

Dear Mission Moderators, Principals and Directors & Coordinators of Religious Education,

This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:15

Lent is a special time for prayer, service and sacrifice, in preparation for the blessed celebration of Easter. It is an especially sacred time to journey with your students as they deepen their love, faith and commitment to Jesus. During this age of technology, social media and distraction, we are approaching an opportunity to set aside forty days for a time of repentance, of giving up things that tie us to this world and looking instead to the life and teachings of Jesus.

In this month's MCA resource, you will find activities to share with the youth of our Church, that will help you nurture Missionary Disciples during the month of February and the beginning of the special season of Lent.

Ali Holden, our new Mission Animation and Education Coordinator, is out on Mission in the Archdiocese meeting with schools and PREP programs bringing the Good News of Jesus to the students. She is hoping to see you and your students soon. And it is our hope that we can continue to serve you and your students in teaching them about the importance of prayer and sacrifice for children around the world not only during Lent, but throughout the year.



Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger
 Archdiocesan Director

Missionary Disciples at St. Eleanors!

The children, families and catechists from the



Religious Education program at St. Eleanor's in Collegeville raised **\$3,151.79** for the Missionary Childhood Association! In January, the students became *Official Members of the MCA* and were recognized for their prayer and sacrifice as

Missionary Disciples.

We thank all of the Archdiocesan Schools and PREPs that have helped children around the world and participated in MCA. Our office would like to recognize your students personally, remind the students of their Missionary Discipleship and present them with Official Membership Cards [which also remind them to pray and sacrifice]. Contact our office to schedule this short recognition presentation or call to have the Membership Cards sent to you.



MCA@archphila.org (215) 587-3945

Not familiar with the Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]? That's okay !

We provide this **Monthly Mission Resource** so you can pull ideas from it, engage your children with Missionary activities and inspire them to be Missionary disciples. Archbishop Chaput has asked that all Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREP programs prioritize the **Mission Societies**. We understand that you cannot possibly use all of these resources, but you are asked to include them wherever possible in your planned curriculum. Call 215-587-3945 or e-mail MCA@archphila.org for information.

Resources for fostering Young Missionary Disciples during LENT

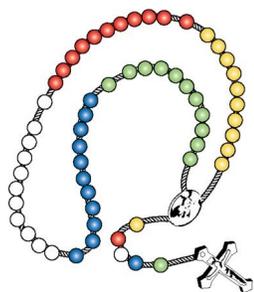
FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Lenten Prayer Service for the Missions [Page 3]
- † 2018 Lenten Calendar [Page 4]
- † Missionary Discipleship during Lent—How can you Serve? [Page 5]
- † Love Letter to Jesus—St. Valentine’s Day Activity [Page 6]
- † Distribute the “**Mission Focus: South Sudan**” information piece, talk to your students about different sacrifices they can make with their families during Lent, that could help hungry children in Africa [Page 7]
- † Change the photos of your **Mission Prayer Corner** to include photos of children in Cairo, Egypt. Pray for children all over that world that do not know how much Jesus loves them! [Page 8]

Additional Resources, including an alternate Lenten Prayer Service and Stations of the Cross can be found on our website: <http://phillymissions.org/our-work/youth-in-mission/len/>

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include the Holy Father’s February Prayer Intention for evangelization in your daily communal prayer: *That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.*
- † Follow the **Living Lent in Mission for Youth and Young Adults**. This can be found **HERE** or on our website: phillymissions.org under *Our Work > Youth in Missions > Lent*



Lent is a great time to pray the World Mission Rosary as a school, classroom, club , team, or parish. Contact our office at (215)587-3945 or e-mail MCA@archphila.org for a short video or longer power point presentations and free brochures introducing this devotion, and for ideas for praying a living World Mission Rosary. This can be adapted for any age group.

LEADER / PRESIDER:

Today we gather in prayer to thank God for the gift of Jesus and for His great love for us. Jesus wants all children to hear when He speaks to our hearts about believing in Him, loving one another and sharing our blessings. And yet, there are children today who have never heard the “Good News” of Jesus. What do you think Jesus calls you to do for them? *[short pause]*

LEADER / PRESIDER:

Let us turn our hearts and our minds to Him in prayer and call to mind children in the Missions who suffer from poverty, neglect, violence or hunger, and ask God’s special blessing upon them. May we always respond with joy to Your Good News, Lord, live by Your example, and love others as You love us. **ALL: AMEN**

READING: Colossians 3: 12-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 17

Response ALL: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

ALL: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
And a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
And your Holy Spirit take not from me.
All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O, Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

ALL: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Leader / Presider: Lord Jesus, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross so that everyone could be saved. Send us Your Spirit so that we may reach out our arms in love to bring the Good News of You and Your salvation to children everywhere.

ALL: AMEN.

**LENT 2018 CALENDAR
FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The **Missionary Childhood Association**, one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, is for young Missionary Disciples. The purpose of MCA is to promote daily prayer, sacrifice and sacrificial giving for the growth and sharing of each child's faith. MCA is the Church's official Charity for children's overseas missions, and its members help more than 4 million children worldwide each year. The MCA motto is *Children Helping Children*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Missionary Children, like this girl in Kenya, help other kids in need around the world through their prayers and sacrifices.</p> <p><i>Photo Nancy Wiechec CNS</i></p> 			<p>February 14 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Ask God to bless your Lenten journey.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Read about forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-22. What does Jesus say?</p> 	<p>16 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and save an offering for MCA.</p> 	<p>17 Wake up early and help around the house.</p> 
<p>18 Go to Mass!</p> <p>To prepare for Mass, read the Gospel for today, Mark 1:12-15</p> 	<p>19 What are the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy? Discuss with your family how you can live them out.</p>	<p>20 Jesus loves you!</p> <p>Find a way to share that love with someone today.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Asia.</p>	<p>22 Pray a Hail Mary for children who cannot go to school. Make a donation for every classroom you enter today.</p>	<p>23 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Papua New Guinea.</p> 	<p>24 Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Start trying to break this habit during Lent.</p>
<p>25 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Mark:9 2-10 (26)</p> 	<p>26 Remember to give thanks for the food you eat and to pray for children who are hungry.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Europe.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Read about how Jesus wants us to treat others: Matthew 25:33-40.</p> 	<p>March 1 Share with your family what you learned this week!</p> 	<p>2 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child living in a refugee camp.</p> 	<p>3 Today is the feast of Saint Katharine Drexel, a Missionary Saint from Philadelphia. Read about her..</p>
<p>4 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Jn 2:13-25 (29)</p> 	<p>5 Help a friend study a subject that they find difficult</p> 	<p>6 Say a prayer of thanks for your home.</p> 	<p>7 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the Pacific Islands.</p>	<p>8 Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p>9 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Cuba.</p> 	<p>10 Reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. Have you maintained it?</p>
<p>11 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Jn 3:14-21 (32)</p> 	<p>12 Cheer up someone who is feeling sad.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Read about the poor widow in Luke 21:1-4. What did she do?</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Africa.</p>	<p>15 Offer to help a brother, sister or friend with their chores. It's more fun to work together!</p>	<p>16 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Malawi.</p> 	<p>17 Think about decisions you made this week. What would you change if you could?</p>
<p>18 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Jn 12:20-33 (35)</p> 	<p>19 Solemnity of St. Joseph — "Adopt" a child in the Missions & give to MCA.</p>	<p>20 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the Americas.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Help out at home without Being asked.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Think of something you can do better and try to do it.</p>	<p>23 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Syria.</p> 	<p>24 Say a special prayer for loved ones who have died.</p>
<p>25 Palm Sunday</p> <p>Go to Mass!</p> <p>Read the Gospel for today, Mk 14: 1—15:47</p> 	<p>26 Don't watch TV tonight. Instead reflect on the week ahead. Put 25¢ in your Mission Bank for each show you skip.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pray three Hail Marys for all the Religious Sisters who work in the Missions.</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Help make a simple dinner for your family. Thank God together for all His gifts.</p>	<p>29 Holy Thursday</p> <p>Jesus washes the disciples' feet; we must also serve others. Try to attend Mass tonight.</p>	<p>30 Good Friday</p> <p>Pray the Stations of the Cross and reflect upon God's great love for us.</p> 	<p>31 Holy Saturday</p> <p>Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p> 

HOW CAN YOU SERVE?

Before starting this Activity, read Mark 10:35-45 *"For even the So, of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Invite the children to think of some examples of how they might serve or help someone else. Encourage them to think of ways to serve people at home and ways to serve people around the world!

How can you **SERVE** at home?

How do these acts **SERVE** God?

How can you **SERVE** around the world?

HINT: Prayer and Sacrifice!



Will you make a sacrifice to feed the hungry?

Right now there are children in Africa who haven't eaten in several days, and do not know when the next time they eat will be! During Lent, we make sacrifices, just like Jesus made a sacrifice for us on the cross.

Can you and your family spare a night out to eat, or a special ice cream treat during Lent, and instead, put that money towards the children and their families who are Hungry in South Sudan?



Sudan is hard hit with famine. Conflict and unrest have added to the crisis. Families are seeking shelter, food and care in Catholic hospitals and various health centers. Others are fleeing in

search of safety and food. Right now, 40% of the country's population is in need of immediate assistance, or they may die of starvation. Catholic priests and Sisters are reaching out to bring food, care and supplies to these communities. More resources in the hands of the first responders can help to save lives.

*\$10 buys 400 loaves of white bread
\$20 buys 20 cartons of milk
\$100 can feed an entire village of children a meal for one day*

During Lent, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross because He LOVES us. Pray that children all over the world can learn about Jesus' love for all of His children!



Father Hani is knows how important learning about Jesus in *Cairo, Egypt*. He has started a Religious education program to help the Christian families, who are feeling pressured to leave the country. Father hopes to create a safe place for families and children to gather and learn their faith. .

This religious education program is new at St. George Nursery School. Father Hani has six teachers and almost one hundred children attending. A donation of \$25 will help Father Hani keep this Religious Education program growing.



Throughout Lent, pray for children in ***Cairo, Egypt*** that are getting to know Jesus!