

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2020 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM MCA

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

I would first like to wish you a healthy and happy New Year. At the beginning of 2020—a New Decade—it is my prayer that this year is filled with countless blessings for you, your family, your parish and school community.

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season unwinds, I invite you to once again reflect on **our call to live as Missionary Disciples**, who know and live the faith, confidently sharing the Gospel with those around us.

As educators, you have the distinct privilege of sharing the “Good News” with the future of the Church—our children. **During last year’s EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION, we had the opportunity, to not only educate, but FORM DISCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.**

We hope to continue with the lively Missionary spirit, and *encourage you to kick off the New Year—this New Decade—with a viewing of our NEW MCA MISSION VIDEO. Found HERE.* You can show this video to the entire student body at your school or Religious Education program, or show it in each classroom to get the students excited about **being Missionary** this year.

We hope to connect with each of you in this coming year to share Mission stories from across globe directly with your students, which will help us help bring the “Good News” of Jesus to all.

Please expect to hear from Miss Alixandra Holden, our Mission Education Coordinator, who will be reaching out to all schools and religious education programs to schedule a presentation in 2020.



Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger
Archdiocesan Director



On January 18th at the **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Washington, DC, thousands will gather to pray that the **dignity of every human life is valued and protected.**


As we pray for this special  cause with others around the world, we should also remember young children in the Missions, who are sometimes forsaken, forgotten and unloved. Pictured above are young children from the *Hogar Carlos de Villegas Orphanage* in La Paz, Bolivia. The babies, many of whom have been abandoned are left at the orphanage's doorstep, or have been found abandoned and brought in by the police. Others have been brought in from the hospital, where they were left after their mothers gave birth.

Photo by Colleen Coughlin

Calling all Artists! It's not too late! Enter the MCA Christmas Artwork Contest

Elementary school students from Philadelphia are being called to showcase their artistic talents and spread the Good News of Jesus' birth. **Deadline January 31, 2020**

Click [HERE](#) for Christmas Artwork Contest Entry and Information!

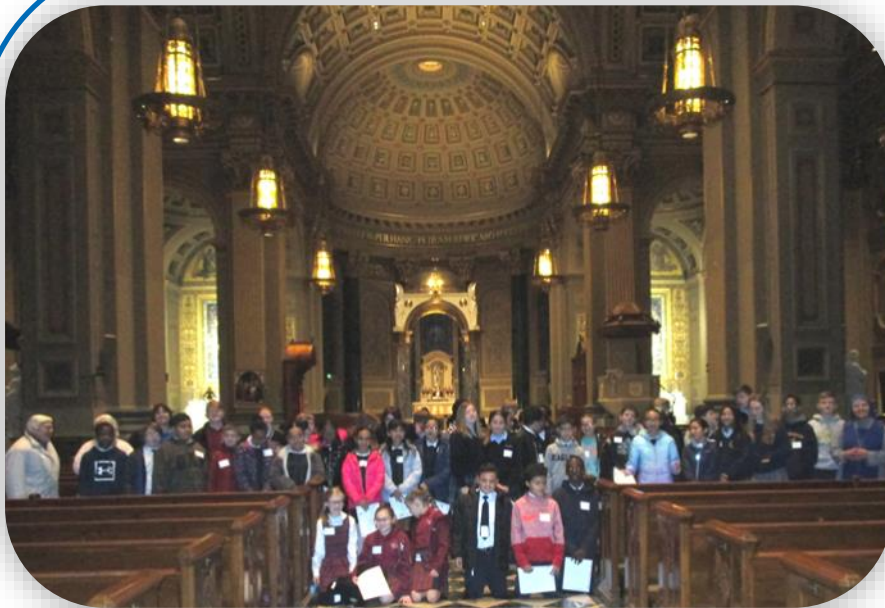
Mission Resources for the Season of Advent through the Feast of the Epiphany

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Letter from Archbishop Charles Chaput, encouraging School and PREP Programs to give primary support to the *Pontifical Mission Societies* and *MCA*. Learn more how to support the Missions on our website. [Page 3]
- † Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service [Page 4]
- † Pauline Jaricot Penny Activity [Page 5]
- † Read the January Saint Spotlight about Venerable Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith [for Adults] and one of the *Pontifical Mission Societies* [Page 6]
- † Mission Focus: Baptism in the Missions [Page 7]
- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner, update this corner each month during [Page 8]

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † In honor of the foundress of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, recite the Litany to Pauline Jaricot, found [HERE](#).
- † Are any of your students participating in this year's **MARCH FOR LIFE**? Please encourage them to do so, or visit <http://marchforlife.org/education/> and talk to your students about our responsibility to protect the unborn.
- † Watch these **Videos** about the geography, climate and social impact of Mission areas provided by the Missions office in Canada
- † Include the Holy Father's January Prayer Intention for Evangelization in a daily/weekly school announcement: *We pray that Christians, followers of other religions and all people of goodwill, may promote peace and justice in the world.*



SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 17, 2020

MISSION DAY

at St. Helena's School, Blue Bell

Check your mail for more information - coming soon!



Contact MCA@archphila.org or call Ali Holden at 215-587-3945 to reserve your spot today!



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I know that many worthy charities contact you annually. But in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support in a priority way the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Childhood Association*] and Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

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 benefiting the poorest in the world. We need to support that work as best we can. We also need to support Catholic Relief Services [*CRS*] in the international humanitarian assistance they give to impoverished people overseas.

Knowing this, I ask you to organize your schedules to first accommodate the Pontifical Mission Societies and CRS/Rice Bowl. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list.

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, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and CRS/Rice Bowl. I also ask that you carefully research any additional groups you choose to support to ensure that their work follows Catholic teaching. The Pontifical Mission Societies, given their standing in the Church internationally, are in the position to vet credentials of other Catholic mission relief groups if you require assistance.

Following these guidelines should help better support the universal evangelization efforts of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies, and the overseas humanitarian relief efforts of CRS.

I extend my thanks to those parishes, schools and religious education programs 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

PRAY FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AROUND THE GLOBE

INTRODUCTION – LEADER:

Today we gather to celebrate in thanksgiving for all Catholic Schools. We remember Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we do and pray that He guides us in our *call to be Missionary Disciples*. Through the sacrifices of Missionary Childhood Members, children in Missions around the globe receive a Catholic education and learn about the *Good News* of Jesus. Missionary Childhood members support 1,200 Catholic schools, over 10,000 orphanages and catechetical programs in 1,111 Mission Dioceses.



Children at a School in Papua New Guinea

LEADER:

We give thanks to you Lord for the many Religious Sisters and Brothers, priests, and lay people who have dedicated their lives to teach in our Catholic schools, allowing us to **LEARN** each and every day about your love for Us and Your people.

ALL: May all children have the opportunity to further their Catholic education, so that they can come to know Your son, Jesus.

LEADER:

Fill our hands with the tools we need to **SERVE** others.

ALL: May we show children around the world Your unceasing love through our actions.

LEADER:

Father help us to **LEAD** the way to Your love through our Missionary Discipleship.

ALL: May we inspire others to support the Missions through prayer and sacrifice.



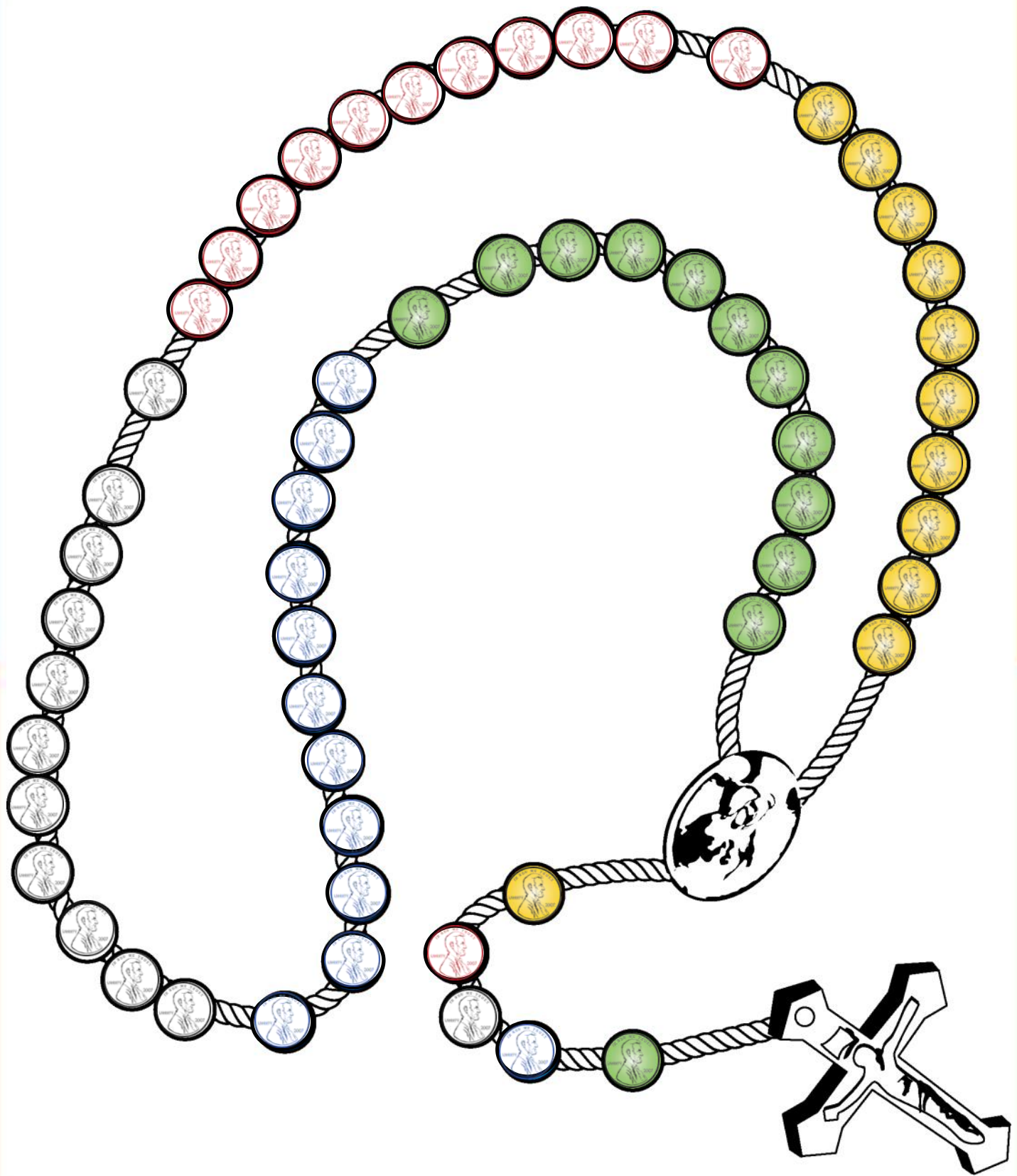
Children eating rice and beans at a school in Haiti

LEADER:

Let us now ask for your grace, that we may **SUCCEED** as we go forth as MCA members, as Ambassadors for Jesus – as Missionaries.

ALL: AMEN!

This Prayer Service may be adapted to your particular school or parish needs.



Pauline Jaricot, at a young age, offered and ask others to offer daily Prayer and a Weekly Sacrifice of a sou [about a penny] for the Church's worldwide Missionary work. To begin the New Year and **remember the Missions in a special way**, start to collect pennies or sacrifices for children in the Missions. For each penny you gather, mark one of the pennies on the World Mission Rosary. There are 60 beads on a Rosary, **just 60 cents**, can help **provide milk for lunch for a week a child in the Missions!**

Blessed Pauline Jaricot: Foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Early in the 19th century, a 17-year old young French girl, Pauline Jaricot, inspired by letters about the Missions from her brother, starts gathering together small groups — mostly workers in her family's silk factory. She asked each member of the group to offer daily prayer and a weekly sacrifice of a sou (*about a penny*) for the Church's worldwide Missionary work. Pauline insisted that her efforts be directed to all the Church's Missions, that it be universal.

From Pauline's prayerful efforts came the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith** . . . now one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**. The very first collection in 1822 supported the vast new Diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada, as well as the Missions of Kentucky & China. **Philadelphia was a part of this Diocese**. So in essence our "Mission" Diocese at the time, received some of the first donations from the **Pontifical Mission Societies**.



The **Societies** office for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been in existence since 1911 celebrating 109 years!

The United States continued to receive funds until 1908, when we became Mission independent.

The **Societies** continue to seek prayer and sacrifice for the world's Missions, now some 1,111 Dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America. Help is offered for pastoral and evangelizing programs, for cate-

chists and their work, to build churches and chapels, for the work of Religious Communities in health care and education, and for communication and transportation needs. Today, Pauline's legacy and her quest continues to "love without measure...without end."

Read more about her life, her work and her passion for the Missions of the Church . . . download her story and see other materials about and related to Pauline Jaricot, [The Match that Lit the Fire – History of Pauline Jaricot](#), or see more about her in a video about her life.

In 1963, 100 years after her death, Pope John XXIII signed the decree which proclaimed the virtues of Pauline Jaricot, declaring her "venerable." The cause for her beatification and canonization continues.



"What does it matter except that Christ be made known!"

— Pauline Jaricot

Birth: July 22, 1799

Death: January 9, 1862

Beatified: 1963

Canonized: Work in Progress

Discussion Questions:

- † If you created your own charity, what group of people would you like to help?
- † Would you let your age prevent you from starting something like this? *Pauline was 17 when she founded the Societies.*
- † Would it be the Missions or a certain Mission country?

Mission Focus: *Baptism in the Missions*

The **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** is on January 13th. This is a day to commemorate the **Baptism of Jesus** in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It is also a wonderful time to recall our baptismal vows and to celebrate the wonderful gift God has given us.

Jesus' baptism, the baptism's of children around the world, and even our own baptism may look different, but all unite us with God and his entire Church. The power of Baptism urges Christians to proclaim Christ courageously and without reserve. Speaking about the Apostles in a homily at Domus Sanctae Marthae Chapel in Vatican City, Pope Francis said:



*"They left their homes, brought with them only a few belongings, going from place to place proclaiming the Word. They carried with them the wealth they had: **the faith!** The wealth that the Lord had given them. They were faithful, baptized just a year or so, but they had the courage to go and proclaim. And people believed them! Their preaching worked miracles."*

Yes, the power of Baptism GIVES us COURAGE, but in many Mission areas, where Christians are still being persecuted, it TAKES courage to follow Christ.

Throughout history, there have been many instances where Missionaries were not welcome, or in some cases even attacked because of their faith and their devotion to teaching others about Jesus. *"The Church cannot be merely 'a babysitter who takes care of the child just to get him to sleep.' If she were this, hers would be a 'slumbering church.' Whoever knows Jesus has the strength and the courage to proclaim Him. And whoever has received baptism has the strength to walk, to go forward, to evangelize . . . when we do this the Church becomes a mother who generates children' capable of bring Christ to the world."* - Pope Francis.

During the month of January, take the time to thank your parents for bringing you to be baptized!

Begin the Year with a heart that is courageous in helping the Mission of the Church.



A child being baptized in Tanzania, Africa



A baptism service in Mongolia, one of the newest Dioceses in the world

Help Missionaries who are leading others to be baptized in the Missions!

- **\$5** can help purchase a bible for a Mission family
- **\$10** can help pay for a white baptismal garment
- **\$25** can help a Missionary priest travel to a faraway village to perform baptisms



A young girl being baptized in China

This month, leading up to CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, remember the *MANY Schools* in Mission lands that need our Prayers and Sacrifices so they can learn like we do in our Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs.



School in Esmeraldas, Ecuador built with donations from MCA members



Salesian School Chennai, India

In the Missions there are children who don't even have a school to attend. Other places, they may have a building and nothing else. Here are some photos for your prayer corner, showing *Schools in the Missions* that need our help.



Young boys using a bench as a desk at a school in Uganda