

Missioners of Christ
PRE-DISCERNMENT DOCUMENT
Mid-Term Missions

Greeting fellow follower of Christ! We first want to thank you and exclaim, “Praise the Lord!” that you are open to serving God in such an incredible and selfless way. We have put together this document, based on our experience of serving in the missions to help those discerning service with us in Honduras. Our hope is that, in being transparent about the rigors, difficulties, and expectations that go along with serving with us, you will be able to quickly recognize if God is calling you to discern serving with the Missioners of Christ.

We want to share that we truly believe God gives a specific calling to each of His children to serve Him. We see our responsibility being to help any inquirer discern whether this specific ministry in Honduras is what they are called to. For this reason, we consider this a mutual discernment process. We prayerfully go through this process with you, and based on our past experience as well as our prayerful sense of where God is leading, we make our best prudential judgment in inviting those whom we feel are called. It is important to remember two things in this matter; first, we recognize that we will be imperfect in this discernment – it is very possible that we will both invite people who are not called as well as fail to invite those who are. We humbly trust in God that if we do our best in good faith, He will bless the decision. Second, our decision *not* to invite an individual to serve with us in a mid-term capacity often has to do with our recognition of our own limitations. We recognize that we are only equipped to handle a certain amount of missionaries – with all their giftings and challenges – within the Community and apostolate God has entrusted to us.

All this being said, we ask that if you do decide to enter into the discernment process with us, that you see it as just that; asking God if this is the specific ministry He is calling you to at this specific time in your life. In that, receiving a “not here/not now” response in the discernment will be an acknowledgement that another door is being opened for you in God’s path for your life.

Commitment

We are currently accepting applications for the summer (due by [April 7th](#)). Mid-Term Missioners commit to either a 10 week summer term; May 29, 2019 – August 1, 2019.. If you are looking for something shorter term, please consider one of our short-term missions throughout the year.

Catholic Identity

We are unabashedly Catholic, fully submitting to the Teaching Authority of the Church, to the Holy Father, and to the local bishop and pastors wherever we serve. It has been our experience that, if an individual wants to serve with us, yet has strong issues with respect to Teachings of the Church (artificial contraception, sexual morality, women’s ordination, etc.) they too have found participation in this particular Community to be exceptionally difficult, potentially even becoming a source of division. We in no way promote blind acceptance – yet if the stage of a person’s faith journey has them still struggling with such issues, this particular mission would not be a good fit for them.

Form of Ministry

Our mission is to draw others to Christ through evangelization and discipleship. We engage in very few work projects, and generally the only thing we attempt to build is the Kingdom of God. While there are many roles in the Missioners in Honduras, all participate in our evangelization in discipleship in one way or another. This includes home visits (sometimes door-to-door), teaching, running ministry programs, public speaking, and the like. You will no doubt be drawn far out of your comfort zone, and you have to be willing to permit that. As well, if you are used to being the lead in public ministry and such, you have to also be willing to take less-public support roles, when that is asked of you.

Authority Structure

As we function as a Catholic Christian Community, obedience and submission for the common good of the Missioners Community and the greater Church is an absolute necessity. We live a structured community life, similar to a religious order, which complements our rhythm of service and ministry. There is an authority structure in place within the Missioners that allows us to function in concert with the Diocese, other local religious orders with whom we collaborate, and the people we serve. The Missioners of Christ functions under and with the permission of the local Bishop, holding formal canonical status in the Diocese of Comayagua. In deciding to serve with us, you are agreeing to work under our authority structure.

Mental and Physical Challenges

The life in the mission is both physically and mentally rigorous. Physical/Medical conditions tend to exacerbate themselves in Honduras, so a condition of any significance will very possibly preclude you from serving in this particular mission. All who serve in a mid-term capacity with the Missioners are required to complete a physical exam and be cleared by a doctor for serving in a third world country. As well, we have found that our own limitations, as well as the harsh lifestyle, community life, and exposure to difficult life realities tend to aggravate mental health issues. Even those who do not have identified emotional challenges find the mission experience very trying; as every weakness, insecurity, and past hurt tend to emerge during their service. While it is true that this can be a first step in spiritual and emotional healing, when you already have significant mitigating mental health struggles, a foreign mission is not the best place to work these out.

Prayer at the Center

We pray incessantly! Every day has about 3½ hours of prayer (including Mass). For many initially, this can be quite challenging—but after serving with us for several months, most agree it is barely enough. While some may think, “that is too much time praying, we need to do more *active serving!*” this misses the central point of our mission; this is not *our* work, it is *God’s* work, and our ability to do something good for the people of Honduras is directly correlated to our ability to seek God’s will, to hear His voice, and to allow Him to use us as His instruments to build His Kingdom.

In closing, there is much more to tell you and share about the mission, but we feel this initial information will be helpful to many who would sense that God is calling them to something different than this particular ministry. If you do sense, after reading this and prayerfully reflecting on it, that you still feel God may be prompting you in this direction, please complete the brief **Preliminary Missions Inquiry Form** to begin the discernment process with us!

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