

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2019 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

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]**, one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, has had an exciting Summer, as we continue in this **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION [EYM]**. Over the last several months, many schools, PREP programs, Vacation Bible Schools and Youth Groups have become a part of **MCA** for the very first time!

With a new start in so many places, and feeling the spirit of Mission come alive in Archdiocese of Philadelphia, **MCA** developed and is excited to introduce our new logo that represents exactly what the **Missionary Childhood Association** is all about, **Children Helping Children**, all over the world! The prayers and sacrifices of the students in Philadelphia support children in 1,111 diocese in Mission areas across the globe. These are children who may not have food to eat, water to drink or a bed to lay their head on at night.

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 **EYM**. **MCA** promises to be a resource to you, whether it is through the Mission Animation presentations, 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, **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.

Sincerely in Christ's Mission,

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger • Archdiocesan Director

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Not familiar with the Missionary Childhood Association [MCA] ?

In collaboration with OCE & OCF, MCA provides this **Monthly Mission Resource** so you can pull ideas from it, engage your children with Missionary activities and teach them about the missions. Archbishop Chaput has asked that all Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREPs **prioritize the Mission Societies**. We understand that you cannot possibly use all of these resources, but you are asked to implement them, *however possible*, into your curriculum to inspire the youth of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia **to be Missionary Disciples!**

Resources for fostering *EXTRAORDINARY Missionary Disciples* during ORDINARY Time

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Ideas for the last months of the *Extraordinary Year of Mission!*
MCA Mission Animation and Education Materials Flyer
[Page 3 & 4]
- † MCA Participation Response Form [Page 5]
- † September Mission Saint Spotlight: Saint Gregory the Great [Page 6]
- † Back to School Litany [Page 7]
- † Future Missionary Activity Page [Page 8]
- † Distribute the “**Mission Focus: Cameroon**” information piece.
Pray with your students for children who have no school to go to this September [Page 9]
- † This is the start of a new school year. Create an area for a Mission Prayer Corner with photos and, perhaps, items like crosses, musical instruments, Statues of Mission saints, Jesus, Mary & Joseph, etc. that are from different places in the world. Each month, include our *Mission Photo page*. For September, place the photos of the World Mission Map in a prominent location on the table. [Page 10]



Children at a school in Haiti supported by MCA

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Read with your students Pope Francis’ letter to Cardinal Fernando Filoni on the **Extraordinary Month of Mission** found [HERE](#). Explain that since last October in Philadelphia we have been celebrating an **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** proclaimed by Archbishop Chaput, ending this October, 2019.
- † Include the Holy Father’s September Prayer Intention in your daily communal prayer: *That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.*
- † There are multiple Missionary Saints, have your student’s select their favorite Saint, and discuss ways in with they were *Missionary* throughout their lifetime.

This Summer, the Missionary Childhood Association visited numerous Summer PREPs and Vacation Bible Schools. Thank you to the all of the children in these following programs for the prayers and sacrifices they made for the Missions:



Ali Holden with students at St. Eleanor, Collegeville AND the Pope!

- † Saint Richard’s Summer PREP in Philadelphia
- † SS. Simon and Jude VBS, West Chester
- † Saint Robert Bellarmine Summer PREP, Warrington
- † Saint Francis of Assisi Bible Camp, Springfield
- † Camp Guadalupe, Malvern
- † Saint Helena VBS, Blue Bell
- † Mary Mother Redeemer Camp Caritas, North Whales
- † Saint Maria Goretti VBS, Hatfield
- † Saint Martin of Tours Summer PREP, New Hope
- † Saint Eleanor Summer PREP, Collegeville
- † Saint Peter Summer PREP, West Brandywine

•If you would like this resource printed in **COLOR** for your catechists, simply contact Ali Holden at the MCA office and request the quantity you will need•

IDEAS TO KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The **MCA** resources for this year connect Missionary outreach and the teachings complementing the monthly resources from the Archdiocesan Office for Catechetical Education.

SEPTEMBER . . . BEGIN THE YEAR *BEING MISSIONARY*

- Include an **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** Commissioning Prayer, online at www.phillymissions.org, in one of your first assemblies or school community gatherings.
- Create a **MCA** with a focus on Mission bulletin board display.
- Add a Mission prayer corner to your classroom or place an **MCA** photo and Mission bank on your prayer table
- Share with your students the news from the **MCA** in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. These children are a perfect example of living the **MCA** motto of children helping children and, “*Everyone has something to give and to receive.*” How might your students benefit from the prayers and example of these Missionary Children? Find out more [HERE](#)
- **Select classroom MCA Mission Representatives, start a Mission Club or a Mission Rosary Group.**
- **Schedule an MCA presentation.**
- Include the Holy Father’s Missionary Prayer Intention for September in your communal prayer: *That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.*
- Visit the website of Agenzia Fides, the information service of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, <http://fides.org/en> for news and photos. You can also subscribe to a daily email service.



Looking ahead to October:

- Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of the Missions, is October 1.
- **World Mission Sunday** will be celebrated in every parish around the world on October 20th. Plan a Mission Day or Mission Fair to learn about the Missions and conduct a simple fundraiser such as a dress down day
- This year’s celebration of World Mission Sunday is extra special as it is in the Extraordinary Month of Mission, which Pope Francis is asking to be celebrated INTERNATIONALLY. Be a part of the Extraordinary MONTH, which will close the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** for Philadelphia.
- Pray the World Mission Rosary as a school or parish community. Contact our office for a short video and free brochures introducing this devotion, and for ideas for praying a living World Mission Rosary.

For more Mission ideas, contact Alixandra Holden

Mission Education and Communications Coordinator

MCA@archphila.org • 215-587-3945 • www.phillymissions.org

Archdiocese of Philadelphia • 222 N. 17th Street • 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mission Animation for Students brought to you by Missionaries

MCA in Philadelphia 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 a local Missionary to your school & 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. The MCA office collaborates with many local Missionaries from around the world who are happy to share their experience with your students.

The school visits can be scheduled for your entire student body,



Students at OLMC



Ali Holden, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Spirit Day in Doylestown

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 **to be Missionaries!** MCA, along with Archbishop Chaput, encourages all schools to invite a local Missionary speaker to speak with their students.

Did you schedule a Presentation for the Mission Month of October? Call **215-587-3945** or email Ali Holden at **MCA@archphila.org** to invite a Missionary to your school or PREP.

Mission Education Materials 2019-2020

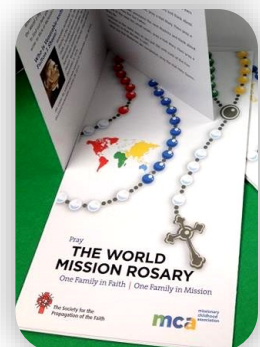


Use the Form on the next page to order your MCA Mission Materials
All Materials are Free!



LOOK for this IN YOUR MAILBOX!
For Your Year-Long guide to Mission

A one-stop, all-in-one-place resource—an MCA Handbook will be available to all Principals, Mission Moderators, and D/CRE's



2019-2020 **Participation Response Form**

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

_____ 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 20, 2019)

_____ 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

Mission Sacrifice

_____ Classroom mission banks _____ MCA mite boxes

_____ Walk for the Missions or Mission Mile _____ Mission Fair

_____ Dime, Nickel, Penny, or Quarter Race _____ 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:

_____ MCA Mite Boxes for Collections _____ MCA Membership Cards

_____ World Mission Rosary Posters for Teachers/Catechists

_____ World Mission Rosary Brochures *[Bilingual]* _____ World Mission Rosary DVD

_____ Children's World Mission Rosaries @ \$5 each *[call for discounts on large orders]*

Please return to

Alixandra Holden, Missionary Childhood Association, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone 215-587-3945 / Fax 215-587-3561 / MCA@archphila.org

Saint Gregory the Great: *Began the First Large Scale Mission in Rome*

Pope Saint Gregory I, also known as the Great, was the Pope of the Catholic Church between 590 and 604 AD. Gregory's family was very wealthy owning income-producing estates on the island of Sicily. Gregory was well educated; he excelled in all his studies. He also became an expert in law. He excelled so



much he became the Prefect of Rome, just as his father had been. Gregory was only 33 years old. **After five years, he resigned and became a Benedictine Monk.**

After Gregory's father died, Gregory converted the family Villa in Rome into a

Monastery. Today the Monastery still stands as the San Gregorio Magno al Celio.

As a monk, Gregory took the Monastic life very seriously. He made clear he preferred the Monastic life in a series of writings praising it. He also referred to himself as a Servant of God. The habit remains in practice to this day and many clergy still refer to themselves as servants.

Pope Gregory was famous for the emphasis he put on Missionary work. He sent many people out to bring many to Jesus and into the Church. Anglo-Saxon Britain was, at that time, still on the frontier of Christendom. It was Pope Gregory who dispatched St. Augustine [of Canterbury] to Kent in 597. Called "*the Great*," Gregory has been given a place with Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome, as one of the four key doctors of the Western Church.

Pope Gregory made many changes to the Mass, some of which remain today, **The position of the Our Father in the Mass remains where Pope Gregory placed it.**

Discussion Questions:

- How can begin a Mission to spread the Gospel in your community?
- What could you do in your everyday life to act/live like Saint Gregory?



Feast Day: September 3rd

Patron of: Musicians, singers, students and teachers

Birth: About 540

Death: March 12, 604

"Age quod agis"

Which translates to *Do What You Are Doing*. Saint Gregory said this to encourage those around him to keep focus on what they are doing in trying to **serve the Lord**.

Back to School Litany

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles *[unlit]*, a globe to represent the missions and a **World Mission Rosary**

Leader: A litany is a form of prayer; the reader reads the beginning of the sentence and the group answers with the same response each time. Today, we will pray a **Back to School Litany**, thanking God not only for the time of rest we had during the summer but also for the opportunity we have to learn and grow during this school year. We will also pray a **Missionary Childhood Litany**, asking God's blessing on children around the world who lack some of the blessings we enjoy.

Back to School Litany

Reader 1: *Our response will be: We thank you God, Father of all.*

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For the time to rest, play and enjoy our friends -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For the summer sun and refreshing rains that help to grow the food to nourish us -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For our families, especially the adults who care for us -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For good books to read, games to play and new places to visit -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For the mountains and the sea, the city and the farms we may remember from our summer vacation -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For every moment of our lives this past summer -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Leader: Gracious God, Father of all, we thank you for the moments of our summer. Help us to keep them in mind as we now remember those children who don't have the luxury to have time to play, to eat well or to be cared for by loving families and friends.

All: Amen.

Missionary Childhood Litany

Reader 1: Our response will be: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions whose work is exploited every day -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 1: For children who don't have enough to eat -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions who have no one to care for them -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 1: For mission children who may never know how to read and write or go to school -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions living in lands scarred by war and natural disaster -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Leader: God, our Father, hear our prayers for those in need. Guide us as we work this year to reach out as missionaries in Your Name.

ALL: Amen.



FUTURE MISSIONARY

_____ IS CALLED TO SERVE!

In the box above, write your name on the line draw a picture of yourself! **Be creative in illustrating a picture of you doing Missionary work.** You could be making sacrifices for children who have no water, you could be helping plant crops in a place where many go hungry, you could be teaching a young child in a Mission Land how to read, or praying for others who have no one else to pray for them. When finished, hang this in the classroom as a reminder that we must continue our journey as Missionaries, you never know where your love for Jesus and the Missions can take you!

MISSION FOCUS: CAMEROON, AFRICA



In a country plagued by bribery and corruption, where the rich continuously manipulate the poor to take the little they have in order to continue to grow richer, the Diocese of Kumbo in Cameroon is striving to build schools and teach the Catholic faith to those who feel hopeless.

With an illiteracy rate of over 40%, the church in Kumbo has made elementary education their first priority and most important Missionary task.

Sending a child to school can cost \$100 dollars! This may not seem like a large sum for students going to school in Philadelphia, but many families in this Mission country do not **make even \$30 dollars a year**. What kind of a future do these children have without an education?

Every penny or nickel counts. It is not expected that one child would give the \$100. It is all about making small but important sacrifices. This is the motto of **MCA** - children helping other children, like those in Kumbo who cannot afford to go to school.

**Students in Cameroon, Africa need
YOUR help to build a school!**

Here's an example of how pennies and nickels can make a difference! Over 400 KM [about 248 miles] south of

Kumbo is Buea. The **St. Mark's Primary School** in Buea,

Cameroon educates over 200 students. All students,

regardless of grade level, currently share one room. They sit on benches and have very limited space.

There is no restroom, and students and

teachers must walk several miles for

clean water. The Buea community is

fundraising to build classrooms and a

restroom with plumbing. Any extra

money will be used to buy books and

supplies. *Just \$10 from your school can*

help get the construction started!



Children helping to build their own school in Kumbo



IN A MISSION LAND LIKE CAMEROON:

\$1 can help get pencils and chalk for the classroom

\$10 buys construction materials nails, etc.

\$50 can purchase heavy construction materials like bricks

\$100 for drywall

- Will **your students** pray a Hail Mary for children in Cameroon each day this school year? Pope Francis asks all students in **MCA** do so.
- Can **your class** sacrifice and help to pay for heavy construction materials to build a classroom?
- Can **your school** raise enough to provide pencils for an entire classroom?



PRAY FOR CHILDREN IN THE MISSIONS JUST LIKE YOU !

During this **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**, and especially during the *Extraordinary Mission Month of October* coming up, 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!**

