

Catholic Mission Forum

Purpose

The purpose of the Catholic Mission Forum is to engage in dialogue and promote collaboration among the various agencies for mission in the Church in the US. These founding agencies include the Bishops= Committees on World Mission and Home Mission, the US Catholic Mission Association, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the Pontifical Mission Societies. The Forum facilitates reflection on the elements of mission as articulated in Church documents and the contemporary experience of missionaries around the world and in the United States. Forum members conceive of their appropriate place in the overall missionary thrust of the Church in accordance with the *Instruction on Missionary Cooperation*.

Background

The Catholic Mission Forum emerged out of the Steering Committee of the Jubilee Mission Congress that took place in Chicago, Illinois in the Jubilee Year 2000. The Steering Committee began its work in 1997 and convened around its table key missionary dimensions of the Church in the United States. Its purpose was to bring about more communion, collaboration, and reconciliation among the groups in the Church in the United States who deal with missionary issues. As part of its agenda, the Committee provided a forum in the Mission Congress for representatives of various constituencies in the mission community to reflect on the key elements of Catholic mission as articulated in the Church=s documents. These elements are: liturgical life, prayer and contemplation, social transformation, proclamation and catechesis, interreligious dialogue, and presence and witness. The Congress called forth a broad agenda for continuing attentiveness to key mission issues and invested the Committee with responsibility for implementation of its recommendations. In accepting this responsibility, and to further the work and the goals of the Jubilee Year with regard to mission issues, the Steering Committee has reconvened as the Catholic Mission Forum. The Forum engages the services of USCMA for coordination, support, and financial management.

Actions

1. The Catholic Mission Forum will expand its membership to include interested mission agencies.
2. The Forum will invite dialogue with other entities and missionaries to promote mutual understanding.
3. The Forum initiates or supports programs to implement recommendations from the Mission Congress.
4. The Forum will address ways in which the Church might best respond to emerging mission realities.

Current Member Agencies of the Catholic Mission Forum

- Catholic Bureau of Black and Indian Missions
- Catholic Church Extension Society www.catholicextension.org
- Catholic Network of Volunteer Service www.cnvs.org
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men www.cmsm.org
- Cultural Diversity Office – USCCB <http://www.usccb.org/scdc/index.shtml>

- Evangelization and Catechesis Office – USCCB <http://www.usccb.org/evangelization/>
- Home Mission Office – USCCB <http://www.usccb.org/hm/>
- Latin American Office – USCCB <http://www.usccb.org/latinamerica/>
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious www.lcwr.org
- Office of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees – USCCB
<http://www.usccb.org/scdc/index.shtml>
- Pontifical Mission Society <http://www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org/flash.html>
- United States Catholic Mission Association (CONVENOR) www.uscatholicmission.org