

UTSCC and Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy Mission Trip 2018

April 27-May 6, 2018

University of Toronto Scarborough Catholic Chaplaincy and Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy will be organizing a mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica to work with the Missionaries of the Poor. Please read through the following information prior to completing and submitting your application. ***Please note: There are only 20 spaces total available for this trip. Applications from students and others regularly involved with UTSCC and Newman Centre activities may be given priority until Friday, February 9, 2018. If you are not a U of T student or a regular member of the UTSCC or Newman Centre community, your application will be placed on a waiting list until that time and you will be notified if there is space remaining.***

Missionaries of the Poor Community

One of the central objectives of the Missionaries of the Poor is the building of a sense of community among the poor. This is accomplished in two ways. The poor are gathered together as a family and relationships are forged with the wider society. However, this depends upon the building a community of men--religious Brothers and priests--who live in community, share all things in common, follow a common spirituality and charism with a common ministry of service to the least in society. There are four central aspects of this community: Prayer, Community, Apostolate and Study.

Mission Work

While in Jamaica, we will assist the Brothers with caring for the poor at their orphanage and their homes for the mentally and physically challenged. In addition to serving through pastoral care, we will help with cleaning, feeding people, administrative tasks, and other duties as needed. ***In applying for this trip, please understand that although we will certainly get to experience much of the cultural beauty of Jamaica, this trip is missionary in nature, and thus should not be considered a vacation.*** God has an incredible way of extending His blessings through our acts of service: we give of ourselves, but in giving we receive profoundly from both those we serve and from God directly in a deepening of our relationship with Him.

Trip Dates and Fee Schedule

We will meet at Toronto's Pearson Airport at **9:00 pm on Friday, April 27, 2018**, and will depart for Kingston on the 12:15 am flight (just after midnight). Flights to Kingston and back are a little over 4 hours, so we will arrive in Jamaica very early Saturday morning.

Once in Jamaica, we will travel to the private compound of the Missionaries, where we will live and serve for the week. There may be opportunities for limited travel within the city, however these visits will be supervised by members of the community to ensure safety at all times.

We will be returning to Toronto on **Sunday, May 6, 2018 departing Kingston at 6:15 pm**, and can expect to arrive back in Toronto at approximately 10:30 pm. There is a one hour time difference between Toronto and Kingston, so jet lag should not be an issue. You will need to arrange your own transportation to and from Toronto Pearson International Airport. The cost of the trip is \$825, unless any flight details or fees change. The flights are confirmed at \$550 CAD return, payable to Newman Centre, however there is a fee of \$275 CAD per person that is given directly to the Brothers to cover the cost of our stay. It is payable to a student representative who will gather all the donations and give them to the Brothers on our behalf. This is not done directly through Newman in order to respect current laws regarding donations from non-profits to other international non-profits, but please note that it is not an optional fee. Anyone who does not complete all payments by the final due date will lose their spot, and will forfeit any fees already paid.

At the time of application, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to secure your spot. The balance of \$350 is due by 5 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018 or anytime before that date. Payment for the \$275 accommodation donation can be made by cash only, and must be brought with you to the airport.

For those attending through the Newman Centre: bursaries may be available for those students who are not able to afford the trip on their own. Bursary amounts may vary depending on what program you are in. If you are applying for a bursary, applications are available through the chaplaincy office (or by emailing erin@newmantoronto.com) and are due Friday, January 26, 2018 by 5 pm. You do not need to include a trip deposit with your application, although we do require the entire completed application package (Newman Application, MOP Volunteer Application and Bursary Application form) to be submitted as one package. Decisions regarding bursaries will be made within two weeks of the deadline, and ***if you are chosen to receive a bursary, you MUST bring in your \$200 deposit by Friday, February 23, 2018 otherwise you will forfeit your bursary and your spot on the trip.***

Deadline to apply for the trip and pay the deposit (regardless of whether you are applying for a bursary or not) is Friday, February 23, 2018. After this time, the trip will be advertised externally of Newman Chaplaincy and Newman students cannot be guaranteed a space.

What You Need to Bring

We will be living very simply for the week. Due to baggage restrictions, **you are asked to bring only a carry-on suitcase for personal belongings.** You are also able to bring a purse or a small backpack as a carry-on piece of luggage, but again, please do not over-pack. It is HIGHLY recommended that you put something on your luggage that will be easy to identify for quick retrieval. While serving, you will be able to hand wash your clothing (which will dry rapidly), so pack lightly. This is also an opportunity to live very simply for the week, and it can be very freeing only to have a small number of belongings with you!

You are required to read the attached document concerning community guidelines for volunteers, which outlines modest dress. Briefly, you should prepare for warm weather: the average temperature in Jamaica in May is 28 degrees Celsius. Clothing should be light, but should also include one outfit for colder temperatures just in case.

For women, no sleeveless shirts are permitted at any time, and t-shirts or blouses must not contain low necks or show cleavage. Nothing above the knee may be worn at any time, so capris, long skirts and long, lightweight pants are always acceptable. Leggings (unless they are under a longer skirt) are not permitted. For Mass, only long skirts and long pants are permitted.

For men, no sleeveless shirts are permitted at any time. Pants must also be below the knee, so long shorts or lightweight pants are the best choices. For Mass, only long pants and sleeved shirts are permitted.

Please understand that even if you feel that something is modest, if it does not conform to the standard of dress the community has set, you will be asked to change.

Aside from clothing, a more complete packing list will be provided to you at our preparation sessions.

Participants are also encouraged to bring a suitcase filled with humanitarian items such as toiletries and clothing that can be left with the Brothers when we leave. There is no baggage fee for this item since it is considered humanitarian, provided that it does not exceed 50 lbs. A complete list of items the Brothers are in need of will be provided at one of our preparation sessions. Please consider that the no-charge policy for humanitarian baggage applies only to the Toronto-Jamaica flight, so it is recommended to purchase an inexpensive duffel bag that you can simply leave in Jamaica, or to use an old suitcase that you don't mind leaving there. If you belong to a parish other than the Newman Centre's St. Thomas Aquinas Parish or St. Barnabas Parish, you are encouraged to approach your Pastor to ask about the possibility of inviting your community to donate the humanitarian items that you are able to bring with you. If you attend Sunday Mass at Newman or St. Barnabas, we will be collecting items as a community.

On Sunday, April 22, 2018 those who are choosing to collect items to donate will bring all items to the Newman Centre at 3 pm, along with the humanitarian suitcase you are bringing. We will divide items up and pack all the suitcases together so that none go over weight restrictions. ***You are then responsible for bringing your packed suitcase back home with you that Sunday and then to the airport on our day of departure.***

Dietary Restrictions and Transportation of Food and Drink

Those with strict dietary restrictions are asked to prayerfully consider whether this trip is feasible for you, as the Brothers are unable to accommodate special diets. For mild allergies or restrictions, you are allowed to bring food into Jamaica in checked luggage, with the exception of meat, fruits, nuts and vegetables. You are welcome to bring some snacks in your luggage, but please keep in mind the need to pack light.

Visa and Passport Requirements

There is no tourist visa required for entry of Canadian citizens into Jamaica. If your passport is from a country other than Canada, please visit <http://www.jhcuk.org/visitors/visa-requirements/do-i-need-a-visa-to-enter-jamaica> to determine if you require a visa to visit

Jamaica. If so, you will be required to show proof of having applied for a visa before you will be allowed to register for the mission trip. It is recommended that, should you require a visa, you apply for it as soon as possible.

All participants will be required to have a valid passport that expires no earlier than November 11, 2018. Applications will not be accepted without a valid passport with an appropriate expiry date, so please speak to the chaplaincy office if you intend to come on the trip, but must renew or obtain a passport before you're able to pass in the completed application.

Immunizations and Insurance

Hepatitis A and Typhoid are recommended vaccines for travel to Jamaica, as these pathogens can be spread through contaminated food or water. We will be lodging and serving within the Missionaries of the Poor compound, and although we may be more protected from illness than in public accommodations, you can choose to have your doctor administer these vaccines as an extra precaution if you so choose.

Each person traveling will be required to show proof of travel insurance. You may be covered under a parent plan, or you may need to purchase insurance. The cost is fairly low (\$15-\$45).

There has been Zika virus present in Jamaica. If you are pregnant or considering getting pregnant, please speak with your doctor prior to registering for this trip.

Mission Trip Preparation Sessions

There will be two identical preparation sessions on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 (at the Newman Centre) and Thursday, March 15, 2018 (at St. Barnabas) from 7-9 pm. We will discuss the nature of missionary work, spiritual and physical preparation, and practical aspects of travel, including more about what to pack and what not to pack.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, all participants **MUST** attend one of the two preparation sessions. ***Failure to attend one of the sessions without approval from one of the organizers could result in the forfeiture of your deposit and the loss of your seat for the trip.***

Medications

If you take any prescription medications, please ensure that you have extra supplies in the unlikely event that plane travel is delayed. Prescription medications **MUST** be in their original containers and have a printed pharmacy label that includes your name and the medication dosage.

Daily Itinerary (excluding Sunday and travel days)

****Please note that you will be schedule for various things like meal clean up and set-up**

5:30a Rise

5:45a Mass, Morning Prayer

7:30a Meditation

8:15a Breakfast

9:00a Work at centres (participants will have an opportunity to visit different centres each day)
11:45a Midday Prayer
12:25p Lunch at the centre
1:00p Continue work at the centres
~3:30p Return to volunteer centre
5:00p Evening Prayer, Rosary
~7:00p Supper (some weeknights there is an extended time of prayer after supper)
~8:30p Night prayer followed by quiet relaxation/sleep

Application Checklist

- Check your passport information. If you need a passport, or it expires before November 11, 2018, you must renew or obtain a new passport before your application can be accepted.
- If your passport is not issued by Canada, check to see what visa requirements the Jamaican government has for your passport's country of issuance.
- Fill out the attached application.
- Newman students: If you are applying for a bursary, obtain a bursary application form from the chaplaincy office or by emailing erin@newmantoronto.com.
- Read the attached form "Monastic Regulations" given to us by the Brothers to be sure that you are able to comply with them.
- Return the completed application (AND bursary application if you are applying for one) to either Erin or Erica, along with the \$200 non-refundable deposit (unless you are applying for a bursary), on or before Friday, February 23, 2018. If you are applying for a bursary, your application is due on or before Friday, January 26, 2018 (please do not submit your \$200 deposit until your bursary application is reviewed).
- Watch in your email inbox for further communication from the organizers regarding preparation events and other details.

****Note:** once all spots are filled, we will start a waiting list for those still interested in coming in the event that a registered participant must drop their seat.

Thank you for your interest in serving the poor, and please don't hesitate to contact your campus minister if you have any questions.

APPLICATION FORM- CHAPLAINCY MISSION TRIP 2018

Full Name (EXACTLY as appears on your passport): _____

Passport number and expiry date: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Tel (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

E-mail address (**this will be the primary means of communication, so ensure you are giving an email address that you check DAILY):

Which university chaplaincy are you associated with? _____

Religion/Faith Background: _____

If Catholic, which Parish do you belong to? _____

Allergies/medications (include dosage): _____

Other health concerns: _____

Family physician and contact number (if you have one): _____

Travel health insurance company and plan number (this may be purchased and info given to chaplaincy any time before April 1, 2018):

By signing this form, you agree to abide by the guidelines of UTSCC, Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy and the Missionaries of the Poor, to attend one preparation session, you recognize that your \$200 deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable, and you agree to pay all remaining fees as outlined above in this Mission Trip Application Package.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR MONASTIC REGULATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS/VISITORS

1. The life of the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) is partially cloistered. This means certain areas of our religious houses are strictly reserved for the religious members of the Institute. These reserved areas include:

- **Dormitories**
- **Corridors**
- **Classrooms**
- **Library**
- **Bathrooms**
- **Offices**

Access to these areas is only upon consent by the Superior, the Director of the Volunteer Program or their delegate (s).

2. **Generally, a spirit of recollection and silence are observed within the living quarters of the Missionaries of the Poor. Recreation, discussions and other such activities should be held in the patio, refectory, and the backyard.**

3. **You are welcome to participate in the daily spiritual activities of the Community which take place in the chapel as follows:**

- **Mass and Morning Prayer (Divine Office) - 5:45am**
- **Evening Prayer - 5:00pm**
- **Night Prayer - 9:00pm**
- **Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.**
- **Weekends or special holidays: Mass begins an hour later (6:45am).**

4. **Dress code: To ensure religious decorum, the following dress code must be observed by all visitors to MOP homes:**

- **Men: Shirts or T-shirts (must have sleeves, nothing sleeveless); long or short pants (just above the knee).**
- **Ladies: Modest blouses or T-shirts (must have sleeves, nothing sleeveless); walking shorts (below the knee) or skirt/dress or long pants.**

When participating in Liturgical activities in the chapel, please wear the following:

- Men: Sleeved shirt and long pants
- Ladies: Sleeved, modest blouse/shirt and skirt/dress or long pants

Please do not wear mid-thigh shorts or mini-skirts any time during your visit with the Missionaries of the Poor.

5. MOP homes and centers are non-smoking, non-liquor and non-television areas.
6. If you are joining the Community for breakfast, please excuse yourself once discussion begins after breakfast, since internal matters will be dealt with.

RELATING TO THE BROTHERS

7. Only the professed members of MOP (blue shirts/sashes) are allowed to speak with visitors. We ask that you respect this rule and not hold any conversations with our novices, postulants and aspirants (beige or white shirts/sashes) unless permission is given.
8. While at the apostolate, please restrict your conversations only to the Brother-in-Charge of that center. Please do not seek correspondence with the Brothers at any time by mail or by phone or seek to exchange addresses with any of the Brothers without the consent of the Superior.
9. We appreciate your desire to meet the needs of our Community and our poor in various ways. Please always obtain permission from the Director of the Volunteer Program or his delegate before obtaining goods, instruments or gadgets for the use of the Brothers, whether individually or by the Community.
10. Please do not hand out or receive any mail, money, material articles, etc. to any resident or Brother but only to the appointed Brother-Minister at the house.
11. Due to the young Brothers' consecrated life and the necessity to separate them from externs, especially while they are in formation, young women must be at least 18 years of age to do voluntary work with the Brothers. Exception to this rule, however, may be given after careful review from the Volunteers' Department.
12. Photographs or videos will not be taken at any of the MOP homes or centers without prior permission from the Director of the Volunteer Program or his delegate.

Thank you for joining us in our services with the homeless and destitute. We request that if there are any gifts you wish to make in support of our Community and our service of the poor, please hand them over to the Volunteers' Desk.