

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE PLAN

The main purpose of the missionary's visit to a parish is to nurture an awareness, love and support of the missionary Church.

Every parish in the diocese is requested to host a missionary each year for the purpose of making an appeal for the financial support of the missions.

The Diocesan Missions Office will assign a missionary each year to parishes in the diocese.

The Mission Appeal will not be made during the dates already assigned for national/diocesan special collections, UIM Appeal Sunday, Solemnities of the Lord, Days of Obligation or other major feasts.

The Mission Appeal does not necessarily replace the Sunday homily since assigned missionaries may include non-clerical religious and/or other lay persons. In cases where the missionary is not a priest or deacon, the pastor is to give a very short homily and afterwards introduce the missionary for the presentation of the appeal.

If the missionary is a priest, and if he is asked to help in the celebration of the Sunday Masses, the normal stipend for replacement clergy would be added to the total parish contribution.

The host parish is responsible for providing room and board to the missionary for his/her appeal at the parish if possible. If, for any reason, rectory accommodations are not available for a priest or brother, perhaps a parishioner's hospitality could be provided.

If the missionary is a priest expected to supply during the time of the pastor's vacation or weekend off, it should be made clear as to who has the necessary keys, will open the church, prepare for the masses, etc.

Ordinarily the pastor should be present to welcome the missionary and introduce him to the people. The pastor's presence and participation in the Missionary Cooperative Plan is a strong endorsement to the faithful of the missionary dimension of the Church.

The second collection is counted and recorded by the parish and a check for the full amount should be sent to the Diocesan Mission Office within two weeks of the appeal. **NO MONIES ARE TO BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MISSION PRESENTING THE APPEAL.** The Mission Office of the diocese will collect all funds and send a check to the mission society that gave the appeal.