**Franciscan Mission Service**

**Overseas Lay Mission Preliminary Application**

**Organizational Mission Statement**

As Franciscan followers of Christ, we build partnerships with Catholic women and men who are inspired to live and serve in solidarity with economically poor communities across the globe – and to bring the transformative experience of mission to North American societies and churches as advocates for peace, justice, reconciliation and care of creation.

**Overseas Lay Mission Program Overview**

In the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi, our Catholic lay missioners serve for two to six years in solidarity with economically poor and oppressed communities in the US/Mexico border, Bolivia, and Jamaica.

Through our 13-week mission formation program, missioners learn how to serve others in ways that are respectful and honoring of cultural, religious, and personal differences. Missioners will learn the FMS person-first approach to mission and take a posture of humility while on mission. Their role will not be to lead, change, or fix a situation, but instead to learn from and accompany those they will serve alongside, forming authentic mutual relationships.

FMS serves within a wide range of ministries, including, but not limited to: education, prison ministry, youth ministry, sustainable agriculture, and pastoral ministry. Current missioners are teaching English at an orphanage, accompanying individuals in prison, facilitating activities for survivors of sexual assault, visiting residents at a hospice center, and assisting with spiritual formation classes. “Ministry of presence” is the main focus of all sites.

Missioners’ years in mission are often described as one of the most meaningful experiences of their lives. However, the missioners’ journey does not end once they return home. The FMS focus on “reverse mission,” or mission in our home communities in North America, is a unique aspect of our program. FMS missioners commit to being “lifelong missioners,” integrating the lessons they learned from their cross-cultural mission experiences into their daily lives and continue to live out the Franciscan values of peace, justice, reconciliation, and care for creation. The experience of mission equips each missioner to be bridge-builders within their home communities and to help deepen individuals’ awareness of structural injustices, cultural diversity and engagement of laity in the Church.

**Applicant Qualifications**

* *Catholic lay individual with dedication to deepen his/her relationship with God.*
* *Single, married, or divorced — generally between the ages of 22 and 62 (without dependents).*
* *Prior cross-cultural experience and/or a second language are valuable, though not required.*
* *A willingness to serve in various ministries and integrate Franciscan values into daily life.*

**Application Process**

The application process is one of mutual discernment. Prospective missioners discern their call to mission, dive into their motivations and hopes to serve, and learn more about the unique approach to mission in the Franciscan tradition. FMS staff members discern through the applicant’s essays, references, application and in-person interviews whether the applicant is a strong fit for the Overseas Lay Mission Program.

The application process consists of five phases: 1) Prelim application and resume; 2) Essays and references; 3) In-person interviews during Discernment Days (Spring 2021); 4) Background Check and Medical Clearance; 5) 3-month training and formation in Washington, DC (starts mid-August 2021)

**Preliminary Application**

*Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis so we recommend that interested applicants complete it within a couple weeks of receiving it so they can be eligible for the second phase of the application process—essays and references. Please type in your answers in the “click here to enter text” or “choose an item” sections.*

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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. |
| **Marital Status:** Click here to enter text. | **Number of Dependents:** Click here to enter text. | **Citizenship:** Click here to enter text. |
| **Current Address:** Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Phone:** Click here to enter text. | **Email:** Click here to enter text. | |
| **How did you hear about FMS?**  Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Formative Experiences:**  For each of the following three areas, describe significant experiences that have shaped you spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally and have informed your desire to serve overseas. We suggest using about 200-300 words for each response.  **Cross-Cultural Encounter:** Click here to enter text.  **Travel:** Click here to enter text.  **Service and Ministries:** Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Describe your talents and skills, focusing on those that you imagine being helpful in mission. If you possess professional certifications, language proficiency, or if you have completed special training in a particular area, please mention this here. Finally, please describe the kinds of ministries you might like to do while serving in mission.**  Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Describe the state of your physical and mental wellbeing. What physical and mental health issues do you have which require ongoing treatment and/or maintenance? What physical and mental health issues have required significant treatment in the past?**  Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Describe your faith life. How do you cultivate a relationship with God, and how has this relationship influenced your desire to go on overseas mission?**  Click here to enter text. | | |
| **Our program is modeled on the Franciscan ideal of living and working in solidarity with the economically poor and marginalized. How does this model of mission speak to you? What draws you to serving overseas versus serving in your home country?**  Click here to enter text. | | |
| **What are your extra-curricular interests and/or hobbies? What makes you laugh?**  Click here to enter text. | | |
|  | | |
| **Language #1:** Click here to enter text. | **Language #2:** Click here to enter text. | **Language #3:** Click here to enter text. |
| **Proficiency:** Choose an item. | **Proficiency:** Choose an item. | **Proficiency:** Choose an item. |
| **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime?**  Choose an item. | **If yes, please explain:** Click here to enter text. |  |
| **Have you ever had any alcohol or drug problems?**  Choose an item. | **If yes, please explain:** Click here to enter text. |  |
| **Please rate yourself on the following characteristics and abilities (1=one of my weak areas; 2=I need improvement; 3=I’m proficient; 4= I’m confident; 5=one of my strengths).**  **Flexibility:** Choose an item.  **Dependability:** Choose an item.  **Creativity:** Choose an item.  **Team Approach:** Choose an item.  **Tactfulness:** Choose an item.  **Sense of Humor:** Choose an item.  **Self-Confidence:** Choose an item.  **Organizational skills:** Choose an item.  **Maturity:** Choose an item.  **Initiative:** Choose an item.  **Ability to deal with conflict:** Choose an item.  **Ability to express feelings:** Choose an item.  **Ability to work under pressure:** Choose an item.  **Ability to work under supervision:** Choose an item.  **Ability to work independently:** Choose an item. | | |
| **Add any other additional information you think would best help us get to know you.**  Click here to enter text. | | |

***Please e-mail your completed application and a copy of your resume (outlining your education, work, service and ministry experiences) to Emily Norton*** [***emily@franciscanmissionservice.org***](mailto:emily@franciscanmissionservice.org) ***and***

***to Fatima Godfrey*** [***fatima@franciscanmissionservice.org***](mailto:fatima@franciscanmissionservice.org)***.***

***Thank you for the time and thought you put into completing your application and resume. Upon submission of your application, a staff member will send you a confirmation email within a couple of work days of receiving it. If you do not receive this email, please contact Emily Norton or Fatima Godfrey***