



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

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2021 MISSIONARY COOPERATION PLAN REGULATIONS

Please give a copy of these regulations to the missionary priest who is actually making the appeal.

If you are invited to participate in the 2021 Missionary Cooperation Plan of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, please be conscious of the commitment you are agreeing to. A last-minute cancelation by the missionary causes great difficulties in covering the schedule. The missionary priest is expected to be the principal celebrant for all parish Masses for the entire weekend, and also to be available for the Sacrament of Penance (confessions).

Missionary organizations are assigned to one large and/or 2-4 smaller parishes, which means missionary priest(s) is needed to cover 1-4 weekends during the summer.

THE DATE

The pastor selects the date of the appeal. Please contact each pastor before April 15th asking for a date suitable for him for the appeal. Many pastors already have a date selected. The appeal should be made between June 1st and August 31st. 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 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 in a clear and understandable manner share an uplifting story, often about specific people, have been greatly helped in their mission.

The missionary priest must speak English clearly and fluently. Parishioners respond more generously when they clearly understand the mission needs.

If you have promised to send a bilingual priest (English/Spanish), be sure to follow through with a fluent celebrant. It is not enough for the priest to only read a homily in Spanish; they must be able to converse and celebrate Mass in Spanish as well.

Missionaries should send the pastor information about themselves and their work at least two 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 his appeal by identifying the diocese, community, or program being represented.

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 groups are not permitted to provide any envelopes which are to be returned directly to the missionary.

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 made out to the community/diocese making the appeal) is sent by the pastor to the diocesan Office of Finance. The diocesan director will transmit the net proceeds to your US contact around mid-December. Final checks are only made payable to a community/diocese, and never to an individual priest. If your diocese/community 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 diocese/community, 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.

Sometimes the mailing address of the church is different from the actual location. Please be sure to confirm the physical location of the parish and give that information to the missionary making the appeal. More information about the individual parishes may be found on the Diocese of Fort Worth website: <https://fwdioc.org/parish-finder>

Because the Diocese of Fort Worth is spread out over 28 counties, close 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. Some parishes can extend the hospitality of providing a lift from/to a terminal (within reason), provided plenty of advance notice is given. 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 diets.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

The #1 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 comfortable with celebrating Mass before the appeals weekend.

Please give a copy of these MCP Regulations to the missionary priest making the appeal. Some important points have been overlooked because this information is not communicated to the missionary, resulting in misunderstandings and confusion.

Please avoid -

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

SPECIAL NOTE

Each missionary that comes to give the appeal must be in good standing with their diocese or religious community; has 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 priestly ministry due to alcohol, substance abuse or other causes. In addition, this 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 certificate of suitability from the superior for each priest or missionary who intends to do ministry with the Diocese of Fort Worth indicating the above should be forwarded to the Missions Office.