



DIocese OF FORT WORTH

PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

800 W Loop 820 S, Fort Worth, TX 76108
(817) 945-9362 • mission@fwdioc.org • fwdioc.org/pontifical-missions



MISSIONARY COOPERATION PLAN (MCP) 2022 - GUIDELINES

*Please read the following before submitting your application,
and provide a copy to the missionary speaker*

If your mission organization (hereafter, “you” or “missionary” or “organization”) is invited to participate in the Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) 2022 of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, please be conscious of the commitment you are agreeing to. Mission organizations are assigned to one large and/or 2 – 4 smaller parishes, which means missionary/priest(s) is needed to cover 1 – 2 weekends during the summer.

It is important to note that the mission organization is being assigned to parishes that will provide second collections ranging from large to very small. Our policy is to ensure that all our parishes receive the message about the missions. If you are unable to dedicate a weekend to the smaller parish(es), please let the Director, Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions (mission@fwdioc.org), know at the earliest, so that the parish(es) can be reassigned to another organization.

THE DATE

The pastor of the assigned parish selects the date of the appeal. Please contact each pastor before April 15, 2022, asking for a date most convenient for him for the appeal. Many pastors may already have a date selected. The appeal should be made between June – September of 2022. The dates should be reconfirmed with the parish(es) 2 – 4 weeks before the scheduled appeal.

When a missionary cannot honor a confirmed date, the missionary should notify the host parish and the Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions immediately. An alternate date should be scheduled, if possible.

THE APPEAL

The Missionary Cooperation Plan offers you the opportunity to share your missionary zeal with the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth and show them God’s love in action. We have noted that the missionaries, who share an uplifting story, often about specific people, have been greatly helped in their mission.

The missionary will need to be fluent in English and Spanish, as most of our parishes are bilingual. It is not enough for the missionary, if he is a priest, to only read a homily; he must be able to converse and celebrate Mass in other languages as well.

Missionaries should send to the pastor information about themselves and their work at

least 2 – 4 weeks in advance, so the pastor can effectively introduce the missionary and share relevant information through the parish bulletin.

It is best to give only one homily that includes both the Scriptures and the appeal. The appeal should flow from the readings and the liturgy of the day. The length of the homily should not unduly burden the faithful. The missionary should preface the appeal presentation by identifying the mission organization - diocese, community, or program being represented. If the missionary is not a priest, then you are required to follow the instructions of the pastor on the appeal presentation.

COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The collection and disbursement of funds are done in the manner approved by the Office of Finance in the Diocese of Fort Worth, applicable to all parishes in the Diocese. Mission organizations are not permitted to provide their own envelopes which are to be returned directly to the organization or to an individual.

The pastor will determine the manner in which the collection shall be taken, usually through a second collection. Under no condition may envelopes be removed from the parish where the collection is taken. Subscriptions for magazines may not be solicited, nor may other items (such as native crafts, religious items, etc.) be sold.

The full amount of each collection (including checks to the mission organization making the appeal) is sent by the pastor to the Diocesan Office of Finance. Final checks are only made payable to the mission organization, and never to an individual. If the mission organization does not have a bank in the US that will be the repository for the MCP funds, or you cannot provide wire transfer information for your organization, please do not apply to the MCP.

After your appeal, no other appeal by mail or otherwise will be made by you in the Diocese of Fort Worth, unless further assignment is given, nor may local units for mission aid be organized. The missionary will also NOT make personal appeals for their favorite charity or institution, nor will they solicit funds for their personal use.

ACCOMMODATIONS & TRAVEL

Because of space limitations, parishes can only accommodate one missionary priest. It is not possible for the missionary to stay longer than the weekend. Missionaries usually arrive on the Saturday of the appeal and leave after their last liturgical assignment on Sunday, unless flight arrangements require a stay until Monday. If so, arrangements need to be made with the pastor for the additional night during your initial contact.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is spread out over 28 counties, therefore, proximity to public transportation (bus, train, or airport) is not always possible. In considering whether to

accept participation in the Diocese of Fort Worth MCP, please keep in mind that it is preferable for the missionaries to provide their own transportation. It should not be expected that transportation would be provided for other trips during the missionary's visit, or for between assignments, or to take the missionary from one parish to another assigned parish.

Please let the pastor know of any special needs, especially mobility or special diet.

SPECIAL NOTE

The request from parishes is to send priests who can speak English understandably, and in our Diocese, Spanish and Vietnamese, where applicable. Foreign priests should be in the US for at least a few days before their first mission appeal, and should celebrate a public Mass on those days to become familiarized with celebrating Mass before the appeals' weekend. Please give a copy of these MCP Guidelines to the missionary making the appeal. Some important points have been overlooked because this information is not communicated to the missionary, resulting in misunderstanding and confusion.

Please avoid –

- Last-minute cancelation (without reasonable cause) or no-show
- Undue delay in returning documentation (schedule, Testimonials of Suitability)
- Distributing envelopes or soliciting names/addresses in the parishes
- Imposing on a pastor's hospitality (see "Accommodations & Travel")

Missionaries, priest or lay, that make the appeal must be in good standing with their diocese or religious community; have never been suspended or otherwise canonically disciplined; have no criminal record, nor have had criminal charges brought against them; exhibited behavior which called into question their fitness or suitability for sacred ministry due to alcohol, substance abuse or other causes. In addition, the priest or missionary has no other particular mental or physical attribute, condition, and/or past situation which would adversely affect performance of the sacred ministry. A Testimonial of Suitability from the Bishop/Superior/President for each missionary who intends to do ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth indicating the above should be forwarded to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

For more on MCP in the Diocese of Fort Worth, please contact: Director, Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions or email mission@fwdioc.org or visit our website <https://fwdioc.org/missionary-cooperation-plan>