



What is OFM?

OFM: Organizing for Mission was introduced through the vision of Bishop James Waggoner, Jr. The training received by our OFM team was the result of a partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, and the Episcopal Church Foundation.

How is Organizing for Mission (OFM) different from our other social outreach ministries?

Organizing for Mission is a unique ministry that provides active, hands-on participation of Episcopalians in educating, organizing, fund raising, and decision-making to alleviate hunger. The vision for OFM is that our congregation and the diocese can accomplish more together to alleviate hunger than we can apart.

What are the goals of Organizing for Mission?

The goals are: (1) to develop leadership in parishes throughout the Spokane Diocese, (2) to raise awareness of hunger, and (3) to disseminate information concerning the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first MDG goal is to alleviate extreme poverty and hunger. During Lent, Organizing for Mission leaders will invite each parishioner at St. James to participate by donating time and pledging money to alleviate hunger locally and globally.

How do the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) relate to Organizing for Mission?

The MDGs, a United Nations initiative adopted in 2000, committed all member nations to support alleviating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. The UN calculated that by putting 0.7% of member nations' GNP to work for this purpose extreme poverty and hunger could be alleviated world-wide. The Episcopal Church supported these goals and made that same financial commitment from its General Budget in 2006. Our Diocese and congregation quickly followed suit, supporting the MDGs in our mission work. The MDGs have been supported in our parish budget since 2007. St. James' participation in OFM will constitute a major part of our annual financial commitment to the MDGs this year but does not replace our ongoing support for other social justice and outreach ministries.

What charities does Organizing for Mission fundraising activity benefit?

OFM will support two charities: (1) a local organization which alleviates hunger chosen by our congregation, and (2) El Hogar Agricultural School and Farm in Honduras. Fifty percent of funds raised by our congregation will go to support El Hogar. Those participating in the St. James' initiative will decide to which local hunger project in the Moscow/Pullman area the second half of the funds will be given.

Why was El Hogar Agricultural School chosen as the recipient of our fund-raising?

The Diocesan OFM team made the decision to name El Hogar the recipient of the funds directed to an international project. They used the same process which we will use as a parish to determine the recipient of our local funds. They chose El Hogar because it has been approved and supported by Episcopal Relief and Development for some time. El Hogar is an established educational institution that has had much success in training orphaned children in sustainable agriculture. The produce from the farm feeds the hungry and supports the school. The Diocesan OFM Team also thought that there were similarities between the agricultural economies of the Inland Northwest and those near Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Bishop Jim approved the team's choice of El Hogar.

How is Organizing for Mission (OFM) related to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)?

Episcopal Relief and Development emphasizes the power of partnerships. OFM will make partnerships within our own parish and will form a partnership with seven other parishes in our Diocese to alleviate hunger. Each parish will work on alleviating local hunger and then work internationally by supporting an ERD approved project, *El Hogar*, an agricultural school in Honduras.

Why wasn't Haiti chosen as the international project?

Although many individuals here at St. James are donating to St. Andre's school in Cazale, Haiti, through "Friends of Cazale," this Haitian school is not an ERD approved project. Friends of Cazale is primarily supported by members of St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Spokane. Additional support derives from individuals here at St. James, now being joined by others including St. Paul's, Cheney. During the season of Lent, we will focus on the OFM project. As our relationship with St. Andre's school is long term, we will continue our efforts with them in the future.

How much money should I give?

We are asked to pledge seven-tenths of a percent (0.7%) of our yearly income, which parallels the amount the UN pledged to support the MDGs. To calculate the amount to pledge, multiply your income by 0.007.

Is this amount before or after taxes?

The decision is entirely up to you. Which do you think is more feasible for you? Which do you think will do the most good? How much of what you have belongs to God's work?

How will the local hunger service program be chosen?

The choice will be made through a collective decision-making process allowing all who completed the participation/pledge card to participate. Those persons will be able to nominate and vote for a deserving local program whose essential focus is hunger alleviation.

How is "local" being defined?

The OFM Team has decided that we will consider any program which alleviates hunger within the greater Pullman-Moscow area.

What if I already donate to hunger relief?

That is wonderful! We always have a lot of opportunity to help. OFM is one opportunity in which we join with other parishes in our Diocese to help *El Hogar* and our local community. Certainly, by banding together and pooling our resources, we will be able to make a larger impact than by working alone.

My monetary situation is tight right now. Is there another way to help?

Absolutely! A monetary donation is not the only way to relieve hunger. To learn more, please contact any member of the OFM Team: Sandra Ristow, Jim Reece, Stephen Ulman, Kari Olsen, or Dianne Lowe.