

MCP 2023 Information Sheet : Diocese of Fort Worth, TX

The Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) of the Diocese of Fort Worth provides an opportunity for the faithful of the Diocese to receive the message about the missionary endeavors of the universal church. 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 it is not possible to dedicate a weekend to the smaller parish(es), let the Director of the Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions (mission@fwdioc.org) know as soon as possible, so the parish(es) can be reassigned to another entity.

Date

The pastor of the parish selects the weekend of appeal. The mission organization is to contact each pastor and schedule the appeal. The following weekends are unavailable for mission appeal (cf. 2023 Special Collections Calendar).

- Good Shepherd Sunday-Seminarian Education Fund May 6-7, 2023
- Catholic Communication Campaign May 20-21, 2023
- Annual Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence) Jul. 1-2, 2023
- Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa Jul. 8-9, 2023
- Catholic University of America Sep. 9-10, 2023
- Diocesan Appeal Announcement & Commitment Weekends TBD

Once a date has been agreed upon between the pastor and the mission organization, it is to be notified to the Diocesan Office by mail or by email (mission@fwdioc.org) no later than April 15, 2023, to confirm the mission organization's participation in MCP 2023. Difficulties in scheduling should be referred to the Director of the Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions.

Testimonial of Suitability for Ministry

No individual – clergy or lay – will be allowed to make an appeal unless we receive the *Testimonial of Suitability for Ministry* from the competent authority (Bishop/Major Superior/President). It must be sent directly from his/her office to our Diocesan Office. If the mission organization is unsure of who will be making the mission appeal, the dates can be set with the pastor of the parish, but the appeal will not be allowed without the *Testimonial of Suitability for Ministry* sent prior to the date of appeal to:

<u>Mailing address:</u> Office of Pontifical Missions-MCP 2023 The Catholic Center 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108	<u>Email:</u> Email: mcp@fwdioc.org Subject: MCP 2023 Testimonial of Suitability
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A copy of the approved *Testimonial of Suitability* will be sent to the pastor of the parish.

Transportation

Transportation to and from the Diocese of Fort Worth and the assigned parish(es) is the responsibility of the missionary and the mission organization.

Accommodation

The parish may provide lodging at the rectory if the visiting missionary is a priest, deacon, religious man, or layman. Check with the pastor to see if this is a possibility. If the missionary is woman religious or laywoman, she will need to consult with the pastor to see how accommodation can be arranged. It may be necessary for the missionary to stay at a nearby hotel. It is inappropriate for the missionary to charge the parish for any expenses, nor is it appropriate to expect lodging beyond appeal weekend.

Solicitations

The soliciting of subscriptions for publications (verbally or through the use of forms) or the distribution of brochures, envelopes and sample publications, etc., is prohibited.

Appeal Presentation

The missionary presenter should keep his/her appeal presentation to approximately 10-12 minutes. The missionary must be able to communicate in English (and in Spanish where needed or in Vietnamese in our Vietnamese parishes).

Unless otherwise indicated, the missionary presenter will need to be fluent in English and Spanish, as most of our parishes are bilingual.

The appeal presentation should make use of the Sunday Readings and refer to the Scriptures in the homily/reflection.

Changes in Missionary Presenter

If the contact person, the missionary presenter or the date of appeal should be changed, contact the Director of the Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions (mission@fwdioc.org) immediately.

Collection and Disbursement of Funds

The full amount of the second collection (including checks to the mission organization making the appeal) will be 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. The mission organization should have a bank in the US that will be the repository for the MCP funds, or the mission organization should be able to provide wire transfer information.

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 "Accommodation")

Questions

For any questions or issues that arise that cannot be answered by the pastor of the parish, contact the Director, Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions:

Rev. Brijil Lawrence
Catholic Center
800 W Loop 820 South
Fort Worth, TX 76108
mission@fwdioc.org
Office: (817)945-9362