The Third Wave of Mission Institute

Missioning Process Module Booklet

May 2017
What is the Third Wave of Mission?

Fr. Robert Schreiter, CPPS, states that the **first wave of mission** developed out of the first round of globalization when Europeans in the 15th century developed sailing skills to reach Africa, Asia and the Americas. They brought along the first missionaries from various religious orders.

With the advent of the steam engine, the second wave of globalization allowed nations to penetrate further into their colonies and national missionary societies developed to plant the church in those areas in the **second wave of mission**.

Today the third wave of globalization with air travel, internet, and cell phones, enables laity to form respectful relationships of solidarity more easily with others around the U.S. and the globe through mission trips, short-term missionary work, and parish twinning. This is the **third wave of mission**.

**The Third Wave of Mission Institute** was formed to respond to the needs of the recent emergence of Christians involved in short-term mission and parish partnership efforts.

Who is behind the Third Wave of Mission?

The Third Wave Mission Institute includes highly experienced Third Wave Missioners from these trusted mission organizations:

| Joyana Dvorak, DePaul University | Jim Lindsay, Catholic Volunteer Network |
| Bruce Compton, Catholic Health Association | Julie Lupien, From Mission to Mission |
| Mike Gable, Archdiocese of Cincinnati | Don McCrabb, US Catholic Mission Association |
| Mike Haasl, Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis | Fr. Jack Nuelle MS, LaSalette Mission Center |
| Fr. Gerry Kelly MM, Maryknoll | Bob Short, Maryknoll Affiliates |
| Kim Lamberty, Catholic Relief Services |

The United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA) serves as the “home” of the Third Wave of Mission Institute and supports the website. To learn more about the Third Wave of Mission, visit our website and Facebook page.

[www.thirdwaveofmission.org](http://www.thirdwaveofmission.org)
[www.facebook.com/thirdwaveofmission](http://www.facebook.com/thirdwaveofmission)

Or call USCMA at 202-832-3112.
Overview of the Missioning Process

Segment 1. Introduction to Mission Experiences

The world needs healing

- Mission: Joining together in solidarity to transform ourselves and the world
- Requires commitment to preparation, intentionality and reflection

The “big questions”:
- Why do we go?
- What is our purpose?
- What kind of relationships will we build with those we encounter?
- What will our short and long-term impact be on the community?
- Is there another way to respond?
- Should we even be doing this?
Questions for reflection:

1. **What surprises or energizes you about Pope Francis’ invitation?**

2. **What or from whom did you first learn about service or mission?**

3. **How do you feel about the “big questions” of mission? Are any of them challenging for you? Why?**
Segment 2. What is Mission?

Short-term mission:

- pieces of a lifetime of mission and service
- opportunities to experience God’s presence in ways that wouldn’t happen if we stayed home
- Four Invitations of Mission: Openness, Presence, Transformation and Solidarity

Openness:
- To God’s call
- To mutuality (*with*, not for)
- To not being in control
- To receiving; learning from those we meet
- To learning about God, ourselves, our culture, and our faith
- To being changed forever

Presence:
- Mission is relationship, accompaniment
- Sharing who we are
- Being with rather than doing for
- Listening, bringing hope
- Spreading God’s love

Transformation:
- A gift from mission
- For our own conversion
- Leads to examination of our attitudes and life choices; God’s work may lead us to live differently
- Requires prayer, reflection and integration

Transformation comes when something inside us shifts, and despite ourselves, we find that we are no longer the person we used to be...Then we know with certainly that God is working in our soul. Joan Chittster, OSB

“The love we experienced in our relationships gives us power and courage...and sometimes that is all we need.”
Solidarity:

- Remaining faithful
  - to the learning/values from our experience
- Being a bridge
  - From the people, we are with to our home, our church
  - To our U.S. culture, government
  - Involvement in partnership
  - Advocacy on issues affecting those we meet, or others in situations like them
- Moving from “us and them” to simply “us”
  - Living as if all bound up as one human family
  - “I am because we are”

Questions for reflection:

1. Which of these challenges do you find most challenging? Most energizing? Why?

2. How do you feel about the focus of “being with” vs. “doing for”? 
Segment 3. What is the missioning process?

- Three phases of mission: Preparation, Insertion, Return
- All important and add value to whole experience

**Purpose of each phase:**
- Help us, individually and as group, to **offer our best**
- Help us to be prepared to meet God’s people with **understanding, respect and sensitivity**
- Help us to **build relationships that are mutual, empowering and collaborative**
- Help prepare the experience so it will **lead to transformation of ourselves and those whom we meet**
- Help us to **continue to live mission in solidarity**
Segment 4. Guidelines for each phase

Preparation Phase

- Mission Project Goals
  - Identify and define purpose of mission experience
  - Create a detailed plan for each phase

- Understanding Mission

- Relationship with Receiving Group
  - Work collaboratively
  - Communicate clearly with those who will host us
  - Presence ought to support local efforts, honor our role as guests

- Invitation
  - Invite our larger community, friends and family to participate/support experience

- Discernment
  - Invite community and individuals to pray about and discern how God is calling them to be part of experience

- Community Building
  - Commit to process of formation of mission team through prayer, reflection, education and team-building during each phase

- Relationship Building
  - Demonstrate that mission is about building of relationships and presence more than projects and tasks

- Cultural, history and current reality awareness

- Commissioning
Insertion Phase

- On-site orientation
- Building Relationships
  - Demonstrate that mission is about building of relationships and presence more than projects and tasks
- Daily Prayer, Reflection, Social Analysis and Processing
  - Pray, reflect, analyze and process as a community on a daily basis to support, help each other understand and deal with what has been witnessed and experienced
- Personal and Project Evaluation
  - Individually, as a group and mutually with the receiving group
- Closure
  - Honor the end of experience with prayer, rituals, blessings and gestures of gratitude
In fidelity to the example of the Master, it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded. That is what the angel proclaimed to the shepherds in Bethlehem: “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people (Lk 2:10). The Book of Revelation speaks of “an eternal Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tongue and tribe and people” (Rev 14:6).

Pope Francis – Joy of the Gospel (para. 23)