

## NEW YEAR = NEW OPPORTUNITIES to embrace the world with LOVE in Mission

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

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 2019.

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. **During this EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION, we have the opportunity, to not only educate, but form disciples for the future of our Church.**



As an additional resource to you, our office has launched a **Social Media Campaign**. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and check out our NEW **Missionary Childhood Association** page on our Website: [phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org). We hope to connect with each of you and have you share Mission stories from across globe directly with your students, and help us help bring the “Good News” of Jesus to all.

*Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger*

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger  
Archdiocesan Director



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 their hearts.

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**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, 2019**

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

## Mission Resources for the Season of Advent through the Feast of the Epiphany

### FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Letter from Archbishop Charles Chaput, encouraging School and PREP Programs to give primary support to the *Pontifical Mission Societies* and *MCA*. Learn more how to support the Missions on our website. [Page 3]
- † Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service [Page 4]
- † Snowman Mission Prayer Activity [Page 5]
- † Read the January Saint Spotlight about Venerable Pauline Jaricot the foundress of one of the *Pontifical Mission Societies*, the Society of the Propagation of the Faith [Page 6]
- † Mission Focus: The Philippines [Page 7].
- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner, update this corner each month during this **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** [Page 8]

### FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include the Holy Father's January Prayer Intention for **Service of the Transmission of Faith**: *That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.*
- † In honor of the foundress of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, recite the Litany to Pauline Jaricot, found [HERE](#).
- † During Catholic School's Week, read about what is happening in Syria in regards to the closing and reopening of Christian Schools in Syria [HERE](#)
- † Are any of your students participating in this Years March for Life? Please encourage them to do so, or visit <http://marchforlife.org/education/> and talk to your students about our responsibility to protect the unborn.



*"Dear brothers and sisters, Catholic schools and universities make a great contribution to the mission of the Church when they are at the service of growth in humanity, in dialogue and in hope. I thank you for the work you do to make educational institutions places and experiences of evangelization. "*

Pope Francis' Address to Congregation for Catholic Education

In this month leading up to **Catholic Schools Week**, the **Missionary Childhood Association** would like to acknowledge & thank all Religious educators, teachers, principals, D/CRE's and catechists for their dedication to their students, being a part of the Mission of our church.

**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](mailto:MCA@archphila.org), or call Ali Holden at 215-587-3945



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

June 4, 2018

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 through their material support, benefiting the poorest in the world. 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.

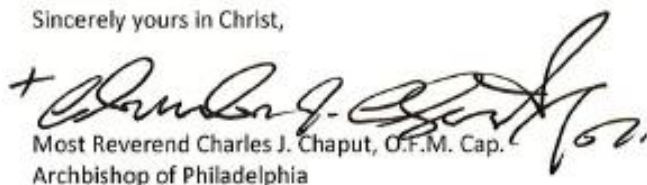
Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to first accommodate the Pontifical Mission Societies and CRS/Rice Bowl. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list.

Parishes, schools, and religious education programs may elect to support other worthy charities, but this should be in addition to their works of prayer and sacrifice through 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 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.

I extend my thanks to those parishes, schools and religious education programs that already actively participate in the works of these charities, and am ever grateful for your efforts in forming those you serve in the Catholic Faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

*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 guides us in our *call to be Missionary Disciples*. 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 1,111 Mission Dioceses.



Children at a School in Papua New Guinea

**LEADER:**

We give thanks to you Lord for the many Religious Sisters and Brothers, priests, and lay people who have dedicated their lives to teach in our Catholic schools, allowing us to **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.



Children eating rice and beans at a school in Haiti

**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!**



In Philadelphia, we are blessed to enjoy all four seasons. In Mission areas all over the World, the weather can be extremely cold or extremely hot all the time, which can be very difficult. *Decorate the Snowman! Be Creative!* Then in the lines provided, write your own Mission prayer to ask for God's help for *Missionary Children* in severe and extreme weather conditions.

## Blessed Pauline Jaricot: Foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Early in the 19th century, a 17-year old young French girl, Pauline Jaricot, inspired by letters about the Missions from her brother, starts gathering together small groups — mostly workers in her family's silk factory. She asked each member of the group to offer daily prayer and a weekly sacrifice of a sou ( *about a penny*) for the Church's worldwide Missionary work. Pauline insisted that her efforts be directed to all the Church's Missions, that it be universal.

From Pauline's prayerful efforts came the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith** . . . now one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**. The very first collection in 1822 supported the vast new Diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada, as well as the Missions of Kentucky & China. **Philadelphia was a part of this Diocese**. So in essence our "Mission" Diocese at the time, received some of the first donations from the **Pontifical Mission Societies**.



**"What does it matter except that Christ be made known!"**

— Pauline Jaricot



The **Societies** office for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been in existence since 1911 *celebrating over 100 years!*

The United States continued to receive funds until 1908, when we became Mission independent.

The **Societies** continue to seek prayer and sacrifice for the world's Missions, now some 1,111 Dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America. Help is offered for pastoral and

evangelizing programs, for catechists and their work, to build churches and chapels, for the work of Religious Communities in health care and education, and for communication and transportation needs. Today, Pauline's legacy and her quest continues to *"love without measure...without end."*

Read more about her life, her work and her passion for the Missions of the Church . . . download her story and see other materials about and related to Pauline Jaricot, [The Match that Lit the Fire – History of Pauline Jaricot](#), or see more about her in a video about her life.

In 1963, 100 years after her death, Pope John XXIII signed the decree which proclaimed the virtues of Pauline Jaricot, declaring her *"venerable."* The cause for her beatification and canonization continues.

**Birth:** July 22, 1799

**Death:** January 9, 1862

**Beatified:** 1963

**Canonized:** Work in Progress

### Discussion Questions:

- † If you created your own charity, what group of people would you like to help?
- † Would you let your age prevent you from starting something like this? *Pauline was 17 when she founded the Societies.*
- † Would it be the Missions, or a certain Mission country?

## Mission Focus: Philippines

### Caring For the Living . . . Inside a Cemetery

In the Philippines, \$40 has helped open a classroom. *This is not your typical classroom.* One expects families to visit cemeteries to pray for deceased relatives, but one does not expect to find a cemetery that is basically a small village, with many families living among the tombs. For Father Max Abalos, SVD, this is his parish and community.

Three cemeteries in Cebu City, Philippines, are teeming with children. Often both parents work at the cemetery as grave diggers, vendors, caretakers, and tombstone makers. **Vendors might make the equivalent of only two dollars a day.** Children



often help their parents with their work. The families who make their homes in the cemeteries are squatters who were evicted from other slum colonies and have found refuge and homes in the cemeteries. Families live in makeshift huts on top of tombs, inside the mausoleums, or in push

carts in the walls of the cemetery. Where they live is where they work.

Many of these families have lived in the cemeteries for over fifty years. Understandably, the residents lack even basic facilities for proper hygiene. They carry water into the cemetery from nearby stores or houses and use lampposts for lighting. Although the parents value education, their resources often do not allow them to send their children to school.

**The Pontifical Mission Societies opened classrooms inside the cemeteries to provide daycare, nursery schools and overall care for the children basic needs.** Thanks to your sacrifices and help, the "cemetery children" of Cebu City, Philippines now have an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Please continue to help the poor children in Mission lands, like those in Cebu!

**Father Max wants to help the children in his community.**

**Help Father Max pay for school . . .**

**Tuition: \$10 per child**

**Books: \$25 per child**

**Shoes: \$10 per child**



The Philippines is a Southeast Asian country in the Western Pacific, comprising more than 7,000 islands



The children pictured above and below are dressed up for the last day of summer camp in one of the mausoleums in Cebu City, Philippines



Children at school in Father Max's "Cemetery" Parish Community in Cebu





**Kids writing at a school in Kibera, Africa**



**School in Guyana, India**



**Pray to Mary to ask Jesus to provide an education for Missionary children who are struggling to go to school especially during Catholic Schools week in this  
EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION.**



**School age children in Malawi, Africa who need school supplies and uniforms to be able to go to school and receive an education**



**Children whose parents can't afford to send them to school work in the Quarry in this small village in India**