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mca missionary childhood association

MARCH 2018 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

Inside you will find:

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Page 3: Reminders of the Pillars of Lent
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LENT - A Time To Foster Young Missionary Disciples

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

† ***Spring/Summer Mission Animation*** *Resources [3]*
† ***Pillars of Lent*** *Worksheet [4]*
† ***Mission Saint Spotlight:*** *St. Katharine Drexel [5]*
† ***Holy Week Around the World*** *[6]*
† *Distribute the* ***"Mission Focus: South Thailand."*** Talk to your students about creative ways they can make sacrifices during Lent. Through these sacrifices, MCA can help children in indigenous areas by providing for their educational needs. *[7]*
† Change the photos of your ***Mission Prayer Corner*** to include photos of the Schmidt family, a Missionary family in Morropón, Peru. Pray for Missionaries all over that world that teach children just like you about Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross! [8]

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

† Follow the **Living Lent in Mission for Youth and Young Adults** and **Pray the Stations of the Cross for Teens**. These and other resources for Lent can be found ***HERE*** or on our website: *phillymissions.org under Our Work > Youth in Missions > Lent*
† Include the Holy Father's March Prayer Intention for evangelization in your daily communal prayer: *That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.*

Thank you to all who continuously support the Missionary Childhood Association!

"On Friday, February 23, 2018 Ali Holden from the Missionary Childhood Association visited St. Peter the Apostle School to thank us for our continued support for their organization. She visited each classroom and had the children pledged that they would pray **One Hail Mary and offer sacrifices for the children in the Missions and the Missionaries**.

Ms. Holden explained to us how the children in these Missionary countries don't even have the bare necessity of clean water and that they would have to walk miles in order to bring some poor quality of water back to the village. The money our children sent allowed for a village to have a well and to share the pure water with their community.

They stressed that our community of children here at St. Peter the Apostle School is a part of their community where ***children are helping children***." - Ms. Meck and Grade 6, St Peter the Apostle School, Philadelphia

If you had a Mission Presentation this year, please contact the office to arrange for your students to Officially be Welcomed & Become MCA Members !

In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion". Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. **2018 Pope Francis' Lenten Message**

Spread...

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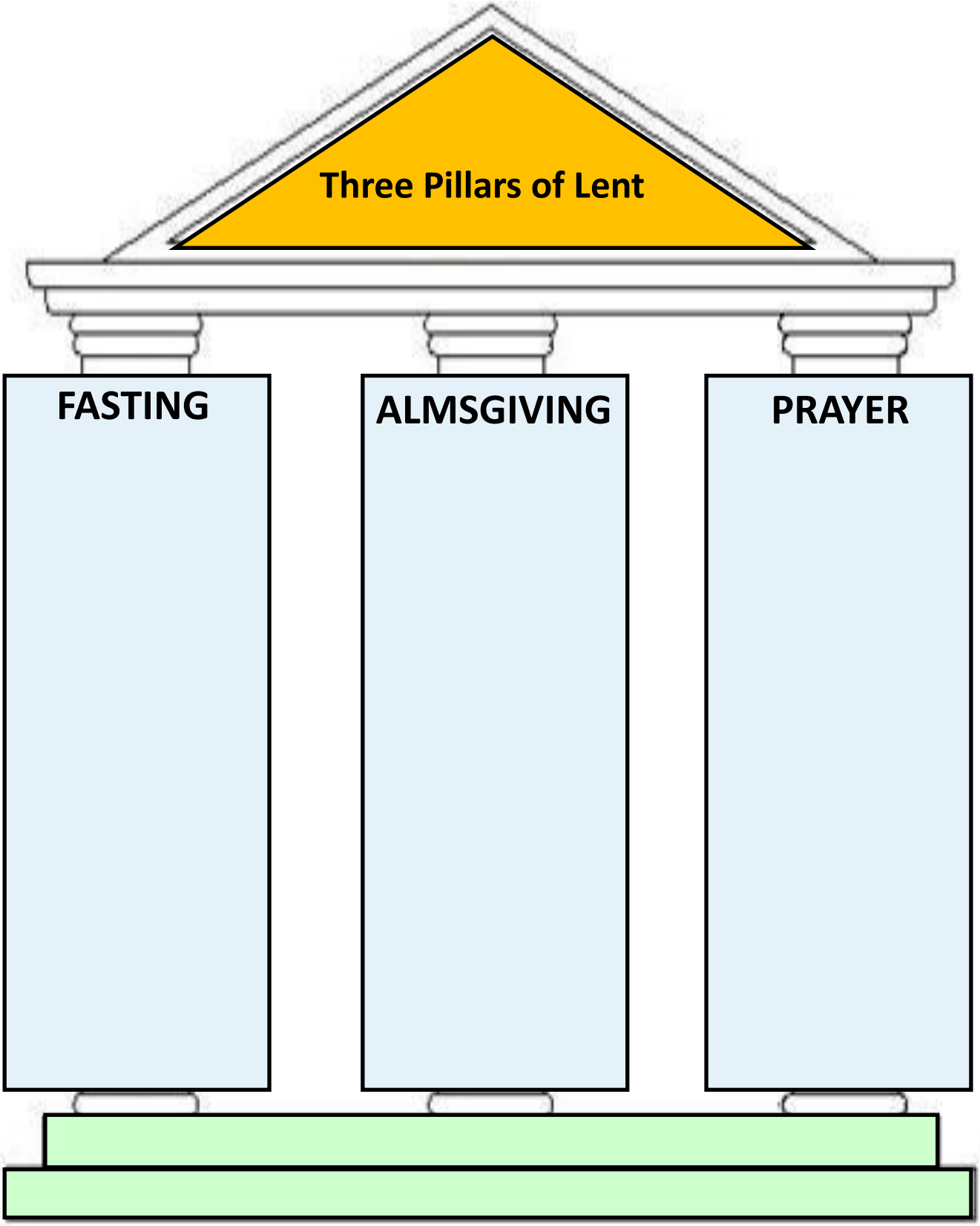
Prayer LOVE Sacrifice

To the Missions

Invite MCA to your PREP program this Spring or Summer

Call 215-587-3945 or e-mail *MCA @archphila.org*

Fasting, Almsgiving, and Prayer help the children in the Missions!
Write on the pillars ways you can put them into practice.



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Mission Saint Spotlight

Did you know that Saint Katharine Drexel was a Missionary?

Our own Philadelphia Mission Saint

- Francis Drexel, Katharine's father, was a wealthy Philadelphia banker, gave generously to charity. Francis' wife, Emma Bouvier, opened their home three times a week to give food and clothes to the poor. Their daughter, Katharine was formed by this example.
- In her travels to America West, Katharine saw the squalor and poverty of the Native American reservations. After her father's death in 1885, she used her inheritance to fund schools for the native people.
- In 1887, Katharine went to visit Pope Leo XIII to beg for Missionaries that could help reawaken the desire of her youth and the native people she wanted to help. The Pope looked to Katharine and suggested she, herself, become a Missionary, saying, *"Why don't you go to them yourself?"* Katharine took his words to heart.

- In 1894, Mother Katharine took part in opening the first Mission boarding school called Saint Catherine's Indian School, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- In 1897, Katharine asked the Friars of St. John the Baptist Province of the Order of Friars Minor to help staff a Mission for the Navajos in Arizona and New Mexico, and she would help finance their work with the Pueblo Native Americans.
- By the time of her death, she had more than 500 Sisters teaching in **63 Schools** throughout the country and she established **50 Missions** for Native Americans in 16 different states.

"Why don't you go to them yourself?"

How can you follow the command of Jesus, like Saint Katharine did, to "Go and make Disciples of all nations . . . " Matthew 28: 19

Feast Day: March 3
Patron of: Racial Justice and Philanthropists
Birth: November 26, 1858
Death: March 3, 1955

Saint Katharine Drexel Prayer

Ever loving God, you called Saint Katharine Drexel to teach the message of the Gospel and to bring the life of the Eucharist to the Black and Native American peoples.

By her prayers and example, enable us to work for justice among the poor and oppressed. Draw us all into the Eucharistic community of your Church, that we may be one in you.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Week Around the World

The Philippines

Haiti

Africa

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Mission Focus: Northern Thailand

Books and Lunch for Tribal Children in Thailand

Located in Thailand's northern provinces on the mountain slopes bordering Myanmar, there are now 80,000 Akha and Lahu people living These indigenous hill tribes have fled civil wars in Burma and Laos. The Akha and Lahu people are among one of the smallest, poorest and least-developed hill tribes in Southeast Asia.

They live in remote villages in stilt houses made with natural materials. The nearest schools require uniforms and other school fees. These costs make it impossible for families to afford—most of the children cannot attend.

Although they live in simple conditions, Missionaries have brought the *"Good News"* of Jesus and also hope to provide children with an education.

The **Missionary Childhood Association** helps provide 200 Akah and Lahu children with an education and textbooks, school uniforms and transportation.

Please pray and sacrifice for the Akah and Lahu children and as a MCA member take a part of ***"children helping children"*** around the world.

$10 *helps buy school supplies for one child!*

During Lent, remember to not only pray for the children in Mission countries, but also the people who have been called by God to help them! They need our prayers to help them have the strength, faith and courage to continue doing hard work around the world.

Taylor and Katie Schmidt and their six children; Malachi, Ruth, Leo, Anthony, Faustina and Adele are a full-time Missionary family in Peru. They are building a church for the Morropón community because there isn't one. Mass is just held every two months inside a barn. This faith community desires a church of their own. The community has the land to build on and have raised $300.00 themselves. The Schmidt family has raised $20,000.00 and will help with construction themselves.

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