



MISSION
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Holy Week Missions:
A Maintenance to Mission Moment
for Your Parish

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Greetings! If you are reading this, it is because you are interested in being a part of the mission of the Church by setting up a Holy Week mission in your local area. I encourage you to continue walking on this path with joy and courage, knowing that if the desire is on your heart, it was put there by Christ himself! The Church needs to



once again recover her missionary and apostolic dynamism. The Church's true self is her mission-self. Following these holy inspirations is an ideal way to bring the Kingdom of Christ more present into your life and into the world.

In this document, I am outlining for you the basic principles and ideas that form the core of Holy Week missions. It is your quick start guide and easy steps for planning the Holy Week mission. There are best practices and administrative concepts included as well. My role in Mission Youth is to facilitate as much as possible everything you need so the New Evangelization can happen in your local area. We prepared this document primarily for those who want to be a part of Mission Youth, an apostolate of Regnum Christi, but the core ideas are parish-based. As such, they can be adapted to any time and place. I pray that you find herein a user friendly streamlined process for a joyful missionary experience. May the Lord bless you and all your work!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr Michael
National Director of Mission Youth

Here's the Big Idea:

During holy week, many kids are out of school, families are together to celebrate, and many folks are off from work. Let's harness millennials and young families in our parish to engage in different missionary activities in our parish neighborhood. Let's use this time to kick-start transforming our parish from "Maintenance to Mission". Let's encourage corporal and spiritual works of mercy, invite everyone in the area to come to Easter mass, and spend the holy days doing the Lord's work!



Here's What You Can Do

Listed below are a handful of popular formats that have worked for many parishes in the past. What follows are descriptions of Holy Week from simple to complex.

Basic Holy Week Mission | A single event for families and youth

The simplest way to do a Holy Week Mission is to prepare one or two events (an idea-list for events is provided) in which anyone from the parish/school/youth group is free to join. It is held on one of the three holy days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

Standard Holy Week Mission | A series of events for families And youth from holy thursday to easter sunday

A more complex way to do the Holy Week Mission is to provide a series of events during the three days. In this setup, people are still free to come to any or all of the events and participate with their families and friends. As these are spread out during the holy days, they are announced in the parish bulletin alongside the added liturgical celebrations of the parish.

Multidimensional Holy Week Mission | Multiple tracks for youth and a family track, including overnight accommodations and even multiple parishes

In this level of Holy Week Mission, we are talking about hosting a youth group at continuous events during the holy days, including overnight accommodations and transportation to and from events. It requires extra supervision and paperwork, but the spiritual fruits that come are well worth it.

Holy Week Mission Event Suggestions

Don't re-invent the wheel! These ideas for "mission-tested" events will get you started.

The Great Parish-wide Invite

The missionaries will go door to door in the local neighborhood to personally invite every home to join in the Easter celebrations. They pass out flyers with dates and times for prayer services, as well as a welcome letter from the local pastor. They take down any prayer intentions and gather any requests for things like communion to the sick. If they are invited to do so, the missionaries can answer any questions about the faith that the persons in the home may have.

The Crosswalk

In a downtown or heavily trafficked area, the missionaries carry large crosses through the streets. During their journey with the cross, they pray the Stations of the Cross and invite passersby to write down a prayer intention and nail it to the cross with a small nail. The crosses serve as a visible reminder to all motorists and onlookers that Good Friday is happening.

The Flash Mob Way of the Cross

A flash mob is a typical millennial activity! Often a parish youth group will perform a real-life way of the cross in the parish or school. The flash-mob way of the cross takes the message about Jesus out into the streets. The youth from the parish pray the stations by arriving suddenly into a public space, like Times Square for example, and go about acting out and praying the stations. The people passing by take pictures, comment on the event, and many times join in. When well done, it is a great accomplishment and evangelization work. If done in a public place, it may be necessary for prior permission from local authorities.

Night Fever

The name for this activity comes from Germany where it was first started. The missionaries approach a local pastor whose parish is in a downtown and heavily trafficked area. Many times this is the cathedral of a diocese. On Holy Thursday, the parish will have a well-adorned altar of repose with the Blessed Sacrament. The missionaries organize praise and worship during the evening hours, and a team of missionaries stands at the door and in the street with small tea-candles. Each passerby is invited to go into the church and light their candle, placing it before the altar. Some local priests are invited to be hearing confessions during the holy hour. The goal is to fill the space before the altar with candles and allow people to experience a moment of Adoration.

Parish Projects

At times a parish priest may need help with his parish. An inner-city parish is often in need of fresh paint, or the gardens being weeded and cleaned. All parishes need help decorating the church for the Easter Vigil. There are numerous ways a group of volunteers can help get the Church ready for Easter. While this is a type of internal work in the parish, it is often a type of work that many parishioners will volunteer to help with as it is not outside of their comfort zone. Thus, it's a good "first mission" experience.

The Homeless Missions

Every city has numerous organizations that reach out to the poor and the homeless. Often times, they are well-funded and well equipped materially, but they tend to suffer from a lack of volunteers. Thus, a Holy Week mission team is an ideal group of people to help volunteer at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, etc. Adding these corporal works of mercy to your Holy Week Mission plan is always a great way to live Christian charity, and they are easy to do.

The UNselfie challenge

The missionaries give out Easter Eggs on the sidewalk of a heavily trafficked area. The eggs contain challenges to do something for someone else, like calling your mother. Thus, they are a way of being selfless, or "unselfie". The eggs contain little candies and Christian messages.

The Good Friday Bible School

Often, children don't have school on Good Friday, but their parents still have to go to work. Thus, the parents are glad to be able to drop their kids off at a half day parish event. Thus, a parish "day-care" on Good Friday is another way to serve. The kids are explained the Holy Week themes and participate in games and activities for Easter. The missionaries prepare and run the event.

Best Practices

Work With The Local Pastor

Always work with the local pastor of the parishes in which your mission will take place. Helping him in his parish is a way to always be addressing real needs of the local community. As well, as a parish-based concept, the Holy Week Mission is a way of fostering more apostolic and missionary activity for the parish. The stronger the link to the parish, the better for everyone! Many bishops are also willing to do a blessing for the missionaries as a form of commissioning and “sending out”. Typically, the best time to do this is at a Holy Thursday mass when the mission begins.

Check First With The Local Authorities

If you are planning on doing activities in public places, be sure to check first with the local authorities. City police are almost always happy to help accompany a group through the streets, or to be present at an event involving a large number of people. If an activity is in a public park, be sure to get the permissions to use the space.

Working with Organizations

Working with a homeless shelter or soup kitchen is always a great idea. A best practice is to work well at a few of these places and not hop from place to place. These organizations need volunteers that know what to do. A new group coming to help them means a lot of time spent in training and explanation. A group that is already familiar with an organization makes the work more efficient. So, try to acquire a few good relationships and stick with those places.

Preparation And Encouragement

The missionaries need preparation and encouragement at the beginning of the mission. This is done by a short retreat, possible on Holy Thursday. It is also done with motivational talks on being an apostle. The mission will take some of the participants very far outside of their comfort zone. Thus, they need to be encouraged and helped.

Celebrate Accomplishments!

At the end of the event, or at the end of the mission, it is good to have a party and to thank God for the fruits. Instead of the event just ending quickly and everyone going home, we need to stop and recognize the beauty and gifts of the moment. Too often we just run on the surface of life but never go deep. The Holy Week Mission takes many people very deep in their faith. A post-Easter Vigil party is always fun!

Commissioning Ceremony

A commissioning ceremony at the beginning of the Holy Week Mission is a must. Here, the local priest blesses the crosses the missionaries will wear. Each missionary comes forward to receive them. The pastor then blesses the group before the begin their first event.

Make It Easy

Families with small children often can't commit to an event until the day of the event itself. Having open events that don't require pre-registration and longer commitments makes it possible for the young families to be a part of the Holy Week Mission in some way. This means having the legal paperwork (waivers and consent forms) printed out and ready for signing at each event.



The Legal Side of Things

Don't worry! It's not that hard!

There are up to 4 permissions you will need.

- The local pastor needs to approve of the mission
- If you use the Mission Youth logo and t-shirts and the Mission Youth release forms and waivers, you will need to purchase the \$250 Mission Youth license.
- If you have unaccompanied minors on the events (as you most likely will), you will need parental consent forms.
- If you are at a public place like a park you may need local authority's permissions

How do I register my Holy Week Mission?

Each Mission Youth Holy Week Mission needs to be registered at <https://rcactivities.com/node/add/local-event>

There are two basic options:

1. Mission will run under the legal auspice of the parish or school

- The parish assumes legal ownership of the program as their ministry, and should provide the necessary waivers and consent forms, as well as insurance coverage under the diocese.
- Local diocesan safe environment requirements for adults must be followed and adhered to.
- Any mission registration fees are collected through the parish, using the parish account, as well as expenses paid or reimbursed.

2. Mission will run under the local Regnum Christi Section (RC Activities, Inc.)

- Through your event registration you will receive the proper forms, such as RC Activities, Inc. adult waivers and minor permission forms, certificate of insurance, etc.
- If the mission involves minors, each adult volunteer must complete the required RC Activities Volunteer Certification process online at <https://rcactivities.com/volunteers>
- If the mission is an overnight event, there is an extra cost of approximately \$0.50 per person per day for the required Accident Insurance for overnight events.
- A local RC Activities, Inc. bank account must be used for all registration income and paid expenses or reimbursements.

You will then need to register your own missionaries locally as you see fit, either through the parish/school or local Regnum Christi section.

For information about the Mission Youth License go to www.missionyouth.com.

For questions about registration email missionyouth@missionnetwork.com.



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