

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

MISSION RESOURCE • SUMMER 2020



A good way to start the Summer is by renewing baptismal promises to reignite your faith. Light a candle and renew your promises as a family.



Sister Anila with the Daughters of Mary stands with the families she is serving in Tamil Nadu, India.

Summer is nearly here! After a challenging Spring, families in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia need a break and time to recharge spiritually! Our **Summer Mission Resource** provides the perfect opportunity. As Archbishop Pérez states in his letter [Page 3], we need to support the work of the Missions. This is a task for ALL the faithful, especially at a time when the entire world is facing trials and changes. We hope that this **Mission Resource** is an opportunity for families to connect on what is most important during times of unrest; living out our faith with our fellow Brothers and Sisters.

Principals, D/CREs, Teachers & Youth Ministers . . .

We do not know what the future holds, but one thing for certain is that our Brothers and Sisters in the Missions will ***always need our help!*** Set a date now for a presentation in the Fall, in person or virtual, to keep the ***Missionary Sprit Alive*** as students return to your classrooms. Contact **Ali Holden at MCA@archphila.org** to discuss options for your students, or fill out the form found **HERE**.



Mission Resources for the Summer Season

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Letter from Archbishop Nelson Pérez, encouraging School and PREP Programs to give primary support to **MCA** and the *Pontifical Mission Societies*. Learn more about how to support Missionaries on our website. [Page 3]
- † Praying like a Missionary—At Home Activity. [Page 4]
- † Mission Focus: Learn how Religious help those they serve during COVID-19. [Page 5]
- † Learn about the lives of three Mission saints we recognize over the Summer [Page 6]
- † Learn about the **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** [Page 7]
- † **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** Points and Instructions Guide [Page 8-9]
- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your refrigerator as a reminder to pray for the Missions with your family members. Pray daily for those in need. [Page 10]



FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Mission Focus: Learn how Religious help those they serve during COVID-19. Ask your friends WHAT CAN WE DO? [Page 5]
- † Read the Summer Saint Spotlight on Saints celebrating their Feast Days during Summer months. We especially admire these Saints for their *Missionary Discipleship* despite the adversity and hardship that they faced. [Page 6]
- † Include the Holy Father's Intentions in your Daily Prayers:
 - † **June:** *We pray that all those who suffer may find their way of life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.*
 - † **July :** *We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.*
 - † **August:** *We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.*

"From my home, like Teresita, I am also a Missionary!"

Adapting for this time that we are living through the pandemic, this Motto was used to celebrate **Missionary Childhood Association** in the Archdiocese of Santa Cruz in Bolivia.

Archbishop Sergio Gualberti addressed his Archdiocese's young Missionaries on April 26, stressing that the motto is very appropriate during this pandemic. He emphatically said:

"Even if we are not allowed to leave the house, **we cannot be prevented from being Missionaries**. We need to follow what Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, said and did in her life, as the **Patroness of the Missions**.

Missionary children and young people: follow her example, in their home, as they carry out small actions such as obeying and cooperating with their parents; doing their homework and inspiring the whole family with the joy of their young life dedicated to the Lord," said the Archbishop.



Another Bishop, Monsignor Antonio Reimann, of the new diocese of Ñuflo de Chávez and a neighbor to Santa Cruz, who is still in hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, also sent a message to these children and young Missionaries. He congratulated them on what they are doing and encouraged them to continue in prayer. . . "In this period of the pandemic," the Bishop wrote, "when the doors of our Church are closed, the children of **MCA** are often the promoters of greeting, forgiveness, prayer and joyful sharing in their family. In this way, **the Family** is integrated as a small domestic Church."

Following the example of the young Missionaries in Bolivia, we too can be like Saint Teresa, our patroness, and be like her from home!



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

May, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am aware that many worthy charities contact you annually. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support our Catholic Charities, one of which is the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Childhood Association*].

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 through their material support, benefiting the poorest in the world. We need to support that work as best we can.

Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to accommodate the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Childhood Association*. 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, one of the Pontifical Mission Societies. 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nelson J. Pérez", with a cross symbol to the left of the name.

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

With our Prayers and Actions *YOU can Be Missionary, FROM HOME!*

PRAY Set time every day to have a personal conversation with God. Throughout the day stop, talk to Jesus. Simply say a Hail Mary, an Our Father or even the prayer the angel taught the children in Fatima, "My God I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you! I ask pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you!" These little prayers will draw our hearts and minds closer to God.

Bring JOY & LOVE to your FAMILY Spend time with parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents and relatives face-to-face or via FaceTime. Pray together, eat meals together, play games together, laugh together, etc. Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." MT 18:20 Imitate the Holy Family.

SANCTIFY Make holy the work that God has given each of us. Throughout the day, in everything we do at home whether it be work, schoolwork, chores, games, etc., do it with love and offer it to God. Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "Do small things with great love." Small things bring us closer to God **and make us Saints.**

By following these actions, and inviting your family to join you in the prayer below, you can show Jesus how you are answering the call to be Missionary.

Leader: The Little Flower, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, loved Jesus very much. She felt that the Church was like a *Mother to her* and a *Sign of Jesus' Great Love* for the world. Let us listen to how Jesus' love is made known to us today in the world.
Listen to the stories of *Missionary Disciples* in our midst.

Let us pray: Jesus, we see your love in the Mass, in the sacraments, and in the lives of those who shared their stories today. For these great gifts, we pray in thanksgiving.

Reader: For the gift of the Church,

All: we thank you, Jesus. **Reader:** For the gift of the Mass, **All:** we thank you, Jesus.

Reader: For the gift of the sacraments, **All:** we thank you, Jesus.

Reader: With Saint Thérèse, we say: "Jesus, my love!"

All: Jesus, my love!

Missionary Discipleship Reflection: Think about a time when you experienced the love of Jesus. What happened? How did you feel?
Did you celebrate this experience?

MISSION FOCUS: COVID-19

Families in Mission lands have suffered greatly during this pandemic. All Summer, look for updates on how Missionaries are coping through the pandemic on www.phillymissions.org.



Brothers and Sisters who have devoted their lives to the Missions have lately experienced a new kind of service to the poor families they serve. While they have always been at risk, working in difficult areas with limited resources, COVID-19 poses an even greater risk to Missionaries. They are doing their best **to help the poor**, but also remain healthy themselves. Sister Anila Christy [photo/Page 1] explains how the Daughters of Mary are coping:

"We are trying to be safe by staying inside the convent – while trying our best to safely serve and with their all the

women, children and those plagued with leprosy, in our care. Thousands are suffering due to hunger and poverty. The situation connected to COVID-19 is making people more vulnerable. We do not know what to do when some sickness attacks. Hospitals are CLOSED out of fear of having positive results . . . We all try our best to distribute food for the poor. Our Sisters have distributed more than 1,500 packets of food items [to cook] which cost about \$20 each. The people in need are so happy to receive it, especially those who depend on daily wages and due to lockdown they are unable to work. Today we are making some biscuits and bread for their children, or they will starve.



Sister Anila loading trucks with food bags that will be distributed to the poor.

Kindly keep all the people we serve in your valuable prayers and support us, if there is any possibility. Your extraordinary help bring a lot of joy in the face of many poor we feed.



Little Missionary Sisters of Charity helping provide for disabled children.

Sister Anila is not alone . . . she & her Religious community, are one of many working tirelessly in communities around the world trying to help cope during the Pandemic. In Italy, even in this time, and dealing with the tragic loss of nine of their Sisters to COVID-19, The *Little Missionary Sisters of Charity* continue to carry out their work of assistance to the needy. They take care of disabled children in Piccolo Cottolengo, the disabled of Casa Serena, the communities of young people in Palermo and all of the elderly in homes, as well as their own elderly Religious nuns. Meanwhile, the *Sisters of Calvary* in Botswana are busy sewing masks to help people adhere to the health regulations. The Salesian Brothers in Lima, Peru are working overtime, as the crisis generated by Covid-19 is dragging millions of people across the country into poverty. They organized themselves to materially help the poor, who do not even have the minimum to survive.

Missionaries around the world are doing their part on the front lines, and we too, *must help in any way WE CAN!*

Can you find a way to have YOUR STUDENTS help the many MCA Mission Children during this pandemic?

- \$1** helps Sisters in Africa sew masks
- \$5** assists Religious Brothers, like the Salesians, in providing for poor families during the Pandemic
- \$20** packages 1,500 bags of food items for Sister Anila and Missionaries like her to distribute to the needy



Sisters of Calvary sewing masks for the community they serve in Botswana.

Saint Barnabas

A dedicated disciple, St. Barnabas lived and preached among the apostles *after Pentecost*. Barnabas, originally called Joseph, was of Jewish descent. He felt called to sell his property and gave the proceeds to the Apostles. He was then given the name Barnabas and lived with the earliest converts to Christianity.

Barnabas traveled with Saint Paul as the early Church was forming. *He is an incredible example of a Missionary Disciple!* He crossed borders and brought the Word of Jesus to others both in his local community and beyond. He founded the Church in Antioch. From Acts 11, we know Barnabas recruited Saint Paul to preach with him in Antioch; after a year of teaching the gospel, the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Paul from the city, to do *“the work for which I have called them.”* Acts 14 Saint Barnabas is the Patron Saint of Antioch, against hailstorms, and invoked as *peacemaker*.



Feast Day: June 13

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Saint Ignatius was a *Missionary Disciple, a soldier, a charismatic leader!* He also was the founder the Society of Jesus [*the Jesuits*] – in the 16th century.

Born in northern Spain in 1491, Ignatius was the youngest of thirteen children; his family was one of minor nobility and wealthy. From childhood, he only wanted be a knight and became a soldier for the Spanish army. He was wounded in 1521 and as he recovered, he sought out books about chivalry and knights, but was instead drawn to stories about Saints. He began to make notes on the movements of spiritual growth, which would later [1954] become *The Spiritual Exercises*.

Ignatius recovered from his war wounds, but then became sick. His time in the hospital was spent teaching others about prayer and spiritual exercises. In his struggle to find and discern where God was calling him, he dedicated himself to his education. While studying, he met and befriended St. Francis Xavier, who joined Ignatius in forming the *Jesuits*.

The *Jesuits*, Catholic Missionaries, played a leading role in the Counter-Reformation converting hundreds of thousands to Catholicism. The order grew and extended its influence through its roles in Education, Scholarships and Missionary ministries.



Feast Day: July 31

Saint Junipero Serra

Spanish missionary Juniper Serra established his first U.S. mission in 1769. He built eight more California missions over the next thirteen years.

Born on the Spanish island of Majorca, Junipero Serra came from humble beginnings. Educated by Franciscan Monks, he was only 15 years old when he decided to join the priesthood. In 1749, Serra took on a new challenge—bringing his faith to the New World *as a Missionary*. Walking over 250 miles in Mexico City, Serra preached to the native people and sought ways to improve the area's economy. In 1769, in Baja California, New Mexico, Serra established his first Mission. Moving further north, he founded another mission in San Diego, the first of nine he started in what is present-day California. Serra spent the rest of his life devoted to his evangelical work in that region.

In 2015, Pope Francis named Junipero Serra a saint during his first visit to the US. A special mass was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This service marked the country's first canonization.



Feast Day: July 1st

SUMMER MISSION CHALLENGE

#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE

This summer, the **Missionary Childhood Association** would like to challenge you to **BE MISSIONARY** through prayer and sacrifice.



RULES:

1. Sign up by sending an email to ***MCA@archphila.org***, this email will include your *first task*.
2. The challenge is to complete all the tasks below to get points. Winner will receive a special prize from the **Missionary Childhood Association**.
3. You may complete a task as many times as you want, unless indicated otherwise.
4. To get credit for points, you will have to post with the hashtag **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** or send a picture of you completing the task to ***MCA@archphila.org***. The photos DO NOT require that you or members of your family's faces are shown
5. ***You must invite your parents to participate!*** This challenge will include the use of Social Media, we ask that your parents join in on the fun so you have permission to post with them using the hashtag **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE**.

SIX WINNERS IN ALL!

FIRST PLACE WINNER

\$500 Scholarship towards Catholic Education

TWO, SECOND PLACE WINNERS

\$500 Scholarship towards Catholic Education

THREE, THIRD PLACE WINNERS

\$500 Scholarship towards Catholic Education

For more information on the #MCASUMMERCHALLENGE see Page 9
or visit www.phillymissions.org

SUMMER MISSION CHALLENGE

#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE



20 points

Post a picture of you Praying the Rosary for the Missions with #MCASUMMERCHALLENGE or send the picture to MCA@archphila.org

10 points

Draw a picture of what it means to be Missionary and a MCA Member. Try to include the theme of prayer & sacrifice and post #MCASUMMERCHALLENGE.

5 points

Ask your parents what day you were baptized! Send an email to MCA@archphila.org with your name and the day of your baptism. This was the day you became a Missionary! If they don't know the exact day, tell us the month/year. Include your parish/school & grade in the email.

15 points

Do you have a favorite Saint? Find a picture of your favorite Saint and read about their life and work. Were they a Missionary? How did they live out their baptismal call to be Missionary?

Post/Send the answer to these questions for 5 points! Remember—send more than one Saint for an additional 15 points!

5 Points for every activity you complete! Visit www.phillymissions.org and check out the MCA Mission Resource Page. There is a special Mission Activity to do for every month.

1 point

Say a Hail Mary for the children in the Missions EVERY DAY

Keep a tally for how many days you remember to do this.

Send/ post a picture of your tally marks at the end of the Summer!

25 points

Look all around your house for loose change and coins [with your parents permission, of course!] Post a picture of all that you collected, then send to MCA.

5 points

Watch the MCA video on www.phillymissions.org

Post it on social media or send us an email and tell us what you think!

5 points

Post/send a picture of the World Mission Map

List the 5 Mission areas that we Pray for during the World Mission Rosary!

10 points

Create a "Mission Box" using an old shoe box

Decorate it with prayers & pictures from the Missions you can find on www.phillymissions.org, then fill it with a bible, a rosary or writing utensils that you will use for this challenge. Send/post a picture when you are done!

5 points

If you see or hear something that reminds you of the Missions, for example, an object that has the WMR colors, send us a picture and tell us about it!

30 Points Submit an entry for the MCA National Christmas Artwork Contest! Guidelines for the contest and more information is found on the website. Be sure to post your Artwork!

MORE ON THE SUMMER MISSION CHALLENGE

GUIDELINES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE #MCASUMMERCHALLENGE

TO BEGIN – Sign up by sending an email to MCA@archphila.org. From this point – **YOU WILL** be earning **MISSION Points!** This email will include your *first Mission Activity* to add more points to your total. *Once this is done* – **YOU have ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE.**

The **MISSION CHALLENGE** is to complete all the Mission Activities listed [HERE](#) to add MISSION POINTS to your individual total. The Mission Challengers with the MOST MISSION POINTS will win one of SIX Prizes from \$100 to \$500 in Catholic Education Scholarships.

PRIZES: One [1] First Place Winner of a **\$500 Scholarship** towards Catholic Education; Two [2] Second Place Winners **\$250 Scholarships** towards Catholic Education; Three [3] Third Place Winners **\$100 Scholarships** towards Catholic Education. Scholarships will be provided to the Catholic institution [School, Parish or Parish Religious Education program] of the winner's choice. Scholarship checks will only be for the individual, but only granted to the Catholic institution's name.

Each WINNER will received a personal invitation and be recognized by the Archdiocese on **World Mission Sunday, October 18, 2020**. Pictures will be posted in publications of the **Missionary Childhood Association** and **Pontifical Mission Societies** of Philadelphia and on phillymissions.org. All winners will receive an Certificate of **MISSION HONOR Award**.

Follow the **MISSION CHALLENGE Points Guide** [HERE](#) for ways to earn your MISSION POINTS.

1. You may complete some Mission Activities as many times as you want and add to your MISSION POINTS.
2. **MISSION POINTS** will ONLY be added to you and your families personal TOTAL by submitting the requested pictures, photos, written explanations, stories/artwork with the hashtag **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** to MCA@archphila.org.
3. **This is a family MISSION CHALLENGE!** This **MISSION CHALLENGE** includes the use of Social Media. All parents/guardians and their children – join in on the fun and post using the hashtag **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE**.
4. Your submission via email to the **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** provides and grants parent/guardian approval for the submitter to participate in this challenge sponsored by the **Missionary Childhood Association**, as one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, and all the **Societies**.
5. Some of the Mission Activities require photos [*can be taken with you or your parent/guardians' cell phone*] of you completing the task. These photos DO NOT require that you or members of your family's faces are shown.
6. One submission is a picture, photo, written explanation, story or artwork. Only one submission is allowed per child/family to add **MISSION POINTS**. Additional **MISSION POINTS** will not add to the submitting individual's total for duplicated submissions.

7. All submissions can also be mailed for consideration to: Missionary Childhood Association, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 222 N. Seventeenth Street – 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

8. All submissions become the property of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's **Missionary Childhood Association** and all the **Pontifical Mission Societies** associated with the Missions office. The **Societies** reserve the right to depict all or part of the submitted pictures, photos, written explanations, stories or artwork in their communications.

9. All Prizes Winners will be determined by the Mission representative of the **Missionary Children Association** in the Office of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Prize structure may be altered depended upon participation. All decisions are final.

10. Contest idea and conception owned by the **Missionary Childhood Association** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All rights reserved.

11. **#MCASUMMERCHALLENGE** open to families with young Catholics in grades K-8.

12. To add to your personal **MISSION POINTS**, all submissions must be postmarked or received by the **Missionary Childhood Association** no later than **Friday, September 19, 2020**.

Now is the time to come together before God and ask for His help during this crisis. Have faith that our prayers will be heard and answered, and invite others to do the same.



During the pandemic, the United States experienced shortages. Many rushed to the stores and emptied the shelves. Many were left searching for soap, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and even *toilet paper*! This was also the case for many food items.

Unfortunately in the Missions—EVERYDAY families are plagued with shortages of food, water and important things needed to survive. *This is not because of a pandemic.* **AS THE POPE asks of all MCA Children, over the Summer, please Pray a Hail Mary Daily for the children in Mission lands who are always suffering from hunger and thirst.**



Pictures from Agenzia Fides: Vatican's Mission News source