

United States Catholic Mission Association

Associate Memberships

Members Engaging Constituents in Mission

An associate membership in USCMA is designed for an individual who is interested in or dedicated to mission and wants to be in solidarity with those in and from the US Catholic Church who are dedicated to mission. Membership is \$25 annually. The associate member will receive the USCMA **Mission Monthly** – our electronic newsletter – to learn about mission from all over the world. The associate member will also receive the **Mission Update** – USCMA’s quarterly journal – to explore the depth of mission. Finally, the associate member will also receive periodic emails; **Inspirations** to edify the call to mission and **Mobilize for Mission** a call to action in response to a pressing need. Of course, the associate member will have access to USCMA’s national network, the support of the national office, and access to the resources available on the USCMA webpage.

The associate member will not receive the membership rate at USCMA conferences, attend the Membership Meeting, vote, or hold office.

The Campaign for Associate Memberships will take associate members to the USCMA Website where they will complete their membership online.

A Call to Action

All USCMA members are asked to invite members of their constituency to become an associate member. The member decides who they will invite and when. The member sends the email. USCMA only has a name and an email address once a person decides to become an associate member.

All USCMA members are asked to help build better USCMA newsletters, journals, emails. USCMA needs volunteers to serve on editorial committees, write articles, and build a national network of associate members. Eventually, local gatherings of associate members will advance networking.

Benefits to Organizational Members

1. This is a simple way to build a national base of support for mission that engages people in a wide variety of missionary activities. It is another way for USCMA organizational members to collaborate with one another for the good of mission – a rising tide lifts all boats.
2. USCMA can illuminate all the good that is being done by organizational members – a third party or “objective” source of information about mission activities. Organizational members can serve as volunteers on editorial boards, writers, and recruiters.
3. The associate members will be another way for organizational members to promote their programs and activities and engage the laity “where they are.” Organizational members, sponsoring local events, will be able to send special invitations to USCMA Associate Members in the area.
4. Associate members will continue to build the national network as they engage friends and family in the Gospel call to mission. A larger base of support will ease the financial burden the organizational members are shouldering for USCMA.
5. This is one way to animate new generations – youth, young adults, adults, seniors, and the elderly – to be actively engaged in mission through spiritual solidarity, philanthropy, and personal commitment.

Potential Benefits to USCMA

The Associate Membership is designed to mobilize the Catholic faithful to be in solidarity with everyone in the U.S. Church who is engaged in mission. It relies on an economy of scale. Consider the numbers:

1. 2,000 Associate Members – joining on-line – will have a minimal impact on staff, will not add any out of pocket expenses to the association, and generate \$50,000 – eliminating the 2016 deficit.
2. 5,000 Associate Members would generate \$125,000 – eliminating the 2016 deficit and underwriting one full-time position in the USCMA National Office.
3. 10,000 Associate Members would generate \$250,000 – more than half of USCMA’s 2017 budget.

How Will This Work?

1. The USCMA member will volunteer to send an email message out to their constituent. They will identify the “group” they are sending to (select parishioners, alumni, associates, donors, etc).
2. USCMA will send 3-5 sample emails to the member who selects which one(s) they will use (or modify to use) and send it out to their email list.
3. The member copies USCMA. USCMA will keep track of the number of associate memberships generated by this email and report back to the member.
4. USCMA will launch a social media campaign. Those Associate Members who identify an organizational member as an “affiliated organization” will be credited to the organizational member.

Act Now

1. Participate in the Membership Meeting by registering for one of the two webinars.
2. Support the Associate Membership Program by “strongly” agreeing to the concept on the 2017 Membership Meeting Ballot and Poll.
3. Give your ideas on how to improve upon this concept in the textbox available on the poll.
4. If you do not like this idea, please tell us why in the textbox available on the poll.
5. Volunteer on the editorial board.

The Associate Membership Program is intended to be a “win-win” for our organizational members, their constituents, and USCMA. The growth of this program will have an immediate impact on USCMA’s ability to serve the membership. It will expand the reach of organizational members. It will connect and engage the faithful in mission. Clearly, the program is just in the beginning stages – and USCMA members, and eventually Associate Members themselves – will help it mature and grow.

Your feedback is encouraged and welcomed!

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