

The Missionary Cooperative Plan is the main source of income for many missionary groups/projects worldwide. Each summer a missionary group assigned to your parish gets the opportunity to do appeals at all the masses in your parish on an agreed upon weekend arranged by you. A second collection is taken up at your parish and then sent to our Diocese accounting office for processing via FISCAL. Thank you in advance for collaborating with and welcoming these missionary representatives.

Below are key things to consider as you prepare for their visit:

1. Appeals should be completed any Sunday in the months of **July 1st through September 1st**. Some groups have been assigned to more than one parish, so it would help immensely if you can arrange those dates as close as possible to the groups' dates with the other parishes. As the host you ultimately have the final decision on these arrangements. If it is impossible to settle a date, please let us know at the Mission Office immediately so that we can make any changes that may be needed.
2. **Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me." It is a Christian virtue to offer hospitality to strangers.** Many missionaries, especially those traveling from afar, will need assistance with transportation and lodging.
 - If you are not able to accommodate the person at the parish, perhaps you could find a willing host/hostess in your congregation, provide a hotel stay for Saturday night, or have some other options available.
 - Please be attentive to the missionaries by inviting them to meals or asking parishioners to welcome them to a meal. They may not know the area or where they can go for meals.
 - If necessary, expenses incurred while hosting these missionaries can be reimbursed from their second collection totals before sending into our Mission Office.
 - If the missionary is a religious sister, the Office of Consecrated Life can help find accommodations as needed. Contact Joan Patten, AO: JPatten@rcbo.org
3. **Some missionaries will need assistance with language translations.** Assistance at your parish will be greatly beneficial in making their appeals as successful as possible, contact us if assistance is needed.
4. Your assigned missionary is available to speak to other parish groups if time permits. Feel free to assign a priest for the time he is with you; he knows to expect that. Please also understand that religious women and laity outnumber priests in the missions; not every parish will be assigned a priest. We will do our best to rotate different types of groups into your parish each year.
 - **Missionaries may not distribute envelopes/materials which solicit additional information or attempt to sell other goods.**
5. **Your enthusiasm and cooperation are critical to the success of this program and the appeal.**
 - Please introduce the speaker; announce his/her coming in your bulletin and webpage to encourage your parishioners to be generous and get familiar with the visiting Missionary.
 - The collection is not just a donation; it is a way for Catholics to participate in the mission ministry we are all called to. The appeal compliments the Liturgy of the Word whether it is incorporated into the homily by an ordained minister or offered as a Gospel reflection by a lay missionary. Today's mission story is an extension of the Acts of the Apostles.
6. If your assigned missionary is unable to make their scheduled appeal, contact the Mission Office and we can arrange for a replacement as soon as possible.
7. **All collection funds must be forwarded to Accounting department through FISCAL designated as MCP to the Mission Office no later than September 30th – never directly to the missionary!** Funds will be distributed to the Missionary by the Mission Office and Accounting office.



For questions or concerns, contact us:

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