



May Procession  
in Ho Chi Minh  
City, Vietnam

### FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Student can trace their hands and make a flower pot to remind them to pray for the Missions during Spring. [2]
- † Color a picture of the Blessed Mother with children from all over the world. Remind your students that Mary is the Mother of the entire Church. [3]
- † **The Blessed Mother from around the world.** [5]
- † Distribute the **"Mission Focus: Abandoned Children from the Democratic Republic of Congo."** More information about the struggles in this mission area, as there are many abandoned children that need our prayers. [6]
- † Change the photos of your **Mission Prayer Corner** for May. [7]

### FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † **Mission Saint Spotlight:** St. Philip Neri [4]  
Questions for your students to reflect on -how they can be Missionary like this Saint today?
- † Follow the *Living the Easter Call: Discipleship and Mission* Lesson on Pentecost. This can be found [HERE](#) or on our website: [phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org) Our Work > Youth in Missions > Lent and Easter
- † Include the Holy Father's May Prayer Intention for the Mission of the Laity in your daily communal prayer: *That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.*

### Inside you will find:

- Page 2 & 3: Spring Flowers Craft & Mary Color Page
- Page 4: Mission Saint Spotlight: St. Philip Neri
- Page 5: Blessed Mother Around the World
- Page 6: Mission Focus: Democratic Republic of Congo
- Page 7: Mission Prayer Corner Photo Page

Is your Parish hosting a **Vacation Bible School**?  
MCA can visit your camp for a day to :



- help the children make **World Mission Rosaries**
- show pictures of Missionary children during a **"Sing and Play"**
- take over the **"Kidvid Cinema"** station and show a Mission Video!

Call or email today so we can help to bring  
**MISSION** to your VBS.

### Pope Francis decrees a Memorial Feast Day for our **Blessed Mother–Queen of the Church**

The Pope, who has emphasized many times the importance of Mary in the Church, approved a Memorial Feast Day to be held annually on the first Monday after Pentecost.

This year, if everything was in place, the Memorial would fall in

the month of May, on May

21, and coincide with the Feast Day of a Mary who is venerated in Africa, Our Lady of Kebeho.

Throughout Africa and many mission lands, Mary, the Queen of the Missions, is celebrated with special devotions, processions and ceremonies, particularly in the Month of May. Look through this Month's resource for inspiration to bring the **Queen of Missions** to your school or PREP in May.

*"Mary is the 'best of Mothers' who faithfully keeps the candle of hope burning in the darkness."*

–Pope Francis



Pope in Lobito, Chile

Students can either color this page or copy using construction paper. Encourage them to **PRAY** and **remember they are praying for GOD** to have good things **BLOOM** for children around the world **in the Spring time** and **always**.

#### EACH FLOWER

reminds us of an area in the world where Missionaries bring the *Word of God* to others:

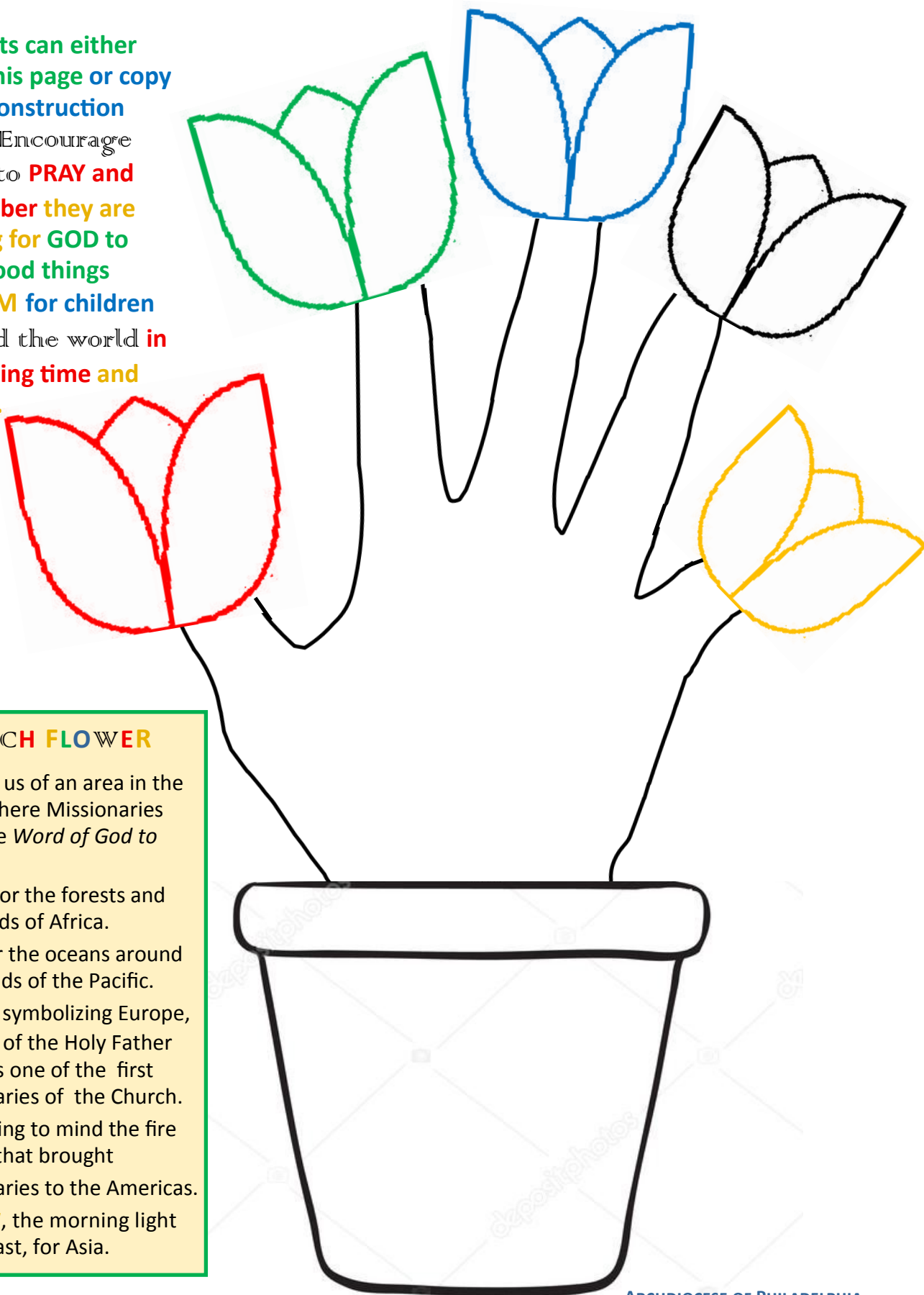
**GREEN** for the forests and grasslands of Africa.

**BLUE** for the oceans around the islands of the Pacific.

**WHITE** symbolizing Europe, the seat of the Holy Father who was one of the first Missionaries of the Church.

**RED** calling to mind the fire of faith that brought Missionaries to the Americas.

**YELLOW**, the morning light of the East, for Asia.



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

**mca** missionary  
childhood  
association





## Mission Saint Spotlight

## Saint Philip Neri: the Apostle to bring the Good News to Rome

From a very young age, Philip was known for being cheerful and obedient. By the time he was 18, Philip went off to live with a wealthy family member to assist in the family business. However, soon after his arrival, Philip experienced a mystical vision which dramatically changed his life. He lost interest in the business and **felt a call from the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord.**

In 1535, Philip began studying theology & philosophy. Not yet fully hearing the call to the priesthood, he set out to help the poor people of Rome and to re-evangelize the city. Philip would lead his followers to hospitals to wait on the sick or to the Church, to pray.

**Philip was an Evangelist. He loved to share the Gospel and help people to find or rediscover their faith in Jesus Christ.** His days were dedicated to helping others, but his nights were set aside for solitude spent praying in the church or in the catacombs.

**In 1548, Philip founded a confraternity for poor laymen to meet for spiritual exercises and service of the poor, the Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity.** At 34-years-old, having already accomplished so much as a lay person, Philip was finally ordained on May 23, 1551.

Philip had a growing number of followers. He and the other priests that were called to assist him, became known as *Congregation of the Priests of the Oratory*, officially approved by Pope Gregory XIII in 1575.

**Philip was constantly in a crowd of people; he allowed his followers free access to him, hearing confessions, engaging in ministry and praying together.** He was respected and loved throughout Rome and soon earned the title, *"The Apostle of Rome."*



**Feast Day:** May 26

**Patron of:** Rome, US Special Forces, Humor, Joy

**Birth:** July 21, 1515

**Death:** May 26, 1595

**Beatified:** May 11, 1615

**Canonized:** March 12, 1622

## Discussion Questions:

- ***In what ways can YOU share the Gospel with others?***
- ***Do you think the world is in need of a "re-evangelization", like Rome in the 1530's?***
- ***How can you be more like St. Philip Neri in modern times?***

***"Cast yourself in the arms of God and be very sure that if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength."***

-Saint Philip Neri

# Images of the Blessed Mother from Around the World



•Our Lady of Kamalen•  
 Guam•Oceania



•Our Lady of La Vang•  
 Vietnam•Asia



•Our Lady of Kibeho•  
 Rwanda•Africa



•Our Lady of Aparecida•  
 Brazil•The Americas



◦Our Lady of Czestochowa◦  
 Poland◦Europe

Throughout the world, people picture our Blessed Mother Mary differently. See the different portraits of Mary from mission areas of the World Mission Rosary, Pray one “Hail Mary” each week in Mary for each Mission area.

## Mission Focus: Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa

Children were left at the hospital door or in front of the sisters' community house. Others were brought in after being abandoned. This area of Uvira, near the border between Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, is a region inhabited by a very poor and uneducated people. As things



worsened because of military actions, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Uvira, found themselves dealing with an increasing number of very small children who needed everything.

The sisters could not turn their back on these children. "So," explains Sister Francoise, who now oversees the children, "*we thought of welcoming these children and relying on the help*

*of Providence—we see them all as children of God.*" The sisters' community house was redesigned to accommodate the children. The religious are also helped by two local women.

**Meanwhile, the number of children is growing.** Many of them are left at the door of the orphanage because the townspeople know that the nuns can take care of them. "*Today there are 26 children,*" concludes Sister Francoise. "***What will their future be? We leave everything in God's hands and work in the name of Christ. They will be raised in the healthiest way possible.***"

The children in the DR of Congo need help and prayers, like so many other children in countries throughout the missions. Last year, through children's prayers and sacrifices, the **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** provided **\$34,000** in help for such outreach in Uvira, as well as DR of Congo cities including: Kisangani, Lisala, Mbuji may and more.

### MCA Children in Philadelphia Are Helping Other Children around the World!

No child deserves to feel **abandoned** or **unloved**. Ask children in your school to be members of the **MCA** by continuing to pray and make sacrifices for children around the world who are in need.

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Integrate this mission story of hope into your lessons by reminding your students of the difficulties Mary faced as Jesus' Mother. She was a young girl when she gave birth to Jesus, and loved him and protected him during his life on Earth. There are mothers and families struggling all over the world, and many children, who feel alone or abandoned. Have your students pray to Mary, our Mother in Heaven, for her love and protection to all of her children on Earth!



## *Pray for the Missions!*

**Chichewa** is the one of the native languages spoken in African mission countries like **Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique & Zimbabwe**. Even though they speak a different language than English, children in these countries *are learning the same prayers as us!* **Imagine yourself praying the Hail Mary in the Chichewa Language in Zimbabwe with the children below.**



**THE HAIL MARY in Chickewa: Tikuoneni Maria wachaulere chodzadza Ambuye alinanu, ndinu odala kupambana akazi onse, ngodalanso Mwana wanu Yesu, Maria woyera Amayi a Mulungu mutipemphelele ife ochimwa, tsopano ndiponso pa nthawi yakufa kwathu. Amen**



*May  
Procession  
honoring  
Mary, the  
Queen of  
the  
Missions, in  
Vietnam.*

