The success of a mission appeal depends on two factors: the effectiveness of the presenter who represents a mission group or diocese, and the promotion and support demonstrated by the pastor. A successful mission appeal brings blessings to the Church, the parish and everyone involved. Please make every effort to promote this mission appeal. It is not just another second collection. It is a way of responding to Christ’s command that we care for the poor and spread the gospel throughout the world. In a special way, it raises much needed missionary awareness.

Acceptance

Upon receipt of the notification of your participation in the Diocese of Pittsburgh Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP), your representative must notify the Diocese of Pittsburgh Mission Office by using the enclosed acceptance form by Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

You must contact the respective pastors as soon as possible to set the dates for your missionary appeal. When the dates are finalized, you must notify the Mission Office on the form provided. All appeals are to be scheduled between June 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020. The following three weekends should be avoided in scheduling due to annual Diocesan-wide collections:

1. June 27/28 - Peter’s Pence Collection  
2. Aug. 22/23 - Catholic Communication and Catholic University of America Campaigns  
3. Sept. 12/13 - Bishop’s Education Fund

Testimonial Letters

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is fully committed to the implementation of both the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Essential Norms Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons. These documents were established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Essential Norms were approved by the Congregation of Bishops in 2002.

All speakers who are scheduled to make an appeal in our diocese as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan, are required to complete the Testimonial to the Diocese of Pittsburgh of Suitability for Ministry as soon as possible. Thank you for understanding that all testimonials received must be on this Diocese of Pittsburgh form. Without this form, no mission appeals can be made. The form submitted should have an original signature and seal.

General Guidelines

1. It must be emphasized that it is not the responsibility of the parish to provide housing or transportation during the time of the appeal unless arrangements are made prior to your arrival.

2. Each parish is asked to publicize the visit and the collection with bulletin and pulpit announcements. The representative of the mission group is to preface his/her appeal by identifying the community, program or diocese being represented. He/she should send the pastor advance information of his/her group’s missionary endeavors so that the parish can be made aware of the needs of the mission group or diocese.
3. The representative of the mission group is expected to speak at all the Masses in the parish churches or groupings on the date(s) of the appeal. **Please note that the message of the appeal should relate to the Gospel of the day.**

4. The pastor will determine the manner in which the collection will be taken: either through a second collection or by the use of envelopes, or both. He is the custodian of the collection and will forward a parish check made payable to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith for the **full amount** collected for the missions to the Mission Office along with the accompanying MCP response form **within three weeks of the Appeal.**

5. The representatives of the mission groups are **not permitted** to use any envelopes or other materials that are to be returned directly to the missionary.

6. Magazine subscriptions **may not** be solicited as a part of the appeal.

7. After the remittance is sent to the Mission Office, ten percent of the total will be deducted by the Mission Office for distribution to deserving mission groups not currently participating in the MCP. A check for the balance will be forwarded to the headquarters of the assigned mission group after **December 1, 2020.**

8. For distribution of funds, please refer to the options on the MCP Acceptance Form.

9. When visiting clergy solicit support for their mission cause, they should not be expected to provide coverage for a vacationing priest. In addition, they should be remunerated for any personal service they offer to the parish.