



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
**MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD
ASSOCIATION**
May and Summer 2024 • Mission Resource

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Dear Mission supporters,

Happy Easter! We hope you all had a wonderful Holy Week and Easter Triduum. Many parishes are wrapping up their PREP years and schools are winding down. Kids around the Archdiocese are receiving their first Holy Communion as well! As you helped your own students and children grow as disciples, many of you also helped them to be Mission minded. As summer nears, we hope you see it as an opportunity for a different kind of ministry. Our hope is that parents will continue to form their children as Missionary Disciples and so this Mission Resource is meant for them.

In this resource you will find content geared towards celebrating May as the Month of Mary and our theme of “Waters of Life” for the summer. Hopefully, by focusing on water, we hope kids will better understand what Missionaries do and will be interested in helping them.

It was truly been an amazing year. **So far we have had 59 presentations at 49 schools/parishes, to over 10,000 people** (mostly kids or their parents). Be sure to see where we have visited on page 7. If we didn't visit you this past year be sure to reach out to be scheduled in the future.

Lastly, while our Mite boxes are often used by large groups, we are happy to mail them out to families so kids can have them any time during the year. **Email MCA@archphila.org to request mite boxes to be used over the summer for your family.**

Sincerely in Christ's Mission,

Monsignor James D. Beisel

Reverend Monsignor James D. Beisel
Archdiocesan Director

Paul Cillo

Paul Cillo
Mission Education Manager

What is Missionary Childhood Association [MCA] ?

In collaboration with OCE & OCF, MCA provides this **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 as possible*, into your curriculum to inspire the youth of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia **to be Missionary Disciples!**

May, a Month for Mary

During the Month of May, there are several feast days dedicated to Mary. Many parishes hold May Processions during this month, during which they crown Mary with flowers. Mary shows us how to be disciples who say Yes to God. She was willing to say Yes even when she did not know where it would lead her.

The Rosary was given to us as a way to ask Mary to intercede for us. **Venerable Fulton Sheen created the World Mission Rosary to help us pray for the entire world.** In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we gather every Monday at 8:00PM to pray the World Mission Rosary for Missionaries and the needs of our church. Often we have Missionaries join us to share stories. **Consider joining us just one Monday a month to pray the Rosary as a family for Missionaries.**

Learn more about the World Mission Rosary and order one from the Missions Office today!

JOIN US on the ARCHDIOCESAN ROSARY Every Monday at 8PM
[Click HERE to join the Rosary by video](#)

[\[Or Call 646-558-8656 & enter Webinar ID: 494 480 541\]](#)



Marian Feast days in May

May 13th - Our Lady of Fatima
May 20th - Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
May 31st- Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Missionaries: Bringing the Waters of Life



Missionaries bring all kinds of water to the people they serve. This water leads to life: physical and spiritual. In John 4:10 it says “Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” What is this living water that Jesus refers to? It is the water of Baptism which Jesus elevated from a sign of repentance to a Sacrament that leads to eternal life. This is one kind of water that Missionaries bring. They fulfill the command of Jesus to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.”

Jesus desires all people to be saved and to come to him. On the cross he says that he thirsts (John 19:28). While he was certainly referring to physical thirst, the Church recognizes that Jesus thirsts for us. He desires us to know Him and be with Him. Missionaries help to bring Jesus to those who do not know Him. Mother Teresa, a great Missionary Saint, wrote to her fellow sisters the following message:



“Not only He loves you, even more - He longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you.”

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Missionaries not only bring the waters of faith and baptism they also bring clean water to sustain life. When they do this they are fulfilling a Corporeal Work of Mercy. In Matthew 25, Jesus teaches that “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” So often we can take having clean water for granted. In many parts of the world, people are not as lucky. People have to travel to get water and carry it back. Often this water is contaminated by runoff and pollution. In Nigeria, the local dioceses are drilling wells. They see the need to bring the waters of Baptism and clean drinking water as part of their shared Mission to bring life.



Prayer Service for families

This prayer service is meant for families and classes. During the prayer service we will reflect on the role of water in the Bible and we will renew our baptismal promises. It is recommended to have a bowl of Holy Water.

Leader: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All: Heavenly Father, water has played an important role in the history of humanity and in Salvation History. You created water which sustains life. You elevated water to be used in Baptism. We thank you for the gift of water and we ask you to help us appreciate this gift and share it with the world. Amen.

Reader #1: In Genesis God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. "

All: God, thank you for creating the earth with water that is necessary for life.

Reader #2: Lord, you sent water to flood the earth and cleanse it. You chose Noah to preserve life and after the flood the water subsided. You remind us of your love with the Rainbow.

All: God, you used water to cleanse. Thank you for the gift of water that cleanse our bodies and our souls.

Reader #3 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

All: Lord you brought the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea to the Promise Land. Thank you for bringing us through the waters of Baptism to the promise land of Heaven.

Reader #4 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank.

All: Just as Moses brought water out of the rock, so you bring the waters of baptism out of the rock which is the Church

Reader#5 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

All: Lord you have given us the Holy Spirit through baptism, may the Holy Spirit guide us each day.

Reader #6: Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

All: Lord, our souls thirst for you. May we always come to you to be satisfied and to have eternal life.

Reader #7: Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him

All: Lord you gave us an example on how to serve others. Help us to wash the feet of our neighbors through acts of service and love.

Leader: Let us now renew our baptismal promises. Afterwards I invite you to bless your self with holy water.

Leader: Do you reject Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Leader: God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

All: AMEN

“In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become *Missionary Disciples*” - Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium 120

Ideas for the Summer

Idea #1: Use a water container to collect money to donate to MCA to help kids this summer receive water for baptism and water for life. Put it in a common place in your home and see how much you can raise from June to August!

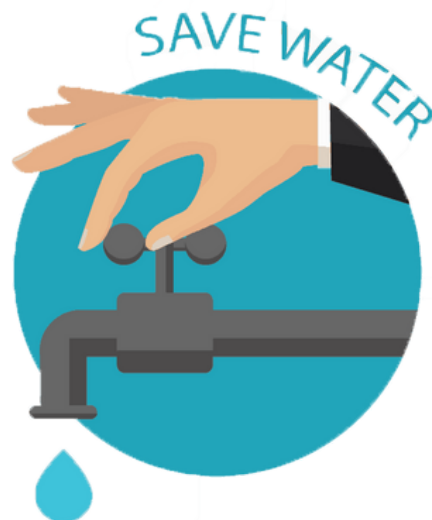


Idea #3: Don't take water for granted! Make an effort to conserve water in your home by taking shorter showers and using less water when you brush your teeth or use the sink.



Idea #2: Say a prayer for missionaries and children around the world every time you turn on the water. It could be:

Lord, thank you for clean water. Please protect Missionaries and bring the waters of life to children in the Missions. Amen.



Saint Thomas, Apostle (click here for a video for kids)

Birth: 1st century

Death: 72 AD

Feast day: July 3rd

Patron Saint of India

Saint Thomas was one of the twelve disciples and an Apostle. While Thomas is listed with the other disciples in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it is only in John that he has some of his words recorded. In the Gospel of John, he is famous for doubting the Resurrection. It is here that he gains the title “doubting Thomas.”



After he expresses his doubt to the other disciples, Jesus appears to the the twelve again and eats with them. After he shows his wound to Thomas, Thomas proclaims, “My Lord and my God.” Through the example of Thomas we see how even the disciples wrestled with the events of the Gospels and had doubts. If we have doubts like Thomas, may we also be bold enough to call Jesus our Lord and our God as well!

After the events of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, Thomas travels all the way to India. He shows us how to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18). India has a vast majority of Hindus and Christianity as always been a minority in that country. Even though the number of Christians in India remains small, they are able to trace their roots all the way back to Thomas, almost 2000 years ago!

Thomas gave his life for his faith. He was martyred and killed by a spear which is often included in pictures of him.



July 3rd is celebrated as Indian Christian Day by many different Christians. [Read more about this day in this story by the Pontifical Mission Societies.](#)

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move: Thank you to everyone who invited us out this past year.

We gave 59 presentations...

at 49 schools/parishes...

to over 10,000 people

School Visits

Ancillae Assumpta Academy
Blessed Trinity
Holy Cross (Delco)
Holy Rosary
Holy Trinity
IHM
Mary, Mother of the Redeemer
Mother of Providence
Our Mother of Consolation
Our Lady Mount Carmel
Resurrection of Our Lord
St. Bernadette's
St. Dominic's
St. Eugene's
St. Jerome's
St. Laurence
St. Mary's Interparochial
St. Monica's
St. Norbert's
St. Patrick's
St. Pio's
Sts. Colman and John Neumann
Sts. Phillip and James
Sts. Simon and Jude
St. Teresa of Calcutta
St. Maximilian Kolbe
Our Lady of Grace

Parishes

Holy Cross (Delco)
Holy Trinity
Mary Mother of the Redeemer
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Our Lady Guadalupe
Resurrection of Our Lord
Sacred Heart (Oxford)
St. Alphonsus
St. Bernadette's
St. Denis
St. Eugene's
St. Francis of Assisi
St. John Chrysostom
St. John Fisher
St. John Neumann
St. Laurence
St. Maria Goretti
St. Martin of Tours (Bucks)
St. Joseph (Downingtown)
St. Joseph (Aston)
St. Patrick's
St. Robert Bellarmine
St. Stanislaus
St. Teresa of Calcutta
St. Veronica
Sts. Simon and Jude
Stella Maris



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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

July 7, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I know that many of our worthy charitable ministries 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 own Catholic ministries, one of which is the Pontifical Mission Societies through the Missionary Childhood Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Church documents tell us 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 have a responsibility to support that work as best we can.

In this light, I ask you to promote the *Missionary Childhood Association* and the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* to the best of your ability. 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 all those in our local Church 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".

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