

**Mission Parish Designation
Catholic Diocese of Richmond
2022**

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond sees Mission Parishes as valuable gifts from God and important paths for evangelization in our Diocese. A mission parish is one challenged by a combination of financial, demographic, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Such parishes are deserving of special recognition and support. Mission parishes will be automatically eligible to apply for a home mission grant (grant request subject to approval of grant committee, contact Office of Propagation of the Faith), to participate in the Mission Co-Op Program (contact Office of Propagation of the Faith), special consideration in the Annual Appeal and Capital Campaigns (Contact Office of Development), special assistance with educational programs (Contact Office of Christian Formation) and other possible assistance (Inquire at appropriate Pastoral Center Office). A Mission Parish will be one whose annual collection income for the most current year is normally less than \$250,000.00, does not have significant resources in savings or meets two of the following criteria;

Criteria

1. The area's population is characterized by a consistently (for more than 12 consecutive months) higher than average rate of poverty, unemployment, and/or low wages. Serves a unique population of the poor;
2. A relatively large number of special needs groups (large prison populations, migrant farm workers, immigrants, etc.) requiring pastoral attention reside in the area. Parish serves a large number of minority members as evidenced by the annual report demographic profile;
3. Pastoral needs are going unmet due to financial inability;
4. The driving distance (in normal weather conditions) to the next closest Catholic church is more than a reasonable traveling distance or may be separated by difficult terrain that isolates parishes from one another. (**NOTE:** For the purposes of the attached list, greater than 45 minutes. is assumed, but this may vary due to parishioner's age or other circumstances and is generally determined by how far one is willing to travel for work, shopping, and entertainment.)

Revised July 8, 2022