

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

The color RED is synonymous for love, especially as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14th.

For the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, RED in the World Mission Rosary symbolizes the **Fire of Faith** that brought the first Missionaries to the Americas. This Rosary was developed by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the National Director of the Societies at the time.

Missionaries today remind us in Philadelphia's **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** to continue to find ways to bring the word of God to all. There can never be too much love in the world and it should be celebrated, not just on **Valentines Day**, throughout the **Month of February** but all throughout the year!

In this Month's Resource, you will find prayers & activities that remind us to **"Spread Love to the Missions"** all year round.

Sincerely yours in Christ's Mission,

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger

Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger
Archdiocesan Director



*We must
love each other.*

--1 John 4:7

LOVE

ATTENTION: Principals and Mission Moderators, *It is not to late to schedule a Mission Presentation during Catholic Schools Week 2019. Call the MCA office at 215-587-3945 to plan a presentation with Ali Holden.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

Catholic Schools: **Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**

Mission Resources for the Month of February

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- + Put this easy cut/color activity on display in your classrooms remind your students during the Month of February to Pray for children in the Missions [Page 3]
- + Have your students do an Examination of Conscience in preparation for Lent [Page 4]
- + Read the February Saint Spotlight about Saint Paul Miki and his Companions [Page 5]
- + Mission Focus: Brazil [Page 6].
- + Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner, update this corner each month during this **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** [Page 7]

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- + Include the Holy Father's February Prayer Intention: *That those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, the marginalized and victims of human trafficking, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.*
- + The USCCB provides an Examination of Conscience [HERE](#) for Young Adults; this is a perfect opportunity for your students to reflect and prepare for Lent.



The world tells
us to seek
SUCCESS
POWER &
MONEY
God tells us to
seek
HUMILITY
SERVICE &
LOVE

Pope Francis on Twitter in 2013



Cut out and color this map according to the World Mission Map.

Display this Heart on the classroom door, the chalk board or make student copies for their refrigerators at home! Put it in a place that you are reminded during the *Month of February to pray that the children in Mission lands feel Jesus' LOVE* for them always!



In preparation for Lent, which begins next month, think about having each of your students reflect on an examination of Conscience with your students.

In addition to what is listed below, each of us can also ask:

“Have I prayed for the Children in Mission Lands who need our love and support?”
“Have I been a Missionary Disciple & made sacrifices for those who are more in need?”

An Examination of Conscience for Children

RESPONSIBILITIES TO GOD:

- † Have I prayed every day?
- † Have I prayed my morning prayers and night prayers?
- † Have I prayed with my parents and family?
- † Have I been moody and rebellious about praying and going to church on Sunday?
- † Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me whenever I have been tempted to sin?
- † Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me do what is right?

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:

- † Have I been obedient and respectful to my parents?
- † Have I lied or been deceitful to them or to others?
- † Have I been arrogant, stubborn or rebellious?
- † Have I talked back to parents, teachers or other adults?
- † Have I pouted and been moody?
- † Have I been selfish toward my parents, brothers, and sisters, teachers, or my friends and schoolmates?
- † Have I gotten angry at them? Have I hit anyone?
- † Have I held grudges or not forgiven others?
- † Have I treated other children with respect or have I made fun of them and called them names?
- † Have I used bad language?
- † Have I stolen anything? Have I returned it?
- † Have I performed my responsibilities, such as homework and household chores?
- † Have I been helpful and affectionate toward my family?
- † Have I been kind and generous with my friends?



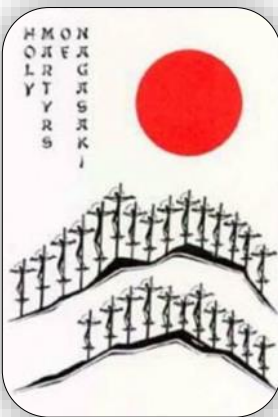
Copyright, Father Thomas Weinandy. This resource may be reproduced and distributed free of charge by permission of the author.

Saint Paul Miki and his Companions



In February, the month symbolized by love, the Church celebrates the Memorial of Brother Paul Miki and his companions. Among them were priests, Brothers, laymen, catechists, doctors, artisans and servants, old men and innocent children—all **united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.**

Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, killing hundreds of thousands. Three and a half centuries before, twenty-six martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Brother Paul, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: *"The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."*



God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

Today the Church in Japan is established . . . Although the number of Catholics is not large, the Church is respected and has total religious freedom. The spread of Christianity in the Far East is slow and difficult. **Faith such as that of the 26 martyrs is needed today as much as in 1597.** Excerpts from AmericanCatholic.org



Birth: 1562

Death: February 5, 1597

Beatified: Sept. 14, 1627

Canonized: June 8, 1862

Patronage: Japan

When Missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But in bit, they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki. They had secretly preserved the faith—thousands of Catholics came forward still clinging to the what they had been taught!

Brother Paul Miki and his companions were beatified in 1627 and canonized in 1862. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: *"I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask*

Discussion Questions:

- † Who are your "companions"? Do they support you in living out your faith?
- † In what ways can we pray for Asia, and other areas of the world where Christianity has not been fully established?

Mission Focus: Brazil

On the World Mission Rosary, the Color **RED representing the Americas**. The *Vila Alianca Slums* are part of the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, the largest country in **South America**. People there live on the margins of society with very little access to education or health care. Father Andrade, one of the local priests at the Infant Jesus of Prague Parish, fights for the rights of his communities' people. He works to educate the children of the slum and has an outreach program for families who are in the most desperate need.

One of those families includes a little boy named Daniel, who lives with his parents, his seven brothers and two sisters. His mother does not work because some of Daniel's little brothers and sisters still need her at home. His father works only occasionally, when he can find an odd job or two.



Daniel is lucky enough to go to a local school, but does not receive a meal there. He is often hungry and sick. Luckily for Daniel, Father Andrade told the family that his parishioners would be able to deliver a weekly food basket containing black beans, rice, sugar, salt and corn powder, thanks to funds from the **Missionary Childhood Association**. Father Andrade writes, *"Thank you dear people for helping me to care for the little ones in my parish!"*

The local parish's faith formation is an essential part of the children's lives. Recently, Father was able to prepare 120 children for the First Holy Communion. He says, *"It was a great effort of the parish to make sure they were all dressed in the traditional white clothes. Many families are so poor that they do not own 'good clothes'. Many in my parish supplied the shirts and dresses and the children looked wonderful. Thanks to Missionary Childhood Association we are able to regularly bring the children here every Sunday to learn about their faith and to learn how to read and write. It is so important. You cannot stand up for yourself if you cannot read. So thanks for your support. God bless you all."*

With every prayer and every sacrifice, members of the **Missionary Childhood Association** worldwide are making a difference for their brothers and sisters in Christ!



In Brazil, most people live along or relatively near the coastal area and the majority of the population lives around the three largest cities, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brazil.



The famous Christ the Redeemer statue towers over the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Brazil is about 65% Catholic, the world's largest population of Catholics.



Father Andrade with children from his Parish



Children receiving their First Holy Communion

Spread LOVE to the Missions this February



Happy School Children in Haiti



Children show their love for God at Mass through dance in Kenya.



Two young children together in hope in Nepal



Young girl from Peru