Scarboro Foreign Mission Society
1918-2018

Moments in History
Part Three, 1963-1990

Continued expansion, collaboration with laity in mission, and a commitment to social justice issues
Founded by Fr. Harvey Steele in Panama in 1964, the institute offers training in cooperatives to lay community leaders in Latin America, with a goal of educating and providing locals with the tools required to deal with socio-economic problems. Here is the original building of the Institute.
Mission to St. Lucia

Bishop Kenneth Turner arrived on the island of St. Lucia in 1964, working as pastor of the Our Lady of Fatima parish in La Clery (pictured here in 1972). The mission was interwoven with that of the St. Vincent mission and closed in 1989.
Fr. Arthur MacKinnon is assassinated in the Dominican Republic on June 22, 1965. He is shot and killed outside of Monte Plata during the country’s civil war.
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In 1967, he is ordained the first Bishop of the Prelacy of Itacoatiara.
Fourth General Chapter, July to August 1968

The Chapter is held in the Society's 50th year and has the largest contingent of delegates of members serving in the missions. New guidelines are drawn up to update the Society in light of Vatican II and to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.
Fourth General Chapter

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- Assisting him are Frs. George Marskell, as Vicar General, and Kenneth MacAulay, as Second Assistant.
Laity in Mission

- 1968: General Chapter asks the new Council to investigate accepting lay people as members of the Society.
- 1974: Chapter agrees to experiment with lay membership.
- 1987: The Department of Lay Association (DLA) is established.
- 1993: The DLA becomes the Lay Mission Office.
Fifth General Chapter

Fr. Michael O’Kane is elected Superior General.
Fifth General Chapter

• Authorizes the Society to accept lay candidates for missionary service.

• The Formation-Education Department is established to train both lay and priest missioners.
Before long, the Formation-Education program is thriving

A large group of lay men and women respond to the Society’s invitation to mission. Circa 1979.
Mission to Peru

In 1975, Fr. Jack Lynch joins Edmonton diocesan priests at the Cristo Luz del Mundo parish on the outskirts of Lima.

L-R: Frs. Louis Malo, Denis Hébert, Jack Lynch
In 1976, Fr. John Walsh is appointed associate director of the Ecumenical Forum.

He is the first Catholic to head this traditionally Protestant organization.
Sixth General Chapter

Fr. Kenneth MacAulay is elected Superior General.
Sixth General Chapter

• Mandates the participation and financial support of inter-church coalitions.

• Calls for the establishment of an office which would be responsible for Society commitments in the areas of justice and peace.
George Marskell is consecrated Bishop of Itacoatiara, July 30, 1978
In December 1978, Fr. Brian Swords is invited by the Chinese government to teach English. This marks the return of Scarboro Missions to China.
Fr. John Mclver goes to Zululand, Africa, to promote co-operatives, 1979

Fr. Mclver with his assistants, Joseph Dlamini (left) and Petrus Shange, at the Zulu Agricultural and Credit Union Central Cooperative Ltd., which he establishes in 1984.
Mission to Mexico
In 1980, Scarboro lay missioners Dan Anstett and Linda Shea begin working in Chiapas, Mexico.
Commitment to social justice issues

Resulting from the sixth General Chapter, the Justice and Peace Office is established in May 1980. Fr. Timothy Ryan is its first Director.
In 1981, Fr. Joseph Curcio goes to Guinea-Bissau for one year to do pastoral work.
Seventh General Chapter

Fr. Kenneth MacAulay is re-elected Superior General.
Mission to Nicaragua
Frs. Joseph Curcio (above left), Gerald Donovan, and Dan O’Hanley (Diocese of Charlottetown) arrive in 1984, when the country is in the midst of an armed conflict. Being located in the war zone, Scarboro missionaries minister to people caught in the crossfire.
General Assembly and Eighth General Chapter, June 1987
Inspired by Scarboro’s felt need for renewed dynamism, the entire Society membership is invited to attend the Assembly.
Eighth General Chapter

Fr. Brian Swords is elected Superior General.
In June 1990, Bishop Priamo Tejada of the Diocese of Bani honours Fr. Robert Hymus with the title of Monsignor in recognition of his nearly 50 years of service to the people of the Dominican Republic.
In 1990, Scarboro closes its mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines after more than 30 years of service.
A look back at the St. Vincent mission

View of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Kingston, which served as mission headquarters. 1962.
A look back at the St. Vincent mission

St. Benedict’s Day Nursery, established by Fr. Roland Roberts in 1963.
A look back at the St. Vincent mission

Archbishop Simon Lourdusamy visits Scarboro fathers. 1976.
A look back at the St. Vincent mission

L-R: Frs. Russell Sampson, Patrick McDonough, and lay missioner Nancy Friday along with Frs. Denis Hébert and Michael Blanch of the Edmonton Diocese. Circa 1983.