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FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

P.O. Box 29034
Washington, DC 20017
FAX (202) 832-1778
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Mr. ELI SEGAL
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

3 February 1993

Dear Mr. Eli Segal,

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your readiness to offer leadership in launching a program of national service. It recalls the exciting days when President Kennedy challenged Americans to serve overseas in the Peace Corps.

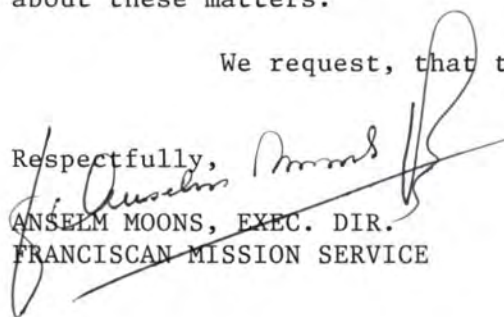
We are happy to share with you the existence of our program, "FRANCISCAN WORLD CARE" which sends young American men and women overseas for a three year service to empower poor and marginalized people to take charge of their own lives.

We hope that your program will contribute to the dream of Francis of Assisi and inspire many to treat "Mother" Earth as God's gift to all peoples in equal justice.

We would like to request that any incentive to serve offered by the new administration such as vouchers, stipends, loan deferment/cancellation, will also remain available to those who serve in similar programs.

The provision of deferment is included in the Higher Education Act of 1980. Similarly, we were included in the National and Community Service Act, 1982. As members of the International Liaison of Lay Volunteers in Mission we may be allowed to point out that our organization has been in contact with the President about these matters.

We request, that these provisions remain in place.

Respectfully,

ANSELM MOONS, EXEC. DIR.
FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

Franciscan Lay Missioners

are needed to work in clinics, hospitals, schools, parishes and farmlands. Franciscan communities are asking for specifically skilled and general help in the fields of health, agriculture, education and community development, among others.

Franciscan Lay Missioners

are placed in Franciscan communities throughout the world. Currently they are serving in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa.



Franciscan Lay Missioners

live with the poor, share their struggles and joys, and then bring their stories back home to inspire others. Thereby they promote peace and justice throughout the world.

How do you apply?

If you are interested in applying to our program, you will first need to request a personal profile form. The second part of the application process involves a self-reference and an essay. We also require that you send us three personal references.

Based on this information, we set up a personal interview for us to learn more about you and for you to have the opportunity to talk to us in person. Once you are accepted, a complete physical examination is required.



YES, I'm interested in responding to the call to mission.

____ Please send me the personal profile form to begin my application to the Lay Missioner Program.

____ Please send me information about helping to financially support the Lay Missioner Program.

Please send to:

**The Franciscan Mission Service
P.O. Box 29034
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 832-1762**

THE CALL TO MISSION

HAVE YOU HEARD IT?



***Franciscan
World Care***

**Program in Overseas
Lay Ministry**

conducted by
Franciscan Mission Service

What is the Call to Mission?

What is this mysterious Call that you feel? Or perhaps you would call it a desire to serve the poor in faraway countries? Where does it come from? For many people, this call is something that cannot be ignored.

The call to mission, being directed to every Christian, is also individual and, hence, different from person to person.

St. Francis of Assisi responded to this call in his own way, as guest, friend and visitor. He listened and learned; he witnessed through his style of life.

As a Franciscan Lay Missioner, how can you respond to the call?

Franciscan Lay Missioners respond to the call to mission in the spirit that St. Francis responded to the call:

- by sharing and living in solidarity with the local mission community,
- by living the Word and breaking the Bread with others,
- by assisting people in discovering their own values and talents,
- by joining them in non-violent efforts for peace and justice, and
- by seeing the whole world as a gift of God to all people.

How does the Franciscan Mission Service help you respond?

- by *preparing you for mission service*. Lay missioners are provided with training in the Franciscan charism, the appropriate local language, cross-cultural skills, and site-specific background. Training programs are held in the Spring and the Fall, depending on the number of accepted applicants.
- by *finding suitable placements*. Lay missioners are placed anywhere that there is a Franciscan community. We focus on countries in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia. Placements are made based on a match between your talents and the needs of the local receiving community.
- by *providing a support system* during your time of service.
- by *providing for a re-entry process* at the completion of a lay missioner's time of service.
- in accordance with our belief in the importance of "reverse mission," by *helping you share your experience* after your return to the U.S.

Who qualifies to be a Franciscan Lay Missioner?

The response to a call to mission is both a privilege and a responsibility.

FMS looks for a certain type of person to be accepted into our program:

- A committed Catholic, capable of and serious about building up a personal spiritual life, with specific dedication to Franciscan values.
- Willing to commit 3 years to serving others.
- Male or female, single or married, ordinarily between 23 and 40 years of age.
- Cross-cultural experience and background in a second language are valuable.
- **Nurses, teachers, and social workers are especially needed, but others are placed according to their backgrounds and skills.**

