



## APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NON-ARCHDIOCESAN MISSION OR CHARITABLE GROUPS

### POLICY

Approval is required for missionary or charitable groups to conduct activities within the parishes other than the Propagation of the Faith and the Archdiocesan sponsored Mission Cooperative Plan.

Our Archdiocese like those across the United States supports the universal Church's mission and evangelization efforts through the Pontifical Mission Societies often know by the largest of its four societies, the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. We do this through the annual World Mission Sunday Collection which provides in large part for the ordinary expenses of the 1,150 missionary dioceses and diocesan seminaries around the world. At the same time, we also participate in the Mission Cooperative Plan – commonly known as the Mission Co-op or MCP. Through the Mission Cooperative Plan, priests, religious and laity from various parts of the world share their experience of mission with our parishes and seek the support both of their prayers and financial support.

However, of some concern, are the several well-funded groups whose priority is not the essential evangelizing mission of the Church who continue to access our parishes and congregations to seek funding for their works. Without prejudice to the reputation and good works of such groups, I want to make clear that they do not form part of the Church's work of mission and evangelization.

Three such groups that are prominent in our parishes are:

- Food for the Poor
- Cross International
- Christian Foundation for Children and Aging

While these groups often perform outstanding humanitarian work in some of the most marginal and broken areas of our world, they are not charged with nor do they assume the responsibility common to all the baptized: to preach the good news and to baptize in keeping with Our Lord's great commission. In other words, they do not enjoy the same status within the Church of the Pontifical Mission Societies or of those invited by the Mission Cooperative Plan.

In light of these considerations, pastors should engage such groups only after consultation and collaboration with our Archdiocese's Office for the Propagation of the Faith headed by Father David Zirilli. Also, any such engagement with such groups should in no way be prejudicial to the parish's support of the World Mission Sunday Collection and its participation in the Mission Cooperative Plan.

Initial: October, 2012  
Current: October, 2012