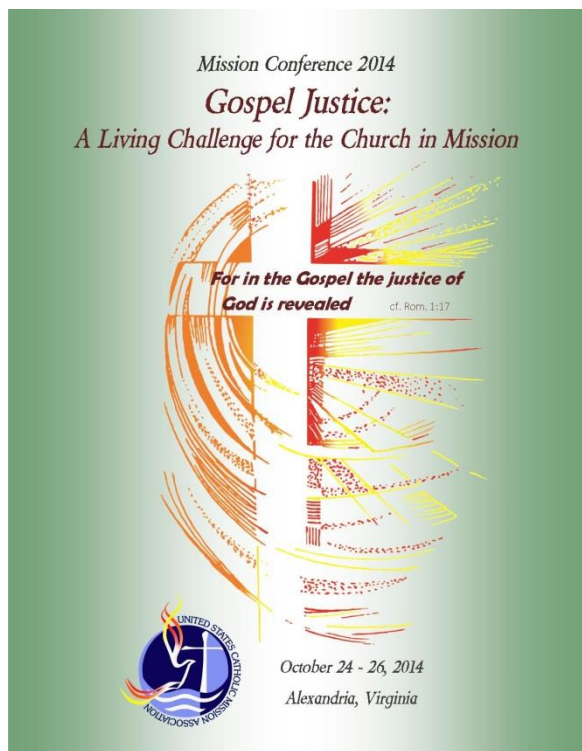


USCMA 2014 Annual Conference

Gospel Justice: A Living Challenge for the Church in Mission

Dialogue Sessions & Workshops



A) Imagining Jesus' Justice: Exploring Mission as a Prophetic Response

with Rev. Arturo Aguilar, SSC
and Amy Woolam-Echeverria
Columban Fathers

The prophetic dimension of Jesus' mission begins at home with the conversion of self, Church, and Society. Pope Francis extends this invitation, *The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open.* (Evangelii Gaudium, #27). Using the image of New Wine and New Wineskins, we will imagine together our missionary response that is grounded in justice, peace, respect for creation, dialogue, and love in the world.

B) Mission and Justice: How Our Understanding Has Changed Since Vatican II

with Rev. Roger Schroeder, SVD
Catholic Theological Union

The pre-Vatican II understanding of mission as “Ransoming ‘pagan’ babies” has developed into mission as a “single, but complex reality” (RM 41), including justice as a constitutive component. Key “landmarks” in this shift are Vatican II, Medellin, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, grassroots efforts for justice and liberation, and the vision of Pope Francis. This historical and missiological account will be situated under the umbrella of “prophetic dialogue.”

C) Heart Speaking to Heart: Conflict Transformation and Justice

with Dr. Amy Knorr
Eastern Mennonite University

The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers – in our relationships, our communities and our world. To aid us in the Gospel’s call Catholic Social Thought offers us a rich context to building peace in our communities and our world. This session will begin by exploring conflict – what it is and how we can constructively address it to strengthen our relationships. We will then practice several key skills for transforming interpersonal conflict that will help us in our mission to be peacemakers. As missionaries, our work presents us with many opportunities to build peace in the world. This session will explore several frameworks and approaches to building peace.

D) Reclaiming Mission and Justice as the Heart of the Church and Central in Our Lives

with Margaret “Gigi” Gruenke
Maryknoll Lay Missioner

This hour long presentation and discussion will address mission as call, humbling challenge and an ongoing conversion to solidarity and justice. From the beginning to the end of the mission experience the missionary is

invited into a whirlpool of mental, emotional and physical turns: “Do I have a call?” “Will I fit in?” “Will I be able to listen and understand?” “Will I stretch, think in new ways, not impose?” “What if I prefer charity to justice?” “Why is conversion part of the experience?” This session will offer participants an opportunity for discussion and will provide a visual view into a mission experience.

E) Pope Francis’ Call to Global Justice: What Would My Life-giving Response Be?

*with Sr. Ana Maria Pineda, RSM
Santa Clara University*

Who is our neighbor? Pope Francis tells us: “To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person and face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely.” This session will reflect on Pope Francis’ words on the realities of poverty, and how it invites us to open our hearts to be in solidarity with our global neighbors. This is a solidarity which requires that we satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being. Participants will be given an opportunity to examine Pope Francis’ words, to have time for personal reflection and sharing and to see through images the face of our neighbor.

F) Campus Youth Speak Out For Justice

*with FMS Missioners and students from the University of Maryland
and facilitated by Sr. Joanna Doi, MM*

Pope Francis reminds us that, as missionary disciples, we are called to be living witnesses to the Gospel. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow him and to live a life dedicated to working for peace and justice. The call to follow Jesus knows no age barrier and history shows how young and old alike have been powerful witnesses to the Gospel and worked to bring peace and justice to the world. How can missionaries, justice workers, and peace makers engage with young adults and pass on the missionary zeal for justice and peace? This panel of young adults will discuss this very question from their experience and relate new methods in engaging other young adults in the future.

G) Skills Building: How to Identify and Form Leaders for Global Justice Ministries

*with Vicki Compton and Kathleen O’Toole
Catholic Relief Services*

Who are the leaders and potential leaders in whom the seeds of justice have been planted, and who have the ability to engage others in global mission and advocacy? What practices, in a diocese or parish, can gather, inform and engage them? What resources and programs can form and sustain leaders as they act for justice? The two presenters will share principles, practices and stories to help participants identify leaders with the motivation and ability to act for Gospel Justice in the context of global mission.

Vicki Compton who directs the Missions Office and CRS in the Diocese of Springfield, IL, and Kathleen O’Toole, a Capacity Building Specialist at CRS, will share principles, practices and their experience forming leaders to act in the public sphere on the gospel imperatives for global justice and mission.