



2018 Summer Mission Experience Announcement For High School Juniors

Coordinated by the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Scranton

- PURPOSE:** To provide students with an opportunity to know Christ among the poor, to gain a better perspective on their own lives, a greater understanding of their Catholic faith, and what it means to be a missionary in today's world.
- LOCATIONS:** Diocese of Scranton Home Mission (spanning the four regions of the Diocese of Scranton) Mission Sites in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- DATES:** Thursday, July 26th 2018 to Saturday, August 4th 2018
- ACTIVITIES:** This is a faith-based mission experience that engages the roots of our faith in Christ who commands us to "Go Forth" (cf. Mark 16:15) We go forth in this mission experience to pray, to serve, to learn, to inspire and be inspired by the poor and disadvantaged. We will connect with other missionaries – priests, religious, and lay faithful – to be of service to all we encounter.
- COST:** The cost is \$900 payable to The Pontifical Mission Societies. For those facing financial challenges, scholarships and fundraising opportunities are available. The cost includes lodging and meals, transportation, and other costs associated with this experience. Fundraising is encouraged and we ask the cooperation of pastors, principals, and directors of religious formation in the raising of funds for this unique opportunity.
- APPLICANTS:** Students who have completed their Junior year and will be entering their Senior year in the Fall of 2018. We encourage students from our parishes and catholic high schools to apply.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

1. All applicants must understand that this is a faith-based mission experience. This is not a vacation!
2. Parent/Guardian permission is required for all high school students.
3. Because of the interaction with people of various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, all candidates (students and chaperones) must have the temperament to get along with different kinds of people and personalities, showing respect and compassion at all times.
4. Candidates must be able and willing to travel and live in a spirit of simplicity, adapt to unexpected changes, and be capable of taking responsibility for oneself and one's actions. A willingness to work diligently and under supervision is also expected.
5. Candidates must follow the Mission Office's directives and rules (Code of Behavior and Dress) required for the group's safety and well-being while traveling and while at the mission sites.

6. **Candidates must be available for scheduled Interviews and the Day of Reflection in order to be considered for the mission. Parents are required to attend the interview with the student.**
7. Candidates are expected to share the experience with others whenever possible upon return – in schools, parishes and communities.

HOW TO APPLY
For the 2018 Summer Mission Experience

Application and Essay: After reviewing the Criteria for Applicants, submit a formal application, along with an essay, directly to the Mission Office (see address below). The essay should be one or two typed pages, double spaced, responding to the following: 1) Why do you hope to participate in this unique service opportunity? 2) What particular gifts do you possess that make you a good candidate for shared service work with your peers from throughout the Diocese? 3) What do you hope to learn or how do you hope to grow from your participation in this experience? 4) What is your favorite Gospel or other biblical passage related to service/mission and why?

Applicant letters must be received in our office (address below) **by or before April 9th 2018**

Interviews: The interviews will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, on the following dates:

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM
and/or
Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

- After your application and essay is received, we will send you an acknowledgement and include the time for your interview. Parents must attend the interview with the applicant.

Day of Reflection: **Saturday, May 19th 2018 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center**

Further information about the mission experience will be provided at the interview and retreat weekend.

Send applications and essays to:

The Reverend Brian J.T. Clarke
Director
Pontifical Mission Societies
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

...or send by Email to: Rev-Brian-JT-Clarke@dioceseofscranton.org

Telephone #: 570-207-2259

FAX #: 570-207-2268