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Welcome to the **Missionary Childhood Association Monthly Mission Resource**. This 2017-18 resource is designed to connect **MISSIONARY OUTREACH** and Church teachings on **PRAYER**, complementing this year’s emphasis from the Archdiocesan Office for Catechetical Formation.

How providential that we begin this year in October, the Month of Missions, the Rosary and the celebration of World Mission Sunday. This October also holds a special event with the *“Miracle of the Sun”* as we end the year’s 100th Anniversary Celebration of Our Lady’s visit to the children of Fatima. Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, one of the *Pontifical Mission Societies* National Directors from 1950-66, developed the World Mission Rosary to *“embrace all continents, all people in prayer”* and also to help fulfill *“Our Lady’s petition at Fatima to pray for world peace through the Rosary.”*

With all of this in mind, our resources provide opportunities and activities to pray for the whole world in your classrooms throughout Philadelphia. Prayer is one of the most essential components in the work of Missionaries—I hope you will consider praying for them, especially each week in October, as Pope Francis’ proclaims that this is a *“good opportunity for enabling the Missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.”* World Mission Sunday 2017 Message

To help our office send the Monthly Resource to the correct person and provide inspiration for Mission animation on a regular basis, please complete the response form included in this mailing and return it to our office **BY OCTOBER 13, 2017**. You or your designee will receive the **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** resources electronically each month or sign up for Missionary updates on our website. In addition to the monthly resource, you can continue to rely on our office for MCA presentations, inspirational Mission ideas and materials introducing the World Mission Rosary.

The Archdiocesan ***Pontifical Mission Societies*** Office is a resource for you, your catechists and the parents and guardians of your students, here to assist you *in forming Missionary Disciples*. The **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** operates in every diocese of the world under a papal statute which directs the formation of all the faithful as Missionary Disciples and promotes solidarity in prayer and material sharing. Unlike secular organizations, MCA offers children the opportunity to combine their Catholic faith with works of charity. Church documents direct that the ***Pontifical Mission Societies*** should be given *“first place”* Ad Gentes no. 38 and *“the leading role”* Redemptoris Missio no. 84 in the Church’s work of Missionary formation and cooperation, and Archbishop Chaput has asked our parishes and schools to support these efforts.

Sincerely in Christ’s Mission,



Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger
Archdiocesan Director



Mission... at the Heart of Christian Faith

Theme Chosen by Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday, 2017

MCA Mission Ideas to be Missionary to begin the School Year

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include an [MCA Commissioning Prayer](#) at one of your early assemblies; click for here or at phillymissions.org.
- † Create a Missionary Childhood Association bulletin board display.
- † Add a Mission prayer corner to your classroom or place an MCA photo and Mission Bank on your prayer table. Photos for this month are included in this mailing.
- † Select classroom Mission Representatives, start a Mission Club or a Mission Rosary Group.

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include the Holy Father's October Prayer Intention for Evangelization in your daily communal prayer: *That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.*
- † Schedule an MCA presentation at a student's club activity.
- † Each week in October, students may want to give up a dessert, coffee or soda in sacrifice for Missionaries.
- † Encourage students to visit the website of Agenzia Fides, the information service of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, <http://fides.org/en>. This site provides updates of news from Missionaries around the world. Suggest that students read this daily and include one of the Mission people, projects or newsworthy events in daily prayer. Students can also subscribe to a daily email service from Agenzia Fides.

World Mission Month & Sunday – October 22, 2017

Chosen by Pope Francis, this year's theme is, **"Mission-the Heart of Christian faith."**, invites us to understand more than ever that Mission constitutes an essential aspect of the Christian faith; we are sent to our Brothers and Sisters in order to bear witness of our faith in Christ and to proclaim his Gospel. It is a time of prayer and a time to look beyond our local Church in Philadelphia and provide resources to Missionaries in 1,108 developing Dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, formerly Communist countries of Europe and remote regions of Latin America.

Send copies of the Mission Month calendar included in this resource guide to your students and their families. Each day offers a prayer or action inspiring Mission. *Contact our office for free copies.* For the Holy Father's message on **World Mission Sunday 2017** Message and for Catechetical Prayer Resources, for Elementary, Secondary or High School Age Students, including: [Children's Liturgy of the Word for Sunday, October 22](#), [Litany of Missionary Saints](#) and a [Eucharistic Holy Hour](#) for the Missions, click name above or visit our website at www.phillymissions.org.

Missionary Spirit begins with prayer.

Every person is able to offer prayers. Prayers go where feet cannot go and lead to sacrifices. Every person, young or old, can offer up their feelings of unhappiness, isolation and grief, or suffering, temporary or chronic, for those who suffer daily in Mission lands. Every person can give up something with the intention of sacrificing for the Missions.

WORLD MISSION ROSARY IDEAS

- † Pray the World Mission Rosary as a school, PREP or parish community. Contact our office for a short video or longer power point presentations and free brochures introducing this devotion, and for ideas for praying a living World Mission Rosary. This can be adapted for elementary, secondary or high school age groups.
- † While supplies last, printed copies of a 11x17 two-sided instructional piece, as well as supplies for making World Mission Rosaries, are available to principals and DREs.
- † Celebrate World Mission Sunday at one of your weekly school Masses or an assembly. Have students process in with a globe, flags of the world or large crosses in the colors of the World Mission Rosary. Prior to the Mass or assembly, ask students to write prayer intentions for the Missions. These can be placed in baskets or displayed on the crosses at the foot of the altar at Mass or in front at the assembly.
- † Additionally, you can assign each grade a color of the World Mission Rosary in which to dress or wear something in the color they are assigned. During Intercessory Prayers at Mass or Intentions at an assembly, pray for an intention for each continent represented and have the students stand as *"their"* area is prayed for. Intentions for each continental Mission are available in our free World Mission Rosary brochure or on our website.



Congratulations to our 2016-17 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Winners

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield will host the Archdiocesan celebration of World Mission Sunday at the 11:30AM Mass on October 22. Immediately following Mass, the Archdiocesan Winners in the 2016-2017 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest will receive certificates from Bishop John McIntyre. Visit our website for the list of Winners and click here for the [2017-18 Coloring Contest Entry Form](#). **Entry deadline is January 31, 2018.**

OCTOBER 2017



MISSION MONTH CALENDAR

1

Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Patroness of Missions. Guide us throughout this Missionary month.

[Little Way Week](#)

2

Feast of the Guardian Angels. The angels were Missionaries by announcing the Good News to Mary, to Joseph and to the Shepherds. *What is the Good News that we bring to the world?*

3

Feast of Ssint Theodora Guerin, Missionary to the USA. Ask for her help with home-work!



4

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Along with Pope Francis and his patron Saint, let us pray for the world to know the Gospel of love.



5

Feast of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Missionary who worked with our own, St. John Neumann. Pray for the Redemptorists' serving today in our Archdiocese.



6

Let us pray for the Americas— may we become more and more Missionary in word and deed.

Reflect—1 John 3:18

7

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Pray the World Mission Rosary for all Missionaries.



8



Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

9

Let us pray for Oceania so that this myriad of islands recognizes the greatness of the Gospel and Mission.



10

Jesus, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt. They were in a strange land. To be Missionaries means to *go out* to those who are strangers and those who are different from us. Is there anyone in your class or school whom you could "go out" to?

11

Peace is a gift of God. Let us pray for peace in our hearts, in our nation, and in our world!



12

Let us pray for the children in Africa that they will receive the blessings we take for granted: education, clean water, health, and food.



13

Let us pray for the many orphans in the world. May they come to know the love of God as their Father & Mary as their Mother.



14

Pray for the children of the Pacific Islands to be protected from frequent natural disasters that occur.



15

Feast of St. Theresa of Avila. Let us pray for Europe that it does not forget its Christian roots.



Mission
... at the
Heart of
Christian
Faith

16

Let us pray for Asia so that this vast continent may recognize the values of the Gospel and embrace the love of Christ.



17

Feast of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, first to use the word Catholic to describe the universal Church.



18

Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist. He wrote a Gospel & the Acts of the Apostles to share the Good News. *Whom can we write a letter or share the Good News of God with today?*

19



Feast of Sts. John De Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues. Pray for Native Americans. May they allow an encounter between their traditions and the Gospel.

20

Let us pray for Africa so that this continent, with an increasing number of Christians, takes a more active role in the Mission of evangelization.



21



Pray that the Holy Spirit puts a Missionary zeal in all our hearts.



23

Let us pray for the children of China that they can practice their faith in freedom.



24



Be Reminded—that everyone by their baptism is called to be a Missionary. Do a kind act to show this today.

25

Pray that all members of MCA are united.



26

Let us pray for the children in North America that wealth and materialism may not be the focus of their lives, but may they share their blessings with others.

27

The Gospel tells us that Jesus came to serve and not to be served. As Missionaries, we are called to serve everyone.



28

Feast of the Holy Apostles Simon and Judas. Let us pray that new apostles may proclaim the Good News to the world.



29

Mary, the first Missionary of the New Testament, went to share the Good News with her relative Elizabeth. Learn to share Jesus, who is within us, with our family.

30

All Hallow's Eve. Who is your favorite Missionary saint? Dress up as him/her for Halloween!

[Litany of Missionary Saints](#)

31

Pray with the communion of Saints that every knee will bend at the name of Jesus. This brings World Mission Month to a close. Remember that Mission is a daily occurrence.



Mission... at the Heart of Christian Faith

Visit www.phillymissions for prayers and more on World Mission Sunday

Praying the World Mission Rosary around the Globe.



Pray with children in Cambodia



Rosary being prayed in Ecuador



At Fatima, Our Lady's implored each of us to pray the Rosary for world peace. Missionary Sisters in India answer Our Lady's request by teaching children how to make and recite the Rosary.



missionary childhood association

2017-18

Participation Response Form

Return Date 10/13/17 or earlier

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION [MCA] RESOURCES WILL BE EMAILED MONTHLY TO THE CONTACT BELOW.

MCA Mission Contact: _____

Check one DRE Principal MCA Moderator

Parish/School: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

MCA members support children in the Missions in the following ways. Contact MCA for details on each. Please check at least one item in each section below to indicate how your students will respond to the Pope's call to be missionary disciples this year.

MISSION PRAYER AND ANIMATION

- MCA Commissioning Prayer Service
MCA Monthly Resource for Elementary, Secondary and High School Students
World Mission Rosary Prayer Service [includes video of MCA-funded school in Malawi]
Living World Mission Rosary
Missionary Childhood Presentation
Celebrate October as Mission Month [World Mission Sunday is October 22, 2017]
Advent Calendar and Resource for Missionary Children and Families
Celebrate the World Day of Missionary Childhood on the Solemnity of the Epiphany
Catholic Schools Week - MCA Catholic Schools in the Missions
Lent Calendar and Resource for Missionary Children and Families

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PROGRAMS CAN BE ADAPTED FOR ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS

MISSION SACRIFICE

- Classroom Mission Banks
Walk for the Missions or Mission Mile
Dime, Nickel, Penny, or Quarter Race
MCA Individual Collection Boxes
Mission Fair
Recycled toy design contest

Other [please describe]: _____

Please contact me to schedule an MCA presentation. Requested date[s]: _____

Please send MCA materials in the following quantities [ALL Bilingual English/Spanish]:

- MCA Collection Banks or Boxes
World Mission Rosary Posters for Teachers/Catechists
World Mission Rosary Brochures
Children's World Mission Rosaries @ \$5 each
MCA Membership cards
World Mission Rosary DVD

Please return to

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