**Franciscan Mission Service (FMS)**

**US-Mexico Border Mission Site**

**Application for Returned Missioners**

**FMS Approach to Mission:**

At the heart of our mission is a ministry of presence and companionship. Rooted in the Franciscan values, we are called to engage with each person as an individual, created and loved by God. Through this relationship-centered approach, we promote a culture of encounter, which we believe is essential to bridging differences and promoting the common good. We prepare our missioners to take on a posture of humility, as they seek to know and learn from those they serve alongside rather than believe their role is to lead, change, or fix a situation. Our missioners strive to see the world through the eyes of the marginalized, living in solidarity and seeing mission as a way of life.

**New Mission Site Overview**

At the invitation of the Franciscan friars of Santa Barbara Province, FMS will expand its mission sites to include a new site along the southwest border of the United States, ministering in both the United States and Mexico. This new mission site will be in the neighboring border towns of Agua Prieta and Douglas, and the new site will be a part of FMS’ existing Overseas Lay Mission Program.

**Opportunity for Returned Missioners**

The hope is to for FMS returned missioners to pioneer this new ministry site, creating a solid foundation (in collaboration with the friars and FMS staff) before FMS invites newly commissioned missioners to join the border site in January 2021.

**Ministry Partnerships**

FMS’ primary partners will be the Franciscan friars of the Santa Barbara Province, coordinating most closely with Br. David Buer, OFM. In addition to the community of Franciscan friars in Elfrida, Arizona, there are several additional OFM communities within a few hours away. Additional partners include the School Sisters of Notre Dame and a local ecumenical community of advocates.

**Ministry Opportunities**

Ongoing mutual discernment of ministry sites will occur based upon shifting needs that are more prevalent at the border (due to changing migrant numbers and trends) than in traditional mission sites. The following is a sampling of ministry opportunities in Agua Prieta and Douglas: a hospitality shelter for migrant families, a drug and alcohol center for those with addiction, a community center for immigrant youth, a cooperative for training for asylum seekers, and prison ministry.

**Housing**

Accommodations are still being finalized between two affordable housing options in the Quaker Community, seven miles south of the friars in Elfrida, Arizona. Each housing option could lodge up to 3-4 missioners and provides a quiet, contemplative community approximately 30 minutes from the border. This location would allow FMS missioners to live in faith-based intentional community in proximity to the friars and an ecumenical community of advocates serving the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the hemisphere.

**Timeline and Specifics:**

The timeframe for returned missioners’ border ministry is anticipated to be at least 6 months with flexibility for longer commitments. Ideally, returned missioners will be selected in June 2020. In late July 2020, these missioners would engage in a multi-day orientation at the border. During late summer and fall 2020, the community of returned missioners would then discern ministry opportunities, start ministries, and grow in partnership with the local friars and communities. It is possible that this timeframe may be delayed due to the ongoing public health crisis.

In January 2021, we hope to have 1-2 newly commissioned FMS missioners join the existing missioner community on the border. With the help of FMS staff, the returned missioners would orient the new missioners to the community and ministries.

The long-term hope is that this new mission site will be available for both newly commissioned FMS missioners (two year or longer commitment) and as a re-enculturation experience (six month or longer commitment) for returning FMS missioners. This opportunity will deepen FMS’ commitment to lifelong mission, striving to be advocates for peace, justice, care for creation, and reconciliation within the United States.

**Commitment and Expectations:**

FMS envisions returned missioners to commit to serving through at least January 2021 in order to welcome newly commissioned FMS missioners to the border site. There is also an opportunity for some returned missioners to serve for a longer period of time.

Missioners helping to establish the border site are expected to be in regular communication with FMS staff regarding the joys and growing pains of a new ministry site. Staff plan for approximately two site visits during the first six months of the partnership.

**Applicant Qualifications**

* Served for at least two years with Franciscan Mission Service overseas
* Desire to gain a greater awareness of social justice issues in the US-Mexico border region and desire to accompany immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers (both documented and undocumented)
* Eagerness to build from their past overseas mission experience through living in intentional Christian community, living out the Franciscan values, and being in solidarity with those on the margins of our society
* Willingness to collaborate with FMS staff and local friars in navigating the “growing pains” of establishing a new mission site and willingness to embrace the unknown that comes from an evolving endeavor
* Ability to handle unexpected changes with patience, flexibility, humility, and a positive attitude
* Recommended: strong level of spoken and written Spanish

**Application Deadline:** May 15, 2020. Please note that you do not need to be 100% sure that you want to commit when you apply. We invite you to begin your discernment by submitting this application, and we are eager to accompany you through the process and dialogue about any concerns or hopes that you have. We are finalizing details based on hearing feedback from interested applicants, as we co-create this opportunity and allow it to evolve with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Have questions? Email Program Director Emily Norton: emily@franciscanmissionservice.org.

**Applicant Information**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Please type in your answers in the “click here to enter text” sections and use as much space as needed for responses. Please submit a copy of an updated resume.

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| Name:Click here to enter text. |
| Date of Birth:Click here to enter text. | Gender: Click here to enter text. | Religious Affiliation:Click here to enter text. |
| Current Address:Click here to enter text. |
| Years Served with FMS: Click here to enter text. | FMS Host Country: Click here to enter text. |
| Phone:Click here to enter text. | Email:Click here to enter text. |
| Briefly describe your past ministries during your time serving overseas with FMS.Click here to enter text. |
| Explain in detail why you would like to serve on the US-Mexico border and help establish FMS’s new mission site. What past experiences have equipped you for this opportunity?Click here to enter text. |
| Describe an example of a lesson you learned while you were on mission or during a past ministry experience that guided your personal/spiritual journey and/or resulted in personal/spiritual growth. How do you hope to apply this lesson while serving with FMS in the US-Mexico border region?Click here to enter text. |
| What aspect(s) of this opportunity are you most excited about? What aspect(s) of this opportunity are you most concerned about or challenged by? Click here to enter text. |
| Describe how you have committed to living “reverse mission” or “lifelong mission” in your home/local community since you returned from your time overseas with FMS. How does your lifestyle, choices, practices and activities reflect this commitment?Click here to enter text. |
| As you reflect on your past mission experience overseas and the challenges you faced, what guidance would you give your future self if you were to be accepted to the US-Mexico border site?Click here to enter text. |
| What has been your greatest challenge since your time serving with FMS came to a close? How have you navigated (or how are you navigating) this? Click here to enter text. |
| Which health (physical or mental) conditions should FMS be aware of? Do you have any dietary restrictions? Click here to enter text.  |
| Is there any other significant information that you would like to share with us?Click here to enter text. |
| List the full name and contact information (phone and email) of three references. Please also include how you know the person and the number of years you have known the person.Click here to enter text.  |

***Please e-mail your completed application and a copy of your resume to***

***FMS Program Director Emily Norton:*** ***emily@franciscanmissionservice.org***

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