

POLICY REGARDING MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

1. The fostering of mission consciousness and spirituality shall be an integral part of diocesan and parish pastoral planning
2. Each year parishes and institutions in the Diocese shall identify one weekend (for parishes) or another time framework for addressing the missionary responsibilities of the Church. This effort shall include Gospel reflection (preaching) and any other means for inspiring missionary activity. Mission Sunday, the Third Sunday of October, is an appropriate occasion for this effort.
3. Recognizing that the Diocese of Spokane has responded to a papal call for support of the Church in Central America through its covenant with the Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala, mission promotion shall include support of this covenant at least on an every-other-year cycle.
4. Because of the covenant between the Diocese of Spokane and the Diocese of Sololá, parishes and institutions are encouraged to identify means for providing spiritual and material support to the Diocese of Sololá. Parishes and institutions also should identify ways in which the people in the Diocese of Sololá can offer support to them.
5. The diocesan Mission Commission is charged with the responsibility of assisting parishes with mission promotion, particularly for the Diocese of Sololá.
6. Parishes or organizations in the Diocese are free to foster missionary linkage with other particular churches as long as their support of the covenant with Sololá is retained.
7. The covenant between the Diocese of Sololá and the Diocese of Spokane shall be reviewed and revised as necessary on a scheduled basis.
8. The expenditure of diocesan funds or the release of diocesan personnel to assist in missionary efforts shall be conducted and evaluated in light of the Diocese's covenant with the Diocese of Sololá.
9. Individuals, groups or communities of Religious which contact the Diocese of Spokane for inclusion in our "Missionary Co-operative Plan" shall be advised that the granting of appeal opportunities is the responsibility of individual pastors.
10. Funds collected in mission appeals shall be given to the individual, group or organization conducting the appeal. No percentage shall be retained by the parish or diocese. Funds collected on behalf of the "Guatemala Mission" shall be forwarded to the Catholic Pastoral Center where they shall be applied in accordance with diocesan policies pertaining to our missionary efforts in Guatemala or for the needs identified in advance of a special appeal. Parishes are to report funds collected for missionary activities as part of their annual financial report to the Bishop.
11. Use of the diocesan mailing list for mission appeals is subject to the discretion of the Bishop. Under normal circumstances, the mailing list shall not be released. Parishes may respond as deemed appropriate to requests for use of parish mailing lists for mission appeals.

Approved by Bishop William Skylstad, February 28, 1994