



# Missionary Cooperation Plan

## Mission Appeal Text

### Option 1

Today, we observe the Missionary Cooperation Plan, the annual collection that connects our archdiocese with missionary causes around the world. Unfortunately, for a second summer the missionaries could not send speakers to visit us in person due to the global pandemic. Yet, there are 104 mission causes counting more than ever on our support to continue their life-saving ministries. Religious congregations of sisters, brothers and priests, along with missionary dioceses and organizations such as schools, orphanages and medical clinics benefit from our prayers and donations.

For example, the **Sisters, Servants of the Poor** is an order of religious women founded in India that provides a variety of medical services to poor rural villagers. The second wave of COVID in India has overwhelmed hospitals and caused a terrible loss of life. The government provides only a basic medicine kit to villagers who test positive. The people have suffered the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, a scarcity of food and more due to the pandemic. The Sisters have reached out and provided compassionate services: children in a family that has tested positive are given a safe home to stay away from their parents while they recover. Infected people with mild symptoms are given a place to isolate for 14 days with nursing care and food. The Sisters provide sanitizing supplies and masks. They also offer counseling by phone for grieving family members.

The **Diocese of Nyundo** is located in the Western Province of Rwanda and has 140 diocesan priests working in 26 parishes. The diocese is made up of about 670,000 Catholics. The first mission of the diocese is to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In the context of Rwanda this means that after the 1994 genocide against the ethnic Tutsi people, the Nyundo Diocese began to focus on unity and reconciliation in particular. They organized a participatory and holistic approach to diocesan ministry that empowers the community to face the challenges caused by the genocide such as trauma, poverty, HIV/AIDS and the huge number of widows and orphans left behind. The diocese provides ministries to support single mothers and widows, education and job training for the youth and offers a health program through 16 registered health centers and one hospital.

Fr. Rodlin Rodrigue (Associate Pastor of St. Raymond de Penafort Parish in Mount Prospect) is the Founder of **Sapatèrre Mission** in Haiti. Sapatèrre is a small village near Fr. Rodrigue's home diocese in Haiti with a population of 6,000 people. At one time there was nothing: no drinking water, no electricity, no hospital, no school except a shady pavilion where the kids went to learn the alphabet. With the help of many generous donors, Sapatèrre Mission was founded to achieve transformation and empowerment. Now Sapatèrre has a mission school that accommodates 163 students. The children are provided with education, medical help, meals and clean drinking water. Usually the annual budget for the Mission School is \$10,000 a year, but due to the pandemic and rising prices of food the budget has almost doubled.

Please offer your support for these and more missionary causes through your prayer and financial contribution to this second collection. Prayer is the first and most powerful form of mission. Please remember these missionaries and the communities of faith with whom they minister in your prayers today. If you are so moved, please also offer a donation. The local Church communities cannot support these ministries by themselves. Knowing that Catholics here in the Archdiocese of Chicago make sacrifices to help them in their mission is a comfort and will give them courage to continue. Remember that U.S. dollars go farther in other parts of the world, so every bit helps. Please place cash or a check, made out to our parish, in the second collection basket. Or you may give online, using a credit card at [www.WeAreMissionary.org/give](http://www.WeAreMissionary.org/give). Each donation will be distributed evenly to all 104 participating mission causes.

Thank you for supporting the Missionary Cooperation Plan to make disciples, build communities and inspire witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world!



## Option 2

Today is the Missionary Cooperation Plan, the annual collection that reminds us that we are called to be in solidarity with missionary churches around the world. Unfortunately, for a second summer the missionaries could not send speakers to visit us due to the global pandemic. Still, there are 104 mission causes counting on our support to continue their evangelizing ministries. Missionary dioceses, religious sisters, brothers and priests, along with organizations such as schools, orphanages and medical clinics depend on our prayers and donations.

For example, the **Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará** is a missionary institute of religious sisters, founded in 1988 in Argentina, who strive to go where the presence of religious sisters is needed most. Their mission in Papua New Guinea in the Pacific organizes the catechetical program for the local diocese and administers a rescue home for girls, which currently protects and provides for 25 girls. The rescue home was established because some of the local Catholic parents wanted their children to be protected from tribal traditions that sell girls at a very young age to become slaves or wives. The girls at the home are able to finish school and become leaders in their society and bring the love of Jesus to the people of their country. One young girl, named Jane, escaped being payment for one of her brothers' wives. She came to the rescue home, finished high school, and asked to enter the convent. She is now a professed sister in the Philippines.

The **Diocese of Ijebu-Ode** is located in the western part of Nigeria. More than half of the population is Muslim. In fact, many of the native bishops and priests have come from Muslim backgrounds. Fortunately, Christians, Muslims and Traditional African Worshipers live together in peace. This is due to the good work of the early missionaries. Schools have been a primary means of evangelization since the beginning, and the diocese continues this today. Ijebu-Ode Diocese has four high schools and eight elementary schools. More than half of these student bodies come from Muslim families. Some of them ask to be baptized, and many others do not. The diocese sees this ministry as a way to teach future generations the message of Christ's peace. As these children grow up, they will learn to live in peace with their brothers and sisters of different faiths. In the northern part of Nigeria there is much violence done in the name of religion. But the Diocese of Ijebu-Ode continues to bring people together through schools, hospitals and social services.

The **Xaverian Missionaries**, named for one of the two patron saints of the missions St. Francis Xavier, are a congregation of religious priests who preach the Gospel in areas of the world where people have not yet heard of Jesus Christ. One mission in northern Thailand ministers with Karen refugees from Myanmar. They are in need of shelter, food, medical assistance and education. They also need to hear the Good News of salvation. Xaverian missionary, Fr. Tardelli, originally from Indonesia, ministers in Umphang, Thailand. He established a library and tutorial house for the refugee community, called Xavier House. He is building up the first Christian community there, just like St. Francis Xavier did so many years ago. He needs our help to start a weaving cooperative in order to help families become self-sufficient, to create English camps in Karen Rebel Territory, and to establish more Christian communities.

Please offer your support for these and more missionary causes through prayer and financial contribution to this second collection. Not everyone can live and work in the missions but those who do depend greatly on us. Please remember these missionaries and their communities of faith in your prayers today. If you are able, contribute to the missionary collection. The local faith communities cannot support these ministries by themselves. Knowing that we in the Archdiocese of Chicago generously donate to help them in their mission will encourage them to continue this important work. Please place cash or a check, made out to our parish, in the second collection basket. Or you may give online, using a credit card at [www.WeAreMissionary.org/give](http://www.WeAreMissionary.org/give). Each donation will be distributed evenly to all 104 participating mission causes.

Thank you for supporting the Missionary Cooperation Plan and know that these missionaries will pray for you and your intentions in this coming year.



### Option 3

Today is the Missionary Cooperation Plan, the annual collection that allows missionaries from around the world to share their stories and invite support from our parishes. Unfortunately, the missionaries could not send speakers to visit us due to the global pandemic. 104 mission causes are participating this year and ask for our cooperation to continue their missionary efforts. There are dioceses, religious sisters, brothers and priests, as well as schools, orphanages and medical clinics that need our prayer and support.

For example, the **Brothers of St. Charles Lwanga** are the first indigenous religious order of men in Sub-Saharan Africa. You may know St. Charles Lwanga as the leader of the Ugandan Martyrs. One project coordinated by the Brothers is called Watoto wa Lwanga Street Children's Project. In the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya, the largest slum in Africa with about 2 million people, families live in dwellings made of mud bricks or cardboard with sheet metal roofs and doors. The streets are mud, 25 to 50 families pay to use one water tap, and sanitation is mostly open latrines. It is not uncommon for a young mother or family to be unable to provide food for their children. Through the Street Children's Project the Brothers feed the child and mother for a year, measuring the child's development and monitoring the child's health. At the same time, the brothers provide job training for the mother, so that she will be able to support her child. The mothers are also taught about childcare, hygiene and nutrition.

The **Prelature of Esquel** in the Patagonia section of Argentina, at "the end of the earth," was created in 2009 and covers more than 30,000 square miles. The population consists of the indigenous Mapuche tribe, and immigrants from Chile, Bolivia and other areas of Argentina. The great distance between people and poor roads makes evangelization difficult. Most Rev. Jose Slaby became the first bishop of this new diocese. He had to build his diocese from almost nothing. At the beginning he had no house, he had to build it along with a diocesan pastoral center. Bishop Jose established diocesan offices and created three new parishes, so that now there are 13 parishes and 27 mission chapels. Presently 12 priests along with 12 nuns serve in the parishes. Each parish provides ministries to the youth and families that help them to build a strong relationship with God. They fight the pandemic that is greater than COVID-19 and spreads faster: the pandemic of disbelief.

The **Orphanage of the Virgin of Guadalupe** in the Philippines is run by the Sisters of Mary Adorers of the Holy Eucharist. It is a home for infants left behind in hospitals after birth as well as street children, runaways, orphans, abandoned and homeless children. It also has become a home for victims of human trafficking and rape. A good number of babies have been born there. Like mothers, the nuns respond to the children's needs, feed infants with bottled milk and spoon-feed the toddlers. They check babies' temperature, bring them to hospitals for medical help, or rise from sleep when the babies cry. These children have survived the worst, but the orphanage gives them a way out of poverty and trauma. Many children learn and grow to contribute to society: A two-month old baby girl was sold to the priest who founded the Orphanage for the equivalent of \$42, and she is now a pharmacist. An eight-month old baby boy was abandoned in a jeep and now he is a foreman in a construction firm. A six-year old battered girl now wishes to take up Social Work to help in the orphanage.

Please offer your support for these and more missionary causes through your prayer and donations to this collection. Remember these missionaries and their communities in your prayers today. If you can, please also offer a donation. The local communities cannot support these ministries by themselves. Knowing that we in the Archdiocese of Chicago send our support will help them continue this life-saving work. Remember that U.S. dollars go farther in other parts of the world, so every bit helps. Please place cash or a check, made out to our parish, in the collection basket. Or you may give online, using a credit card at [www.WeAreMissionary.org/give](http://www.WeAreMissionary.org/give). Each donation will be distributed evenly to all 104 participating mission causes.

Thank you for supporting the Missionary Cooperation Plan collection that shares the Bread of Life with the whole world!