

Come & See

MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD AND BROTHERHOOD





Come & See

**"THERE WAS NEVER A TIME WHEN
MISSIONARY ACTIVITY WAS MORE
NEEDED IN OUR BELOVED LAND
THAN IT IS TODAY."**

*—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder*

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will see.'" —Jn 1:38-39

Jesus addressed John's disciples in this passage of the Gospel, but he also speaks to us today. Even though the world has changed since Jesus spoke these words, the need for men to respond to the Lord's invitation continues.

Glenmary invites you to Come & See our mission ministry today and discern your call as a missionary.

This magazine answers common questions asked by the men seeking ways to respond to their vocational call to be a missionary priest or brother.

A Glenmary priest or brother will welcome the opportunity to talk with you in depth about your questions.

The desire to follow Jesus guides each of us as we search for our vocations in life. Responding to the call to missionary life is a joy-filled experience that leads you to sharing that joy with those you are called to serve.

Jesus has already invited you to come and see!



Br David

Brother David Henley
Vocation Director

ON THE COVER: Glenmary Brothers Jason Muhlenkamp and Levis Kuwa greet church-goers.



4119 Glenmary Trace / PO Box 465618 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246 · 800-935-0975 · vocations@glenmary.org
© 2019, Glenmary Home Missioners. Reprint permission granted upon request.



THE FOUNDER OF GLENMARY MISSIONERS

Father William Howard Bishop (1885–1953) had an incredible love and concern for the rural people of the United States. As a pastor for 20 years at a rural parish, he worked relentlessly to bring America's missionary plight to the awareness of "city dwellers" and to an urban Catholic Church.

During his time as a rural pastor, he was consumed by the dream of finding a way to serve the neglected areas of rural America. He mapped the home mission need in the United States and brought it to the attention of the American Catholic Church. And, preferring to remain as a country pastor, he attempted to convince already established religious communities to serve in these desperate areas.

In 1939, after finding no other religious community to take on the mammoth task of serving what he termed "Mission Land, USA," and after overcoming many obstacles, he founded the Home Missioners of America (Glenmary) in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, at the invitation of Archbishop John T. McNicholas.

Father Bishop was a holy man, deeply committed to establishing this home mission society of priests and brothers and inviting others to join him. His "No Priest Land, USA" map captured the hearts and souls of the men and women who joined this new mission effort. With unbending determination, Father William Howard Bishop led this community of men along with the Glenmary Sisters until his death, in 1953.

Glenmarians continue to be inspired by his life and dream. His holiness is readily recognized by God, the people in the missions and Glenmary missioners. May his life story and his dream inspire you as well.



TOP: Father Bishop (right) and Father Raphael Sourd (left) created a mobile chapel, one of the unique and creative ways of evangelizing a population that was unfamiliar with the Catholic faith.

Did You Know?

• The name "Glenmary" is derived from *Glen-dale* (a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, where our first Glenmary headquarters was located) and *Mary*, the mother of Jesus, who is our society's patroness under the title of "Our Lady of the Fields."

• In the southern United States, there are over 350 counties without a Catholic church or a resident pastoral minister.

• Frequently less than 1% of the total population in our mission counties are Catholic.

• The poverty level within Glenmary mission areas is often twice the national average.



A DISTINCT MISSION CHARISM

"Missioners are to go where they're needed but not wanted, and stay until they're wanted but not needed," said the late Bishop James A. Walsh. In those few words, he also summed up the lives of those serving as Glenmary missioners!

Glenmary—a community of priests and brothers—is the only Catholic missionary society working exclusively in the mission areas of the United States, specifically in counties throughout the South and Appalachia. Glenmary priests and brothers work to build up the Kingdom of God by establishing an effective Church presence in rural counties where the Catholic Church is not yet present.

Often, the sacraments are first celebrated in a county for a small number of Catholics during Mass in a field, a rented storefront or a local resident's living room.

Glenmarians evangelize, that is proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and the unique gifts of the Catholic Church within the neglected rural areas of the United States. These gifts are especially shared with the unchurched—those claiming no religious affiliation—who make up a large percentage of the population of all Glenmary mission counties.

Glenmary priests and brothers proclaim the reign of God by serving both the spiritual needs of those living in a mission area and the material needs of the poor—regardless of their religious affiliation. In the words of our founder, "Our work is to arouse America and make it convert-conscious and to turn the main force of its convert effort into the small towns and the open places, to make people realize that if we are going to convert America it must be done from the grass roots up and not from cities down."

Glenmarians often find ourselves working with local partners to initiate and organize food pantries and home building and renovation programs, ministerial alliances, thrift stores, social service centers and youth groups.

We work to protect the environment and natural resources in our mission regions and collaborate with local leaders on a wide range of issues affecting local communities.

The main thrusts of Glenmary's mission effort are direct service to those living in mission counties and educating the universal Church about the missionary need within the United States. Since 1939 missioners—through the power of the Holy Spirit and trust in the guiding hand of Jesus—have established over 120 missions and outreach ministries, impacting thousands of lives in large and small ways.

Glenmary missionary priests and brothers work to build up the Body of Christ in rural counties by nurturing the faith of the small number of Catholics living there, reaching out to the unchurched and helping serve the material needs of the poor living in these counties.

Once the community and mission parish are firmly established, it can be given back to the pastoral care of its local diocese, thus allowing Glenmary missioners to move on the areas of greater missionary need.



A UNIQUE MISSION MINISTRY

A person discerning his vocation with Glenmary begins by asking, “What does a Glenmary priest do?” or “What does a Glenmary brother do?”

First and foremost, missionary priests and brothers are all called to be a missionary by professing the same Glenmary Oath—which includes promises of poverty, chastity, obedience and prayer.

Our vocation as “home missionaries” is lived out as we share our unique talents and gifts to serve the spiritual and material needs of those living in the rural areas and small towns of the United States where the Church is not fully and effectively present.

According to Glenmary’s mission statement, we “proclaim with enthusiasm the Reign of God by bringing the presence of the Catholic Church to the rural mission areas of the United States of America...” We “minister through Word, Sacrament, prayer and service.” In living out this mission statement, Glenmarians have developed a unique mission ministry.

Catholic Nurture

Serving the Catholic minority by establishing a Church presence and celebrating the sacraments in areas where fewer than 3 percent of the population is Catholic.

Evangelization

Reaching the unchurched by testifying to the Catholic faith in mission regions where a significant percentage of the people have no church affiliation.

Social Outreach

Serving the poor through outreach and working for social justice in counties where the poverty levels are often twice the national average.

Ecumenism

Promoting cooperation with and understanding of other Christian denominations by working to bring people from different faiths together to work and pray in a spirit of harmony, respect and hope of eventual unity.

Connection to the Universal Church

Linking the mission communities to the larger universal Church, and contributing home mission leadership through work in areas of home mission theology, organization and approaches.





"OUR WORK IS TO GO INTO THE FORGOTTEN AND NEGLECTED PLACES, THE NO-PRIEST LAND, THE NO-CATHOLIC LAND OF AMERICA TO ACCEPT AS BASES OF OPERATION THE LITTLE BORDERLINE PARISHES THAT NOBODY WANTS AND FROM THEM TO BUILD UP LITTLE OUTPOSTS AND PARISHES WHERE NOW NO HOPE OF THEM EXISTS."

*—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder*





WHAT DOES MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD LOOK LIKE?

There is no such thing as a "typical" Glenmary priest or a "typical" approach to ministry, so each individual develops his own unique way to serve in the rural missions.

Glenmary priests often serve as pastors of two or more mission churches, dividing their time during the week to nurture both communities. Each weekend they drive between mission counties in order to celebrate multiple Masses in multiple languages, making the sacraments available to all the Catholics in their territory.

Glenmary missions have small congregations; a typical mission community may have 20-60 families. In addition to meeting the needs of the small number of Catholics, Glenmary priests minister to all the residents living in the mission counties, both Catholic and non-Catholic, and consider them all to be members of the mission.

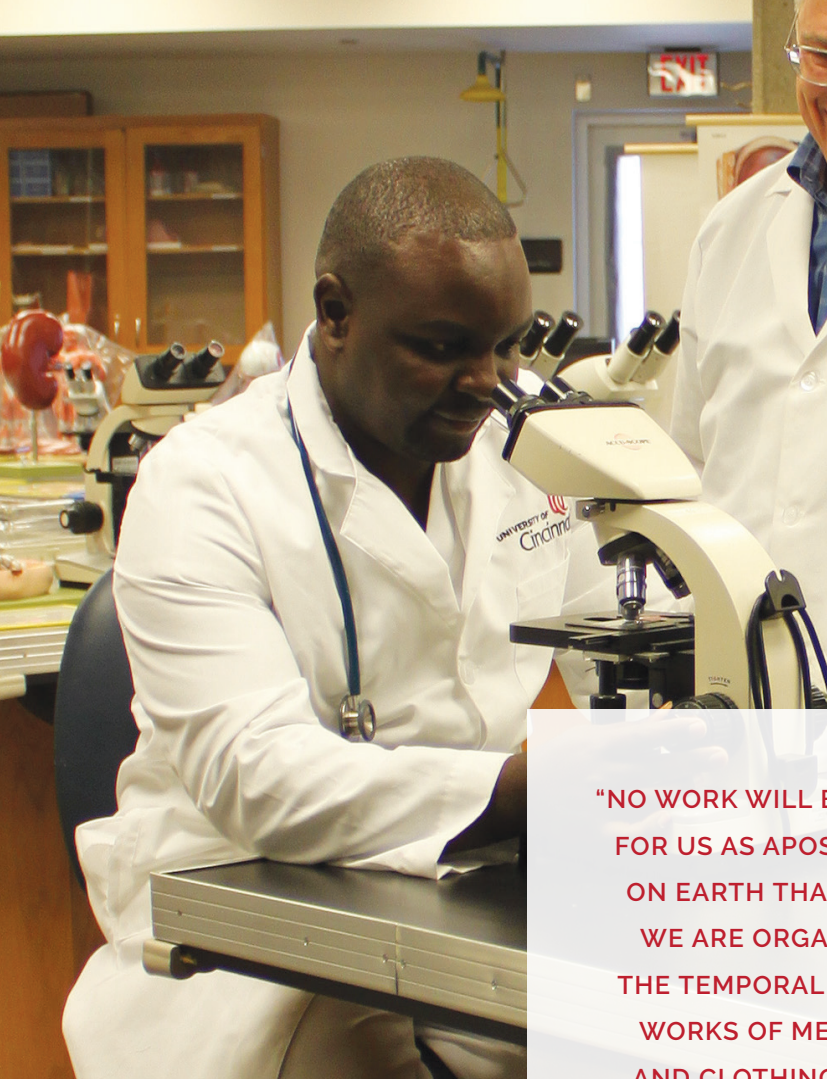
Missioners don't wait for people to come to them but they actively go out into the community and make them-

selves available to serve and minister. By spending a significant amount of time visiting and talking with local people of all walks of life, missioners get to know people personally and learn how to most effectively serve the needs of the community.

Glenmary priests go out to serve, especially to those on the peripheries. They minister to the sick, visit the incarcerated, feed the hungry, welcome the immigrant and much more.

They may go door-to-door to share information about the Church or find other outlets to help residents unfamiliar with the Catholic Church better understand her teachings. They participate in associations with ministers of other churches for prayer and collaborative outreach to the poor.

Missionary priests may not have typical days or routines. But they all strive, with God's help, to meet the needs found in the mission counties they serve and minister to the people of God living in those counties.



“NO WORK WILL BE SO POWERFUL FOR US AS APOSTLES OF PEACE ON EARTH THAN THAT WHICH WE ARE ORGANIZED TO DO- THE TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY, FEEDING AND CLOTHING THE HUNGRY AND NAKED, MINISTERING TO THE WOUNDED AND THE SICK, LOVING THE POOR AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.”

—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder





WHAT DOES MISSIONARY BROTHERHOOD LOOK LIKE?

Glenmary brothers have a distinct vocation that calls them to a wide variety of ministries. The needs in the mission areas are many, so men of diverse backgrounds and talents can find multiple ways to serve.

Through their outreach to the entire community, Glenmary brothers often find themselves having more contact with people who are non-Catholic than with Catholics. Brothers are, first and foremost, “brothers” to all the people in the missions. They walk with the people in their struggles and celebrate with them in their joys.

Parish brothers live within Glenmary mission areas and search out creative ways to address the needs of the local Church and the wider community. Often this allows brothers to perform a wide variety of jobs. But the Glenmary brothers’ ministries are less about “doing” than they are about “being.” Some brothers describe their ministry as a “ministry of presence” as they walk side-by-side with the poor, lonely, el-

derly, youth, addicted, sick and lost.

Parish brothers also take an active role in parish ministries, including RCIA, youth and prison ministries, counseling and other forms of outreach.

The Glenmary Brothers Building Crew built many of the Glenmary mission churches that dot the landscape of Mission Land, USA, as well as homes for the poor.

Today, Glenmary brothers may partner with local Habitat for Humanity chapters or similar organizations to build homes in rural counties where there is a lack of affordable housing.

Brothers also serve as nurses, teachers, social workers, translators, recreation leaders for both youth and the elderly, and directors of regional food banks in our missions.

During their formation, Glenmary brothers study theology and also develop other skills. At the end of their formation they are prepared to be of direct service to those living in the mission areas.

"DOES THE COMMAND TO 'GO TEACH ALL NATIONS' MAKE AN EXCEPTION OF OUR OWN? THESE VAST SECTIONS OF OUR LAND, WITH THEIR SCATTERED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, OVERWHELMINGLY NON-CATHOLIC."

—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder

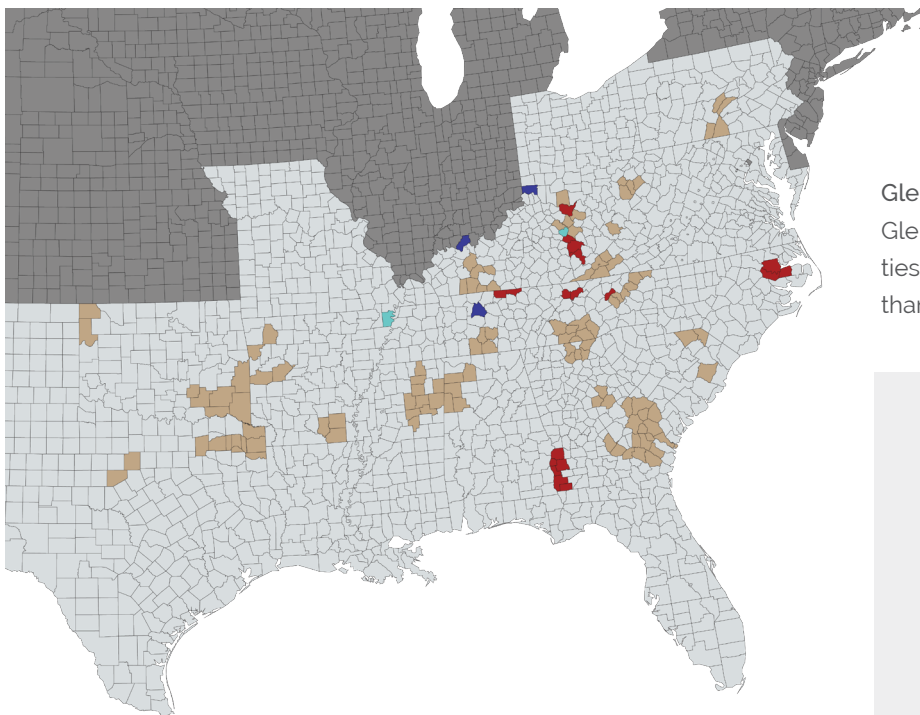
GLENMARY MISSION TERRITORY

Currently Glenmary priests, brothers and sisters serve in dioceses in Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee. With more members, Glenmary's missionary leadership in the United States could be expanded as more missionaries can establish a Church presence in counties where, in some cases, people have been waiting for the Church to be present for years. *"The harvest is plenty, but laborers are few."* (Mt 9:37).

MISSION APPROACH

Throughout our history, Glenmary missionaries have moved into counties, established the Church, nurtured communities to maturity, returned parishes to the local diocese and then moved on to areas of greater mission need.

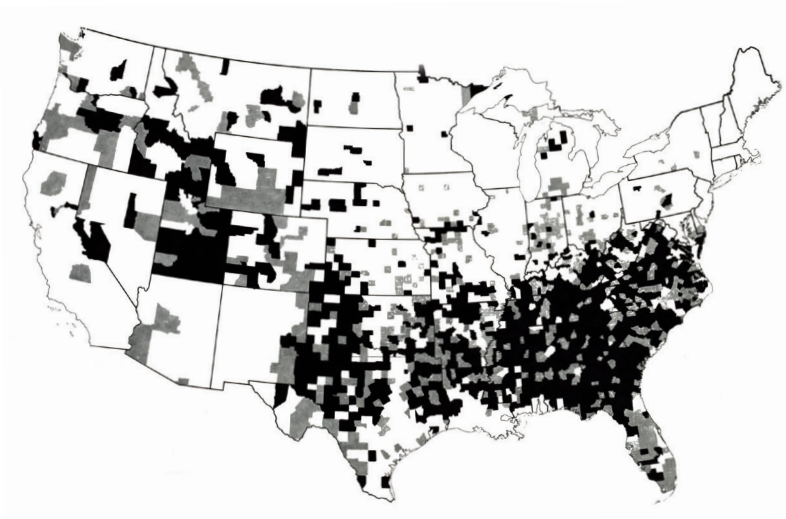
Over the past 80 years, Glenmary priests and brothers, along with coworkers, have successfully nurtured and/or established more than 120 mission communities.



Glenmary Mission Territory
Glenmary frequently serves in rural counties of Appalachia and South where less than 1% of the population is Catholic.

Glenmary Mission Counties

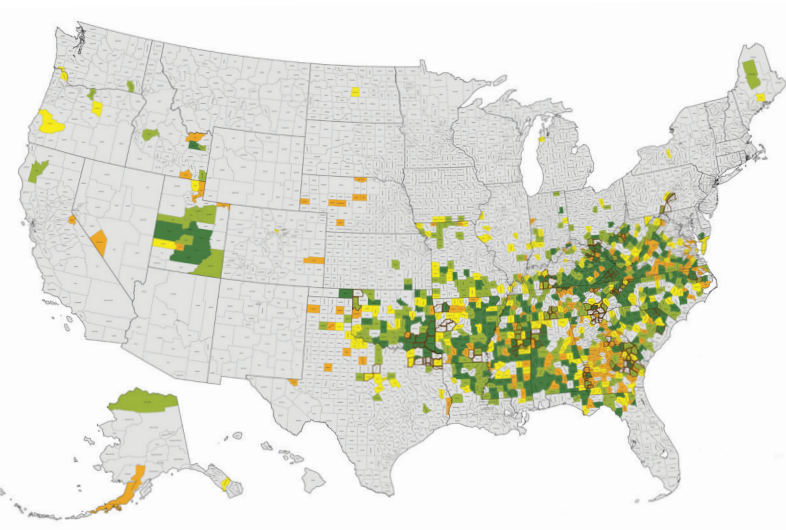
- Current Glenmary Mission
- Successfully Established Mission
- Current Glenmary Support Ministry
- Current Glenmary Sisters Mission



Mission Need Then

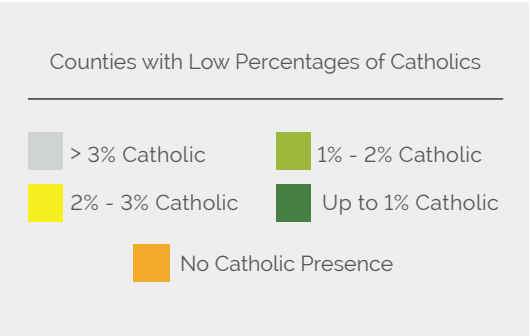
The original map of "No Priest Land, USA" created by Glenmary's founder, Father William Howard Bishop, in 1938.

Shaded counties indicate areas without a resident priest.



Mission Need Today

Colored counties indicate where the Catholic population is lowest, highlighting areas of greatest mission need.





MULTICULTURAL MISSIONS

Father Bishop encouraged his early missionaries to think of all the residents of a Glenmary mission county as members of a mission community. That's how Glenmarians approach their ministry in today's multicultural society as they reach out to and strive to serve the members of all ethnic and cultural groups they encounter.

A visitor to a Glenmary mission in an Appalachian or southern county might be surprised to find diversity among the handful of Catholics gathered for Sunday Mass. But this is the reality that Glenmary missionaries embrace as they work to serve all the people of a rural county.

Glenmary missions—typically the only Catholic presence in home mission counties—have reputations as being open and welcoming to all people, following the Gospel mandate: "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt 25:35)

Missioners have always proclaimed and witnessed to the Good News with a deep-seated respect for the cultures in which they live and work.

Ministry in such culturally diverse environments requires that all missioners possess or acquire the ability to speak other languages. Missioners must also possess the ability to reverence other cultural traditions and the presence of God in all peoples.





THE GLENMARY WAY OF LIFE

Poverty

Poverty encourages us to a personal simplicity of life and freedom from an excessive concern for possessions. This way of life demands adaptability, a willingness to live in simple circumstances, and a sense of responsibility in the care and use of personal and communal goods.

Chastity

We freely affirm for ourselves the celibate expression of a chaste life, conscious of the challenge such an affirmation calls forth from us. We attempt such a way of life only as a response to a gift of God.

Obedience

Believing that God has called us to service in community, each of us commits himself to active cooperation in the apostolic work of the Society. We recognize that obedience has a necessary place in our lives and ask of all a loyalty corresponding to this necessity.

Prayer

Our need for prayer is as fundamental as our need for God. Without prayer, faith soon dries up and dies. Without prayer, charity grows cold or becomes routine, and hope becomes a utopian dream.

THE GLENMARY OATH

Of my own free choice, I, _____, a member of the Glenmary Home Missioners, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, do solemnly promise and swear before God to dedicate myself for my whole life to the missionary apostolate in the rural areas and small towns of the United States and to the Glenmary way of life according to the Glenmary Constitution and Directory.

I am aware that the Glenmary way of life commits me to a special practice of poverty, chastity, obedience and prayer.

Thus bound in a covenant with the other members in the Glenmary community, I ask for their support and loyalty and pledge to them my own.





"IF OUR INTERIOR LIFE IS NOT KEPT ON A HIGH PLANE, OUR WORK IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF ACTIVITY CAN HAVE ONLY AN APPARENT SUCCESS AND NOT THAT FOR VERY LONG. THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT FOR TRUE SUCCESS IS THAT WE ALL STRIVE DAILY TO BE SAINTS."

—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder





A COMMUNITY OF MISSIONERS

Canonically, Glenmary is a Society of Apostolic Life. That means Glenmary's primary focus is on mission or the apostolate. On a practical level this emphasis means that Glenmarians shape a common life in whatever way best serves their apostolate as missionaries. There is a strong sense of community among the society's members, which is nurtured in a variety of ways.

In some mission counties, two or three Glenmarians may live in community. In other areas, although the Glenmarians may not live under the same roof, they come together regularly for liturgy, prayer, meals and collaboration in the mission effort.

The Glenmary community is spread out across many states and dioceses, the missionaries find support within their geographic regions. In each region, Glenmarians form districts in which members collaborate on projects and gather for common prayer, meals, business and recreation.

Each year, Glenmarians gather for an annual retreat; several days of theologi-

cal reflection; and a General Assembly.

During the annual Assembly, members make time for business, education and celebration. Many call it the annual "family reunion," since this is one of the few times of the year when they have the opportunity to gather as a whole, to visit with one another, pray as a whole community, share mission stories, meet new members, recognize special anniversaries and celebrate common life.

Glenmary's Constitution highlights the commitment to community: "We also voluntarily draw together in community because we recognize that in unity there is strength; that where many unite together there is a variety of talents to meet the challenges which our apostolate presents; and that there is the guarantee that our work will continue past the time when we will be capable of fulfilling our mission service. For these reasons and many more we desire a community, a fraternal group dedicated to each other and to the purposes expressed in this Constitution and its Directory."



Father Aaron Wessman

"As a member of Glenmary and a priest of the Church, I am on a journey. I can hardly believe from where I have come. I can hardly imagine where I will be going"



Brother Levis Kuwa

"I know that ministering to the people who are forgotten and living on the peripheries is what God wants me to do."



Brother David Henley

"The world might think I'm crazy for choosing a life of poverty, chastity, obedience and prayer, but I can't imagine doing anything else. This is who I am."

WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL STEPS FOR DISCERNING A MISSIONARY CALL?

Are you wondering if God is calling you to be a Glenmary missionary? If so, before all else, get to know God and yourself better. Then get to know Glenmary and the people of the home missions. And let Glenmary get to know you.

Ways to get to know God better:

- Seek out a spiritual director—someone to meet with on a regular basis to discuss how God is present in your life.
- Find the time and place to participate in a weekend retreat.
- Continue to be active in your local parish community.
- Pray and read the Bible.
- Read the lives of the saints and other spiritual readings.
- Go to Mass as often as possible.

Ways to get to know yourself better:

- Try new ministry opportunities in your local parish and community.
- Keep a daily journal. You might include spiritual reflections, mundane thoughts, even your struggles with your darker, more sinful moments.
- Talk with someone you trust about your fears and concerns as you enter into this decision.

Ways to get to know Glenmary and the people of the missions and to let Glenmary get to know you:

- **Set up a visit** by contacting Glenmary's Vocation Office and scheduling a time and location for you and the vocation director to meet and begin a conversation. This meeting may take place at your school, your home, a Glenmary mission near you—or at our headquarters in Cincinnati. This first visit usually lasts no more than a few hours.
- **Attend a "Come & See"** mission experience offered by Glenmary throughout the year. These mission trips last a weekend or an entire week and involve visiting Glenmary missions as well as meeting Glenmarians and the people they serve. The experience also has a retreat component that allows time to explore the themes of mission life, priesthood, and brotherhood.
- **Participate in a mission placement** to live and work in a mission. These placements can be one week or a month and are a great way to learn more about Glenmary. By sharing in the daily experience of mission life with Glenmarians, candidates can test their abilities while contributing to the work of Glenmary.

WHAT DOES GLENMARY FORMATION LOOK LIKE?

"The goal of Glenmary formation is to provide dedicated Glenmary Missioners who are adequately developed as Christian persons committed to the public witness of the evangelical counsels lived in the context of the Glenmary way of life, and who have the qualified skills of priests or brothers so that they can serve effectively in the apostolate of the Society."

—Glenmary Constitution

Glenmary's formation program for missionary priest and brother candidates begins at the House of Studies.

The first phase of formation—prenovitiate—provides an introduction to Glenmary's mission charism and way of life in an environment where the young man can discern whether God is calling him to become a missionary. Prenovitiate is generally a year in length.

The second phase of formation is novitiate. During this period of time a potential member prepares to make his First Oath, committing himself to the Glenmary way of life and living a life based in poverty, chastity, obedience and prayer.

During this period, the novice explores missionary life and Glenmary's spirituality. He also spends significant time deepening his own spiritual life by focusing on the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience and chastity.

First Oath is a temporary one-year commitment that is renewable for three to six years before Perpetual Oath is made. A temporary Glenmary member (seminarian or brother) continues to pursue advanced studies appropriate for his personal, spiritual, academic, professional and pastoral development.

Students also spend time during their formation living in Glenmary mission sites with Glenmary priests and brothers to observe and participate in mission life and community activities.

GLENMARY ASPIRANCY PROGRAM

This introductory program aims to help men further clarify their call to mission and prepare them to enter Glenmary's formation program.

Aspirancy is for men living in the United States who seek priesthood but do not have college degrees or men who have limited skills in English. Men may find this program helpful even if they are still unsure whether missionary ministry is for them.

Discerners in the aspirancy program study for an academic degree in an environment geared toward spiritual and emotional growth. Glenmary discerners study with other young men who are serious about their faith and their desire to follow Jesus. The desire to become missionaries is what unites the aspirants to Glenmary.



Father Charles Aketch

"It's hard to leave one's homeland, but Glenmary prepared me for the changes. I feel blessed to be a part of Glenmary's rural ministry."



Brother Ken Woods

"I enjoy rural ministry, in all its forms. There is such a need for people to experience God's love. I'm just happy that I can help in some way."



Father Tom Charters

"There's so much more to being missionary than bringing people to the Church — although, of course, that is the essential part of our ministry."



HOW DOES ONE APPLY TO JOIN GLENMARY HOME MISSIONERS?

Before applying, the applicant and the vocation director will have been in regular contact and questions and information will have been shared.

The application process is detailed, but it is done over a period of time. The applicant is assisted throughout the process by the vocation director or vocation counselor.

Once all the steps have been fulfilled, the admissions committee will review the application and interview the applicant.

All dialogue is done with prayer and open communication with the inquirer.

STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Documents required:

- Autobiography
- Five references
- Certificates of baptism and confirmation
- Educational transcripts
- Military discharge papers (if applicable)
- Annulment and divorce decrees (if applicable)
- Current photograph

Four interviews with:

- Vocation Director
- President of Glenmary
- Director of Education
- Director of Prenovitate

Examinations:

- Physical, dental and eye exams
- A psychological exam
- A background check



"WE ARE MINISTERING TO OVERLOOKED AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE. OUR QUEST FOR THE NEGLECTED AND FORGOTTEN TAKES US OUT BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF WHERE THE CHURCH IS AT PRESENT ESTABLISHED AND OBLIGES US TO ENTER NEW LANDS WHERE THE CHURCH IS UNKNOWN, TO SETTLE DOWN IN THESE NEW LANDS, AND BUILD UP CATHOLICITY FROM THE GROUND."

*—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder*

GLENMARY'S VOCATION TEAM

We are invested in helping you along your discernment journey. Know that we are already praying for you to experience the clarity of God's voice and the courage required to pursue the vocation God has planned for you.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Glenmary Vocation Office
PO Box 465618 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246
513-881-7411 · vocations@glenmary.org



VOCATION RESOURCES ONLINE:

Information, articles, reflections, and more:
glenmary.org/vocations

Scheduled Come & See events:
glenmary.org/come-see-events

Glenmary's Discernment Video:
glenmary.org/vocations/discernment/order-dvd

Brother David's Blog
davidhenley.blogspot.com



GLENMARY

HOME MISSIONERS

PO BOX 465618 CINCINNATI, OHIO 45246

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Glenmary Home
Missioners

Come & See

"THE ONE GREAT CENTRAL THOUGHT THAT BROUGHT OUR SOCIETY INTO EXISTENCE IN THESE UNFAVORED REGIONS WAS THE FACT THAT THESE REGIONS, OF ALL OTHERS IN AMERICA, ARE, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE LEAST SUPPLIED WITH AND THE MOST IN NEED OF CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE MEANS OF PROPAGATING IT."

*—Father William Howard Bishop
Glenmary Founder*