

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
**MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

FEBRUARY 2020 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

Mission Resources for Ordinary Time

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- + Ordinary Time Mission Activity: Use this Prayer Journal to reflect and do something Out of the Ordinary for the Missions! [Page 2]
- + Read the February Saint Spotlight about Saint Luigi Versiglia, Bishop and Martyr [Page 3]
- + Mission Focus: Albania [Page 4]
- + Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner and update this corner each month [Page 5]

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- + Explore this World Mission [Saint Meditation](#) and as a fun follow up activity, try [Saint Bingo](#)
- + Include the Holy Father's February Prayer Intention for Evangelization in a daily/weekly school announcement:
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard, and considered.

**Calling all Artists! It's not too late!
MCA is still accepting entries for the
2020 Christmas Artwork Contest**

Elementary school students from Philadelphia are being called to showcase their artistic talents and spread the Good News of Jesus' birth.



2018-19 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest winners shown at the World Mission Sunday Mass.

**Deadline extended to
February 15, 2020**

Click [HERE](#) for Christmas Artwork Contest Entry and Information!

Did your School or PREP make Rosaries for the Missions this past year? Below are photos of Rosaries that are being provided to different priests and Religious Missionaries who will distribute them to the children in the Missions where they live!



Reverend Augustine Temu; Tanga, Tanzania



Sister Anila Christy: Tamil Nadu, India with Reverend Biju Mundackal, a Carmelite priest from nearby Kerala, India.



Reverend Bernard Ukwuegbu; Orlu, Nigeria

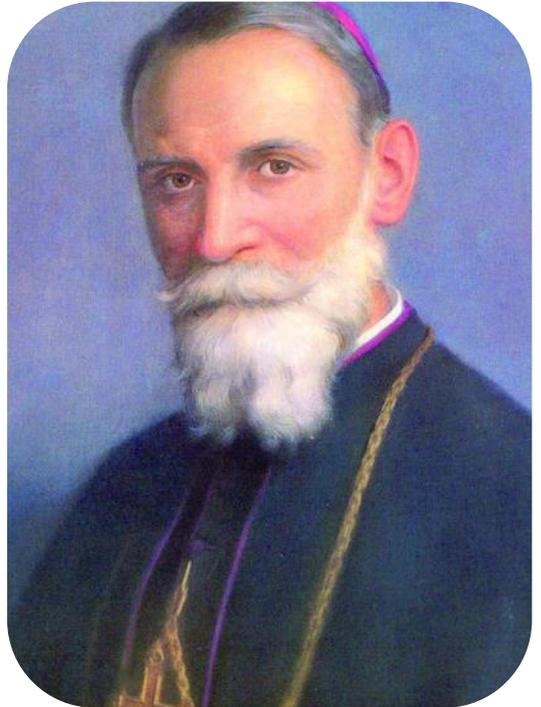
Saint Luigi Versiglia, Bishop and Martyr

As a boy, Luigi aspired to become a veterinarian. But at the school run by Saint John Bosco, he discovered a new longing; *the priesthood*. Luigi joined the Salesians, and when ordained immediately asked to go to the Missions. *"My trunk can be ready at a moment's notice,"* he said. For ten years, however, this Mission- spirited Salesian was assigned to work at the Seminary.

At last, Luigi was sent to Macau, a Portuguese colony on the Chinese coast. He set up an orphanage that soon became the hub for Salesian Mission. *In 1920, he was named Bishop of a new vicariate in the Chinese interior. As Bishop, he opened orphanages and schools, and, in the Salesian fashion, these opened the way for trade schools, a hospice and eventually a Seminary.* But civil strife created a dangerous situation.

In 1930, Luigi was traveling with Father Callisto Caravario and four young catechists to visit a new Christian community. Their boat was captured by a group of pirates, who wanted the three young women who were traveling with the group. When the Bishop and his priest stepped forward to defend them, they were brutally beaten. They were dragged ashore, where Luigi pleaded for the young priest's life. *Both men were shot in hatred of the Faith.*

Father Caravario's Feast day is also celebrated on February 25th. From his earliest years, everyone thought he was an excellent child for his meek and reflective nature. He seemed naturally inclined to prayer. He was amongst the first in his class at school, and served Mass each morning. On the advice of Father Garelli, the Rector of the Oratory, Callistus became a Salesian. In 1922, Bishop Versiglia was in Turin and spoke of the Missions to the Salesians. Callistus told him: *"Bishop, you will see me in China."*



***"Willingly suffer a bit for God
 Who suffered so much for you."***

- Saint John Bosco, Saint Luigi's mentor

Birth: June 5, 1873

Death: February 25, 1930

Beatified: May 15, 1983

Canonized: October 1, 2000



Discussion Question:

- † The Saints featured this month made the ultimate sacrifice for their faith. Are there things in your life that you are willing to "give up" or "sacrifice" for God?
- † Discuss with your classmates ways in which you can do this during the Season of Lent.

Catholics in Albania have lived through *very difficult times*, even though the first Apostles of Jesus brought the Faith to them. The Communist government, which governed Albania for 45 years, sought to abolish all religion from the country. In 1967, all churches were closed down and it was forbidden to practice Christianity or show that you were Catholic in any way. Even speaking about Jesus or carrying a Rosary was not allowed.

Albania declared itself the first Atheistic State—the first country not to believe in God at ALL. Every Missionary was forced to leave Albania.

During this time, there were many brave Catholics who wanted to protect their faith and show their love for Christ. They gathered Mass in hidden places, willing to risk their life just so they could worship God. Many people were martyred, dying for their faith in Christ and for being faithful to Him. Several died saying, “*Long live Christ the King! Long live Albania!*” Finally In 1990 the communist government in Albania collapsed; people were free

to practice their Religion in public again. Missionaries were able to come back to Albania and little by little the churches are being rebuilt and growing again.



Mother Teresa was born in Albania

The following words are those of a Missionary in Albania as she remembers the beginning of her Orders’ Mission in Albania:

“The way to the little village of Kalivaç, situated in the middle of the mountains, was long and nothing more than a dirt road up, which crossed a river that did not always follow its course. Arriving in Kalivaç, we realized that the town consisted of a school, a little store, the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, a small dispensary and the house of the Sisters. Then between the mountains, far in the distance you could see a little house and then another. The work of the Sisters was mainly to help with parish activities, and if possible, to work in the dispensary. Despite not knowing the language, they began with Catechism classes. The children who attended the school came walking from far away. Many of them had to cross the river, sometimes in very low temperatures, on foot, without shoes.

At the end of school hours, they would come to our house to learn about Jesus. **It was beautiful to see their enthusiasm on arrival, despite having been at school all morning. Their school was in bad repair, to the point that many of the classrooms did not have glass in the windows, and the floor was missing in various places. One couldn’t imagine spending all day there learning. And then, since our house did not have room for all of them, some of the classes were outside [in the freezing cold]. Nevertheless each child remained attentive to the words of the Religious Sisters.**

I should point out that the children, like most of the Albanian people, were weather beaten and suffered. They did not, however, complain. Whether inclement weather, cold or windy, hard work, absence of electricity [they could only count on this a few hours per day], the unpredictability of having food, etc., they continued to learn about Jesus. And— it impressive how they treated the Missionaries, seeking to give them the best that they had, even in the midst of their poverty. It was normal to see them come to our house to give us goat cheese, milk, or some cabbages. They were very generous and very respectful of those sent by God.



Catholic Church of Theth, Albania

NOW IT’S YOUR TURN!

- † Pray for the Missionaries and those they are serving in Albania
- † Imitate Mother Teresa’s love for the poor and try to see Jesus in every person
- † Make a sacrifice to Jesus and do not complain when it is cold outside [the children in Albania oftentimes do not even have heat in their houses].
- † Pray for all Christians who can not live their faith freely because of the government of their countries

Kids in the Missions - are Kids Just Like You!

Display these images of children playing in the Missions for your February Mission Corner. Remember to ask your students to make sacrifice's for *Mission Children*, because even though they look like they are having fun, *many of these children will not have dinner tonight!*



Playing games at a Festival
in Cambodia



Young boys playing Soccer
in Africa



Girl Playing with a Tire she found in
El Factor, Dominican Republic



Children playing skipping game in the
Diocese of Mazini, South Africa

\$1 helps provide Milk, to help Mission Children build strong bones!
\$5 buys clothing for a Child to play in
\$10 helps get food for Children in Schools