

Discernment / Preparation for Cross-Cultural or International Ministry

CANADIAN CHURCHES' FORUM FOR GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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Toronto, ON, M5S 2C3 CANADA

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Missionary Orientation Conference

Audience: Church personnel preparing for an overseas assignment.

Content: Biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives on mission; skills for cross-cultural living; interfaith dialogue; regional overviews of justice and development; mission issues and policies; interpersonal and health issues facing overseas personnel; dealing with situations of violence; ecumenical bible study and worship; spiritualities for mission; interaction with returning and furloughed missionaries; and an experiential learning component.

Goal(s): To help prepare missionaries to live in a cross-cultural setting and to participate in God's mission in a challenging global context; to provide a supportive, ecumenical, cross-cultural learning environment; to provide a forum for deepening one's understanding of the theology and history of mission; to develop an understanding and appreciation of others' cultures, religions, and value systems; to provide opportunities for learning about the country to which one is going; to foster reflection on models of mission to identify the strengths and weaknesses of these models; to prepare for the challenge, growth, and changes in faith and theological perspective which one's mission experience will produce.

Missionary Program for Children & Youth

Audience: Children and youth from families involved in the Missionary Orientation Conference, the Renewal Conference, and the Returning Missionary Conference.

Goal(s): To address the specific needs of children and youth in families involved in cross-cultural ministry; to help participants develop a sense of themselves in mission with their own unique calling; to tackle questions about the world and their place in it.

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE

Contact: ICI

8835 SW Canyon Lane, Suite 238

Portland, OR 97225

Phone: 503-297-4622

Fax: 503-297-4695

Web site: www.intercultural.org

Duration: Three sessions lasting from 3-10 days.

Content: ICI is based on the beliefs that 1) education and training in the areas of intercultural communication can improve competence in dealing with cultural difference and thereby minimize destructive conflict among national, ethnic and other cultural groups; and 2) we therefore share an ethical commitment to further education in this area.

INTERCULTURAL CONSULTATION SERVICES

Contact: Sr. Kathryn Pierce, IHM

8531 West McNichols Road

Detroit, MI 48221-2599

Phone: 313-341-4841

Fax: 313-342-7421

Web site: kt Pierce@juno.com

Audience: Lay and religious missionaries/volunteers planning for cross-cultural service.

Dates/Duration: Thirty day residential program in January-February.

Content: The focus is on specifics of discernment, assessment, and preparation for intercultural living and ministry.

Goal(s): To assist participants deepen self-knowledge to discern and assess the call to cross-cultural ministry; to empower participants to share gifts, struggles, vision, and charism of mission in preparation for cross-cultural living.

MARYKNOLL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ORIENTATION

Contact: Maryknoll Lay Missioners

PO Box 307

Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307

Toll free: 800-762-5276

Phone: 914-762-6364 ext 123

Fax: 914-762-7031

Web site: www.mkmlm.org

Audience: Lay and religious missionaries/volunteers planning for cross-cultural service.

Dates/Duration: Two weeks in July.

Goal(s): The orientation program offers skills and tools necessary to ensure volunteers are adequately prepared for cross-cultural ministry. Topics include spirituality of mission, cross-cultural living, staying healthy abroad, living with stress and exposure to violence, faith life and global justice, culture and exploration of cultural identity, adjustment process to a new culture.

MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER (MACC)

Contact: Maria Elena Gonzalez, RSM

3115 West Ashby Place

PO Box 28185

San Antonio, TX 78228-5104

Phone: 210-732-2156

Fax: 210-732-9072

Email: macc@maccsa.org

Web site: www.maccsa.org

Leadership for a Multicultural Church & Society

MACC offers a four-phase comprehensive curriculum for adults and youth leaders as they develop and implement processes for multicultural understanding racism awareness and systemic change within their communities.

Content: Individualized plans can include a semester or a year of immersion study at MACC or as little as 1-3 weeks.

Goals: To learn strategies and skills to create and facilitate multicultural communities; to assist in the acquisition of cross-cultural skills and critical reflection steeped in Gospel values and spirituality; to be able to become more welcoming and inclusive.

Hispanic Pastoral Ministry (HPM)

Audience: Individuals on sabbatical, in transition or currently involved in Hispanic ministry, seminarians, religious, clergy and laity beginning their ministry, persons returning from foreign ministry who wish to enter into Hispanic ministry in the US.

Content: Semester-long immersion experience for Hispanic ministry for the third Millennium.

Goal(s): To promote multicultural understanding by introducing participants culture and ethos unique to the Hispanic people in the U.S. and challenging them to discover and appreciate their own heritage; to prepare participants for pastoral leadership in Hispanic communities through a comprehensive, academic and experiential program; to facilitate a renewing sabbatical experience for those interested in fostering Latino leadership; to promote understanding of the unity between faith and culture particularly among Hispanics; to provide opportunities for research and supervised pastoral experiences which enhance analysis and ministerial skills in Hispanic contexts (during a second semester of the HPM)

MISSION TRAINING INTERNATIONAL

Contact: PO Box 1220

Palmer Lake, CO 80133

Toll free: 1-800-896-3710

Phone: 719-487-0111

Fax: 719-487-9350

Email: info@mti.org

Web site: www.mti.org

Audience: Anyone, single, married, and families, planning on overseas mission.

Dates/Duration: Three weeks at various times during the year.

Goal(s): To assist missionaries and their families develop practical skills and attitudes that will take them through the process of living and working in another culture.

OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Contact: Director, International Priest Internship

285 Oblate Drive

San Antonio, Texas, 78216

Phone: 210-341-1366

Email: rcarignan@ost.edu

Web site: www.ost.edu/PROGRAMS/IPI/Program_Overview.htm

Audience: Ordained Roman Catholic priests who originate from outside the United States; arrive from a developing nation; speak a primary language other than that of the host diocese; have resided in the United States for less than two years; receive diocesan sponsorship and support; have a functional knowledge and ability with the English language.

Dates/Duration: One or three week sessions as part of a year-long educational environment in which the priest can respond to theological, cultural, and relational

concerns in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

Goal(s): The International Priest Internship will help priest participants translate their substantial pastoral skills into a new cultural context and to adjust to new rhythms of a well lived pastoral life; to assist in learning the culture of the United States as well as the culture of the Catholic Church in the United States; to provide support systems needed during a period of transition; to provide access to information and resources a priest needs to re-orient his ministerial skills for his assigned community; to assist in the area of US English pronunciation and accent reduction; to assist in further understanding of computer and Internet technologies.