

COUNCIL ON MISSION EDUCATION

C.O.M.E.

SCHOOL VISITS AND OBJECTIVES 2019/2020

USEFUL POINTERS – FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, REPS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

After consultation with the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, it is agreed that all visits to schools by COME members should be made between

BEFORE DECEMBER 13, 2019 AND/OR BETWEEN JANUARY 6 and MAY 8, 2020

N.B. Because of various examination dates in the schools and on a diocesan-wide level, and because of special programs certain days may not be available for visitations on behalf of the missions.

THREE IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. The visit is for Mission Education. Solicitation and collection of monies is not allowed.
 2. You are visiting our students as a representative of the Propagation of the Faith and the Missionary Childhood Association. Please emphasize that the financial support, which the students give to the Propagation of the Faith and the Missionary Childhood, helps religious communities throughout the world.
 3. Though you may touch on vocations, remember that the diocesan Vocation Office will send a speaker to the schools at another time.
 4. Our goal is mission education, awareness and evangelization.
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Suggestions on arranging the visit:

IT IS THE MISSIONARIES' RESPONSIBILITY

TO REACH OUT TO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

1. A mutually agreeable date for the visit should be arranged by letter or preferably by calling the principal and then confirming by letter. Advise the principal and mission moderator that you have been requested to review the school's mission

orientation program for the Diocesan Office of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)/Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). This will give you strength in pressing for the visit and in the subsequent questions you will ask.

2. The time and date of the visit should be confirmed a few days before the visit. While doing this, ascertain the availability of audio-visual equipment (slide projector, VCR, DVD player, computer projector and TV monitor, movie screen, extension cord, etc.) and a convenient location. Try to confirm a private meeting with the faculty, if possible.. Without their day-to-day cooperation, any mission program will be a failure.

THE VISIT

1. Explain to the principal and the mission moderator that you represent Society for the Propagation of the Faith, SPOF (high schools) or the Missionary Childhood Association, MCA (elementary schools).
2. **High Schools:** A visit to an individual class during each period of the day should be the normal modus operandi (as opposed to an assembly)--or, where practical, speaking to all students on the same grade level simultaneously. Describe the universal aspects of SPOF, its value as the basic supportive society for the missions. Relate this activity particularly to the Mission Month appeal in October and to the various school mission programs. Mention that a portion of the yearly donation to SPOF is distributed throughout our country—basically south and southwest (A.B.C.M.). Discussion is to be preferred over “lecture” approach.
3. **Elementary Schools:** Talk about the MCA (the oldest child-help agency in the world) and how it is a way for children to “share their love” with mission children. Speak on Christian social justice, the educative value of learning by doing and how mission responsibility is learned best by personal involvement and sacrifice.
4. Stress our concern that all followers of Jesus, both students and adults, understand Catholic missionary commitment as an integral part of Christ’s message. Urge them to take personal action to support it through prayer and financial sacrifice now, and perhaps someday by giving their lives in mission service.
5. Use your evaluation form to elicit specific information on the coming year’s mission activities. Ask the principal and mission moderator their feelings regarding various programs.
6. Suggest additional SPOF/MCA, Advent and Lenten programs.
7. If all programs are presently planned, encourage student effort and suggest a new and higher goal based on a per-student average or on specific fund-raising events.
8. Utilize the opportunity to speak to the faculty as a group (e.g. lunch).

9. Inquire about the religious education program. Suggest a mission presentation during your visit to the director of religious education.
10. THANK, THANK, THANK—the students and faculty, if they are deserving. Try to use audio-visual aids. A few pictures from your own mission experience can be very effective.
11. Follow any and all assembly programs by visits to **INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOMS** (even though they be of short duration). Personal contact cannot be beaten for effectiveness.
12. With the principal's and moderator's prior permission, conclude your talk and presentation with a specific recommendation on how the students might help meet mission needs through the programs of SPOF or MCA.

FOLLOW-UP

Please mail a written report the Diocesan Mission Office within two weeks after the visit. Be sure to include suggestions for the future.

HELPFUL POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. You represent SPOF and the MCA. COME'S only reason for visiting a school results from our connection with these Pontifical Societies. Take care when speaking of vocations. Certainly the greatest gift students can make for the missions is themselves. Utilize the opportunity to emphasize the necessity and goodness of the priesthood and religious life, but do not lose the message of MISSION that must be conveyed.
2. Our objective: EDUCATION FOR ACTION.
3. Report on your visits. These reports will be invaluable for the solution of problems that may arise and for next year's program.
4. Ask for a concrete expression of support.

**DIOCESE OF TRENTON
MISSION OFFICE
701 LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD
TRENTON, NJ 08648
609-403-7141 (Mission Office)
609-403-7222 (Maryanne direct)
mroman@dioceseoftrenton.org**