



Archdiocese of Philadelphia

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Sept/Oct 2023 • Mission Resource



If you are new to our Mission Resources, Look for the star in this special September issue to explain how to utilize these pages with your educators and students!

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[Click here to have the next Mission Resource sent directly to your email.](#)

Dear Mission Moderators, Principals and Directors & Coordinators of Religious Education,

May God's blessings be upon you as you begin your New School Year! The **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]**, is eager to continue to inspire young Missionaries and build a sense of prayer and service for other children globally. **We are excited to welcome Mr. Paul Cillo as our new MCA Manager.** Paul took over for Ali Holden in June and has been busy this summer giving presentations and preparing for the upcoming school year.

Through **MCA**, we must continue the Mission of the Church, and "go out and make disciples of all nations." We must pray for these children and offer up our sacrifices to help them. I encourage you to use this resource to continue inspiring *Missionary Discipleship* among your students during this school year and especially during the Eucharistic Revival, as we reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to our faith.

MCA promises to be a **RESOURCE FOR YOU**, whether it is through Mission Animation presentations, virtual prayer services, our Archdiocesan Mission Days, Rosary-making Service Activities or various initiatives to help your students embrace their Catholic identity *and be Missionary!* As always, we ask that even though there are many worthy charities in need of our support, **that you first include MCA in your curriculum and education** programs. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to another wonderful school year fostering Missionary Disciples in Philadelphia.

Monsignor James D. Beisel

Reverend Monsignor James D. Beisel
Archdiocesan Director

Sincerely in Christ's Mission,

Paul Cillo

Paul Cillo
Mission Education Manager

What is Missionary Childhood Association [MCA] ?

In collaboration with OCE & OCF, MCA provides this **MISSION RESOURCE** so you can pull ideas from it, engage your children with Missionary activities and teach them about the Missions.

Archbishop Perez has asked that all Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREPs **prioritize the Mission Societies**. We understand that you cannot possibly use all of our resources, but you are asked to implement them, *how many as possible*, into your curriculum to inspire the youth of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia **to be Missionary Disciples!**

Angels- Messengers of God



STS. MICHAEL,
GABRIEL, RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS

September 29th

September 29th is the feast of the Archangels. This is a great opportunity to talk about what it means to be Missionary. Just as Angels are messengers of God, we are called to be messengers and to share the good news. [Click here for an activity on Angels.](#)

Back to school Prayer Service

Lead your class in a brief prayer ([Linked above](#)) service reflecting on their call to be Missionary and praying for the needs of the church.



Pray for the missions this school year.

Upcoming Dates and Events



On this page are some ways that your school or class can join the broader church of Philadelphia. Click on the link of each title for more details.

Little Way Dress Down Day

September 29th

Eucharistic Congress

Saturday 30th @ The
National Shrine of Our Lady
of Czestochowa

Virtual Prayer Service

Click above to join on
Wednesday October 18th
2:00PM

World Mission Sunday

Sunday October 22nd

Christmas Art Contest

Begins in December

Advent Virtual Prayer Service

Click to join on
Tuesday December 12th,
11:00AM

For more Mission ideas, contact Paul Cillo
Mission Education and Communications Manager
MCA@archphila.org • 215-587-3945 • www.phillymissions.org

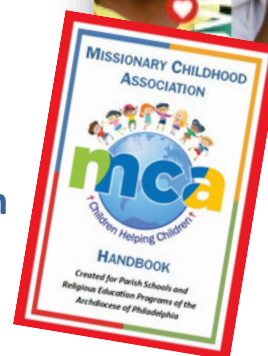
Mission Education Materials 2023-2024



Email Paul at

MCA@archphila.org

to learn about and
order materials to
help enhance your
classroom's journey in
forming Missionaries
in your School and
Parish communities!



Classroom Prayers
Mission Days
Live Mission Rosary
Mission Presentations
Mission Activities
Worksheets
"Fun" raisers

Mission Animation for Students

MCA in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and world-wide exists to raise awareness of what it **means to be a Missionary** and how to foster the **Missionary spirit** to students throughout the Archdiocese.

Invite Mission Educator, Paul Cillo to your school and bring to life the imagination of your students hearing personal testimony of what it means **to be a Missionary** in prayer and service of others.

School visits can be scheduled for your entire student body, for a selected student-grade group or your Religious Education Program on any day, in the evening and **even on the weekend**. This is a great learning "**real-life**" activity for your students to experience more about Missionary work, the Mission spirit and our call as baptized Catholics. Archbishop Perez encourages all schools to invite a local Missionary speaker to speak with their students. **This year we will be connecting Mission to the Eucharist**





ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

July 7, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I know that many of our worthy charitable ministries seek your support each year by asking that you share information with your school and PREP families.

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support our own Catholic ministries, one of which is the Pontifical Mission Societies through the Missionary Childhood Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Church documents tell us 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 through their material support, benefiting the poorest in the world. Those of us with the means to do so have a responsibility to support that work as best we can.

In this light, I ask you to promote the *Missionary Childhood Association* and the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* to the best of your ability. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list where dedicated weekends are allocated to garner support for this missionary work.

Parishes, schools, and religious education programs may elect to support other worthy charities, but this should be *in addition* to their works of prayer and sacrifice through the Missionary Childhood Association, one of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Following these guidelines should help better support the universal evangelization efforts of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies.

I extend my thanks to all those in our local Church that already actively participate in the works of these charities, and am ever grateful for your efforts in forming those you serve in the Catholic Faith. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

For Secondary & High School Age Students

- † Have your students explore *FIDES* [www.fides.org/english]. *FIDES* is an excellent multi-lingual news source to discover major events that are happening in and affecting the Missions. It has been the official information service of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** since 1927.
- † Include the **Holy Father's September Prayer Intention** in your daily communal prayer: **For people living on the margins**. *We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.* In response to the Holy Father's Prayer intention for this month, look on our website to find how Missionaries and the people they serve are making a difference.
- † Have students make an action plan to stand in solidarity, to sacrifice and to pray for people living on the margins. [Click here for a template.](#)
- † It is always a great opportunity for High School students to learn about the lives of Missionary Saints and discuss ways in which they were *Missionary* throughout their lifetime. Knowledge of the saints can hopefully inspire them to one day participate in Mission trips of service in foreign lands that is popular among students their age.
- † **Fundraising** is part of our commitment to be Missionaries. We ask you to invite your students to make a financial offering or plan a fundraiser in response to the presentation. Students have an opportunity to begin a life-long commitment of giving back to their Church community when they generously give in their high school years.



Two High School students at their “desks” learning in Bhutan, a landlocked country in East Asia

Teachers and Students at Free High School in Cite Soleil, Haiti shown below



In our Resources, you will find activities for various ages and school levels; pre-school, elementary, special education and even Secondary Schools and High Schools!



Saint Matthew, Evangelist

Little is known about Saint Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

Matthew was a tax collector working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a *Disciple of Christ*. He was with Christ when Jesus was dining with sinners and tax collectors, people who were living on the margins of society.

From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people, who were of the Jewish culture, that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant Messiah brandishing a sword.

Like Angels and like Missionaries, Saint Matthew reminds us of the need to share the Gospel. Christ calls all of us individually but he gives us a collective Mission. He challenges all of us to reach out to those on the fringes of society and to share God's mercy and love.

Who is God inviting you to share the Gospel with today?

How can you follow the example of Saint Matthew?



Each month we dedicate a page in the resource to a Mission Saint who devoted their life in true Missionary Discipleship. It is important to learn about their lives and look to them for inspiration.

Birth: 1st Century

Death: Circa 1st Century

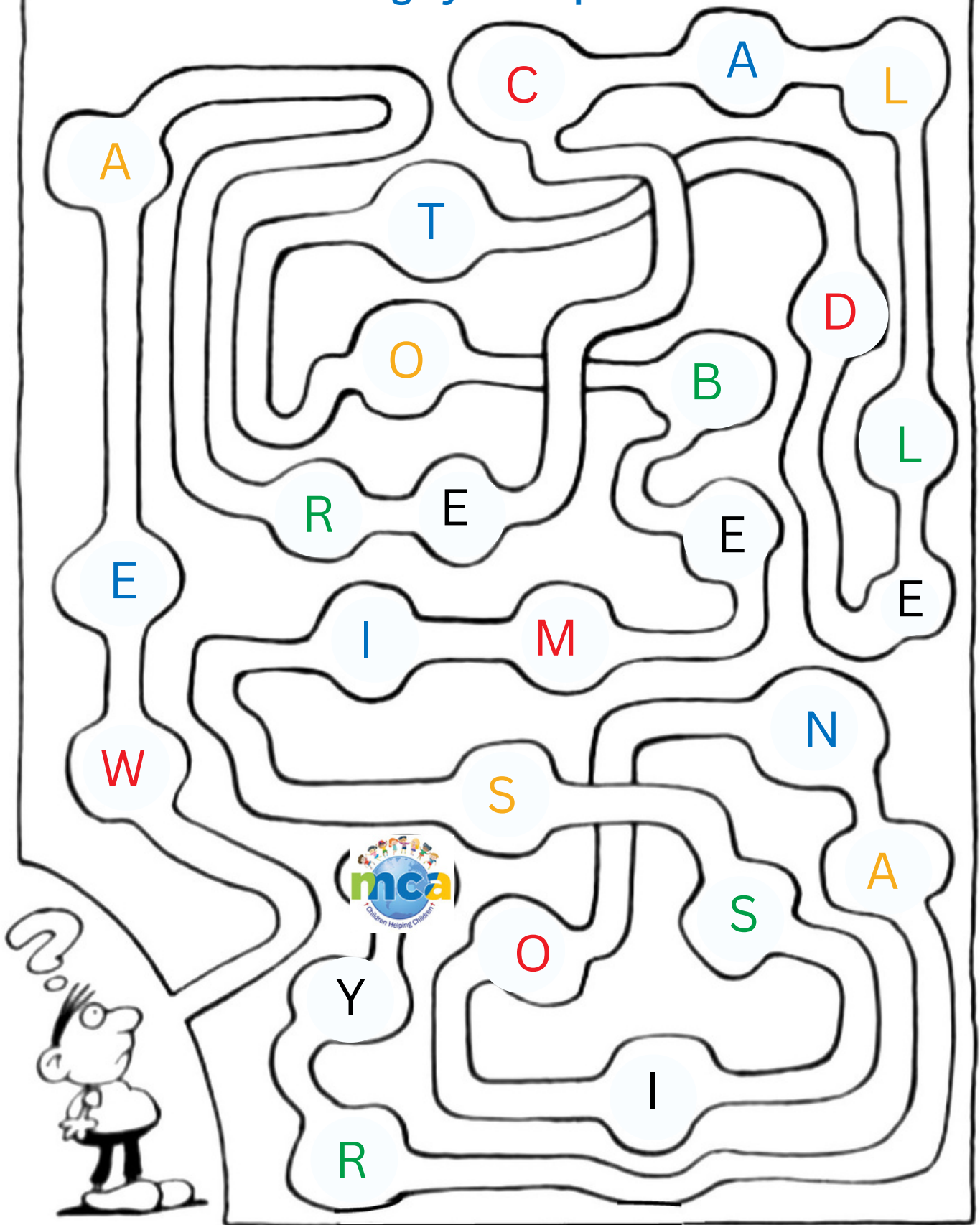
Feast day: September 21st

Patron Saint of Bankers



Each month we offer a **MISSION ACTIVITY** to use in the classrooms. These activities usually require some creativity. You can plug them into your lesson plan to aid your students **in being Missionary**.

Through your Baptism . . .





Perhaps the most important component of the resource is the Mission Focus page. As we are reminded to pray and sacrifice, we must continue to earn about the many children and communities we help to support

Mission Focus: Kids in Malawi Care for the "poorest of the poor"



As we are called to be God's Witnesses, we ask the Holy Spirit to show us the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ that we may make an offering for them. One such example can be found in the children in Malawi, Africa.

"Gogo" is the Chichewa word for grandmother. In Malawi, the "gogos" are the poorest of the poor. Many have lost their children to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, which have left these elderly gogos abandoned and alone without anyone to care for them.

But, for childless gogos, like Gogo Nachisale, a 70-year-old living alone in Lilongwe in only a sugar cane shack with no windows or doors, even the unconditional love of a grandchild is a deprivation.

This gogo caught the attention of Father Vincent Mwachawawa, who heads the Societies in Malawi. In one of the world's poorest countries, where homelessness can be a chronic problem, he and his team decided to act and recruited the "smallest" ones among the small to help out: the children taking part in the Missionary Childhood Association, a Pontifical Mission Society, at Saint Joseph Ludzi Parish.

Father Vincent told the children about Gogo Nachisale. In a matter of weeks, the children of the parish had raised the funds to build her a home in the rural community of Saint Joseph Ludzi Parish in the Archdiocese of Lilongwe.

"The children were the ones who pushed their parents to get involved," Father Vincent explained, "These kids, at 6, 7, 8 and 9 understood that in gogo Nachisale, their neighbor, was Christ. We need more children like these children. None of them have things to spare. But what little they do have, they wanted to share."

Each of us are called to teach by witness. In Malawi, Father emphasizes, "children learn that among Catholics there is a universality in action, a global network of prayer, charity, support and love," In empowering the children of Lilongwe to help gogo Nachisale, he has inspired the next generation of popes, clergy, Religious, and lay missionaries. And perhaps, inspired others to help other gogos like Nachisale, who will no longer be lonely and forgotten.



- Will **your students** pray a Hail Mary for kids around the world who are also in MCA? Pope Francis asks all students in **MCA** do so.
- Can **your class** sacrifice and help to pay to support kids around the world as they help gogos like Nachisale?
- Can **your school** raise enough to provide books for an entire classroom?



The last page of each resource is always a photo page for your Mission Prayer Table or Corner. We ask that you designate a place in your classroom space to the Missions. You can include a World Mission Rosary, a Mission Collection box and more! You can Contact Paul Cillo to send you these things.

It is important to remember that each and every one of us is a Missionary, called to delivery God's message to the whole Church. Pictured here is the World Mission Map. **GREEN** symbolizes the forests and grasslands of **AFRICA**, **BLUE** is for the ocean surrounding the **ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC**, **White** symbolizes **Europe** the home of the Holy Father, **RED** symbolizes the fire of faith that brought the first Missionaries to the **AMERICAS**, and **Yellow** is for the morning light of the east, symbolizing **Asia**.

We must pray and sacrifice for all the children in these places who do not know the love of **JESUS!**

