

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2021 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE



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

Page 1: Introduction to **MCA** and Resource
Page 2: **MCA** Activities to Start the Year
Page 3: Letter from Archbishop Pérez
Page 4: *Virtual* Missionary Opportunities
Page 5: Resources for Secondary Schools
Page 6: September Mission Saint Spotlight
Page 7: “Would you Rather” Icebreaker
Page 8: Mission Focus: **Haiti**
Page 9: September Photo Page for Prayer Table

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

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new Archdiocesan Director of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**. I am enthusiastic about this new facet of my pastoral ministries, as I know that here in the Archdiocese, we have placed a special emphasis on Mission and the responsibility to bring to realization Jesus’ great command . . . *“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations.”* Matt 28:19



I know I am an integral part of an office dedicated to this Missionary experience. And this office of the **Societies**, in existence in Philadelphia for 110 years, has worked unceasingly to help keep the Mission spirit of the Church alive, build awareness of the universal Mission of the Church and the faithful’s *baptismal call to be Missionary* through prayer and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing this long history of helping Missionaries.

From my past work as President of Archbishop Wood High School, Regional Vicar for Bucks County and my work as Pastor of Saint Robert Bellarmine, I hope to draw on these experiences to further build awareness and educate the faithful on “Mission.” This has two aspects, primarily **evangelization** – the proclamation of God’s word and secondly **ad Gentes** – prayers & action for places where the Church is not fully planted.

My prayer is that these two facets of Mission are foremost in all of our communications and programs. And I hope to see this come to fruition this October, my first Mission month, World Mission Sunday *and the culmination of the celebration of our 110th Anniversary*, as a New Director.

I am especially grateful to Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers for his service and dedication as the **Societies** Archdiocesan Director over the past seven years. Monsignor Rodgers answered the call to go forth and proclaim the message of God’s love, Christ’s teaching and the “Good News” of the Gospel to all. This enabled so many people, in so many places, in so much need, to be served.

Looking forward to this new school year, I, with our Mission Education Manager, Ali Holden, hope to ensure that all schools and education programs take seriously their role in forming young Missionaries within their communities through the instruction and inspiration of prayer and sacrifice. I am confident that we can provide all that the need to assist in this endeavor and in collaboration with all of you, we can continue to provide support for children around the world, from the generous and giving hearts of the children of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Wishing you God’s blessing and a peaceful new School year,

Monsignor James D. Beisel

Reverend Monsignor James D. Beisel • Archdiocesan Director

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!** Like the resource in **COLOR** for your catechists? Simply contact Ali Holden

IDEAS TO KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Did you schedule a Presentation for the Mission Month of October or in the FALL?

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.



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 or on our website.
- 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.**
- Learn about **MCA** and why it is important by showing your students the Introduction video found at **phillymissions.org/MCA**

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER:

- Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of the Missions, is October 1. Incorporate St. Therese Little ways of Prayer this month.
- **MCA** will hold a **MISSION DAY** on **October 7th, SAVE THE DATE** and look for more information to come!
- This year's celebration of **World Mission Sunday** is on October 24th. If you have an winner at your school for the artwork contest, recognize them leading up to World Mission Sunday.
- 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**.

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



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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

September 2021

Dear Principals and Directors of Religious Education,

I know that many worthy charities 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 Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA). It's the single largest fundraiser in our local Church and it supports a broad array of ministries aimed at assisting the most in need and vulnerable in our midst. One of CCA's beneficiaries is the Pontifical Mission Societies, composed of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith the 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. Those of us with the means to do so should support that work as best we can.

In this light, I ask that you give special attention to appeal materials that support the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies. 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 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. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nelson J. Pérez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P".

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

Recognizing *Virtual* Missionaries

With every difficulty comes opportunity! Educators in the Archdiocese have utilized videos and virtual presentations to inspire their students *to be Missionary disciples*. This year, we want to encourage everyone to not just use this resource, but our virtual resources as well to show importance of prayer and sacrifice for the Missions. **Here are some examples of students being Missionaries, *Virtually*!**



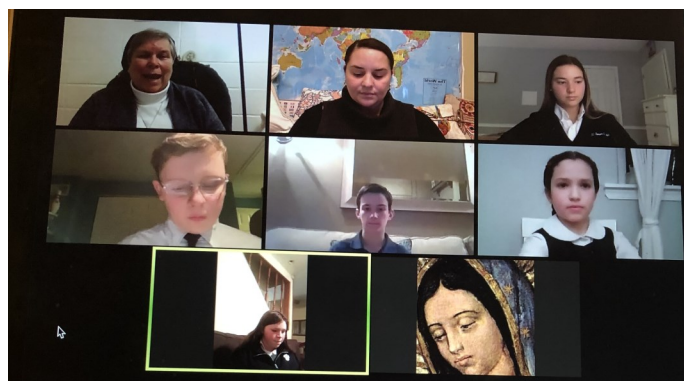
PHILLY STUDENTS RUN FUNDRAISERS

Students from Saint Eleanor's in Collegeville organized a Lemonade Stand to support Missionaries in the world, after a **virtual** presentation.



PHILLY STUDENTS LEAD PRAYER

On Monday Nights throughout the Summer, students from different grades have lead hundreds of people in praying the World Mission Rosary on the weekly "Mission Mondays" at 8PM for the *Archdiocesan Campaign to end COVID and for the Renewal of the Church*.



PHILLY STUDENTS LEARN EVERYWHERE

Here is a preview of a *Virtual Presentation*, where the children joined from home, down the shore and even at a friends house with their classmate. They learned about the Missions, but also had fun, with a scavenger hunt and bingo!



FOR THE YOUTH, SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Encourage your student groups to include a Missionary prayer or reflection in everyone of their meetings together. Adding the Pope's Monthly Prayer intention [*Septembers is below and they are printed each month in our resource*] is one easy way to do this or go to our Missions website for different types of Mission-oriented prayers. For variety, can also prepare a brief reflection on a happening in one of the five Mission continents in the world. Inspiration can be taken from Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's World Mission Rosary or ask Ali Holden at our office.
- † Start your morning announcements with the **Holy Father's Prayer Intention**.
September's Prayer Intention is: We pray for an environmentally sustainable lifestyle in your daily communal prayer: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this. 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 teens and young adults. 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.
- † 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.
- † **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. A Prayer-a-Thon, Walk-a-thon or other -thon is one idea to get started. 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.
- † Have a student in month plan and coordinate an annual Mission Mass, World Mission Rosary, sacrificial giving campaign, works of mercy and/or Prayer Service at your school. A Mission group can join together and help.

Youth Group Making Rosaries for the Missions



Young People on Mission with Sister Lisa Valentini, MSC in El Factor, Dominican Republic

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 Lioba

For this month, and this school year's first edition of the **MISSION SAINT SPOTLIGHT** series, we are going way back in time to explore and learn about the life of Saint Lioba. Born in 710, she is most known for her evangelization efforts in Germany and was acclaimed for many miracles: saving a village from fire, saving a town from a terrible storm, protecting the reputation of the nuns in her convent and saving the life of a fellow nun who was gravely ill – all accomplished through *prayer*.

Saint Lioba, who became a nun and lived in Wessex, England, *was a relative of Saint Boniface!* When word of Boniface's Missionary efforts among the German peoples reached Lioba's monastery, she wrote to him and offered her prayers and friendship. *"I should like to look on you as my brother,"* she told him, *"for I can trust you more than anyone else of my kinfolk."*

The two began to correspond. As Boniface's Mission progressed, he began to see a way that Lioba could be a part of it.

Boniface wrote to Lioba's superior, Saint Tetta, to ask her to send Lioba and other nuns to Germany. *With that, without a second thought, 30 set off for Germany!* After getting established at a Monastery, the nuns were to support the Missionary priests with their prayers. But Lioba and those who came with her could not remain hidden and in the background of these evangelization efforts for too long.



Statue of Saint Lioba, in this image she is holding a bell. Her mother dreamed before she gave birth of ringing a bell that sounded beautiful church chimes. After telling her nurse, she told her that she would give birth to a daughter that will dedicate her life to the Church.



Fun Fact: Saint Lioba was one of the few literate Religious Sisters of her time. This helped her get far in her evangelization efforts, and perhaps why she is seen here holding the Bible!

The Monastery became a refuge for the Missionaries, as well as, a spiritual center for the people that they served. Lioba, especially vigilant in prayer, and learned in the scriptures, was sought by both men and women, the poor and the rich, for her counsel and spiritual comfort. She further extended her evangelization by founding a number of daughter houses.

Boniface made a last visit to Lioba on his way to his Mission in Holland, where he would ultimately be martyred. Lioba is venerated most widely in Germany, her adopted country that she was devoted her service to.



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.

Feast Day: September 28th

Birth: Year 710

Death: Year 782



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*.

Missionary “ICEBREAKERS” for First Day of School

TEACHERS: For this activity, ask the questions and then lead, guide and stimulate talk about Mission among students with this set of questions that are sure to get the classroom talking.

WOULD YOU RATHER . . .

- † Teach about Jesus in the cold climate of Alaska **OR** the hot grasslands of Africa?
- † Pray one Hail Mary every day for the Missions **OR** give a sacrifice to the Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]?
- † Learn to speak multiple languages and travel the globe **OR** be a Missionary here in Philadelphia?
- † Save \$1 a week for one year, to help a school buy books **OR** give \$50 dollars right now to pay for a years worth of tuition for one Mission child?
- † Walk on foot from town to town *like Jesus did* **OR** travel by motorcycle on bumpy roads, like some other Missionary priests?
- † Serve as a Missionary in the United States **OR** go to foreign lands and help the children supported by MCA?
- † Help in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas **OR** Oceania?
- † As a Missionary, would you rather teach **OR** work in a hospital?



. . . CAN YOU FIND A FRIEND WHO



- † Went to Mass this Summer?
- † Prayed the World Mission Rosary?
- † Sacrificed something for the Missions?
- † Learned something new about a foreign country?
[BONUS if they teach you something they learned or perhaps a word in that language]
- † Can define what a MISSIONARY is?
- † Did something nice for someone else in need.
- † Likes to pray in the morning and at night!
- † Whose favorite subject in school is Religion?
- † Can name all 5 Mission areas?
[BONUS if they can name the colors!]

MISSION FOCUS: HAITI



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 learn about the many children and communities we help to support.

Pope Francis has called us to unite with the people of Haiti saying, "May the solidarity of all alleviate the consequences of the tragedy!" His plea comes after a strong earthquake shook Haiti August 14 causing countless deaths, wounding many, and causing extensive damage.

Through the **Pontifical Mission Societies** you can help local priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers and lay pastoral workers as they provide support for Haitian communities dealing with challenges that threaten public health and the human spirit. Assistance is urgently needed for children and families, already facing COVID-19, to receive vital services such as food, water, and medicine.



Your donations can facilitate pastoral care to many, as Church workers distribute humanitarian supplies and offer compassionate care. While the **Societies** provide for the many needs listed above in Mission lands, **MCA** specifically provides support to help children through their prayer and sacrifice.

It is hard to imagine the devastation, of these children, who have been anticipating going back to school to start a new year, and learn, just as you all were, amidst the pandemic.

Getting back to school this September, you can help children just like you by doing a collection in your classrooms, so we can help the children of Haiti by rebuilding schools, classrooms, replacing damages school supplies like books, chalkboards, desks. ***Your help is always needed for children in the Missions, but especially now at a time like this!***



- Will **your students** give \$1 each, to replace writing utensils lost in the rubble
- Can **your class** come up with a fundraising idea to sponsor an entire classroom in Haiti?
- Can **your school** host a dress down day during the first month of school, to help rebuild a 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!



For this Month's photo page, we are featuring pictures of Missionaries in Philadelphia and around the world, past and present, to get you excited for this year's **110th Anniversary** of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** serving in our Archdiocese. We will celebrate this momentous occasion on **World Mission Sunday**, which takes place on October 24, 2021.