

Mission Cooperation Plan

Archdiocese of Seattle

Overview of the Mission Cooperation Plan (MCP)

The Mission Cooperation Plan (MCP) was begun in the U.S. over seventy years ago to assist mission-sending societies in their appeals for funds and vocations. Pastoral leadership who received frequent visits and requests to make such appeals readily accepted the MCP, which assigns a group of parishes to an individual mission cause. The MCP transfers the burden of choosing from the many requests, often providing weekend help, and enabling parishioners to hear of missionary and young church experience – an opportunity which continues to help promote solidarity with the universal Church.

In this Archdiocese, the Missions Office receives and responds to nearly 200 requests each year, recommends to the Archbishop the mission causes selected for participation in the MCP (about ten each year), and requests parish participation. The office uses a variety of criteria in assigning the mission causes to the parishes.

It has been the custom here to use a three-year cycle for parish assignments:

Year One: The parish is asked to host a visiting missionary or representative (approved by the Archbishop's office) for a weekend, allowing him/her to speak at the parish masses and appeal for funds.

Year Two: The parish name is given to our local Maryknoll Mission House for possible contact by Maryknoll missionaries to do an appeal. (This is a long-standing arrangement because of the nature of Maryknoll's association with the Archdiocese and the Missions Office. Maryknoll is the U.S. Church's foreign mission society.)

Year Three: The parish is not asked by the Missions Office to welcome a mission cause. However, some parishes arrange on their own for such a visit or can contact the Missions Office for suggestions.

Guidelines for Parishes and Mission Causes

- It is strongly recommended that the visits occur in June, July or August so as to accommodate parish life and missionaries' schedules, and to avoid conflicts with dates of other appeals (please especially be aware of the Peter's Pence collection date, June 23-24, 2018).
- Each speaker is required to follow an approval process implemented by the appropriate Chancery office.
- Parishes are given the name of the approved mission cause speaker assigned to them. It is the mission cause's responsibility to contact each of the parishes assigned to it in order to make arrangements. Whenever possible, the Missions Office works to "match" the profile of the mission cause with the parish (e.g. need for a priest to celebrate mass; Spanish language speaker, etc.).
- The visiting speaker is requested to work with the parish staff in attending to the Sunday readings.
- Parish collections for the mission cause are **to be sent by parish check to the Missions Office**. The collection is not to be given to the speaker. The speaker is not to receive donor names and addresses or request the return of any offering envelopes they may have provided. The Missions Office will combine the funds from all the parishes assigned to the mission cause and will forward the collection.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS GUIDELINE is for the Maryknoll missionaries. The parish collection is to be given to the Maryknoll speaker and the speaker is authorized to receive any collection envelopes they may have provided.

Questions or suggestions? Please contact the Missions Office at:

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