

Missionary Cooperation Plan

Catholic Diocese of Columbus



Manual

Administered by the
Diocesan Missions Office

197 East Gay Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3229
<https://columbuscatholic.org/missions>

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This manual is intended to aid parishes and missionaries in understanding the purpose and procedures of the Missionary Cooperation Plan in the Diocese of Columbus.

LEARNING FROM MISSIONARIES

“We ask that you share with us your experience as well as the faith experience of the people you serve...Our faith is deepened and broadened as we learn from you. You enrich us in our understanding of the problems and the challenges of the universal church.” (US Bishops on World Mission *“To the Ends of the Earth”*).

THE CHURCH IS MISSIONARY

“The Church is missionary. She exists so that every man and woman may encounter Jesus. *(Pope Francis)*

The Church is missionary by her very nature. As such, the Church’s missionary task is rooted in the Blessed Trinity. Thus, she continues the mission of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, by proclaiming to the ends of the earth the salvation that Christ offers to those who love and sincerely promote the Church’s missionary activity *(To the Ends of the Earth)*.

The Church’s mission involves all of us personally in our parishes, and it is our responsibility to share the Good News of Christ’s love with the rest of the world. Indeed, “mission” is the greatest and the holiest duty of the Church. As the Father has sent the Son, Christ has handed on the missionary task to His followers, to “go make disciples of all nations.” (Mt. 28:19)

In the Second Vatican Council, the Church Fathers teach that the universal scope of mission work enjoins all communities to maintain contacts with missionaries who came from its ranks, or with some parish or diocese in the missions. *(Ad Gentes 37)*

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MCP PROGRAM

“Cooperating in missionary activity means not just giving but also receiving. All the particular churches, both young and old, are called to give and to receive in the context of the universal mission.” (Redemptoris Missio 84)

The Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) was inaugurated in the late 1930's by Bishop William A. Griffin, auxiliary bishop for the Newark Archdiocese and then archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Conceived as a plan to help mission-sending societies solicit funds for their mission efforts and to give them the opportunity to appeal for vocations to their communities, the Missionary Cooperation Plan takes the burden off pastors who previously received requests from mission organizations from around the world. Today, the program is typically administered by each Diocesan Missions Office under the auspices of the local Bishop.

MCP WITHIN THE COLUMBUS DIOCESE

The Diocese of Columbus Missions Office annually assigns visiting missionaries to designated parishes within the diocese. The director of the Missions Office is the person who, under the Bishop, is responsible for this program. Each year an MCP Committee selects applicants from the online applications received and invites them to participate on the program. Eligibility for participation is every other year.

The Missions Office is also responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds from the MCP appeal. The Missions Office distributes the funds via check to the organization's U.S. contact person. No wire transfers are permitted. The benefit of MCP resides in the opportunity it offers all the faithful to experience a cross-cultural and mutual exchange of faith and friendship and to encounter a new outlook on our rich Catholic tradition.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. A recognized Catholic missionary society in good standing with the United States Society

for the Propagation of the Faith serving in one or more foreign countries, or

2. A Catholic diocese in the United States designated as missionary by the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops' Home Missions Office.

3. A foreign (non-U.S.A.) Catholic (arch)diocese or eparchy struggling with poverty, persecution, oppression, or war.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Online only applications are accepted. Go to www.columbuscatholic.org/mcp and scroll down to the MCP application link. Eligibility is every other year.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCEDURES:

Applicants should complete the online application by the deadline.

The application should state the project or need. All applications must contain information about the organization such as: full name of the organization, authorization/written approval from the Superior General (Affidavit of Suitability), Provincial or Bishop, full contact address. In addition, all applicants are required to appoint a U.S. contact person and provide the name, address, phone number, and email address of the U.S. contact.

Collected appeal funds will be distributed via a check to the designated U.S. contact.

Applicants must complete a new application each year. A previous application will not be accepted for a future appeal.

THE ROLE OF THE DIOCESAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

- Review applications with the MCP Selection Committee and select participants.

- Notify selected mission organizations of their acceptance to the current appeal.
- Assign the mission organization to a parish(es) and provide contact information.
- Provide pastors with contact information for the assigned mission organization.
- Collect and disburse proceeds from the mission appeal to all participants in the appeal year. Ten percent of the offerings collected are retained by the Missions Office for administration of the program and other mission activities.
- Help resolve any concerns of the parish or missionary organization.

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