



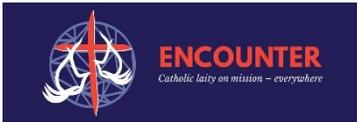
2018 Membership Report

USCMA is at a crossroads. It must decide what type of association it wants to be – professional, trade, service or an apostolic movement – or some combination of the four. This annual report is based on USCMA’s strategic plan. Our mission is to identify, connect, and accompany all Catholic missionaries. We do that through animation, education, research, networking and stewardship. It is also an opportunity to review the activities of the association from August 2017 to July 2018. May it stimulate conversation, discernment, and action.

Animation

Animation is forming Catholics in mission. It involves membership, communication, and marketing. USCMA created three levels of memberships for individuals and three levels of memberships for organizations.

Membership in USCMA is sluggish. We are not growing. Total membership revenue for 2017 was \$99,191. In 2016 it was \$94,800; but \$109,139 in 2015. As of today, USCMA has 891 members. There are 102 organizations that sponsor 674 members and 217 individual members.



USCMA is committed to identifying and connecting every Catholic missionary in the country – lay, religious or ordained. To begin to do that, USCMA launched ENCOUNTER – a monthly newsletter that features laity in mission. Read it. Pass it on. Talk about it with your friends, family, and others in your parish.

USCMA participates in the Mission Cooperative Program – promoting the personal, professional, and ministerial support of all Catholic missionaries – lay, religious, and ordained. This year, USCMA was represented by generous members at 21 parishes in 9 dioceses.

Bringing the Light, a day of renewal of missionaries, was successfully launched in the Diocese of Arlington this past Spring. Sponsor one in your city. We can lead it or give the materials to you. To learn more about this engaging and renewing program, contact the USCMA Office.

The association’s communication strategy includes the website, emails, and Facebook.

Finally, recognition is a happy component of animation. In 2017, USCMA gave the Pope Francis Mission Award to Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM for his outstanding leadership in mission.



Challenge: There are over 71 million Catholics in the United States of America. How many of them are, or have been, actively involved in mission – through prayer, support, or direct involvement? They should be USCMA members. If just one-tenth of one percent were members, USCMA would have over 7,000 members. If USCMA had one member from each parish in the country, we would have over 15,000 members. Can we double our membership in one year?

Education

Education is about making mission smart. One way of being smart in mission is by learning from each other. USCMA wants to learn how to be smart about mission education. The major effort for 2018 is the conference around the theme of Encounter. For 2019, the theme is reconciliation with an emphasis on local programming. Programming for 2020 is an open question.



USCMA brings missionaries together – lay, religious, and ordained – so we can learn with and from each other. A lot of effort is being invested in *A Culture of Encounter – Mission at the Heart of Our Faith in Christ* – our national conference in Boston from October 25-27, 2018. To learn more, visit the conference page on our website. [Register](#) soon. Bring someone new.

A Culture of Encounter will be a highly interactive conference. Attendees are encouraged to take a survey about their expectations and needs once they register. Today, 49 people are registered and 16, or 33%, completed it. They believe encounter is essential for mission; 94% said it was very or somewhat important. They site a wide range of challenges and opportunities for mission. Most are connected to international missions (88%) and to domestic missions (71%) which means we are doing both. More than a third of the respondents come from religious communities of men (38%), roughly a third come from diocesan offices (31%), and the rest are religious women (6%) or other (25%).

During the conference itself, there will be ample opportunity for large group, table, and small group conversation. Using a process based on the Open Space facilitated conversation strategy, the conference facilitators will guide our conversation, capture the fruits of these conversations, and feed back the themes and questions that emerge. A follow-up report and webinar will share the results with the attendees and the whole membership. A follow-up survey, based on the results, will be sent to all USCMA members. These results will also be shared through a webinar to the members and a report given to the USCMA Board of Directors for deliberation and action.

A major question facing USCMA is how often it should sponsor a conference, when, where, and for how long? Below is the breakdown of conference attendance the last five years.

	2013	2014	2015 Congress	2016	2017
Member	116	68		73	79
Non Member	2	9	197	9	3
One Day	-	6	28	60	12
Associate	-	-		10	2
Total	118	83	225	152	96

Webinars have been added as one way to carry out USCMA’s Educational mandate. Recently, USCMA sponsored, along with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, a webinar on Holiness and Mission.

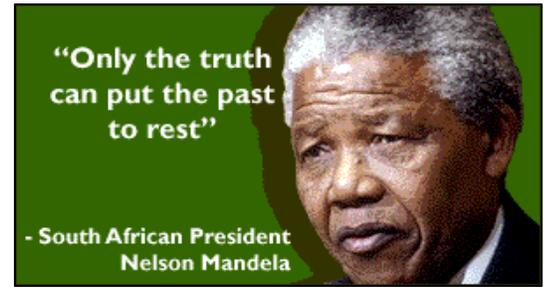
Third Wave of Mission Institute continues to develop videos to help prepare people for short-term mission trips. USCMA is a active member in this effort and hosts the Third Wave of Mission Website.

One of the reasons USCMA is focusing on local gatherings in 2019 is the Holy Father’s call for an Extra-Ordinary Missionary Month in October 2019. This is the time for the local church – parishes and dioceses – to promote lay involvement with mission. USCMA has a host of resources on its website to support these efforts.

Reconciliation is the theme for 2019. Reconciliation is frequently viewed as the sixth, and perhaps the most challenging, component of mission. Jesus Christ came to reconcile humanity to God, so humanity can be reconciled with one another. This involves a deep commitment to the dignity of each person, to the truth about the injury suffered, unwavering faith in the power of the Gospel, perseverance, and hope.

We are very aware of the polarization corroding bridges of solidarity between rich and poor, black and white, immigrants and citizens. This polarization has infected our Church. As missionaries, we know something about reconciliation.

Members will be encouraged to study the nature and scope of reconciliation, participate in USCMA webinars and programs, and consider hosting their own local event. A speaker, an evening of reflection, or a day of renewal are all effective ways to raise the Church's awareness about reconciliation. We can learn skills to advance reconciliation and share ways we can support and encourage each other's efforts.



Mission Update is the periodic journal for USCMA. This is an important space where missiologists and members can explore in depth some aspect of mission. It provides a place where both missionaries and missiologists can share their insights, and questions, about the changing landscape of mission. It is also a wonderful way to capture and share keynote presentations, and other speakers, that grace USCMA programs. We need authors.

Mission Monthly has been on hold while *Encounter* finds its sea legs. The goal is to continue to offer *Mission Monthly*, perhaps in a changed format, because it provides the breadth of mission. Missionaries, by definition, are global citizens. While we may be focused on the needs of people on the periphery in our own neighborhoods or across the country, we must also be concerned about all people, in every country, that need the love of God. We need an editorial board.

Challenge: Globalization makes the world smaller and larger; smaller because we can be in direct, and mutual, relationship through instant communication, travel, and the exchange of goods. It is also larger since we are just beginning to appreciate how big, complex, and fragile our “common home” is and the needs of 7.6 billion people. This is a daunting challenge. We can only hold this truth together. We can “hold your people in my heart,” as the song promises, through smart efforts that support one another, coordinate efforts, and collaborate for the good of others to the Glory of God.

Research

Research is about providing easy access to the best information available on mission. Consequently, research is often finding and promoting what is already available or pulling together materials into one place for ease of use, or conducting original research. We want to be smart about mission.

CARA is conducting original research on some of the basic services provided by the parishes in the United States of America. USCMA has two questions on this instrument – are the parishes doing short-term mission trips and / or are they involved in a parish partnership (twinning) relationship. This research will be completed in the Fall 2018 and will give a window into how parishes are doing mission. USCMA will be able to follow-up with these parishes to learn more and, hopefully, accompany them in their efforts to “go to the ends of the earth.”

Mike Haasl has done his own research on Parish Partnerships and is working with some of the preliminary data released by CARA. Mike is looking into the anatomy of parish partnerships – what works well and what are the best

practices, will offer a workshop at the Boston Conference, and will help USCMA develop a resource to support the development of parish partnerships.

Bob Eilenfeldt and Ken Epps have worked closely together to identify the best practices for beginning, sustaining, and developing a Parish Mission Council. They presented a well-received webinar on Parish Mission Councils, will be giving a workshop at the Boston Conference, and are collaborating with USCMA to produce a resource on Parish Mission Councils.

Rooted in the emerging CARA data, and scanning the materials already in the field, USCMA is forming a task force to develop a resource on short-term mission trips. This research will be available through a webinar, future gatherings, and as a resource to members.



Every inch on the planet is claimed by the Church. Why? Because Jesus came to save every person on the planet. All 7,642,867,572 of us and counting. This is the scope of mission.

Which is why USCMA is building The Mission HUB. It is a website that provides useable information on mission. It will be a resource library about books and articles that are accessible to the faithful. It will provide a directory of Catholic missionaries – lay, religious, and ordained. It will also provide a listing of all mission related organizations. One day, it will provide the Global Mission Connection – an interactive database that maps every missionary relationship that begins, or ends, or both, here in the United States. Imagine a Google Map for mission so that you can click on the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky and see the missions in Appalachia, or Brazil to see the missions in the Amazon, or Pakistan to learn about the missionary work of the Missionaries of St. Columban.

The office staff is beginning to build the Mission Hub. To do that, the office needs to identify:

1. Who is involved in mission – individuals and organizations?
2. Where is mission? What mission relationships are already established?
3. What is mission? What are the various ways that people express their missionary impulse?
4. How are people engaged in mission?
5. Why mission? What is its theological, spiritual, and ecclesial significance? What is its impact?

Volunteers are welcome to join these efforts by sharing materials they have developed, research they are doing on their own, or by working on one aspect of the Mission Hub – the mission version of writing an article in Wikipedia.

Challenge: There is a lot of material available in many different forms. The research people are doing in mission may be known to only a few and not available to the wider missionary community. It is often unclear what original research would be most helpful to those preparing for, engaged in, or reflecting on mission. Finally, what materials are best for people just beginning their missionary journey, those who have labored in this vineyard for a while, those responsible for managing and leading mission, and those who are exploring new ways of doing mission.

Networking

Networking identifies all mission related organizations and forms alliances and partnerships with those organizations that will help USCMA advance its mission.

USCMA was founded in 1949 by the bishops and the religious communities who sent people on foreign missions. Since that time, those religious communities have grown older, smaller, with changing priorities, and fewer resources. The priorities of the bishops have also changed; mission was once a committee for the bishops but is now the responsibility of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. USCMA has developed a healthy working relationship with the Committee on Evangelization and is also developing collaborative relationships with Cultural Diversity, National Collections, and Migration.

The need for the Catholic Mission Forum has waned – this year the Leadership Council of Women Religious formally withdrew from the Forum. Other organizations have also pulled back their interest and involvement. Consequently, the national mission congresses that were a collaborative effort of several organizations have come to an end. USCMA is not able to plan and organize this event on its own and no other organization has stepped forward to shoulder it.

The Catholic Apostolate Center, Catholic Health Association, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Volunteer Network are other major mission related organizations that USCMA seeks to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

Mike Gable, USCMA Board Member and Director of Mission for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has kindly served as ambassador for USCMA at the American Society of Missiology, along with Mike Haasl, and at CAM V – a gathering of missionaries from across the Americas this past July in Bolivia.

USCMA is also exploring relationships with other national Catholic organizations. USCMA exhibited, and gave a workshop at, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. USCMA will exhibit at the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas at their 40th Anniversary Conference in Nashville, TN.

Challenge: How to identify and engage potential collaborators without weakening the association’s vision, needs, and mission?

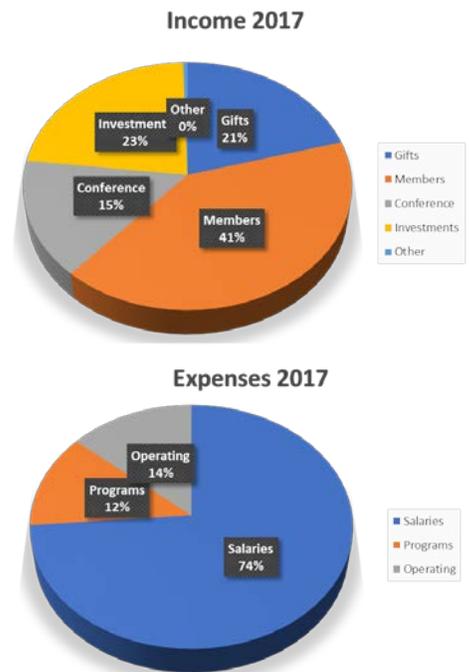
Stewardship

Stewardship is about resources – the leaders, finances, and operations needed by the association to accomplish its mission.

The Board of Directors is the governance body for USCMA. In addition to its fiduciary responsibilities, it supervises the Executive Director, calls for and monitors strategic and operational plans, and establishes policy. This year, the Board streamlined the committee structure eliminating the need for the Procedures Committee, called for and approved a plan to preserve the legacy of the association in case of a financial disaster, and called for the appointment of an Episcopal Advisor. The Board is also responsible for proposing a slate of candidates to be elected to the Board.

Years ago, USCMA decided to conduct its membership meeting “online.” Participation by the members is between 10-20%.

The 2017 audit, and Pro Forma 990, gives a comprehensive picture of the association’s finances. These reports are available on the USCMA Website. Revenue is not keeping up with expenses so USCMA has been drawing down assets; \$60,426 in 2017 or 20% of its operating costs.



The current development plan includes the recruitment of new members, increased sponsorship, conference attendees, and grant writing. A major proposal was submitted to the Raskob Foundation, and other Catholic foundations, for building the Global Mission Connection. A grant proposal was also submitted to the Catholic Communications Campaign for ENCOUNTER – the newsletter for lay missionaries.

The national office is staffed by an Executive Director and an Office Manager. A volunteer, from Franciscan Mission Service, will assist USCMA with its communications and publications for 2018-2019. Students from Don Bosco Cristo Rey, in Takoma Park, MD, serve as interns every day during the school year.

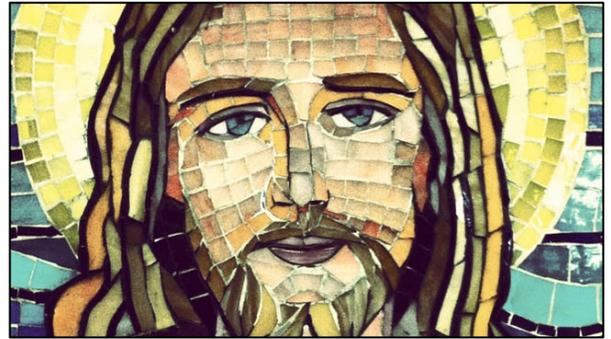
Challenge: We are facing tough times. How to address the financial needs of the association while it preserves the scope (global) and nature (the Great Commission) of its mission during these times of political, economic, and ecclesial upheaval. The atmosphere for mission within the United States of America, during this “America First” era, is muting the call to mission. Globalization, while it has greatly expanded access to cross cultural solidarity, has weakened the bonds of communion within and among missionaries.

Crossroads Revisited

We all had that experience at some time in our lives – will we risk crossing the road to the other side? In mission, we do that all the time. We go beyond ourselves, move outside our comfort zone, cross some type of border, and risk a personal encounter with a stranger because we believe in the infinite love of God.

This faith in God compels us to be with others rather than do for others. It calls us to accompaniment with others – especially the poor and the most vulnerable on the peripheries in any town, in any country.

USCMA is facing many challenges, but in the end, it does not really matter if we are a professional association, a trade association, a service association or an apostolic movement. What matters is if we are faithful. Are we, in the words of Pope Francis, at the same time passionate about Jesus and passionate for his people?



Jesus continues to stay with us and before us. “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you.”

I believe the future of mission, and the future of USCMA, are bound together. We need to recognize, and affirm, our personal call to mission. We need to come together as missionaries – lay, religious, and ordained – each with their own gifts and needs. We need to be, at once, both bold and humble, as we accompany each other as we cross roads, build bridges, and foster mutual solidarity.

Together in Mission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don".

Dr. Donald R. McCrabb
Executive Director

