



# PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Missionary Childhood Association

## **RESOURCE BOOK**

SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

*“In virtue of their baptism,  
all the members of the People of  
God have become missionary  
disciples (Mt 28:19).*

*All the baptized, whatever their  
position in the Church or their  
level of instruction in the faith,  
are agents of evangelization”*

*Pope Francis*

*(Evangelii Gaudium 120)*

# PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH



The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) was founded in France in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson. Its purpose is to encourage all children to be aware of the needs of children living in mission areas, through the world and support them both spiritually and sacrificially. Today it is in 110 countries and helps make Jesus known to children all over the world. Under its banner “**children helping children**”, monies raised through schools are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs, medications, school fees, teaching and learning resources. MCA members will be encouraged to pray daily and develop a strong relationship with God. They will learn the importance of praying for our brothers and sisters in countries all over the world. We are one family in mission! This “Resource Book” constitutes a basic missionary formation process, which offers the fundamental elements of Missionary Catechesis, Missionary Spirituality, Missionary Service, and Missionary Communion. As “Assessors” or “Animators” of the children and pre-adolescents, we are helping their ongoing process of faith, while they are ministering. By using a holistic method, (mind, heart and hands) the children and pre-adolescents will be able to nourish and strengthen their discipleship with Jesus the Master.



It is a wonderful way to develop in the children the Missionary Service of the Church. It is the process of the “hidden friend of Emmaus” explaining them the Gospel while their hearts are burning in fire for the zeal to share

their faith with other children in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Oceania and the Americas.

### **Let's Understand How the Church Serves**

Together we also learn how as baptized members of the Church, we can serve as missionaries! No matter where we live, we can find many ways to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

### **Let's Make the difference with the Children**

Schools and Religious Education Programs may offer their children collection boxes to be used during special times of the year. Institutions and individuals can hold creative fundraisers to collect money. Students might decide to give up something (chips, ice cream, soda, etc) so, that money can be shared. MCA members are encouraged to be creative with the way they support other people, children, youth, and elders.

**Let's ask our Patron Saints**, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Therese of Lisieux, to help us to be bold and joyful apostles. Each of us can say: "Surrounded, led and guided by the friends of God... I do not have to carry alone what, in truth, I could never carry alone. All the saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me" (*Pope Benedict XVI*)



BECOME A MISSIONARY  
DISCIPLE

BE A MISSIONARY  
RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!

# Opening Prayer

**Leader:** O God, your love ignites our hearts, captures our imaginations, shapes our dreams, and awakens possibilities to help our brothers and sisters in need. Let's be for them the hand of God sustaining their lives.

**Lector 1:** Make us disciples, on fire with your love, that we may bring good news to the afflicted, liberty to captives, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed. Help us O God, to enkindle in others a sense of hope, that transformation is possible.

**Lector 2:**

Let us then, take as our example Saint Francis Xavier, and his witness of authentic poverty in the islands where he preached. Precisely because she kept her gaze fixed on Christ, Pauline Jaricot was also able to see and serve him in the poor. If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their sufferings. Many of them that are a part of their daily life.

**Leader:** Saint Luke in chapter 12, 49 is inviting us today to reflect on Jesus' words:

**Lector 1:** "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

**Leader:** We are blessed by God. Through different ways, God shows us his love and he wants us to share our gifts and talents with joy and without complaints. We are blessed by God. Our lives are for service, our eyes to see his goodness in creation, our ears to hear his voice in the wind. Our hands to console others in need.

**Lector 3:** *"We are called, then, to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts and to acknowledge the value of poverty in itself."*



*Let's think for a moment:*

1. What things help me to kindle my fire for mission?
  2. What things help me to kindle my fire to help others?
- 🌍 I can pray: \_\_\_\_\_
- 🌍 I'm able to offer a little sacrifice: \_\_\_\_\_
- 🌍 I can offer my economic support: \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader:** These actions make me trace a path to see with the eyes of the heart. It is not an easy journey. But it is an ongoing effort to live the gospel to kindle the fire of love in ourselves. My prayer: enables missionaries to remain faithful. The missionary rosary is the powerful instrument. With it we reach all those who are far from us. We walk with Mary around the world and we encourage by our prayers, the life of many missionaries.

**ALL: ENKINDLE OUR HEART WITH YOUR LOVE.**

**Lector 4:** Our sacrifices: Provide strength to those missionaries who work hard. They are bringing the gospel around the world. They are working with children, elders and abandoned young mothers. People have to walk 3 hours to get to the local church to see a priest, asking for help. The priest has to walk days, to visit the villages, because it is not easy for their transportation.

**ALL: ENKINDLE OUR HEART WITH YOUR LOVE.**

**Lector 5:** Our economic support: builds houses; gives food, offers education, school projects, health services, communication and water to drink. Our economic support brings new smiles to the children, consolation for many parents and hope for many parishes.

**ALL: ENKINDLE OUR HEART WITH YOUR LOVE.**

**ALL:** O Lord, open our hearts to our brothers and sisters in need.

Give us all your Spirit during the heat of the day, so that in the evening of our lives, united with you and with the missionaries, we may at least receive the reward of our work and we may rejoice in your presence among the blessed in heaven.

**Our Father....**

Hail Mary....

Glory.....



“ Let us continue to take care of our children and help them to assist others with a spirit of generosity and faith. Let us pray for these little ones so that they may always be missionaries. Thank you for assisting them, accompanying them along the road of faith, generosity, fraternity an apostolate, which generates hope”  
**Fr. Bernard Makadani Zulu.**

“In faith you have seen Christ suffering today in the wars and wounds, in the poverty, in the seeming-abandonment of people all over the world” **Mons. Marc Filacchione**

Write a prayer for children in need

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## HOLISTIC METHODOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

### JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVES


- The Missionary Childhood Association aims to "help educators to progressively awaken in children a universal missionary conscience" and "to give missionary openness to Christian education". (Statutes PMS III, 17).
- Therefore, it must offer them a systematic and personalized missionary formation, with which they can be better missionaries for the whole world.
- Children have the right to receive that missionary formation and the duty to take advantage of the elements that are needed.
- However, the Missionary Childhood helps the child, to make his School with Jesus.


**Now let's look at some elements for a general plan of missionary formation.**

**THE GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF MISSIONARY FORMATION** could be described as follows:

Achieve that children are progressively trained to fulfill their own mission in their community and collaborate in universal evangelization, especially for children.

The children will experience different moments during their formation program organized in four encounters of 90 minutes each: the first one is called:

 **MISSIONARY CATECHESIS:** in which the “assessor” or “animator” provides catechetical instruction in light of the Bible (O.T. or N. T.) This first encounter touches the knowledge (mind) of the MCA member, to discover different ways in their journey to become missionaries. We reflect: “Jesus called them to be with him, and become his friends” (Mk. 3,14; Jn. 15)

 **MISSIONARY SPRITUALITY:** during this encounter the children will experience deep in their heart, what Jesus is asking them to do in their own life. It is to connect with the feelings of Jesus. It is to be like Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> John Roberto, Reimagining Faith, Lifelongfaith Societies, 2015.

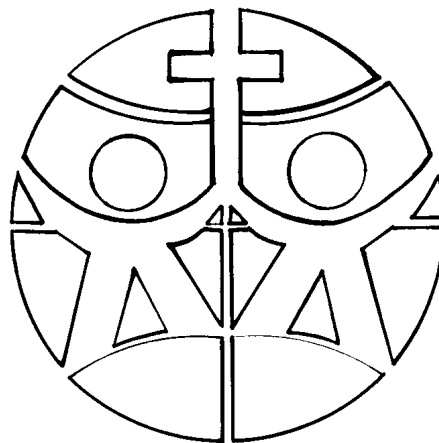
We renew our feelings, decisions, and attitudes”. Learning about saints, our patrons, other witnesses of faith. We pray for the whole world by the Missionary Rosary.

**MISSIONARY COMMUNION:** for this encounter, we invite the children to focus on the basic elements to build community. We start by sharing how our life is getting different, the challenges we face to live our commitments. We grow as community of disciples. We share what we have. We are active members in our Church”.

**MISSIONARY ACTION:** Support a missionary "in action and for action" . In the missionary formation, the children have to assume a progressive missionary commitment, in such a way that at the end of their childhood they are properly integrated into other missionary services that are offered to them (for example: youth group) in their parish community”

“Complement the training offered to children by the family, the school and the parish. With this, the children grow in their universal missionary spirit and become missionaries in their family, school, community and for the whole world”

“Integrating formative service, it Missionary Childhood diocesan and parish to form Dynamic and Ecclesial among the children their family, school children”<sup>2</sup>



organically this is offered by the within the pastoral. We help Missionary Living Communities themselves, with and with other

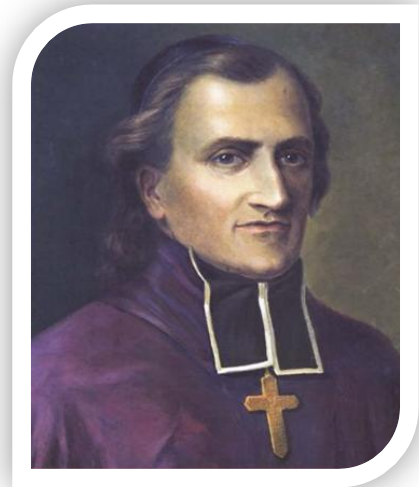
<sup>2</sup> (Author: Mons. Julio Daniel Botia Aponte, translation from Spanish original version, CAM, 1999, Guatemala C. A. Lourdes Victoria, Guatemala, SNIAM, 1999)

# Our Patrons



The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother. Through her intercession, we embrace the world to bring hope and consolation. Mary is The Queen of The Evangelization, she encourages all missionaries throughout the world to follow in the footsteps of her Son Jesus. Through the Missionary Rosary, we embrace the whole everybody and we join ourselves and our soul with all the children in foreign countries.

French Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson, deeply affected by the distress of Chinese children abandoned in the streets, was moved to found a society similar to the Propagation of the Faith – but



for children. He was convinced that though weak and needing care, children rich in faith and love are capable of playing their own part in the Church’s mission - and even of stirring adults to show the same generous spirit. The response to Bishop Forbin-Janson’s appeal was extraordinary. In a few years, the unique concept of “children helping children” spread not only throughout his native France, but all over Europe, then to North America, Latin America and Asia, and in the last 40 years, to Africa. MCA was established in 1846 in the United States. MCA was raised to the status of “Pontifical” in 1922 by Pope Pius XI.



October 1 marks the Feast Day of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, Patroness of all Missionaries and the Missions, Patroness of France and Doctor of the Church. *“In spite of my littleness, I would like to enlighten souls as did the Prophets and the Doctors. I have the vocation of the Apostles. I would like to travel over the whole earth to preach your Name and to plant your glorious cross on the soil that is not faithful to God.*



St. Francis Xavier's focus for missionary work was China. He traveled to Sancian (Shangchuan) Island, near Canton, but was not able to access the mainland because borders had been closed to foreigners. Before he could find a way inside the country, illness incapacitated Xavier. He died on the island on December 3, 1552, at the age of 46.

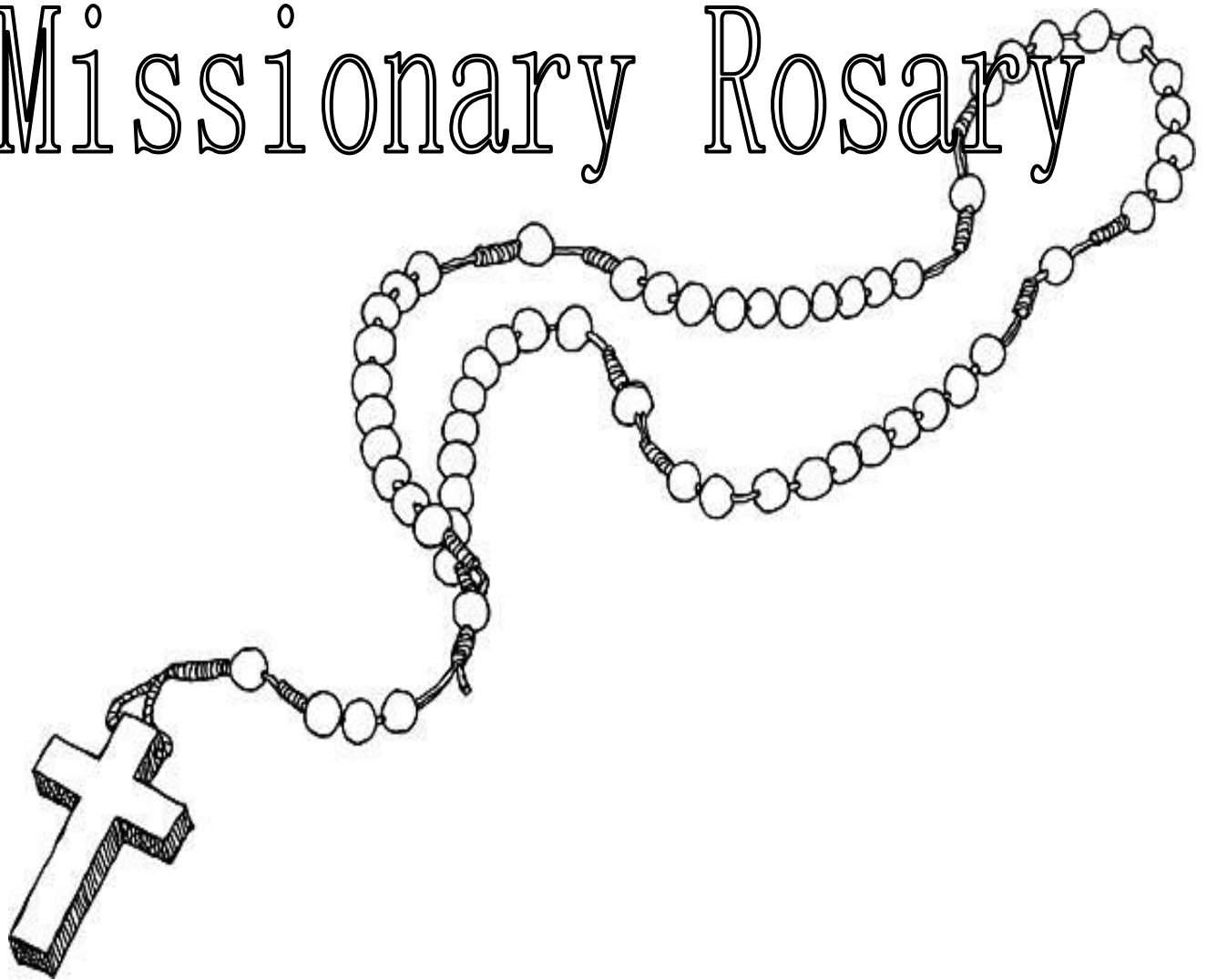
Though he passed away at a relatively young age, St. Francis Xavier had accomplished much in his life. In addition to being a founding member of the Jesuit order—the Society of Jesus was officially recognized by Pope Paul III in 1540—he baptized an estimated 30,000 people. Francis Xavier was beatified by Pope Paul V in 1619, and canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622. A famed Missionary now the *Patron Saint of Missionaries*.

# REFRESH



1. Who is Monsignor Charles Forbin Janson?
2. What Theresa did to be called Patroness of Missions worldwide?
3. Who is St. Francis Xavier?
4. What is the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our missionary journey?

# Missionary Rosary



The Pontifical Mission Societies reintroduced the World Mission Rosary created by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951, then national director for the Society for the Propagation of Faith. Archbishop Sheen made an appeal to "Embrace the World in Prayer"! Each of the five decades of the World Mission Rosary has different colors that represent different mission regions of the world:

**Green for the grasslands and forests of Africa.**





**Red for the blood of the martyrs of the Americas**



**White for Europe, home of the Holy Father, and his call for new evangelization**



**Blue for water surrounding Oceania (the island nations) of the world.**

To this "geographical" rosary, we reflect on the five points of evangelization described by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, "On the Mission of the Redeemer." These are: Inter-religious dialogue Liturgy Solidarity Witness Proclamation.



**Yellow for the rising sun over Asia**

# I. Missionary Catechesis

## MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD SOCIETY IN THE WORLD

### Objective:

Through Jesus' command or mandate "Go and evangelize all peoples" (Mt. 28:19) children become disciples of the whole world.

### Sharing experiences

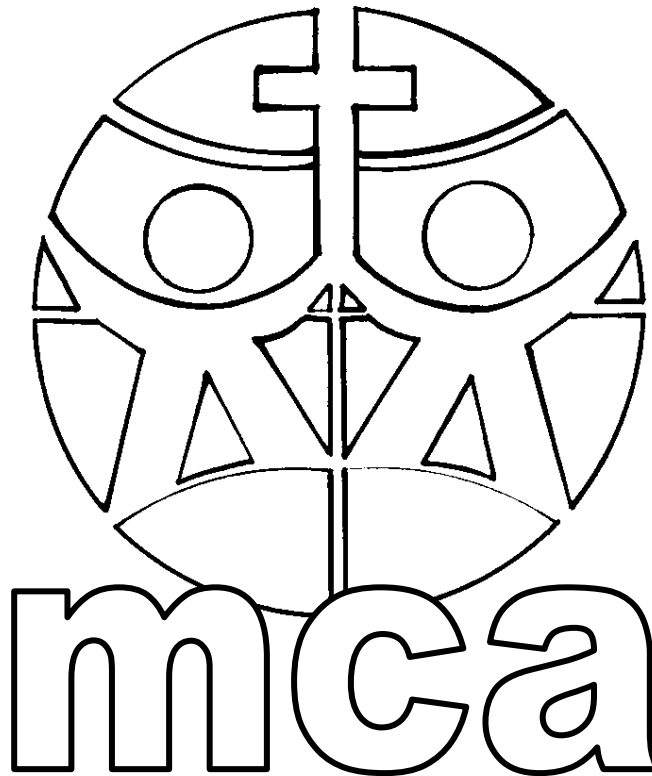
- 🌐 **Let's start by listening the teacher: Mt. 28: 19-20**
- 🌐 Give the children some little background of how the society started. In 1822 Pauline Marie Jaricot from Lyon, France, founded the society for the Propagation of the Faith. She asked Catholics to pray every day for the missions and to give a small financial contribution regularly. The society rapidly spread throughout the world and today helps all the mission dioceses and territories. (Use the missionary statistics)
- 🌐 In 1843 Mons. Charles Forbin Janson, Bishop of Nancy, in France was deeply affected by the distress of Chinese children abandoned in the streets. He was moved and found a Society similar to the Propagation of the Faith, but for children. He founded the society with the name: "Holy Childhood Society" today its name changed to "Missionary Childhood Association" with the objective "Children helping children" through prayers, offering gifts and sacrifices, helping the fellow needy children.  
(For more resources [www.missio.org](http://www.missio.org))

### Discussion time:

- 🕯 Discuss with the children some of the continents where the Society has taken root. (Africa, Americas, Europe, Pacific Islands and Asia)
- 🕯 Discuss how can we help those children?

**Activities**

- ✎ Make the children create a MISSIONARY COIN BOX to give something each week at the conclusion of the encounter.
- ✎ Invite the children to give thanks for what we have
- ✎ Motivate the children to be part of the Missionary Childhood Association at the local community
- ✎ Let the children sing a missionary song
- ✎ Suggest a prayer for each day of the week. (See resources of Propagation of the Faith)
- ✎ Color the MCA logo





# 2. Missionary Spirituality

## 1. We are the light of the World

### Objectives:

Children should be able to:

- 🌍 Identify ways in which they can transmit/share the light of Christ to other people
- 🌍 Reflect on the light of Christ
- 🌍 Reflect deep on the words “sacrifice” and “prayer”.

### Starting of experiences

- Discuss with the Children the problems of darkness. What problems can one face if he/she is in the dark? What can be done to overcome darkness?
- Sing a song in connection with the topic.

### The word of the Lord: God’s **Message Jn. 8: 12**

- 🕯️ Jesus said: I’m the light of the world, who that follows me, shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.
- 🕯️ Jesus came to show us how to live.
- 🕯️ Light means: good works, good attitudes, good behavior
- 🕯️ Let’s respond some questions:

## WHAT JESUS SAYS TO YOU?

1. “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled” Lc. 12: 49
  
2. "And he said to them, “Go into the entire world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”  
Mark 16:15

3. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19
  
4. "For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."Acts 13:4
  
5. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its savor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lamp stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." Mt. 4, 13-14

### **Activities:**

Draw in your notebook a sign of "LIGHT" in your own life

Write a sentence where you include the words: "Light of the world"

Bring home an acrostic made by using the word "LIGHT" decorate it nice and neat, hanging it in an especial place at home.

- ✠ Let's pray 1 Hail Mary for each continent.
- ✠ Let's pray this week for the intentions of Pope Francis
- ✠ Let's offer to God a little sacrifice of Love

# 3. Missionary Communion

**Introduction:** In this encounter we will talk about the elements that help us grow as a community of disciples. Our badges help us to create an identity. As missionaries we have an open a heart to all. We are Jesus apostles. We receive our badges or “insignia” the day when we celebrate with the whole Church the Worldwide Missionary Sunday.

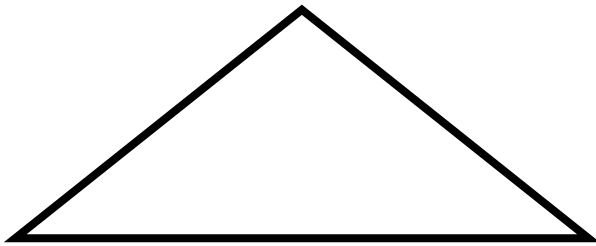
According to our levels, we receive:

**Green garment:** for beginners, like the green wheat getting mature.

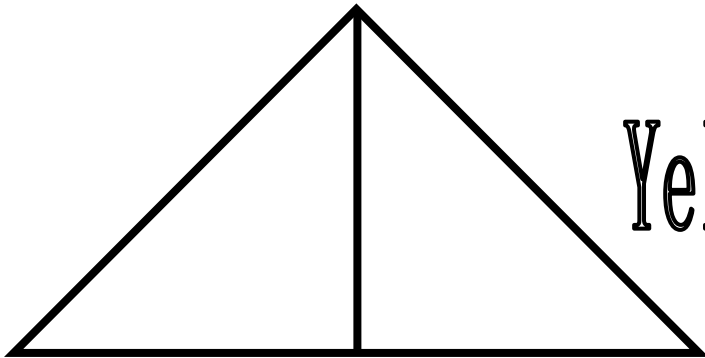
**Yellow & White garment:** for those who have one year: In communion with Pope Francis and the whole church.

**Orange garment & Lapel Pin:** two years, getting mature in faith

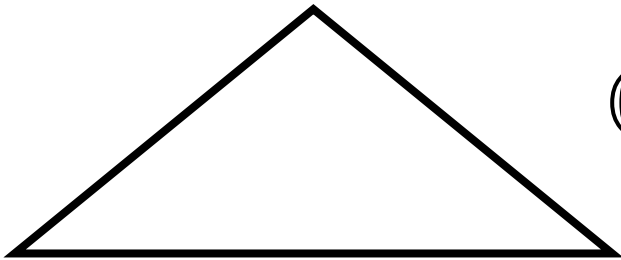
**Cross & Missionary Rosary:** Ready to move to Young Faith Formation



Green



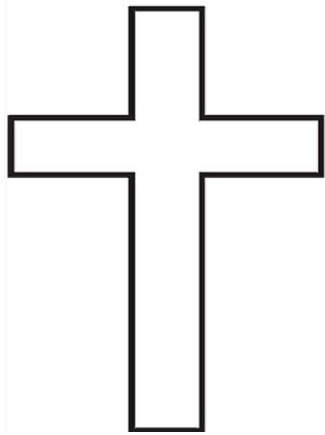
Yellow & White



Orange

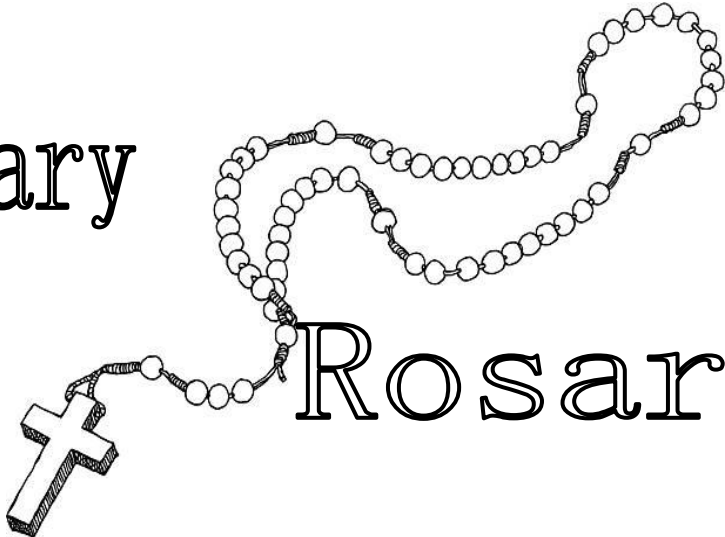


MCA LAPEL PIN



Cross

Missionary



Rosary

## Discussion time

When we wear our badges, we identify ourselves as members of the Missionary Childhood Association.

- ✎ We feel committed to be better in everything: in our prayer, in our service, in our economic support, in our spirit.
- ✎ We are responsible to bring the light of Jesus into our environments (school, friends, family, and church)
- ✎ We are missionaries right where we are
- ✎ We bring testimony of joy, peace, justice and love to others.

LET'S LEARN FROM HEART OUR DECALOGUE:

### MCA members:

- 📖 Look at all men with eyes of a brother
- 📖 Know Jesus, is not ashamed to talk about Jesus
- 📖 Pray daily to God the Father for their brothers the children around the World
- 📖 Want to know the Virgin Mary Mother of God
- 📖 Always say Thank You!
- 📖 Have to give, so that others can enjoy
- 📖 Are joyful in their missionary service
- 📖 Know that the person is more important than things
- 📖 Are generous at all costs
- 📖 Seek and find solutions
- 📖 Always think of everyone

missionary  
**childhood**  
 association

# 4. Missionary Projection

“With these four steps we propose to accompany the children to carry out a cyclic process that configures them as true missionaries. They begin by "listening" to the Word, he goes on to "live it" personally, they make the corresponding "missionary projection" and they reinforce the “communion for the mission”. Then, begin again the four steps, as the good disciple who listens, puts into practice the Word and makes disciples for Jesus”<sup>3</sup>

## Objectives:

- 🌐 Children should be instruments of peace, service, unity and joy in their homes, schools and community.
- 🌐 Children pray daily for their parents, brothers and sisters from the whole world.
- 🌐 Invite their families to share especially during the Sunday Eucharist
- 🌐 Promote the Lord’s Prayer, the missionary rosary and other family prayers.
- 🌐 Help them to preach the gospel by:
  - 📖 Word (Reading at Mass, sharing parables with friends, encourage other children to share God’s word)
  - 📖 Action (Serving at Mass, serve others, offer their help by visiting the elders.
  - 📖 LET’S CELEBRATE OUR FAITH AS MCA each Sunday.
  - 📖 Let’s participate with joy in our Religious Education Program Annual Festival.

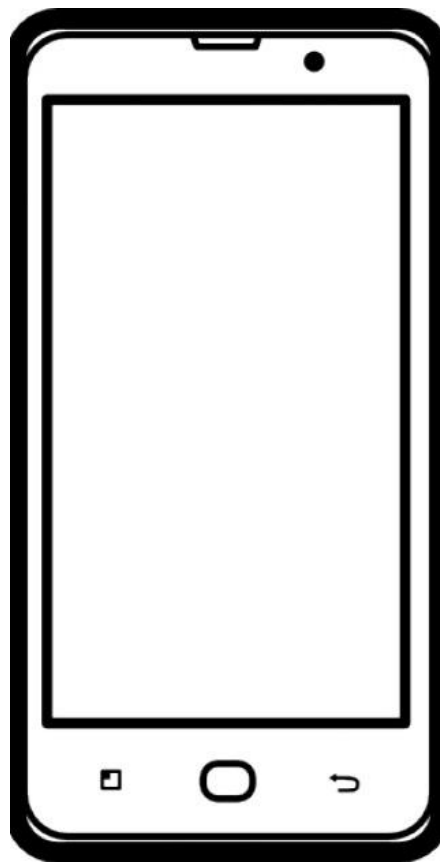
## Sharing experiences

Animators should meet groups of children and discuss the objectives.

<sup>3</sup> Mons. Daniel Botia Aponte, /Lourdes Victoria, Thesis in Missiology/PUU, Roma 1998.

Teach the children different ways of prayers and teach them to pray for the Universal Church. Give them reflections and teach them to compose prayers

# Write a Text Message



“Educators, parents, catechists, young people, religious sisters and priests can participate in this Society as Animators of Missionary Childhood. The animators help and guide the children while letting them take on their own responsibilities and accompanying them in carrying out everything that they themselves must do”

# We are Missionaries

First heard at Baptism, the call to share our faith — to be missionaries — is truly connected to every moment of every day. The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) offers young Catholics and their families opportunities to make those daily connections.



**Sing a song to conclude your activity**



# I am a Missionary

In my Family  
With my Friends  
In my School and Community

♥ Baptism Date: \_\_\_\_\_

♥ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

♥ 1st. Communion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

♥ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consecration as missionary disciple**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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# *Notes*

Ruled lines for writing notes.

Mission Education Office  
1011First Avenue New York, NY 10022  
Tel. (212) 371-100 Ext. 2704  
[victorialourdes721@gmail.com](mailto:victorialourdes721@gmail.com)