

# The Third Wave of Mission Institute

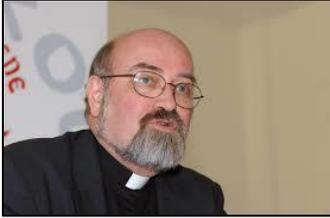


## Relationship Module Booklet

January, 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  
Bruce Compton, Catholic Health Association  
Mike Gable, Archdiocese of Cincinnati  
Mike Haasl, Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis  
Fr. Gerry Kelly MM, Maryknoll  
Kim Lamberty, Catholic Relief Services

Jim Lindsay, Catholic Volunteer Network  
Julie Lupien, From Mission to Mission  
Don McCrabb, US Catholic Mission Association  
Fr. Jack Nuelle MS, LaSalette Mission Center  
Bob Short, Maryknoll Affiliates

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](https://www.facebook.com/thirdwaveofmission)

Or call USCMA at 202-832-3112.



**Introduction. Mission is sharing God's Love through relationships.**

- Building open, honest **relationships** are fundamental to mission.
- **Sharing one's story**---and **having it validated**--- gives the other a stronger sense of self and capacity to keep going in their lives and perhaps to change anything that may need to be changed.

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Why does telling one's story and having it heard and validated, especially in a situation of crisis, pain or isolation, help us to feel more whole or connected?
- 2) Think of an example when you have shared a story of pain or struggle with someone and the other person listened well and validated your experience. How did that make you feel?

**Section 1. Focusing on the other in the relationship**

- Mission is about relationships and relationships are about **love**.
- In loving, the question is not how WE feel, but how THE OTHER feels and the impact of that interaction.
  - Does the other feel **validated** in their experience, in their struggle, in their hopes and dreams?
  - Does the other **feel better** about *himself or herself*?
  - Does the other have more **capacity** to move forward in their lives, if that is what they would like to do?
- Having someone accompany you---someone who has faith in you and your capacity to overcome the suffering---can help you beyond a feeling of isolation towards connection and wholeness.



*To love someone is not first of all to do things for them, but to reveal to them their beauty and value, to say to them through our attitude: 'You are beautiful. You are important. I trust you. You can trust yourself.'*  
Jean Vanier



Questions for Reflections:

- 1) What is your response to Jean Vanier's quote?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What would it look like if this quote were the basis for our mission work?

**Section 2. Mission as ministry of accompaniment**

- Third Wave Mission needs to be seen as **ministry** not as a series of charity projects.
- **Accompanying** others means offering space for people to tell their story, to be validated, to reflect and then act on how things might be different.
- Accompaniment is always **mutual**: together we grow toward becoming the people and communities God calls us to be.
- Mission seen as ministry requires a basic understanding of ministry and the development of the ministerial **skills**. These skills include:
  - active listening
  - intentional one-to-one conversations
  - facilitated group conversations.



### Questions for Reflection:

- 1) How does mission seen as ministry affect your understanding of mission?
  
- 2) What does the word “ministry” suggest to you?

### **Section 3. Active Listening for relationship building**

- Sharing stories of vulnerability are serious and sacred business.
- Providing a listening presence is the most important thing in mission.
- The following are important elements of active, sacred listening:
  - Gentleness, humility and openness
  - Prepare in silence and prayer to empty your mind and heart
  - Awareness of body language; show interest and non-judgmental openness; depending upon the cultural context, lean in, use eye contact and nod affirmatively
  - If a translator, focus on person sharing the story, not on the translator
  - Attentive to feelings as well as words
  - Respond with a kind word of support or gratitude
  - If appropriate offer to pray for or with the person, or offer to have your community pray for the person.

#### Practice in Active Listening

- 1) Ask each person to spend a few moments thinking of the situation that they reflected upon in the introduction, or another situation that they are willing to share with another in the group.
- 2) Have them take a moment or two to identify the key points that they want to share with one other person, in a three minute period.
- 3) Break into dyads and have one person share, while the other listens to that sacred story, using the elements of active listening.
- 4) After three minutes, switch roles.

### Large Group Reflection Questions – Active Listening:

- 1) As the listener, what elements of active listening were easy for you? What did you find to be challenging for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What was your experience like as the speaker? What did you appreciate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Were there moments of being uncomfortable?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How do you envision using active listening during your mission trips?

### **Section 4. Intentional one-to-one conversations**

- It is important to be INTENTIONAL about creating time and space for connecting with one another to share stories of the joys, the struggles, sadness, and the hopes of the other person.
- Mutuality requires responses from both sides to be shared and valued.
- People need to be totally respected for “where they are at,” and not be judged.
- Suggestions for how to fix another’s struggle are **not** acceptable in this process. This is a sacred space of being heard and validated, not one of solving or fixing.



Examples of questions might be:

- How long have you been a part of your community? How long have you been a member of your parish? Do you participate in any ministries? Which ones? Why do you participate in those?
- What are 3 things you are proud of or you like in your community?
- How has the community changed? How do you feel about that change?
- What are the things that bring you the most happiness in your life or in your community? Why?
- What are the things that concern you the most in your community, region or country? Why?
- What are some of your hopes and dreams for your community?
- Have you or others ever previously tried to address any of the concerns or implement hopes and dreams? If yes, what happened?
- Do you know others who share your hopes and dreams?

These kinds of deeper questions can be asked during casual conversations and encounters during the mission experience as well.

#### Practice Intentional 1-1 Conversations

- 1) Pair up with one other person (preferably one that is different than whom you paired with in the Active Listening practice).
- 2) Practice the intentional one-to-one conversation using some of the questions listed above (identify ahead of time).
- 3) After ten minutes, switch roles and continue for another ten minutes.

**Important note: To ensure mutuality in mission**, if you and your mission group want to explore holding intentional 1-1 conversations during your mission trip, **be sure that those to whom you are missiomed, are in agreement with utilizing such a process and have input into the types of questions.**

### Large Group Reflection Questions – Intentional 1-1 Conversations:

- 1) What was it like to be asked these questions? Did you feel it easy to share your responses?
  
- 2) What was it like for you to be asking such questions of the other?
  
- 3) Did you learn more than you would have in a casual conversation?
  
- 4) How do you feel about using the process of intentional one-to-one conversations in your short-term mission or mission partnership experience?

### **Section 5. Intentional group conversations**

- When people don't know one another's language, and there aren't enough translators, method of intentional **group** conversations can be an effective.
  
- As with on-to-ones, the goal is to deepen **connection** and **understanding** of people of the other community, including learning the "why" behind the observations and comments.
  
- Intentional conversations not about learning "data," but about **sharing joys and pains**, hopes and struggles, hearts and lives.
  
- Like the one-to-ones the following elements must be present:

- A **safe and joyful atmosphere** must be created through respect, affirmation and active listening
- People are invited **to give the best** of themselves
- The **people involved create the frame** for the conversation
  - leaders of the groups ahead of time, or
  - decided at the start of the sharing
- At the outset, **people name their hopes** for the time together
- **Mutuality** requires that both sides equally share and are valued
- People are **respected for “where they are at”**
- **Open-ended questions** are used (not set up for “yes” or “no” responses)
- **Small groups** are used as needed to ensure all feel their responses are heard and valued
- Space is created to **celebrate** who the partners are to each other
- Space is created for people to **name where they might need to change**
- Where appropriate, use of **themes**, drawing from **Scripture** reading, other readings, poetry can be very helpful
- At appropriate times, use of **right-brain exercises** may be used to create relaxed and positive atmosphere (art, song, dance, etc.)
- **Recording key points on newsprint** is helpful to capture key points and keep the conversation focused and in front of everyone
- When possible, a prepared and competent “neutral” **facilitator** is used. The facilitator needs to know his or her own perspective/bias and be able to detach him/herself from imposing that bias.

**The Appendix shows an example of an intentional group conversation** that may be used as is or modified. (Mission group leaders may want to explore utilizing some form of the example.)

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) What do you think about the idea of using the method of intentional group conversations as a way to deepen relationships and understanding in your short-term mission trips and mission partnerships?
  
- 2) In what ways, does it sound exciting to implement? What about it would be difficult to implement?
  
- 3) What are some questions you would like to pursue openly and in a group setting with those to whom you go?
  
- 4) What would be the first step you would need to do to move forward in this direction for deepening your mission relationships?

### **Appendix: An Example of a Group Intentional Conversation**

Depending upon group size, this may take several hours including translation. Make sure that engaging in this process is **mutually agreed upon** with the group to whom you are missioned, and that they **have input into the process**.

Part 1. Large group. Open with a song or dance.

*Opening question:* What are our hopes for our time together?

*Process:* First, share in small groups (of people from same community); then share in large group. Record on newsprint for all to see.

Part 2. In small groups of mixed partners (one or more from each partnering community), invite all to respond to all of the following questions. Use translators as needed. Also, it is often best to begin the sharing with someone from the global

south, and who, after sharing, may invite someone from the global north, and then continuing in an alternating manner. Note also that a participant may opt to “pass” and have the invitation come back to them at a later time.

- Name something that you love about your faith community.
- Name the happiest thing that has happened in your community in the last year.
- Name something that makes you proud regarding your faith community.
- What is the saddest thing that has happened in your faith community in the last year?
- What are the things that concern you most about your community, region, or country?
- What are the hopes and dreams for your community?

In large group, invite reports from each of the small groups. Be sure to report in both languages, if need be. After all reports are completed, ask these reflection questions, again, ensuring that participation from the global south and global north are included:

- What are some new things you learned about each other?
- Why is it important to share in this way?
- What does it mean for our communities?
- To what are we being called in this mission encounter (or partnership if that is what you have)?

### Break

During break, representatives from each community identify a scripture passage that might be appropriate to reflect upon together. Then identify some reflection questions for all to reflect upon after the reading.

Part 3. An example of scriptures might be from Ephesians 4:1-4a, 6. Read it twice, once in each language. Invite the listeners to listen for what words or phrases speak to them. The purpose is to relate this relationship to what our faith calls us to.

I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith one baptism: One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

*Process:* In small mixed groups (people from both partners), invite responses to the question, “What words or phrases spoke to you from the reading?” Share in large group, capturing it on newsprint. When that reflection is concluded, invite people in the large group to respond to specific questions that deepen the understanding of the relationship. In this example the questions might be: “What does Paul’s letter

mean for our relationship? What does it mean to “live in a manner worthy of the call you have received”? How can we live “as one”? How can we in this relationship “bear with one another through love”?

Part 4. Conclude with each side sharing a song in their language that might express a sense of oneness or of love of communities for one another. Each side may have one their community uses. All share hugs.