

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2020 • MONTHLY 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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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**, is eager to continue to inspire young Missionaries and build a sense of prayer and service for other children globally. Over the last several months, many schools, PREP programs, Vacation Bible Schools and Youth Groups have had to overcome new and challenging hurdles and we hope this new school year is a chance to once again, continue your student's journey as Missionary Disciples!



May the challenges of the pandemic serve as a learning experience for all students in Philadelphia to continue to help support children in the 1,111 dioceses in Mission areas. There are children in the Missions who have never had the privilege of attending school and learning with their peers, which before the Pandemic, could easily be taken for granted by our children. Food shortages, a parent's loss of income, and the inability to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist are things far too commonly experienced for the children we support.

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 this time of unfamiliarity.

MCA promises to be a **Resource FOR YOU**, whether it is through *virtual or in person* 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 and in prayer.

Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
Archdiocesan Director

Ali Holden
Mission Education Manager

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 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 ever possible*, into your curriculum to inspire the youth of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia **to be Missionary Disciples!**

To have the 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** connect Missionary outreach and the teachings complimenting the Monthly Resources from the Archdiocesan Offices for Catechetical Formation and Catholic Education

SEPTEMBER . . . BEGIN THE YEAR *BEING MISSIONARY*

- Include the **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** Commissioning Prayer, [Here](#) or online at www.phillymissions.org, in one of your first assemblies or school community gatherings.
- Create reminders about *being a Missionary kid with MCA* on a Mission bulletin board display. Look for ideas online.
- Add a Mission prayer corner to your classroom or place an **MCA** photo and Mission bank on your prayer table. Commission the pray corner with this [September Litany](#).
- **Select classroom MCA Mission Representatives, start a Mission Club or a Mission Rosary Group.**
- **Schedule a MCA presentation.**
- Learn about **MCA** and why it is important by showing your students the Introduction video found at www.phillymissions.org/MCA



LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER:

- Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of the Missions, is October 1. MCA will hold its first ever **LITTLE WAY MISSION DAY**. October 1st is the perfect day to hold a fundraiser for the Missions. *More information to come!*
- This year's celebration of **World Mission Sunday** is on October 18th. This year EVERYONE can tune in and watch a live stream of the Mass at the Cathedral at 11AM. Plan ahead to join us either virtually or in person.
- Pray the **World Mission Rosary [WMR]** 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**. **You can also join the Missions office every Thursday at 8PM to pray the WMR for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic with us and Missionaries from Philadelphia!**

NOVEMBER

Create an assignment that focuses on the Mission Saints for All Saints Day on November 2nd

DECEMBER

Enter your students into the National MCA Christmas Artwork Contest, entry form and rules found [HERE](#).

JANUARY

How can you sacrifice during Lent for the Missions? Call the MCA office to brainstorm now and prepare for the season!

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

Mission Education Materials 2020-2021



Contact the MCA office to 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 brought to you by Missionaries

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 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.



St. Charles Borromeo PREP in Bensalem

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



Saint Laurentius in Philadelphia

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 **virtually, or in person.**



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,

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: RESPECT FOR THE PLANET'S RESOURCES-*We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.* 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.
- + 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. The **Pontifical Mission Societies** is also happy to arrange a local Pilgrimage to the shrines of Mission Saints in and around Philadelphia. Contact Ali Holden for more information 215-587-3945.
- + **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 here 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 Pierre Aumaître, Priest and Martyr



A picture commemorating the Korean Martyrs

Three years later, he was ordained and embarked on a five-month journey to Korea. After language training, Pierre lived for a month with Bishop Simeon Berneux. *Pierre was ready to accomplish his dream and be sent out as a Missionary!* Since persecutions were underway, Pierre disguised himself in Korean garb. He was an untiring servant of his people. *“This little priest is working little miracles and excellently teaching his people devotion to the Eucharist and Mary,”* Bishop Berneux wrote.

In 1866, Pierre was arrested shortly after the capture of Bishop Berneux. He endured severe beatings in prison. On March 30, 1866, he was taken to the beach at Galmaemot and beheaded. He was not yet 30. Pierre Aumaitre and his companions are among the last of the Korean Mission, and remembered as the Korean Martyrs.



Showing admirable strength, persistence, and bravery, Saint Pierre was able to evangelize in Korea, which now is home to over 5 million Catholics. We too, can be like Saint Pierre and work “little miracles” being Missionary in our lives.

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.



From a young boy, Pierre wanted nothing else but to a priest. A very difficult task, as he was the son of French farmers. To begin his priestly journey, Pierre started taking Latin lessons with his Parish priest. When a new Parish priest arrived, he refused to teach Pierre because of his trouble remembering with forms. Undaunted, Pierre rose at 4AM each morning to walk to a tutor in a nearby village. When the new Parish priest saw his perseverance, he relented and sent Pierre to the Seminary.

During his studies, Pierre began to dream of joining the Missions. In 1859, he was admitted to the Seminary of the Parish Foreign Mission Society.

Father in Heaven,
 through the intercession
 of Saint Pierre Aumaître,
 help me to do little things
 with great love.
 Amen.

Feast Day: September 20th

Birth: April 8, 1837

Death: March 30, 1866

**Canonized: May 6, 1984
 by Pope John Paul II**



BLESSINGS BINGO



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**.

PENCILS	LUNCH	BREAKFAST	BED AND BLANKETS
DINNER	CRAYONS	SHOES	SCISSORS
GLUE	HAIR BRUSH	AFTERNOON SNACK	TOILETRIES
PILLOW	COMPUTER	TEACHER	TELEVISION
A CHURCH TO ATTEND	A HOME	RUNNING WATER	ELECTRICITY

Play **Blessings Bingo** with your students! Each box is labeled with something that we can count as **Blessings** . Have the children mark the boxes of the items that they have and use. After they do this, discuss how these things are not so commonly found in Mission lands. Have them think about their **Blessings** and things they should be extremely grateful for!



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: SCHOOL LIFE IN GHANA: DEALING WITH PANDEMIC



The Ancilla School in Wa, Ghana has been in existence since 2010. The school founded by the *Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus*, started as an early childhood educational center with 35 children. Today, the school has a population of over 2000 children!

The school in Wa provides scholarships to about 500 pupils from very poor homes and educationally disadvantaged communities.



This year, **more so than any other**, as in places all around the world, the *Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus* concerned about the total well-being of children and provides for their nutritional, emotional, spiritual and health needs. Each day, children at the Ancilla School are served a nutritious breakfast, which may be their only meal of the day. For many of the students, the meal serves as motivation as they also receive access to quality education.

Since March 15, as in our own country, schools in Ghana were asked to lockdown because of the pandemic. The children attending the Ancillae School in Wa, who were safe, healthy and receiving one good meal a day, are suffering from hunger and deprivation.

And, unfortunately, the *Sisters* have lost their source of livelihood, also due to the pandemic, and can no longer support them. The *Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus* desperately want to be there for their students in this time of difficulty. They want to provide at least one nutritious meal for them.

Can you help the Sisters and other Missionaries like them that are the only hope for children in the Missions?

Please **pray for these children in Wa, Ghana** and many more like them throughout Mission lands.

IN A MISSION LAND LIKE GHANA:

\$1 can help give milk to each student

\$10 can purchase lunch for two students

\$50 can assist the *Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus* purchase materials for their classrooms

- Will **your students** pray a Hail Mary for the students like the ones in this school in Ghana each day this school year? Pope Francis asks all students in **MCA** do so.
- Can **your class** sacrifice and help to pay for materials for the students during this Pandemic?
- Can **your school** raise enough to provide lunch 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!

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!**

