

§9000 FUNDRAISING FOR MISSIONS

Comment

*The Church is profoundly convinced of her own identity and mission and will not neglect this responsibility, convinced as she is that all men and women have the right to encounter Jesus Christ. This responsibility is shared by all Christians by virtue of their baptism, all particular churches, and every ecclesial institution and association. Individuals and communities develop different forms for participating in the mission **ad gentes** of the Universal Church; prayer, witness of life, through offering of one's work and help and through financial support. These various agents of missionary activity must work in communion so that God's plan for universal salvation may be fulfilled. From a spiritual communion there springs a need for a practical communion so that various expressions of missionary activity may be united and connected to the common endeavor of making Christ known to all.*

The Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church grants that it is proper that the papal mission works, or Pontifical Mission Societies, hold pride of place in imbuing Catholics with their mission identity and also are the primary means for collection of funds to support the needs of the mission Church. Thus, it falls to the Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies to ensure that the various expressions of missionary activity on both the national and diocesan level are carried out in hierarchical harmony. As such, the local PMS Director and other agents assigned by the Bishop should have oversight of all missions fundraising and animation in the diocese.

Hierarchy of Mission Fundraising

- 1. World Mission Sunday*
- 2. Peter's Pence, Collection for Support of the Holy Land*
- 3. USCCB Collections – Church in Latin America, Central in Eastern Europe, Catholic Home Missions, Black & Indian, Catholic Relief Services Collection, Solidarity Fund for Africa*
- 4. Diocesan or Bishop Ad Gentes Initiatives – Missionary Plan of Cooperation*
- 5. Parish Initiatives – Twinning, Global Solidarity Partnerships, School to School Partnerships*
- 6. Other requests – foreign and domestic orphanages, schools, charitable groups, sale of religious goods, Mission visitors, foreign-born priest solicitations, Food for the Poor, Cross International, Unbound, individual parishioner projects, etc.*

§9001 World Missions Sunday Collections

§9001.1 Policy The Diocesan Collection on World Mission Sunday for the Society for Propagation of the Faith and all other missionary collections taken up in the parish together with funds distributed for missionary purposes shall be handled through the Office for the Missions and the Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Procedure

- A. Follow collections counting policy and procedures in Policy Book V, §3103.
- B. Please forward the amount collected on World Mission Sunday and the collection envelopes or a list of contributors' names and addresses to the Office for the Missions within 30 days. *(The practice of forwarding donation envelopes is unique to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is vital step in making the ongoing connections among the faithful regarding the Pope's missionary works.)*
- C. Other mission collections *(Peter's Pence, Collection for Support of the Holy Land, Church in Latin America, Central in Eastern Europe, Catholic Home Missions, Black & Indian, Catholic Relief Services Collection, Solidarity Fund for Africa, and collections taken for natural disasters and other extraordinary causes)* shall be forwarded to the Finance office within 30 days.
- D. Proceeds resulting from appeals conducted through the Missionary Plan of Cooperation shall be forwarded to the Office for the Missions within 30 days of the appeal weekend.

§9002 Ongoing Mission Relationships

§9002.1 Policy Sister parish and other sharing arrangements may not be established without permission of the local Ordinary.

Procedure

- A. Any parish or school seeking to establish an ongoing relationship with a mission parish, school or other entity must submit a request in writing to the Office for the Missions. Important information to be submitted with the request includes:
 - a. Statement of purpose for establishing a relationship based on key values:
 - i. Emphasize relationships over resources,
 - ii. Practice mutuality and equality.

- iii. Seek to give and receive, learn and teach.
 - iv. Work to change unjust systems and structures.
 - v. Deepen faith by experiencing the Universal Catholic Church.
 - b. Location information for mission entity including contact information for pastor/person(s) responsible for coordinating relationship.
 - c. Plan for gathering ongoing or short-term financial support for the partner if such support is anticipated.
- B. The local Ordinary shall approve with a formal letter the request upon recommendation from the diocesan Missions and Finance Directors.

§9002.2. Policy An annual partnership check-in and global solidarity action plan shall be submitted to the Office for the Missions including a financial accounting of funds sent to mission partner.

Procedure

- A. At the anniversary of the relationship parishes involved in partnerships shall submit to the Office for the Missions:
- a. Annual Partnership Check-In
 - b. Global Solidarity Action Plan
 - c. Global Solidarity Finance Report

§9003 Persons and Organizations Soliciting Mission Funding

§9003.1 Policy Speakers for missionary or charitable causes must submit a letter of suitability to the Chancery prior to their visit.

Procedure

- A. Approval is given to parishes and schools to fundraise for any organization listed in the most recent version of the *Official Catholic Directory* (Kenedy Directory).
- B. Organizations not listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* (i.e. foreign and domestic orphanages, schools, charitable groups, religious goods vendors, Mission visitors, individual parishioner projects, etc.) may not fundraise in the diocese without the written approval of the local Ordinary.
- C. No foreign priest serving in the diocese is permitted to solicit funds or goods from parishioners, individuals or parish groups, including for charities or charitable causes in his home country or diocese, unless it is done through the Missionary Plan of Cooperation or through written permission by the local Ordinary.
- D. Requests to collect funds for organizations listed in section B. must be made by the pastor or administrator to the local Ordinary 6 weeks prior to the start of any

fundraising. Supporting documentation authenticating the validity of the organization must accompany the request along with the Letter of Suitability for the visiting fundraiser. Permission shall be granted for a “one-time” approval. Any funds raised shall be collected at the approved fundraiser or after Mass and shall be processed according to the regular parish accounting procedures. One check from the parish will be written and sent to the organization. Under no conditions shall donor contact information be released to the fundraising organization.