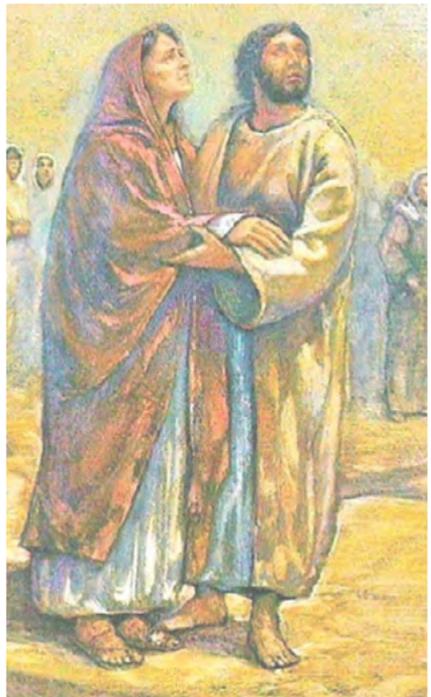


**MISSIO** INVEST



# The Vocation of Missio Invest



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## A NEW ORDER OF RELATIONSHIPS

Born of the pierced side of Jesus, the Church flows from the new order of relationships sealed in the blood of the crucified Christ. Gathered not by gender, race or status, this community was formed by Jesus' dying command, entrusted to his beloved mother Mary and beloved disciple John, to behold one another, to welcome one another and, tellingly, to provide for one another. The Church is this community of the reconciled, where mercy and forgiveness are the marks of its identity and practice.

The demands of reconciliation and mercy have been present throughout the Church's history and remain pressing in our own time. They are demands that are felt as keenly within our Church as within the wider world. It is a stubborn fact that those most impacted by poverty in our Church and in our world are also those least responsible for it.

Pope Francis has warned against what he identifies as "functional hypocrisy," where promises of change are made but where actions that perpetuate an unjust *status quo* continue. What is needed is conversion, one that is born of contemplation, especially of the plight of the poor. Such contemplation requires an honest appraisal of the causes and sources of current realities of injustice seeking not merely a response where the poor are "taken care of," but one where mercy and reconciliation proper to the community of Jesus' disciples are fully alive and active.

## AN ECONOMY OF GIFT

Acknowledging a past marred by colonial expansion with its systemic consequences for our current reality, Missio Invest aims to address the imbalances that remain between the Church in the West and the Church in the Global South, both in terms of perceptions and resources. Bringing to birth a common future where risks and rewards are shared more justly requires a keener rethinking of current economic relationships.

*The virtuous  
circle existing  
between profit  
and gift*

Missio Invest operates by developing and funding networks of meaningful resource-transfer, burden and risk-sharing with and among historically marginalized communities: indigenous communities of religious, women-owned and operated enterprises, underserved communities, those charged with unfunded mandates. Without a reparative reckoning of the proper use of the Church's resources, inherited positions of advantage risk the ultimate well-being not only of the potential recipient of such resources, but of those who control such resources. We recall that the *Confiteor* voices penitence not only for what one has done, but for one what has failed to do.

In all its activities, Missio Invest begins from a posture of discernment with investors and investees, making its own the teaching of Pope Francis where he says that the “logic underlying these innovative forms of intervention is one which acknowledges the ultimate connection between profit and solidarity, the virtuous circle existing between profit and gift.”

## MISSIO INVEST

*Missio Invest  
seeks to serve  
as a change  
management  
catalyst in one  
of the world's  
largest  
institutions*

Inspired by this virtuous circle, Missio Invest makes concrete the perennial invitation to renewal among Christ's disciples. It was formed from The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS), the Church's principle agent for mission solidarity. TPMS is at the heart of overseeing the growth and planning of the various aspects of the life of the "younger churches" that cover more than half the territory of the globe.

While recognizing the need to maintain an overall coordinating body that honors the Holy Father's solicitude for the entire Church, especially those units most in need of attention, Missio Invest is a concrete response to the sense among the faithful for more robust and modern ways of expressing their desire for connectedness and solidarity in today's globalized society.

Progress that pretends to provide merely technical solutions to the increasing problems facing the world will fall short unless the true sense of our blessedness remains in view. To the extent that this sense is inspired by the demands of justice and mercy, it will carry with it the power to heal and to renew the face of the earth.

Justice, according to Pope Saint Paul VI, is the minimum requirement of love. While vital to ensuring that all parts of God's creation might thrive, justice, in a fundamental sense, is insufficient. Justice is made perfect by love.

## JUSTICE PERFECTED BY CHARITY

Throughout Salvation history, the Church has drawn on the experience of grace and the deposit of faith to discern how to respond to the *joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties* of people in every age. In this process of discernment, the Church's teaching on *charis* (charity, love) has remained a singular sign of Christian fidelity. It has been subjected to constant reinterpretation so as to adequately equip believers how to be in the world.

Over time, *charis* has come to encompass the notions of social justice, integral human development, solidarity and the pursuit of the common good. In our own time, Pope Francis has added the concept of integral ecology as a way of evaluating human flourishing as it redounds on the wellbeing of all God's creation. By subjecting the expanding horizon of human activity in the financial sector to the demands of *charis*, Missio Invest aims to evangelize investment activities according to their practice and their effects.

*Missio Invest aims to address the imbalances that remain between the Church in the West and the Church in the Global South*

## EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS

Missio Invest seeks to serve as a catalyst for change in one of the world's largest institutions by empowering change makers within its ranks and equipping them with a greater ability to operate with accountability and transparency.

While honoring their founding charisms, Missio Invest equips indigenous Church personnel with the resources, insights and technical skills they need to lift their local communities out of poverty and create sustainable enterprises that can support resilient countermeasures against the impact of climate change and other obstacles to progress.

The ability to leverage this existing network relies on certain unique features inherent in the Church's personnel structure and its institutional physiognomy:

1. They come from the communities they serve and will remain there
2. They belong to a larger network of experts that they can call on in times of need
3. They have a seamless cultural interface with the local community
4. They are motivated by a life-long calling to serve others
5. Their management structure is similar and replicable across all Church units.

Such change makers have included Mother Alfred Moses, who encouraged Dr. William Mayo to help her start St. Mary's hospital in 1889, a development that would result in the Mayo Clinic, or Katherine Drexel, who founded Xavier University in 1915, then the only Catholic school for African American students. Their legacy as changemakers continues in the lives of women and men who have heard the same call as Mary and John in our own time: to behold, to welcome and to provide for one another.

## DIGNITY OF ALL IN OUR COMMON HOME

Each investment is considered according to the principle of the dignity of every person and of all of God's creation. In line with Christ's call to mercy and reconciliation, this implies examining the historical relationships between donors and beneficiaries, between those who act and those who are the object of such activity. Genuine mutuality requires a more urgent response to the calls for intergenerational justice among religious communities, as well as the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth.

*Each investment is built upon the principle of the dignity of every person and of all of God's creation*

Within existing Church structures, Missio Invest seeks to correct current imbalances among the various units in terms of resources necessary to carry out ministry more effectively. Many religious orders currently undertake such efforts, aware that the good stewardship demands equitable use of limited resources. Justice and charity require that each is afforded the appropriate level of personnel and funding notwithstanding historical inequities in terms of education, assets and existing advantages.

Missio Invest operates so that investees do not have to overcome historic injustices alone and will thereby ensure their leading role. It will adopt strategies that generate greater inter-dependence within with and among the emerging Church. It recognizes that a future is secure only if it measures its success by the well-being and the participation of all.

Success for Missio Invest happens when key elements of ministerial engagement—personnel

and financial resources—are reordered in a way that creates a common future for all and our common home, regardless of ethnicity, gender, culture, geography or state in life.

## THE CROSS AS GUARANTEE

One cannot remain neutral before the cross of Christ. For the non-believer, it is foolishness. For the believer, agitated by the contradiction of a crucified savior, it offers reason to hope for something new. What was intended as an instrument of domination has become a source of freedom. Decay is transformed into flourishing, mourning into dancing.

The power of this symbol remains and serves as the horizon against which human activity can be assessed and ultimately judged. Immersed in the world, the Church must constantly reform itself so as never to become complicit with anything that subverts the reparative power of the cross.

Missio Invest adopts this model of a Church in constant need of reform (*ecclesia semper reformanda*), seeing the cross as the guarantee of its faithfulness and Christ its guarantor.



