

What is a mission diocese?



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The Catholic Church believes that, following the command of Jesus, all Christians are called to mission in their own lives. Some people choose to make a special commitment to mission by becoming 'missionaries'. A missionary is a person who is chosen and sent to participate in the mission of the Church by serving peoples of other languages and cultures, often overseas.

The Church regards a country as 'mission territory' if:

- Its church communities require spiritual and physical support from the universal Church for their growth and development
- It is under the care of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples

A mission diocese is an area of a country, designated as mission territory, which is in the care of a bishop.

'Mission means to take advantage of human values, to esteem them and raise them up to God. Yes, this is the meaning of mission. Thus the missionary endeavour of the Church is a work of human development on a worldwide basis. This endeavour allows the plan of God to be realized, namely, that all people form one family with Christ as the head. Then one day this Christ will place at God's feet all humankind, all races, all ways of thinking. All people will then affirm a true faith in Christ.'

Archbishop Romero, World Mission Sunday, 16 October 1977



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