Overview of the Mission Cooperation Plan (MCP) - 2020

The Mission Cooperation Plan (MCP) began in the U.S. over 70 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 that continues to help promote solidarity with the universal Church.

The Archdiocese receives and responds to close to 180 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 missioner 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 missioners to do an appeal. (This is a long-standing arrangement because of the nature of Maryknoll’s association with the Archdiocese. Maryknoll is the U.S. Church’s foreign mission society.)

**Year Three:** The parish is not asked by the Archbishop’s Office to welcome a mission cause. However, some parishes arrange on their own for such a visit or contact Ann Shikany at ann.shikany@seattlearch.org or 206.274.3142 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 missioners’ schedules, and to avoid conflicts with dates of other archdiocesan appeals (please especially be aware of the Peter’s Pence collection date, June 27-28, 2020, and the next collection for the Archdiocese of the Military in the Summer 2022).

- Each speaker is required to follow an approval process implemented by the appropriate Archdiocesan 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, arrangements can be made 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 processed by the parish office and all funds are to be sent by ONE parish check to the Annual Campaigns and Parish Support 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 Annual Campaigns and Parish Support 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 missioners.** The parish collection is to be given to the Maryknoll speaker or sent to Maryknoll, if arranged accordingly with the Maryknoll office, and the speaker is authorized to receive any collection envelopes they may have provided.

Questions or suggestions?

For MCP Application and Mission Speakers, please contact:
Ann Shikany at ann.shikany@seattlearch.org or 206.274.3142

For Collections, please contact:
Lenneah Spangler at Lenneah.spangler@seattlearch.org or 206.382.4271