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

“The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for improvement. Time is so precious that God does it out second by second. If life in the past has been evil, the new year is an opportunity for penance. In such a way is time redeemed. If life, however has been virtuous, the new year is an opportunity for greater self perfection” Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

I would first like to wish you a healthy and happy New Year. It is my prayer that this year is filled with countless blessings for you, your family, and your parish and school community as we enter into 2018.

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season unwinds, I invite you to once again reflect on our call to live as Missionary Disciples, who know and live the faith, confidently sharing the Gospel with those around us. As educators you have the distinct privilege of sharing the good news with the future of the church, our children. As a New Year’s resolution, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to God each and every day.

In this resource, you will find activities to help foster **Extraordinary** Missionary Disciples during this liturgical season **Ordinary** time. Research has shown that only 8% of people successfully complete their New Year’s resolution, but as our hearts continue to fill up with God’s love, we will be strengthened in our call to Missionary Discipleship.

In these cold winter months, I pray you spread the warmth of your hearts by keeping our Missionaries in your prayers as they continue to carry out the good work of Jesus all over the world.

As a reminder, a Missionary can come to speak about life in the Missions anytime of the year. Please feel free to contact Alixandra Holden with questions or requests at 215-587-3945 or mca@archphila.org.

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
 Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
 Archdiocesan Director



It is with great pleasure that our office introduces **Alixandra [Ali] Holden** as the new Mission Education Coordinator for the **Missionary Childhood Association**. Ali will be the new face of Mission and our representative for you, your teachers, your catechists and students. She will be available to each of you to develop integrated programs to form your students as Missionary Disciples. Through easy-to-implement ideas that complement your existing catechetical program, Ali will be able to support the Church’s Mission and yours to help students 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.



Ali comes to our Missions office from Saint Frances Cabrini Parish in Fairless Hills, where she worked as the Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister. This experience will serve her well as she understands the obligation to teach students about their Catholic faith and the time limitations.

Ali has earned a Counseling and Human Services degree from The University of Scranton with a minor in Theology. She hopes to continue her education, and receive her Masters in Theology. Ali has a passion for helping others, and sharing her faith with children. She continues to be an active member of her parish and volunteers for their Youth Group.

Please join us in welcoming Ali to our Mission team. She looks forward to speaking and meeting you and being a part of your role in shaping Missionary Disciples.

Please make note direct all inquiry for MCA to MCA@archphila.org and change contact info if needed

Not familiar with the Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]? That’s okay !
 We simply provide this **Monthly Mission Resource** so you can pull ideas from it, engage your children with missionary activities, and teach them about the missions. Archbishop Chaput has asked that all Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREP programs prioritize the **Mission Societies**. [Letter from the Archbishop is on page 3]. We understand that you cannot possibly use all of these resources, but you are asked to implement them however possible!

Resources for fostering EXTRADORDINARY Missionary Disciples during ORDINARY Time

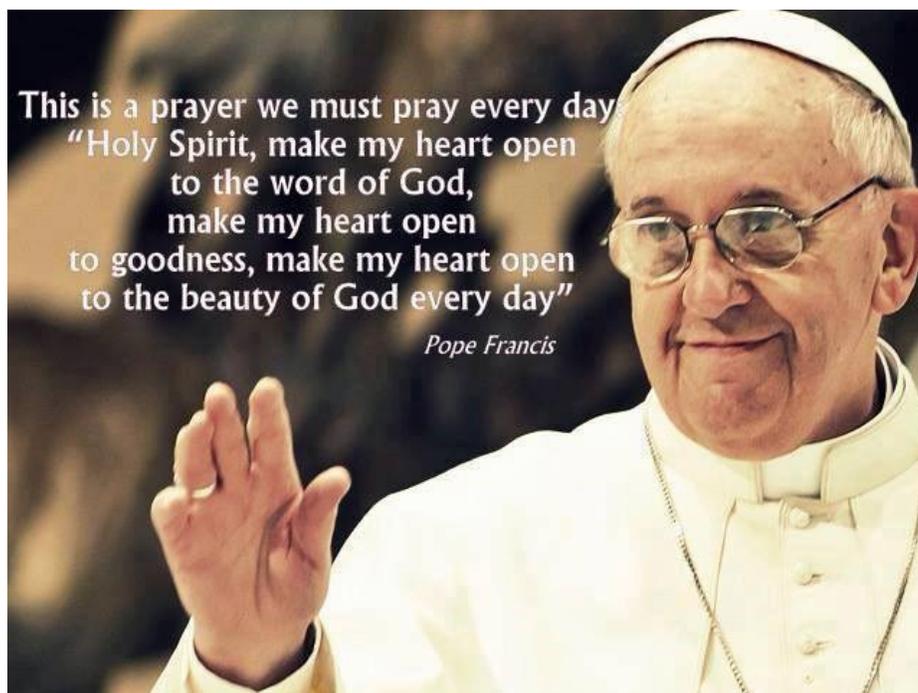
FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Create prayerful New Year's Resolutions with the children [Page 4]. See Pope Francis' Prayer for every day below.
- † On January 7th, we celebrate Baptism of the Lord [Page 5].
- † The theme of Catholic Schools Week [CSW] 2018 is "**Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**" Celebrate CSW by spreading missionary zeal to students in your school! Encourage your students to learn more about the Missions, serve the Missionaries, lead others to Missionary Discipleship and succeed as the best Missionary Childhood Association [MCA] member that they can be through this prayer service [Page 6].
- † Distribute the "**Mission Focus: Sledding in Kenya**" information piece, pray with your students for children who just want to play like them, but suffer from the lack of basic needs [Page 7].
- † Change the photos of your Mission Prayer Corner to include photos of children in Mongolia and photos of baptisms all over the world. Photos for this month are included in this mailing. Add Mission resolutions to your Pray Corner and pray for the strength to fulfill them [Page 8].



FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Have your students research a Mission country and learn about their celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- † January 9th is anniversary of the death of Pauline Jaricot. Pauline, at just 17 years of age, felt that help offered to the Missions of her day should be universal – that no one be forgotten. When the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. . . one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** was established in 1822, that vision prevailed – prayer and sacrifice for the world's Missions. More about Pauline Jaricot and video about her life and can be found **here** on our website or pray a Pauline Jaricot Litany with your students. This is on our website at <http://phillymissions.org/about-us/history/>
- † Include the Holy Father's January Prayer Intention for evangelization in your daily communal prayer: *That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.*



Calling all Artists! It's not too late! Enter the MCA Christmas Artwork Contest

Elementary school students from Philadelphia are being called to showcase their artistic talents and spread the Good News of Jesus' birth. **Deadline January 31, 2017**

Click **HERE** for Christmas Artwork Contest Entry and Information!



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

August 8, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am aware that many worthy charities contact you annually. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support first the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith* and *Missionary Childhood Association*] and Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

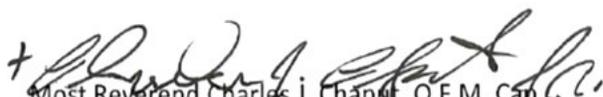
Church documents direct that the Pontifical Mission Societies should be given "*first place*" [*Ad Gentes* no. 38] and "*the leading role*" [*Redemptoris Missio* no. 84] in the Church's work of missionary formation and cooperation, and we need to support that work as best we can. We also need to support Catholic Relief Services [*CRS*] in the international humanitarian assistance they give to impoverished people overseas.

Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to first accommodate the Pontifical Mission Societies and CRS/Rice Bowl. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list.

Parishes, schools, and religious education programs may elect to support other worthy charities but this should be in addition to the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and CRS/Rice Bowl. I also ask that you carefully research any additional groups you do choose to support to ensure that their work follows Catholic teaching.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, given their standing in the Church internationally, are in the position to vet credentials of other Catholic mission relief groups if you require assistance. Following these guidelines should help better support the universal evangelization efforts of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies, and the overseas humanitarian relief efforts of CRS.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



2018 New Year's Resolutions



This year, what are some things you can do to be a better Missionary Disciple? Use this worksheet to make New Year's Resolutions that will help you grow as a follower of Jesus in 2018.



Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

My Goal is: *To be a Missionary Disciple!*

I will achieve this goal by :

1. Praying the World Mission Rosary for children in other countries [example]

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

“This is a prayer we must pray every day: Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.” - Pope Francis

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 19-20

The ***Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*** is on January 7th.

This is a day to commemorate the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan



River by John the Baptist.

It is also a wonderful time

to recall to mind our baptismal vows, and to celebrate the wonderful gift God has given us.

Jesus' baptism, our own baptism's and the



baptism's of children around the world may look different, but all unite us with God and his entire Church.

+Discuss with your students what their Baptism was like, and how it was different from Jesus and other children around the world. As the differences are discussed, it is an excellent time to highlight the symbolism and similarities.

+Have your students ask their parents about their Baptism or one of the members of their family. Perfect family meal-time conversation.



This Prayer Service may be adapted to your particular school or parish needs.

INTRODUCTION – LEADER

Today we gather to celebrate in thanksgiving for all Catholic Schools. We remember Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we do and pray that He guide us in our *call to Missionary Discipleship*. Through the sacrifices of MCA members, children in Missions around the world receive a Catholic education and learn about the *Good News* of Jesus. MCA members support 1,200 Catholic schools, over 10,000 orphanages and catechetical programs in 1,108 Mission Dioceses.



This first grade class in Malawi meets outside under a tree every day because the school does not have enough classrooms. Donations from Missionary Children in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are helping provide more class room buildings in Malawi.

OPENING SONG – ALL

Choose an appropriate song such as,
We are called – David Haas.

LEADER:

We give thanks to you Lord for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives to teach in our Catholic schools, allowing us **LEARN** each and every day about your love for us and Your people.

ALL: May all children have the opportunity to further their Catholic education, so that they can come to know Your son, Jesus.

LEADER:

Fill our hands with the tools we need to **SERVE** others.

ALL: May we show children around the world Your unceasing love through our actions.

LEADER:

Father help us to **LEAD** the way to Your love through our Missionary Discipleship.

ALL: May we inspire others to support the Missions through prayer and sacrifice.

LEADER:

Let us now ask for your grace, that we may **SUCCEED** as we go forth as MCA members, as Ambassadors for Jesus – as Missionaries.

ALL: AMEN!

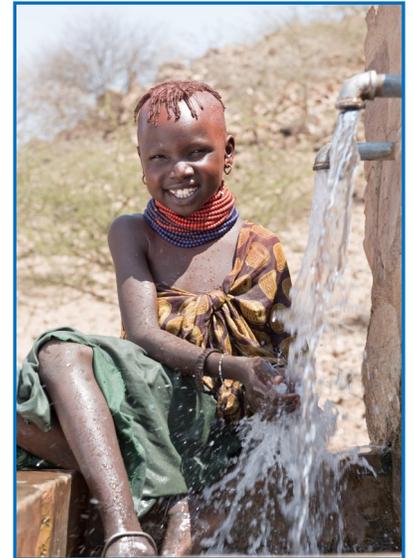
REMINDER! Principals & School Mission Moderators: **Catholic Schools Week** is a great time to celebrate the connection your students make with Catholic school students in the Missions through their prayer and sacrifice. Invite an MCA speaker to share stories and photos of MCA-funded Schools in Mission Dioceses. *CSW 2018 already tightly scheduled?* Contact us for photos of Mission schools for your classroom prayer tables. Consider adding an MCA tag day or Mission Walk to benefit Catholic schools half a world away. Contact us at MCA@archphila.org.

Mission Focus: Sledding in Turkana, Kenya

The Sacrifices of Missionary Children in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will help children in Kenya and throughout the world.

Turkana County, in the Diocese of Lodwar in northwest Kenya, is one of the world's driest regions. The indigenous people have a pastoral [*nomadic*] lifestyle and rely mainly upon herding livestock and fishing in the waters of Lake Turkana to feed their families. The rainfall pattern is unpredictable and at times Turkana receives no rain in a whole year. As a result, the residents of Turkana County are faced with a persistent threat of starvation.

With help from the **Missionary Childhood Association** . . . one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, the Lodwar Diocese has constructed a water station for the people of Turkana and provided health care and nutrition programs for children.



This winter, while children in throughout Philadelphia wait eagerly for a snow day, children in Turkana will go "sledding" on sand using an old piece of plastic. The children do not own many toys, but have lots of fun making up games to play together.

Play time comes only after chores. Fetching water is a daily chore for children throughout Kenya. In Turkana, the search for water often involves digging holes in a dried-up riverbed. Reaching water may require digging 16 feet into the dry ground.

In this part of Africa, many families cannot send their children to school. Although the elementary schools are free, few families can afford the required uniforms, books and supplies. Through the Lodwar Diocese, MCA assists some of these children by constructing schools and providing instructional materials.

Here are some examples of how your MCA sacrifice can help a child in Kenya



60 cents provides a balanced meal for one child

\$15 purchases a child's uniform

\$60 pays the school fees for a child for a year



Please remember to pray one Hail Mary a day for children and Missionaries around the world!

Spread the Warmth of LOVE and PRAYER!



One of the world's youngest [and perhaps coldest] Catholic Churches is in Mongolia. It continues to grow, with the total number of parishioners today numbering around 850, with an average of 20 to 50 new Catholics joining each year. The cold weather does not stop the Church in bringing together families, who have been dramatically transformed, after hearing the Good News of Jesus and accepting Him into the hearts.



Baptism in the Missions

We celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on January 7th. Baptism takes many forms all over the world. Here is Baptism Day at Salesian Home for Orphaned & Homeless Children in Kampala, Uganda [left], and a baptism taking place in Nakuru, Kenya.