**** ***Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States***

***Prayer and Penny Week 2014***

**Prayer Service for Young Missionaries**

In Scripture, we read of the challenges faced by Paul and Barnabas and other missionaries of the very early Church. We are told that those who are called on behalf of the Church to bring the Good News of Christ to others in foreign lands must receive support from those of us at home. We must be ready to encourage, pray for and offer our support to those who are called to the work of the Missions. This prayer service invites us to do just that.

Music will greatly enhance this service. Begin and end with a song. Consider selecting songs that speak of faith and belief. Some options include:

* *Thuma Mina* / *Send Me, Jesus* (South African tune)
* *God Has Chosen Me* by Bernadette Farrell
* *Here I Am Lord* by Dan Shutte
* *Go Make a Difference* by Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

**Introductory Prayer**

*We begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

*Ever faithful God,*

*You call us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus each and every day.*

*Hold us in Your love, and grant us strength to be faithful to Your ways.*

*Send us into the world as ambassadors of Your compassion and goodness*

*that by our hands all will be transformed by Your loving kindness.*

*May we work fervently to grow in our faith,*

*and to share that faith with all the world.*

*Receive this prayer we offer today,*

*for those who seek new life in Christ and for all people everywhere.*

*Glory to You forever and ever.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord,*

*Amen.*

**Proclamation of the Word** Acts 14: 21-27

**Sharing**

Invite participants to discuss practical steps they can take to support the Missions.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Ever mindful that our God is present, faithful and true to our needs and those of the world, let us bring our petitions before Him. Our response is *Lord, give us greater faith, and hear our prayer*.

* We pray for all leaders, those in the Church, those in governments and other institutions, that they answer the essential call to care for the poor and vulnerable among us, and in all places throughout the world.
* We pray for all missionaries, those near and far, that God will continue to bless their work and that through their service and example they might make Jesus known to others.
* We pray for our school/parish community, that we may be witnesses without fear in our homes, our schools, our communities, our countries, and our world.
* We pray for all missionaries who have sacrificed their lives in the service of God and to the poor, that they may be raised to new life with Christ.
* We pray for those missionaries who minister in challenging and often dangerous environments, that they be of strong faith, and serve as a continual sign of hope for those for whom they serve and care.

God of justice, God of kindness, God of love, we pray these prayers knowing that You are all powerful and that all things are possible in You.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

 *Our Father. . .*

**Closing Prayer**

*Let us pray:*

*God of love,*

*You show us all that is right.*

*Help us to become living signs of Your goodness and love.*

*Lead us to new ways of seeing You, praising You, and growing in our love and commitment to You.*

*We ask that You give to all missionaries a spirit of wisdom, understanding, strength and courage as they seek to serve You in the name of our Church.*

*Grant them boldness to walk with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, loneliness, and despair. Provide them with safety, perseverance, and the fortitude they need to bring Your Son, Jesus o those in need.*

*And give to us, Lord Jesus, humble hearts.*

*Give us hearts for serving all we meet.*

*Inspire all of Your followers to carry Your love to all people.*

*We ask this through Your good and faithful name.*

*Amen.*

**Blessing and Sending Forth**

Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing:

*May God give you today the same grace given to the holy apostles.*

*May God fill you with the Holy Spirit to sanctify yourselves.*

*May God communicate to you your mission in order to procure the salvation of others.*

*And may God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

Adapted from St. John Baptist de La Salle, *Meditations*, No. 43.3



 PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

 Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Missionary Childhood Association• Society of St. Peter Apostle

 222 N. Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-587-3945• *www.phillymissions.org*