



Easter Mass in Haiti 2010

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † **Holy Week Calendar** [2]
- † **Mission Saint Spotlight:** St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur [3]
- † **First Eucharist Around the World** [4]
- † **Distribute the "Mission Focus: Costa Rica".** Talk to your students about what their parents/guardians provide for them. Ask them to pray for the newborn babies at the St. Francis Emmaus Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica [5]
- † Change the photos of your **Mission Prayer Corner** to include photos of the Franciscan Liberia Mission, Inc. in Africa. Pray for Elena, the workers at the center, and all the children they provide for [6]

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Follow the **Living Lent in Mission for Youth and Young Adults** during Holy Week. These and other resources can be found **HERE** or on our website: phillymissions.org under *Our Work > Youth in Missions*
- † Include the Holy Father's April Prayer Intention for those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters in your daily communal prayer: *That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.*

Inside you will find:

- Page 2: Holy Week Calendar
- Page 3: Mission Saint Spotlight: St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur
- Page 4: First Eucharist Around the World
- Page 5 & 6: Mission Focus: Costa Rica/Mission Prayer Corner

Congratulations to all First Holy Communion Candidates!

See Page 4 for pictures of Children in Mission Countries who are receiving their First Eucharist. **MCA** is available for **First Holy Communion Retreats** [or **any Sacrament!**] to give a Mission Presentation on how the Eucharist is Celebrated around the world!



"May the Good Shepherd remain close to the people of South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who endure continuing hostilities, aggravated by the grave famine affecting certain parts of Africa."

Pope Francis' Easter Message 17

We must continue to pray for Mission Countries with the Holy Father, and encourage the children of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to remember that God is not only our shepherd, but the **Good Shepherd of the entire world.**

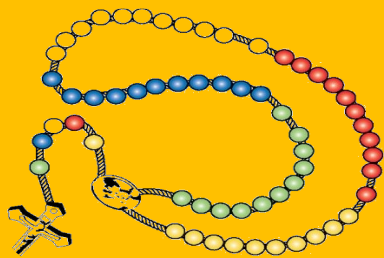
Palm Sunday

Pray for the children in the Umzimcula
Diocese in Africa pictured here
on Palm Sunday



Monday of Holy Week

Pray decades of the **World Mission Rosary** for Children in the Missions.



Tuesday of Holy Week

Read the Parable of the Talents.
Pray that God helps you to
use your talents to be a great
MISSIONARY DISCIPLE.



Wednesday of Holy Week

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30
pieces of silver. Mt 26:16



Don't be like Judas! Sacrifice
30 cents to the Missions & use
money for something good!

Holy Thursday

Pope Francis washing the feet
of refugees in Castelnuovo
di Porto, Italy



Good Friday

Stations of the Cross on Good
Friday in Magelang, Indonesia.



Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil celebration in
Abuja, Africa.



Easter Sunday

Jesus died on the Cross
for ALL of His Children.
People celebrate His
Resurrection all over
the world!



Saint Pedro de San José Betancur

"Saint Francis of the Americas"

Central America claimed its First Saint with the canonization of Pedro de San José Betancur. Known as the "St. Francis of the Americas," Pedro de Betancur is the First Saint to have worked and died in Guatemala.

St. Pedro was born into a poor Catholic family on the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. **Peter worked as a shepherd until age 23, when he heard about the miserable living conditions of the people of the "West Indies" [present-day America], and he felt called to take the Christian message to this land.** Even though he himself had no money, he did what he could to bring God's message to the people where he traveled.

By the time he was 29, he took private vows, and became a Franciscan tertiary, taking the name Peter of Saint Joseph. **He devoted himself to works of charity among the most disadvantaged — slaves, the sick, prisoners, the homeless,**



poor children and the native population. He also catechized children through songs and dramatic performances.

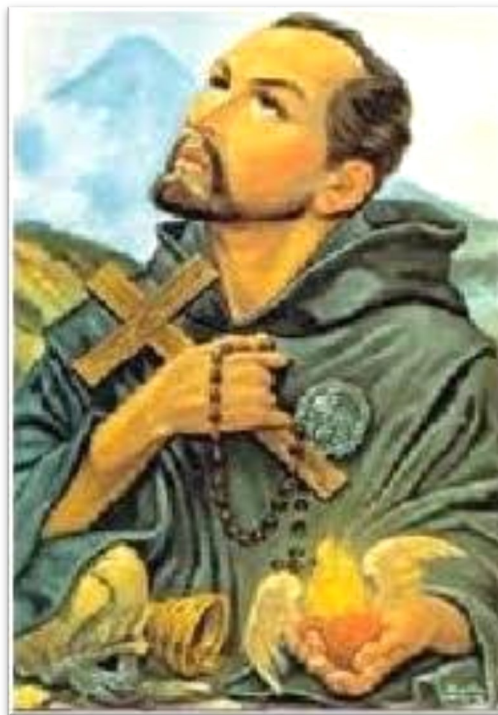
Three years later he opened Our Lady of Bethlehem, a hospital for the convalescent poor. Soon after there was a shelter for the homeless, schools for the poor, and an oratory.

Not to neglect the rich of Guatemala City, Pedro walked through their part of

town, ringing a bell, preaching the word of God, begging support for the poor, and inviting the wealthy to repent. **He even inspired others to spread the word about Jesus!** Other men were drawn to his work, formed the foundation of the Bethlehemite Congregation, an order that cared for the sick, and taught reading and catechism to poor children, which earned papal approval after Pedro's death.

St. Pedro cared about the poor and helped people to remember Jesus' words, **"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."** Matthew 25:40

Taken from <http://www.kofc.org>



Feast Day: April 18

Patron of: Canary Islands and Guatemala

Birth: March 19, 1626

Death: April 25, 1667

Beatified: June 22, 1980

Canonized: July 30, 2002, by Pope John Paul II

"The new saint, traveling with only his faith and his confidence in God, sailed across the Atlantic to care for the poor and indigenous people of America, first in Cuba, then in Honduras and finally in this blessed land of Guatemala" - Pope John Paul II at St. Pedros Canonization

First Eucharist Around the World



Papa New Guinea



India



Peru



Zambia



Uganda



India



Zambia



Papa New Guinea



Mission Focus: Costa Rica

Mary loved Jesus with all of her heart, and watched over Him, and did her best to protect him until he gave up His life for us on the Cross. There are many mothers in Costa Rica who want love their children so much, but need our help to provide for them.



St. Francis Emmaus Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica

The St. Francis Emmaus Center is in Turrialba, Costa Rica. It is located near the reservation of the indigenous people of the Chirripo. The Center provides a safe, comfortable place for up to 30 Cabecar mothers who travel long hours on foot days, before and after the birth of their children, to have access to medical care. Over 400 mothers and children are helped at the St. Francis Emmaus Center annually.

The **Missionary Childhood Association** helps Mothers and their children at this Center receive housing, nutritional meals, access to all the services of Costa Rica's internationally-acclaimed government health care system. The Center also advocates and helps Mother's with Unjust social issues that are a part of life in Costa Rica. Women are also offered childbirth education, the accompaniment of a doula [*a trained birth coach*], education to help mothers & their child bond and increased time for recovery before returning to their homes which are long distances from access to medical care. According to the Director of Medicine in Turrialba, Costa Rica, the St. Francis Emmaus Center has played a major role in reducing infant mortality in the indigenous reserve by 50%.

Please pray and sacrifice for the Mothers in Costa Rica and their newborns. You too can be a MCA member, who are *"children helping children"* around the world.

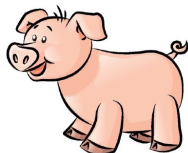


\$20 Sponsors a Mom and her needy Infant for a day

\$140 Sponsors a Mom and Infant for a week

FRANCISCAN + LIBERIA MISSION ASK MCA FOR HELP IN AFRICA

Elena Bestis, a Lay Missionary from Chicago, is currently working in Liberia, and has asked the [Missionary Childhood Association](#) for help with two important projects to be an active member and follow the motto of “*children helping children.*”



Give someone a pig, and you feed him for a **day** or perhaps, a few.

Teach a community to raise pigs, and you feed them for a **lifetime**.



The joint Missionary endeavor between Franciscan Lay Missionaries and Liberia is dedicated to empowering impoverished youth in Liberia through a holistic approach to Catholic education, which includes vocational training. The school's piggery is a key piece of this Mission. Located on campus, the piggery not only offers income for the Mission School, but also provides the opportunity for students to gain animal husbandry skills. Elena and the school's staff are raising money to finish the piggery building and build out the store front where students will sell their pork products. Your Help will increase the sustainability of the program and its services for the future.

Help Teach and Feed a Community for a Lifetime.

Unlike schools in our country, children go to school almost all year round, from September to July. It is during the heat of summer, that [MCA](#) can help the most. Elena and her school's staff are raising money to provide the students [mosquito netting](#) to protect them from malarial infection. Malaria is the leading cause of death in Liberia. Elena is hoping to buy **35 mosquito nets** so all the resident students' beds are safely covered.



\$15 provides for one net

\$45 helps several children in Liberia



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mca missionary
childhood
association