Missionary Childhood Association Forming Children with a Heart for the Missions Resources for Educators

The office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith of the Diocese of Rochester is here to support catechists and teachers in our Catholic schools as you set out to form Missionary Disciples knowledgeable about the needs of their brothers and sisters in Christ and generous in their willingness to pray and sacrifice for them.

Fr. Paul Gitau, director potf.gitau@dor.org Jody Hickey, administrative assistant potf@dor.org https://www.dor.org/about/office-ministry-directory/propagation-of-the-faith/

The Basics:

Mission Moderator: <u>Start by recruiting a catechist, teacher or parent to oversee MCA</u> <u>activities</u> and raise the level of mission consciousness among the students and teachers. The Moderator is supported in this work by staff of the Diocesan Missions Office and will act as the school/parish's liaison.

Duties might include:

† Read the MCA materials and offer suggestions regarding ordering materials.

† Meet with the principal, pastor, or DRE to enlist their cooperation and input in planning the mission projects and programs for the year.

† Develop a goal-oriented plan for the year to foster mission awareness among students and faculty. Start small and build each year.

†Create a central place in the school or parish, if possible, for display of mission materials.

† Encourage teachers to include the missions in prayers and Masses.

† Schedule a mission visit through the diocesan office.

† Plan and coordinate an annual Mission Mass or Prayer service to celebrate mission awareness.

† Lead students in sacrificing for MCA at least once a year.

Recruit a few students to be Mission Representatives for special events

When making your plan, try to incorporate all five elements of mission education:

Raise Awareness, Teach, Pray, Sacrifice, Give

Helpful tools:

- MCA Brochure: https://onefamilyinmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024.04.12-Flyer-Brochure-MCA-TPMS-A.pdf
- Archdiocese of NY Resource packet 28 pages: https://files.ecatholic.com/15712/documents/2018/4/MCA- https://files.ecatholicatholic.com/15712/documents/2018/4/MCA-
- Article about MCA from Catechist Magazine <u>https://www.catechist.com/children-on-mission/</u>
- Mission Magazine: To order: <u>https://onefamilyinmission.org/suscribe-mission-magazine/</u> To read (archive) <u>https://www.missionsocieties.ca/missions-today/</u>
- Pontifical Mission Societies International Secretariats website:: <u>https://www.ppoomm.va/en/notizie-eventi/notizie/news-2024/16-01-2024.htm</u>
- Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood page from PMS International website (above): <u>https://www.ppoomm.va/en/chi-siamo/le-4-opere-missionarie/posi.html</u>
- International MCA Bulletin Archive (from Vatican)
 <u>https://www.ppoomm.va/en/documentazioni/documenti-posi/posi-bollettini.html</u>

Order materials: such as "mite" collection boxes, posters, bookmarks, World Mission Rosary booklets through the diocesan office and send a letter home to parents. (Sample letter:) <u>https://www.hbgdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-LTR-to-Parent-Guardian-Harrisburg.pdf</u>

A. Raise Awareness (Information)

- of conditions in mission territories,
- of "haves" and "have-nots,
- of the inter-relatedness of global peace and justice issues,
- of both physical and spiritual poverty.
- Promote and grow a sense of belonging to the same Universal Church, the same family of God.
- Tie into the seven themes of Catholic social teaching.
- Stress the connection between reflection, prayer, and action.
- Visit <u>https://www.missio.org/resources?localization=EN</u> (for information about Pontifical Mission Societies and current projects) coming out of the Vatican and <u>https://www.onefamilyinmission.org</u> (for information and resources out of the U.S. national office. Note: teacher resources are found under the "Prayer" tab.)
- Visit <u>https://mcakids.org</u> for six short biographies of children in mission territories around the world.

- "Holy Childhood Kidz" videos (Canada) <u>https://youtu.be/DGmGkv2dOC4?si=b4tXQHmbmw7Es5v-</u> (10 videos featuring high school students in a club to benefit missions-features 10 different countries)
- Visit <u>https://missiontogether.org.uk/teaching-resources/</u> for ready-to-go slideshows, lesson plans, worksheets and more from the UK. You'll find interactive maps, short films, fundraising ideas, liturgical and Saint plans.
 Featuring: "Together in...(name of country)" assembly notes, slides, reflection points, posters, science & handwriting activities for: Cameroon, India, Philippines, Malawi, Mayanmar, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Cambodia, and South Africa.
- Create a Missionary Childhood Association bulletin board.
- Read multicultural stories (see annotated bibliography of appropriate titles); learn songs, dances and games from other countries; cook/sample food. Incorporate Holy Heroes "Very Young Catholics" Series books and videos <u>https://holyheroes.com/collections/very-young-catholic-project</u> and <u>https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoDzD8WPEnylhkZB- th55SmFSBvpmnb&si=QdjGKAre_iyeCisN</u>
- Provide concrete experiences that simulate life in mission countries
 <u>https://columbuscatholic.org/system/resources/W1siZiIsIjIwMjEvMTAv</u>
 <u>MjAvNnY1ZjFnazlheF9NaXNzaW9uX0pvdXJuZXkucGRmII1d/Mission%20Journ</u>
 <u>ey.pdf</u>
- Fifty-seven different 2-page lesson plans for missionary country of the month -Archive (Archdiocese of Boston): <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/country-of-the-month</u>
- Short stories and photos of children in the missions-"Providing Children with a Chance": <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/providing-children-with-a-chance</u>
- Video (sweet interactions between children in missions and foreign child): <u>https://www.facebook.com/reel/1205458954102649?fs=e&s=TleQ9V&fs=e&fs=</u> <u>e&s=TleQ9V</u>
- Canadian resources: teaching guides for various grades, student newsletters, and more: <u>https://www.missionsocieties.ca/holy-childhood-associationhca/education-materials/</u>
- Teacher's Tool Box and Kids' Corner (Boston)
 <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/mission-education-resources
 https://www.propfaithboston.org/kids-korner
 </u>
- Variety of teacher resources here: <u>https://columbuscatholic.org/missions/education-amp-resources</u>
- Missionary Childhood Association videos (Philadelphia) <u>https://youtube.com/@missionarychildhoodassocia5065?si=gdjFoMAmAmvKjmiT</u>

- CMA History with ties to Bishop Forbin Janson's travels in US: <u>https://www.hbgdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/MCA-a-History-of-Helping.pdf</u>
- 12-page free e-book on Pauline Jaricot: <u>https://onefamilyinmission.org/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2024/06/Blessed-Pauline-Jaricot.pdf</u>

B. Teach (Formation):

- the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
- the Holy Spirit empowering disciples to carry out the work (Pentecost)
- our baptismal call to serve as missionary disciples (anointed priest, prophet, king)
- The Sacrament of Confirmation prepares us to go out as witnesses
- New Testament missionaries: Paul, Barnabas, Peter, Philip, Thomas the Apostle, Apollos
- Missionary Saints and Blesseds (esp. St. Francis Xavier, St. Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Pauline Jaricot, and Venerable Fulton Sheen) <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/advent-xmas/cat1/Saint-of-the-Month-Saint-Francis-Xavier-K-4-Dec-2022.pdf</u> and <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/advent-xmas/cat1/Saint-of-the-Month-Saint-Francis-Xavier-5-8.pdf</u>
- Incorporate missionary Saints in your parade of Saints or All Saints Day Party.
- Display posters of missionary Saints
 <u>https://catholicartworks.com/Product_Pages/books/bpbk045.htm</u>
- Missionary Saint of the Month archive (Archdiocese of Boston)
 <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/saint-month</u>
- the history of missionary activity and those currently performing missionary work
- missionary vocations
- what it means to have a missionary heart
- the power of intercessory prayer
- Video For older students: Fr. Mike SchmitzAre You Called to Be a Missionary?
- Video: Vaticano ((EWTN)<u>The missionary dimension of the Catholic Church</u>
- Catholic Social Teaching <u>https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/upload/catholic-social-teaching-handout-for-children-digital.pdf</u>, <u>https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/upload/catholic-social-teaching-handout-adults-digital.pdf</u>,
- Superhero of Justice lesson https://www.cchdbaltimore.org/superhero-of-justice.pdf
- Children helping Children cartoon video https://youtu.be/iVBY_MNVgJM

C. <u>Pray:</u>

- Establish a habit of daily prayer for our brothers and sisters in the missions. MCA began with children praying one Hail Mary a day and giving a small coin each month. This formula is still applicable today-pray one **Hail Mary** every day as part of a daily routine for the missionary children of the world.
- Ready-to-go prayer services <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/prayer-services</u>
- https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/
- Prayer for the continents: <u>https://missiontogether.org.uk/wp-</u> content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/04/Prayers-for-our-Continents-1.pdf
- Color Mission Together prayer <u>https://missiontogether.org.uk/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/09/Colour-the-Mission-Together-Prayer.pdf</u>
- Make a missionary tea light prayer candle to remind you to pray daily <u>https://youtu.be/Av0M0ZhwvNM?si=530jjy8EjSFApnbG</u>
- Teach about and pray the World Mission Rosary created by Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen. Brochures available from the national office.
- World Mission Rosary Packet: <u>https://www.archindy.org/mission/files/world%20mission%20rosary%20activity%</u> <u>20packet%20Oct%202020.pdf</u>
- Make world mission rosaries in art class or faith formation. Purchase kits here: <u>https://www.autom.com/product/mission-wood-string-your-own-rosary-kit-</u> <u>L0449</u> (\$1.29 each)
- Purchase low-cost world mission rosaries (\$1.59 or \$.89 each) through Autom <u>https://www.autom.com/product/laser-engraved-wood-mission-rosary-12-pk-</u> <u>YS046</u> OR <u>https://www.autom.com/product/rainbow-mission-rosary-RC482</u>
- Create a missionary prayer corner in your room or add an MCA photo and collection box to your existing prayer table.
- create a spiritual bouquet for the missions
 <u>https://www.elizabethclareblog.com/just-what-is-a-spiritual-bouquet-a-simple-guide/</u>
- Include the Holy Father's prayer intention for the month in your communal prayers. <u>https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2024</u>
- As a class, request a Mass intention to be offered by a missionary priest. This shows the importance of the Mass and its benefits for the intention, while directly supporting a priest in his mission work. Read a book such as *The Weight of the Mass* by Josephine Nobisso or watch the animated video: https://youtu.be/ICDdm-NqtoQ?si=gNlf-bfg7zvCPwOU, Summary , questions, worksheet: https://jareddees.com/theweightofamass-book-worksheet/

- Simple ways to pray for the missions pdf: <u>https://www.sfarchdiocese.org/wp-</u> content/uploads/2021/08/Simple-Ways-to-Pray-for-the-Missions.pdf
- Students in High School might utilize this Christian website which gives up-todate information on the situation in various countries and specific things for which to pray: <u>https://operationworld.org/prayer-resources/countries-alphabetically/</u>

D. Sacrifice:

- Students might decide to give up a certain luxury or treat so that the money can be shared with children in the missions.
- Family might decide to do a monthly meatless meal and donate that money to the missions.
- Child might offer a spiritual sacrifice, such as forgoing dessert and offer up that gift to God as a means of helping the missions.
- Teach children about the "sacrifice beads" that were given to little Therese Martin (St. Therese of Lisieux) by her older sister, Marie, to help her count her sacrifices offered to the Lord. Read the story found in *The Catholic Treasure Box* series volumes 1-6 (TAN publishers). Make sacrifice beads: <u>https://youtu.be/-YgvbjWWRmk?feature=shared</u>. Show this video of children in the missions doing the same thing:

https://youtu.be/azTleumz0SA?si=j6dGdZEfnoVBg32S Coloring page: http://www.holyheroes.net/aa/2018/Dec8-9.pdf

E. Give:

- using collection "mite" boxes which can be ordered through the diocesan office, children can donate money earned through performing chores or babysitting,
- contribute from their allowance or birthday/Christmas money,
- solicit donations from friends, relatives, and Godparents
- or participate in a school-wide fundraiser such as Socktober, dance-a-thon, walk-a-thon, dress-down day, raffles etc.
- Mite boxes can be used year round or during a particular season such as October-missions month, November-gratitude/Thanksgiving, Christmas-season of giving, February-love with a missionary heart etc..
- <u>https://www.archmil.org/offices/world-mission/mission-education/Missionary-Childhood-Association/MCA-Mite-Box.htm</u>

Special Programs and Subject-Related Activities:

Anytime:

- Schedule a visit or presentation through the diocesan office. In-person or Zoom from a mission educator or missionary.
- Invite sisters or priests from missionary orders to visit the classroom or watch videos. Interesting story of missionary sister from Boston who worked for many years serving circus families in the Barnum & Bailey Circus (Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) .<u>https://www.globalsistersreport.org/blog/q/ministry/q-sr-dorothy-fabritze-30756</u>, <u>https://thecentralminnesotacatholic.org/missionary-says-circus-people-are-faith-filled-want-presence-of-church/</u>, <u>https://circusworld.wisconsinhistory.org/explore/our-treasures-exhibits/circus-ministry/</u>
- Develop parish to parish or school to school relationships (with a parish or school in missions territory). Children might write to pen pals.
- Middle school students might form an MCA "club"-students meet monthly to learn about the missions and conduct fundraiser(s). Learn about a country and Saint each month.

https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2022/10/HINTS%20ONHOW%20T 0%20ESTABLISH%20A%20MISSION%20CLUB.pdf?t=1666796837000

- Have a friendly competition between grades, classrooms, or schools to see who can raise the most money. Winning classroom gets a party or class movie.
- **Mission Mondays**: incorporate prayer for the missions, missionary Saints, and education on Mondays.
- Mission Education Day-complete with prayers, songs, stories etc. This might include a Missionary Prayer Service or Missionary Stations of the Cross, Teacher Resource Booklet (PDF) <u>https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2022/9/MCA%20Mission%20Animation%20</u> Kit.pdf?t=1663344490000
- More mission day resources here: https://clarionherald.org/news/children-s-mission-day-tells-young-people-you-are-the-heart-of-the-church How to plan: https://www.missionsocieties.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guidelines-for-Mission-Day-2019.pdf and https://www.missionsocieties.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Enrollment-2016-17.pdf
- School or Diocesan Mass for Missions: Modeled after the diocese of San Diego, Students participate during the liturgy as lectors, choir, altar servers, and during the entrance and offertory procession. To enhance the celebration, students wear cultural outfits representing different countries in the world and mission color bandanas.

- Teacher Resources (Archdiocese of New Orleans) <u>https://archnomo.org/mca-resources</u> and <u>https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2022/9/MCA%20Mission%20Animation%20Kit.pdf?t=1663344490000</u>
- **Physical education** fundraiser: jump rope, shoot hoops to raise money for MCA. Learn games played in other countries. Hold a charity basketball game-8th graders or 6th graders against faculty. Hold a Walk for the Missions or Mission Mile.
- Art: Host a prayer card contest-children design a missionary-themed prayer card, <u>https://archnomo.org/missionary-childhood-association</u>
- Art: Mission Prayer Collage <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/documents/52746/2254147/Prayer+Cross+Col</u> <u>lage.pdf/4291b3b6-406d-2f79-cde8-536d26562e79</u>
- Art: Make a missionary quilt with each square telling how each person will answer the call to spread the Good News and serve the missions.
- Drawing contest-child chooses country
 <u>https://www.ppoomm.va/content/dam/ppoomm/documentazioni/pubblicazioni/pubblicazioni-posi/concorso-internazionale-di-disegno-posi-2023/Concorso-di-disegno-POSI-2023.pdf</u>
- Music: Learn missionary themed songs or hymns
- **Drama:** Put on a missionary-themed play or reader's theater. <u>https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2024/2/Halls%20of%20Heaven%</u> <u>20Talk%20Show%20Skit-3.pdf?t=1708978380000</u>
- **Practical Arts/Cooking:** Hold an International Fair/potluck: families make food and bring clothing/articles from their native countries or choose a country to represent-research and present.
- Play Missionopoly <u>https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2022/9/Missionolopy%20Instructions.pdf</u> <u>?t=1663612701000</u>
- Hold Missionary Assembly: <u>https://clarionherald.org/news/missionopoly-a-game-with-a-purpose</u>

Seasonal:

- **October**: Create a month-long focus on the missions-Month of Rosary, Feast of St. Therese, World Mission Sunday
- Your Catholic school might hold a "Little Way Dress Down Day" on October 1st (or a Friday close to this date). Students give a mere \$2 to dress down and

support the missions. Teach about St. Therese the co-patron Saint of the Missions.



- Hold a Mary-a-thon, record how many "Hail Mary's" your class says in the month of October or in May. Forms here: <u>https://www.sfparish.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/10/MCA_Maryathon-3-page-activity.pdf</u>
- Hold a Living Mission Rosary -Each person represents one bead and form the shape of the rosary.



- Make a World Mission Rosary out of different colored paper cups and put them in the holes of a chain link fence on your church or school property. <u>https://www.propfaithboston.org/documents/52746/1509478/World+Mission+R</u> <u>osary+in+Plastic+Cups.pdf/fce1663c-1efc-8217-65c3-264a8604dc7e</u>
- Make a large World Mission Rosary out of strips of paper or purchase the kit here: <u>https://www.autom.com/how-to-pray-the-rosary-chain-craft-kit-8-pk-p1234</u>
- "Socktober" (Australian initiative) Through the powerful metaphor present in the world game of football, students experience the reality of other children in developing countries, learn their stories, and take concrete action to support them. Hold a Socktober shoot out. "Children experience how their brothers and sisters in Ghana play the game of soccer with a recycled 'Sockball', learn about life in Ghana and are moved to action. <u>http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WMS-7-12.pdf</u>, https://www.socktober.org.au/about,

2022 d7 web sing, https://youtu.be/G3Y5h561WsE?si=IH8E8UfwWl6hrJkQ, https://youtu.be/5SyNsUbYQQc?si=PDB2xMfhf8FUOsVE, https://www.catholicmission.org.au/for-students-educators-1

- **November**: Living with an attitude of Gratitude <u>https://www.hbgdiocese.org/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2023/10/MCA-NOV-2023-Attitude-of-Gratitude.pdf</u>
- Advent Resources: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CO5rk-R-m-IK_80vRsa3BZe3LF5XWTXo/view?usp=drive_link</u>. And <u>https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/advent-resources/, and https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/advent-xmas/cat1/Advent_Family_Activity_EN.pdf</u> Dec. 3rd is the Feast of St. Francis Xavier
- Advent prayer service: <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/advent-</u> <u>xmas/cat2/Prepare-for-Advent-Prayer-Bringing-Jesus-to-the-Nations_EN.pdf</u>
- Advent wreath missionary prayer service: <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/advent-</u> <u>xmas/cat2/2020 AdventResource PrayerService EN.pdf</u>
- Mission Market (Columbus, OH) Children donate gently used items and they "shop" for themselves or gifts for siblings (esp. good during Advent) with all money raised going to MCA <u>https://columbuscatholic.org/system/resources/W1siZiIsIjIwMjEvMTAvMjAvMm</u> J4dHN2dnQya19NaXNzaW9uX01hcmtldF9kZXRhaWxzLnBkZiJdXQ/Mission%2

0Market%20details.pdf

- Toy Contest (build toys using recycled materials) -30th annual (Gr. 1-7) Archdiocese of New Orleans <u>https://archnomo.org/missionary-childhood-association</u>
- MCA National Christmas Artwork contest (Gr. K-8) Mail original artwork and form postmarked no later than January 31st. Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition, as well as two grand-prize winners whose artwork will be the official National Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies.



C. Edmond - Winner, Diocese of Fort Worth 2023-2024. C. Edmond's artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during the 2024 Advent/Christmas Season.

- Epiphany: Celebrate World Day of Missionary Childhood, https://www.cgfmanet.org/en/infosphere/world-missionary-childhood-day-2023/
- Valentine's Day: Celebrate love and generosity using picture books -begin with St. Valentine and then expand to other countries & cultures
- Prayers and Pennies activity <u>https://files.ecatholic.com/32972/documents/2022/9/Pauline%20Jaricot.pdf?t=</u> <u>1664473646000</u>
- Catholic Schools Week: Advocate for Catholic missionary schools
 <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TZsgiH7nfCOG0dFn_w6ljuN013FhufPa/view?us</u>
 <u>p=drive_link</u>
- Lenten resources: <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lent-easter/cat1/2022_Lent_Monthly_Resource_Philadelphia_EN.pdf</u> and <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q09Irz5UFW3njW4jKWWp2EjbGVbg3B6P/view?usp=drive_link</u>
- Lenten Missionary Stations of the Cross https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lenteaster/cat1/Booklet_Stations of the Cross from Archdiocese of LA EN.pdf and https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lenteaster/cat2/Stations of the cross for Children EN.pdf
- Way of the Cross with Archbishop Fulton Sheen <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CMRsMgBqCgLLpgHEwGFsBac-</u> <u>QnNWjtCR/view?usp=drive_link</u>
- Lent Missionary Pledge: <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lent-easter/cat2/LentMissionaryPledge_EN.pdf</u>
- Lent Prayer Service "Mercy in Motion"
 <u>https://www.missio.org/assets/resources/lent-</u>
 <u>easter/cat2/MCA Lenten Prayer Service Mar 2020 EN.pdf</u>
- **Summer:** Hold a missionary-themed Vacation Bible School such as "Ready, Set, Go! Becoming Missionary Disciples" written by Linda Fantauzzo from St. Jerome's Church. As the service component, raise money for the MCA.
- Summer Mission Challenge (Philadelphia) <u>https://phillyocf.org/wp-</u> content/uploads/2020/06/Summer-2020-Mission-Resource.pdf