



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese *of* Washington

OFFICE OF MISSIONS

Mission Cooperative Appeal Plan Selection Criteria

A mission group must:

- Be a mission (arch)diocese, religious order, or lay mission organization.
 - A “mission (archdiocese)” is a diocese located in a developing country or in a country where the Church is relatively newly established and is growing.
- Have a diversity of areas of focus (mission groups who solely fund schools, medical mission trips, and seminaries are unable to be included.)
- For US-based organizations: be in Catholic Volunteer Network’s Response Directory or Official Catholic Directory and provide a scan of their page.
- Be able to provide a letter of recommendation from a bishop, religious superior, or executive director.

Good candidates focus on:

- Lay evangelization efforts (training catechists, establishing small prayer groups, faith formation etc.)
- Strengthening their community and a dedication to serving the spiritual and physical needs of those who are on the margins.
- A strong sacramental life.
- Programs that empower women, ethnic and racial minorities, and other marginalized communities.
- Serve everyone, regardless of their faith background.

The ideal mission group’s ministry integrates several of these areas of focus.

Priorities for Selection Committee:

- Select groups that represent a diversity of missions, geographical areas, and vocational experiences.
- Select groups that can speak to parishes to educate the faithful about the successes and needs of the growing mission Church.

Miscellaneous:

- Groups that are automatically ineligible (like recipients from the previous calendar year) will not be presented to the committee for deliberation.
- It is preferable that mission groups have a US representative for banking purposes.

Analysis of a good candidate:

established religious order

The Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu

This order, located in Uganda, Kenya, Italy, Scranton, and Honolulu, ministers through Catholic education, healthcare, pastoral and social services to the poor and vulnerable with a special emphasis on women, children, and the elderly.

The financial support from parish appeal visits facilitated their ministries in Uganda to provide Catholic education and programming to refugee children and their parents at Angelo Negri Education Center Bweyale. Additionally, the donations allowed the young mothers enrolled in vocational training programs to fully participate in their education by funding a childcare center. The number of babies enrolled in childcare increased from 56 in 2022 to 144 in 2023. The skills gained in vocational training classes help young women to start their own businesses leading to financially support themselves and their families.

The school feeding program teaches children the importance of food security through vegetable garden tending and raising locally bred chickens and rabbits. The produce and meat collected from these initiatives supplement the meals the schools provide to students.

Finally, the sisters used donations to support a youth community outreach soccer team. Refugee children and youth formed the teams. Sr Draru Mary Cecilia, LSMIG, shared, "Soccer games help integrate refugee youth into the hosting community and facilitate social cohesion, harmony and peaceful living."

Variety of plans for funds: Catholic education and formation, vocational training for young mothers, day-care, feeding program, sustainability, youth outreach soccer team

Serving vulnerable populations like refugees, children, and young mothers

Building up the local community