
<b>Catholic entities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parishes, including parish committees</li><li>○ Catholic organizations, such as the Catholic Women’s League (parish and diocesan councils), Knights of Columbus, Cursillo Movement, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, El Shaddai, and all organizations and groups that are publicly recognized as Catholic</li><li>○ Catholic schools and school divisions</li></ul>
<b>Subject matter</b>
<i>Faith and morals</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Catholic doctrines, disciplines and practices. Examples: all elemental statements of the Nicene Creed; the theological virtues; celibacy of priests; marriage as only between one man and one woman.</li><li>○ the Ten Commandments, the four moral virtues, and the precepts of the Catholic Church.</li><li>○ topics around character building and personal values, decision making and choices, chastity and abstinence, friendship and peer pressure.</li><li>○ topics around the meaning of being created human and the purpose of human life.</li></ul>

<i>Social responsibility</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ poverty and economic development</li> <li>○ environmental protection and climate change</li> <li>○ education</li> <li>○ drug addiction</li> <li>○ criminal law and corrections</li> <li>○ migration and immigrants</li> <li>○ conflict resolution</li> </ul>
<i>Life issues</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ abortion</li> <li>○ euthanasia (i.e. physician assisted death)</li> <li>○ capital punishment</li> </ul>

## 2. Procedure

As early as possible in the planning of an event for Catholics in the Archdiocese, the event organizer shall send a completed form 4.1.a, Notice of Event/Speaker, to the Office of the Archbishop, by email ([exec.agm@live.ca](mailto:exec.agm@live.ca)), fax (780-532-9706) or mail (10301 102 Street, Grande Prairie AB T8V2W2).

**This policy does not require that the inviting group obtain the Archbishop’s endorsement of a speaker or his permission to issue an invitation.**

The hosts and organizers of an event with an outside speaker or preacher should also take some time to assure themselves of the suitability of the proposed speaker or preacher. Table 4.1.a provides a flowchart that hosts and organizers can use to guide their decision making process.

**The responsibility for determining the suitability of a speaker or preacher rests with the inviting group.**

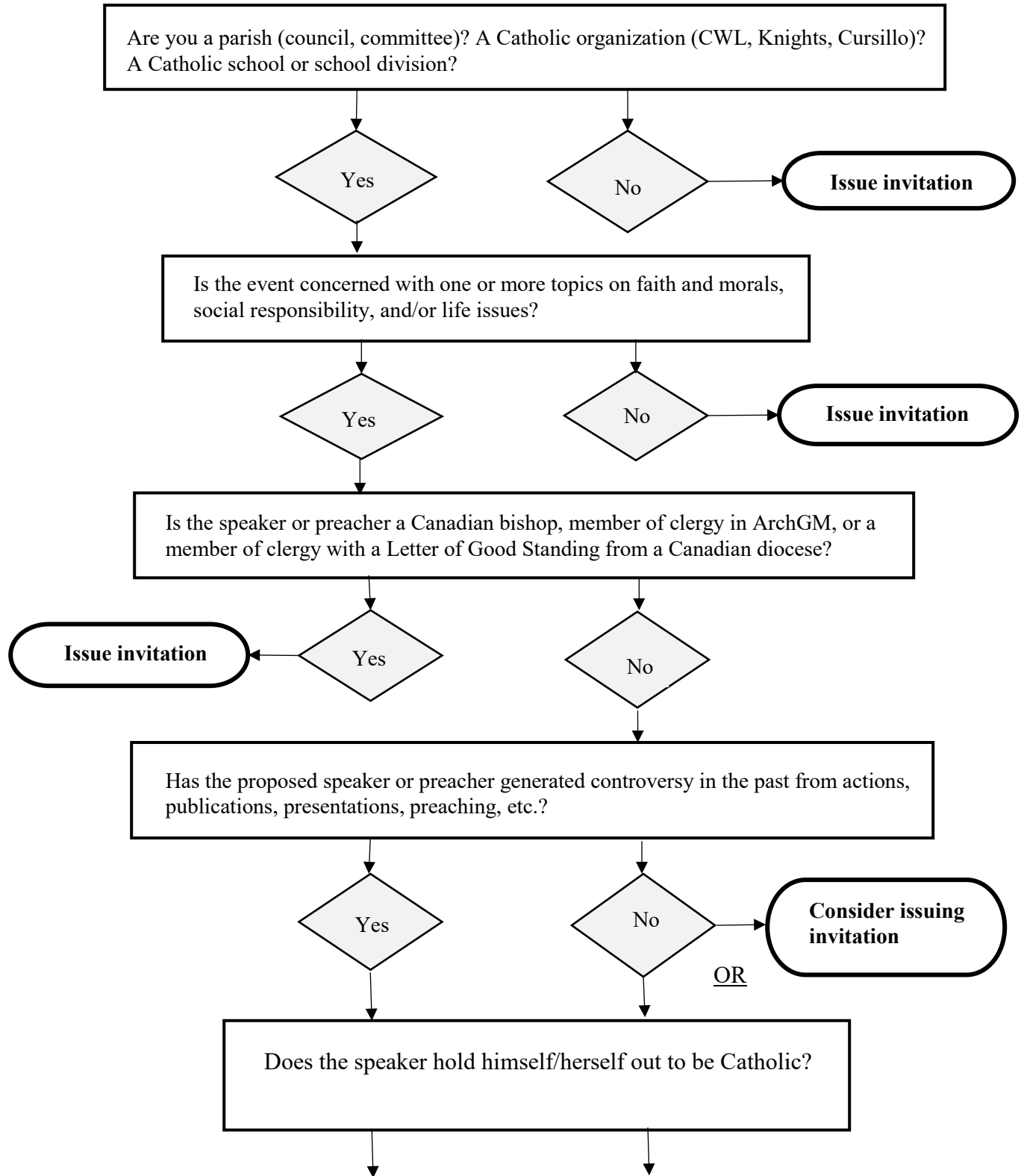
## 3. Other considerations

In addition to satisfying themselves about the suitability of a speaker or preacher, the hosts and organizers of events must determine that the proposed venue is appropriate for the type or style of presentation. In particular, if the hosts and organizers are intending to use a parish church, they will need to familiarize themselves with Policy 2.1.1. This is of particular importance if the speaker or preacher makes use of sacred space in the presentation.

If the invited speaker is a priest or permanent deacon, the event organizer is responsible for ensuring that a Letter of Suitability is provided to the Chancellor from the cleric’s diocese of residence.

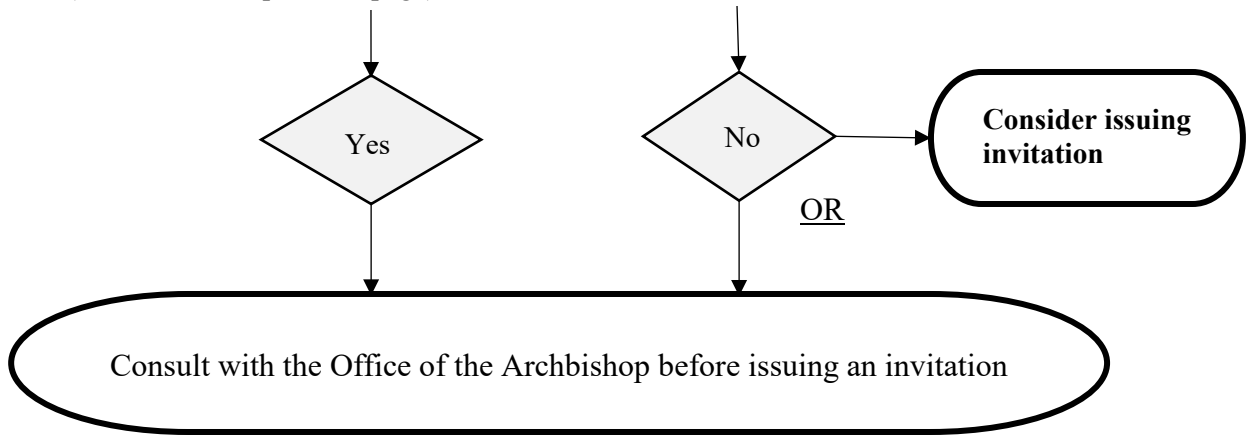
Accepted by the College of Consultors on 21 June 2011  
 Amended by the College of Consultors on 16 February 2011  
 Amended by the College of Consultors on 11 March 2015  
 Amended by the College of Consultors on 11 June 2019

Table 4.1.a Decision-making process for issuing an invitation



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## Notice of Event/ Speaker

Host Organization		
Event Name		
Event Location		
Date(s)		
Purpose/Content of Event		
Invited Speaker(s)		
Contact person	Name	
	Contact (phone or email)	
Authorized by	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish priest <input type="checkbox"/> School board <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Submitted by (Name)		
Signature:		Date:

June 2019