The Third Wave of Mission Institute
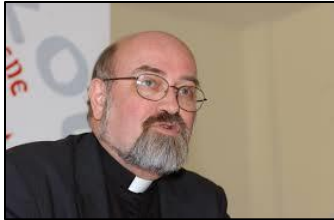
Parish Twinning Module Booklet

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
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
www.facebook.com/thirdwaveofmission

Or call USCMA at 202-832-3112.

Segment 1. The Gift of Parish Twinning Relationships

- Source of joy
- An expression of the universal Church

Special challenges facing parish twinning relationships:
- long distant
- cross-cultural
- involve whole communities

Reflection:
1. What are some of the joys and wonders of deep friendships that you have experienced in your own life?

2. What have been the blessings of your parish twinning relationship? If you are unfamiliar with parish twinning relationships, what do you imagine the blessings to be?

Segment 2. What Twinning Is and What it is not: Elements of Healthy Parish Twinning Relationships

Mission takes place when people interact with people, seeking to overcome all that separates people from one another and from God.   St. Cloud Diocese Mission Office

- The heart of parish twinning is RELATIONSHIPS.

Questions for Reflection:
1. As you think about your own healthy personal relationships, what are some of the essentials that are necessarily present for them to be healthy and life-giving?

2. What might then be the basics that are necessary for a twinning relationship to be healthy?

What Parish Twinning IS:
- An ongoing, intentional parish-to-parish partnership committed to grow together in solidarity with Christ's love
- Involves interpersonal friendships with prayer that recognizes our oneness
- Mutual exchange of culture, faith, talents, gifts, joys, and struggles
- Leads to mutual transformation of self, parish, community and unjust societal structures

What Parish Twinning is NOT:
- Changing, fixing of "improving" others
- One-way sharing of "our wisdom"
- Building infrastructure
- Fundraising

> *There is no one so wealthy who does not have needs, and no one so poor who does not a have a gift to offer.*
>   St. Pope John Paul II

Four Key Elements of a Healthy Twinning Relationship
1. Rooted in Christ: God's Love is at center of all relationships
    o Intentional sharing faith is vital: Scriptures, *Joy of the Gospel*, our own faith stories
    o Share different expressions of our common faith
2. Mutual Respect and Mutuality
    o Respect of Dignity of each person
        ▪ Naming each other's' gifts and needs
    o Mutual structures
        ▪ Mutual decision-making
        ▪ Mutually determined vision and mission
        ▪ Reciprocal visits
        ▪ Regular mutual evaluations

3. Accompaniment and Presence
    o Humility, listening, seeking to learn from each other
    o Quality time together
4. Solidarity
    "Action on behalf of the one human family, calling us to help overcome the divisions in our world" U.S. Bishops, 1997

    o Attention to larger institutional forces

> *If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us walk together.*
>   Lilla Watson, Australian aboriginal scholar

Group reflection:
1. Which of these elements have been beneficial (or would be most beneficial) in your partnership?

2. Which of these elements have been (or would be) the most difficult to obtain? Why?

Segment 3.   Special Challenges for Parish Twinning Relationships

- Imbalance of power

- Cultural difference in communication style
    - Indirect style: "Yes" can mean "no"
    - Sharing ideas/planning

- Projects
    - Key: the "how" and "why": will it enhance dignity
    - Mutually decided
    - "Assets" assessment
    - Increases the capacity of the partner
    - Cautions:
        - Create dependency?
        - Reduce sense of self in partner?
        - Create tension or jealousy in community?
        - Leave doubt of basis of relationship?

Reflection questions:
1. Why is understanding cultural differences in communication styles important?

2. If you are in a meeting with partners from the Global South and Global North, and you are mutually brainstorming ideas for an upcoming visit, how might you ensure that the Global South partners verbalize what is truly on their minds?

3. How and when is a socio-economic project a helpful thing? What are circumstances which would make definitely the right thing to do or NOT?