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**Resource for Mission Moderators**

**October 2016**

Thank you for your commitment to forming your students as missionary disciples. Through membership in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), a Pontifical Mission Society, children in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and around the world learn about their baptismal responsibility to evangelize, grow in understanding of the lives of children their age in the developing world, and become active missionary disciples through their own witness, prayer, and sacrifice.

**World Mission Sunday – October 23, 2016**

**World Mission Sunday will celebrated in every Catholic parish around the globe on Sunday, October 23, 2016. As we celebrate World Mission month during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the theme *Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy*.**

The Holy Father writes, “The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God’s tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord’s love.”

For the complete text of the Holy Father’s World Mission Sunday 2016 Message, visit <https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/papa-francesco_20160515_giornata-missionaria2016.html>

Visit <http://phillymissions.org/about-us/support/world-mission-sunday/> for catechetical resources including

* Children’s Liturgy of the Word for Sunday, October 23
* Litany of Missionary Saints
* Children’s Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Missions

**World Mission Rosary**

Pray the World Mission Rosary as a school or parish community. Contact Maureen for a short video and free brochures introducing this devotion, and for ideas for praying a living World Mission Rosary.

While supplies last, printed copies of a 11x17 two-sided instructional piece, as well as supplies for making World Mission Rosaries, are available to principals and DREs.

**MCA October Resource – Clean Water**

The MCA October Resource in this packet focuses on the need of many families in Mission Dioceses for access to clean, safe drinking water. It includes a link to video about an MCA clean water project and catechetical program in Madagscar. Through the Missionary Childhood Association, missionaries bring clean water as well as the Living Water of the Gospel to children in 1,111 Mission Diocese.

Visit <http://phillymissions.org/our-work/youth-in-mission/> to read another MCA story about the well at St. Faustina’s Parish in Lusaka, Zambia.

The Secretary General of the Pontifical Society of the Missionary Childhood at the Vatican,

Dr. Baptistine Ralamboarison, is a native of Madagascar. Watch her explain how kids can be missionaries in an interview at <http://phillymissions.org/our-work/youth-in-mission/>.

**Missionary Saint from Madagascar**

**Blessed Brother Raphael–Louis Rafiringa, FSC**

Share the story on page 7 of Blessed Raphael-Louis Rafiringa, FSC, the first Christian Brother from Madagascar, and one of two Malagasy natives recognized as “blessed” by the Church.

**Congratulations to our 2015-16 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Winners**

St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Philadelphia will host the Archdiocesan celebration of World Mission Sunday at the 9:30 am Mass on October 23. Immediately following Mass, the National and Archdiocesan winners in the 2015-2016 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest will receive certificates from Bishop John McIntyre. Congratulations to

*National Winner*

Leah Donkochik, Our Lady of Port Richmond Regional School, Philadelphia

*Archdiocesan Winners*

Nicole Coyle, St. Francis of Assisi School, Springfield

Hannah Dickerson, Regina Coeli Academy, Abington

Amayla Ferguson, St. Raymond of Penafort School, Philadelphia

Morgan Jenkins, St. Laurentius School, Philadelphia

Ileana Martinez, St. Peter the Apostle School, Philadelphia

Shaun McCormac, Maternity BVM School, Philadelphia

Tyler Vo, Holy Innocents ACES, Philadelphia

**Visit** [**www.phillymissions.org**](http://www.phillymissions.org) **or click here for the** [**entry form for the 2016-17 Contest**](http://phillymissions.org/our-work/youth-in-mission/national-christmas-artwork-contest/)**. Entry deadline is January 31, 2017.**

**Do you need Missionary Childhood mite boxes, World Mission Rosary resources,**

**or membership prayer cards?**

**Would you like to invite an MCA speaker to your school or PREP?**

**Contact Maureen Rilling at** [**mrilling@archphila.org**](mailto:mrilling@archphila.org) **or 215-587-3945.**

**Missionary Childhood Association, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**From *Laudato Si***

**“*Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.* Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because *they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity*.” #30**

**“One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor.” #29**

**Missionary Children give water to the Thirsty **

*Through the Missionary Childhood Association, children in mission dioceses receive access not only to the clean water necessary to sustain life, but also to the Living Water of salvation.*

**Water scarcity in Madagascar – and the response of Missionary Children**

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis points out that “water poverty especially affects Africa, where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production.” (# 28) For families in the MCA country of focus this month, Madagascar, water scarcity and the impact of extended drought on subsistence farmers are huge problems.

According to Fides, the Vatican news agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies, nearly one million children in Madagascar suffer from acute malnutrition. The current drought, one of the worst ever seen, has burned rice and cassava crops, leaving 80% of the population without a safe food supply. Many agrarian communities rely on food aid and cactus fruits, which in the south represents emergency food, but is hard to digest and can cause intestinal problems that exacerbate the effects of malnutrition. In Madagascar access to clean water for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking is scarce. Roughly half the country’s population, and up to 65% of rural families, have no access to an improved water source. 88% of Madagascar’s population has no access to sanitation facilities (toilets). Thousands of children die from easily preventable diseases like diarrhea every year. Many more are regularly absent from school, as they spend hours collecting and carrying water to their homes.

**Share this video from MCA in Madagascar**

Teachers and catechists with internet access can share a video about how Missionary Children around the world are helping to provide clean water and the Living Water of faith to children in Madagascar. The 2015 *“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”* video was produced by the Pontifical Mission Societies in Australia and can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCenjhDgzMk>.

* This six-minute video illustrates the water scarcity suffered by families in Madagascar. It tells how Sister Rose Rasoavololona, the director of the Catholic School in the city of Vatomandry on the east coast of Madagascar, has been able to build toilets and water pumps at the school, and also provide essential training on hygiene and sanitation to the children and their families with help from the Pontifical Mission Societies. Sister Rose also uses MCA donations to purchase catechetical materials for the children. *Note: In Australia, the Pontifical Mission Societies are known as “Catholic Mission.”*
* Prompt students to respond in writing: How are the lives of the children in the video the same as yours? How are they different? What do you think Jesus would do if he went to Madagascar? Is there anything that missionaries are doing that Jesus might do? How would Jesus want you to act?

**Mission lesson extensions**

Print the photos of children carrying water on pages 5 & 6. Place these photos on your classroom prayer table. Pray for children and families who lack safe drinking water.

Help your students locate Madagascar on a map of Africa. Research the country. Your students might think they are familiar with the country from the *Madagascar* movies; take this opportunity to talk about the lives of real people living on the world’s fourth largest island.

Purchase a water can like the one children in countries like Madagascar carry every day. Find opportunities for your students to take turns carrying the can of water (perhaps only partially filled!) so that they can better appreciate the daily chore of fetching water. Amazon offers a five gallon plastic can for under $20 <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B000MTI0GA/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o04_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1> *Photo from Ethiopia*

Brainstorm with your students on practical ways we, who have almost unlimited access to clean water, can use this resource responsibly.

Share these examples of how MCA members have recently helped the children of Madagascar. Pray for these Missionary Children and their families when you pray for your own families.

* Construction of a water tower in Tanambe, Diocese of Ambatondrazaka
* Installation of solar panels at a school in Ambohimahazo, Diocese of Ambositra
* Care for infants at the Saint Vincent de Paul Center in Tanjombata, Archdiocese of Antananarivo & Saint Genevieve School, Diocese of Farafangana
* Equipping bush schools in the Diocese of Antsirabe
* Furniture for Saints Peter and Paul School, Archdiocese of Antsiranana
* Installation of sanitary facilities at Saint Joseph the Worker School in Tanambao, Archdiocese of Fianarantsoa & another school in Anjahana, Diocese of Fenoarivo Atsinanana
* Construction of a new school in Anivorano, Diocese of Ihosy; addition to Saint Francis of Assisi School in Andohajango, Diocese of Port-Berge; & cafeteria for the Catholic school in Vinany, Diocese of Ambositra
* Furnishing a hospital for children with leprosy in Marovahy, Diocese of Mananjary & providing medical care for lepers in the Archdiocese of Toliara
* Building a playground and a nursery school in Andaingo, Diocese of Moramanga
* Food support for children in the Archdiocese of Antananarivo
* Completion of a center for street children in Ambatolahy, Archdiocese of Fianarantsoa

Invite your students to make a sacrificial offering to MCA to provide clean water to children in the missions through projects of the local Church like those listed above. For example, challenge your students to sacrifice a quarter for every faucet in their home to bring clean water to children in the missions. *Please send donations to the Missionary Childhood Association, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103.*

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