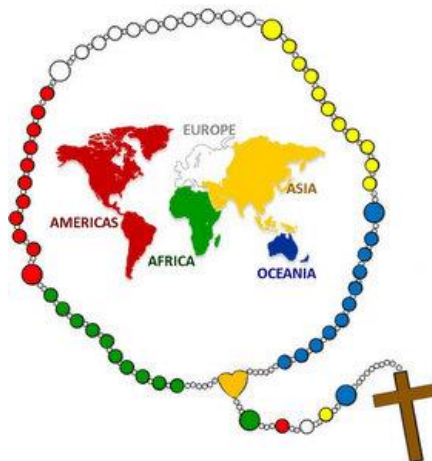


**Help make your students the best Missionary Disciples this Lent!**

**Encourage Prayer and Sacrifice, for the MISSIONS in the EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**

**Let us pray for Africa,  
represented in Green,**

symbolizing its forests and grasslands. In Africa, we can pray for the orphans of the AIDS epidemic, being helped by Sister Marie Thérèse and Missionaries at The Hope Center in Yaounde, Cameroon in Africa.



***We must pray, and not for  
ourselves, but for the world.***

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen



**Pray for Europe, in  
White, home of the  
Holy Father.**

In Rome, Religious women like Sister Ezike attend Mater Ecclesia College.

As a young girl, Sister worked with Missionary sisters to serve younger children in her village in Nigeria. Their work inspired her own vocation.



**Pray for Oceania and the  
Isles of the Pacific,**

**represented in Blue** for the Ocean. In Papua New Guinea, prayers are needed for trained healthcare professionals to help the community.

**Recite a Decade of the  
Rosary for Asia, represented  
in Yellow, symbolic of the  
morning light of the East.**

Thoughtfully reflect on Mary's prayer for the disabled children taught at the Jeevdan Special School, in a poor region of northern India.



**Let's pray for the Americas,  
represented in Red,  
symbolizing the Fire of  
Faith that brought the first  
Missionaries here.**

The Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, is the only Mission Diocese in the United States.



## Mission Resources for the Month of February

### FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Use this Lent Calendar during the season up until Easter. This calendar gives students ways to live as Missionaries to prepare for Jesus' suffering on the Cross and Resurrection [Page 3]
- † Lenten Prayer Service to start off the season praying for Missionaries [Page 4]
- † This Lent activity will help students keep track of the good things they are doing during Lent [Page 5]
- † Read the March Mission Saint Spotlight about the popular Missionary Saint Patrick [Page 6]
- † Mission Focus: Papua New Guinea [Page 7]
- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner during the entire Season of Lent, update this corner each month during the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** through October, 2019 [Page 8]
- † Display a mission oriented Bulletin Board show [HERE](#). Ideas were generously provided by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters during this Mission Year.

### FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include the Holy Father's March Prayer Intention for Evangelization: *That Christian communities, especially those that feel persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.*
- † To "Live Lent in Mission" follow the *Resource for Youth and Young Adults: Keeping Lent in Focus* found on the MISSIO resource page, found [HERE](#). This resource is for young people ages 13-21, and provides a week to week journey through Lent.

### *A Child's Prayer for Lent*

*Lord, please show  
me what I should  
give up for Lent.*

*And when I've given  
it up remind me to  
pray to You instead.*

*To thank You.*

*To love You.*
































*To hear from You  
each and every day  
in Lent.*

*Amen.*



# LENT 2019 CALENDAR FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The **Missionary Childhood Association**, one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, is for young Missionary Disciples. The purpose of MCA is to promote daily prayer, sacrifice and sacrificial giving for the growth and sharing of each child's faith. MCA is the Church's official Charity for children's overseas missions, and its members help more than 4 million children worldwide each year. The MCA motto is *Children Helping Children*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Missionary Children, like this girl in Kenya, help other kids in need around the world through their prayers and sacrifices.</p> <p><i>Photo Nancy Wiehede CNS</i></p> 			<p><b>March 6th</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>Ask God to bless your Lenten journey.</p> 	<p><b>7</b> Read about forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-22. What does Jesus say?</p> 	<p><b>8 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat and save an offering for MCA.</p> 	<p><b>9</b> Wake up early and help around the house!</p> 
<p><b>10 Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>To prepare for Mass, read the Gospel for today, Luke 4:1-13</p> 	<p><b>11</b> What are the Corporal &amp; Spiritual Works of Mercy? Discuss with your family how you can live them out.</p>	<p><b>12 Jesus loves you!</b> Find a way to share that love with someone today.</p> 	<p><b>13</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Asia.</p> 	<p><b>14</b> Pray a Hail Mary for children who cannot go to school. Make a donation for every classroom you enter today.</p>	<p><b>15 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Papua New Guinea.</p> 	<p><b>16</b> Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Start trying to break this habit during Lent.</p>
<p><b>17 Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Remember to give thanks for the food you eat and to pray for children who are hungry.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Earthly Father of Jesus and Husband of Mary.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Europe</p> 	<p><b>21</b> Share with your family what you learned this week!</p> 	<p><b>22 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child living in a refugee camp.</p> 	<p><b>23</b> Help a friend study a subject that they find difficult.</p> 
<p><b>24 Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9</p> 	<p><b>25 Feast of The Annunciation of Our Lord</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b> Say a prayer of thanks for your home.</p> 	<p><b>27</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the Pacific Islands.</p> 	<p><b>28</b> Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p><b>29 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Cuba.</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. Have you maintained it?</p>
<p><b>31 Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</p> 	<p><b>April 1</b> Cheer up someone who is feeling sad.</p> 	<p><b>2</b> Read about the poor widow in Luke 21:1-4. What did she do?</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Africa.</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Offer to help a brother, sister or friend with their chores. It's more fun to work together!</p>	<p><b>5 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat &amp; say a prayer for a child in Malawi.</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Think about decisions you made this week. What would you change if you could?</p>
<p><b>7 Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, John 12:1-8</p> 	<p><b>8 "Adopt" a child in the Missions &amp; give to MCA.</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for kids in the Americas.</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Help out at home without being asked.</p> 	<p><b>11</b> Think of something you can do better and try to do it.</p>	<p><b>12 Sacrifice</b></p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Syria.</p> 	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Say a special prayer for loved ones who have died.</p>
<p><b>14 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Go to Mass!</b></p> <p>Read the Gospel for today, Luke 19:28-40</p> 	<p><b>15</b> Don't watch TV tonight. Instead reflect on the week ahead. Put 25¢ in your Mission Bank for each show you skip.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Pray three Hail Marys for all the Religious Sisters who work in the Missions.</p> 	<p><b>17</b> Help make a simple dinner for your family. Thank God together for all His gifts.</p>	<p><b>18 Holy Thursday</b></p> <p>Jesus washes the disciples' feet; we must also serve others. Try to attend Mass tonight.</p>	<p><b>19 Good Friday</b></p> <p>Pray the Stations of the Cross and reflect upon God's great love for us.</p> 	<p><b>20 Holy Saturday</b></p> <p>Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p> 

## Missionary Disciples Lenten Prayer Service

Pictures are from Father Sean McLean, a Salesian of Don Bosco. He is one 30,000 Priests, Brothers, Sisters and novices serving in Mission countries around the World. Father Sean is pictured here serving at a school in South Africa. Remember during this prayer service, not only the children throughout the world that seek our help, but all who serve our Lord and work with those in need in different ways.

**LEADER/PRESIDER:** Today we gather in prayer to thank God for the gift of Jesus and for His great love for us. Jesus wants all children to hear when He speaks to our hearts about believing in Him, loving one another and sharing our blessings. And yet, there are children today who have never heard the “Good News” of Jesus. *What do you think Jesus calls you to do for them?*

*[short pause]*

Let us turn our hearts and our minds to Him in prayer and call to mind children in the Missions who suffer from poverty, neglect, violence or hunger, and ask God’s special blessing upon them. May we always respond with joy to Your Good News, Lord, live by Your example, and love others as You love us. Amen



### READING: Colossians 3:12-14

**Reader:** A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13,14 and 17



**All:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. **Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

**All:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. **Reader:** A clean heart create for me, O God, And a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, And your Holy Spirit take not from me.

**All:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. **Reader:** Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O, Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**All:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

**Closing Prayer LEADER/PRESIDER:** Lord Jesus, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross so that everyone could be saved. Send us Your Spirit so that we may reach out our arms in love to bring the Good News of You and Your salvation to children everywhere. **All:** Amen.

# L E N T

**PRAY**

**FAST**

**DO ACTS OF  
KINDNESS**

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Fold up along this horizontal line, then staple along the vertical line to create pockets for each category. When finished, decorate however you would like!

Every time you pray, fast, or do an act of kindness during the Season of Lent, place a little note in the pocket saying what you did.

**At the end of the Lenten Season, count how many notes you have, and give that many quarters to the Missions!**

***Some examples of things you can do during Lent:*** Pray one Hail Mary for Missionaries on the five continental areas of the world or fast from one of your favorite foods. You can even include take a shorter shower to help others as saving water helps children in Mission lands! Lastly, you can give your time to someone who may need your help or offer up your allowance for a good cause! All of these ideas or others you can think of, help you to embrace your Missionary Discipleship during the season of Lent in the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION!**



## Saint Patrick: *The Apostle of Ireland*

Not only in the United States, but throughout the world, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated with parades, parties, all green decorations, and of course the popular Irish symbol, **the Shamrock**. *But did you know that Saint Patrick was a Missionary?* Even though he is one of the world's most popular saints, there is little known about the details of his life. His only two writings, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his *Letter to Coroticus*, a rebuke of British mistreatment of Irish Christians, tell us what we know about Saint Patrick, and how he spread Christianity throughout Ireland.

Born in Britain, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raid as a young boy. He was treated like a slave—and had to herd and tend to sheep. It was during this time that Patrick discovered his faith and turned to God for guidance. *"The love of God grew in me more and more, as did the*



### Quick Facts about St. Patrick

- ♣ There was no formal process for canonization in place when Saint Patrick died.
- ♣ He was proclaimed a Saint by popular acclaim, with the approval of a Bishop.
- ♣ The official process for canonization did not come until about the 12th century.
- ♣ Saint Patrick was the first major figure to reject slavery.
- ♣ This Saint may have brought the Latin alphabet to Ireland.
- ♣ Legend says that Saint Patrick cast out all the snakes in Ireland [see in his icon above], though many scientists say that snakes have never existed in Ireland.



*faith, and my soul was raised, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."*

Patrick escaped after six years, but soon after, he had a vision that encouraged him to return to Ireland and help the people

there learn about God. With some reluctance, because of his lack of formal education, he entered the priesthood. Patrick, as a priest, was initially met with resistance. He persevered and saw results. Patrick, along with other Missionaries, through preaching, writing and performing and countless baptisms spread Christianity in Ireland far and wide. Saint Patrick even combined pagan rituals that were already in place in Ireland into his teachings, like the Celtic Cross, which combined the native's sun worshiping with the Christian cross that is now popularly worn today.

Many legends also have been associated with his life including that he drove away all the snakes from Ireland and he introduced the Holy Trinity through the three-leaved shamrock.

Traditionally, on St. Patrick's Day, which typically occurs during Lent, families attend church in the morning and observe other rituals—including eating a traditional meal of cabbage and corned beef. The holiday has expanded into an international celebration of Irish culture and heritage.

## Mission Focus: Papua New Guinea

### Children making sacrifices to help others in need during Lent and everyday!

Pope Francis summarized what our actions should be for Lent:

*"Take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in your hearts, know that it is never the case with God! He constantly gives us a chance to love anew."*

Children who are **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** members know and practice this better than most people—all around the world. A perfect example is seen in Papua New Guinea [PNG], where children globally have sacrificed to help those there build a school, get medicine, etc. and the children of PNG have done the same for those even more in need!

PNG is in the eastern half of the island of New Guinea amidst islands in the Pacific ocean near Australia. About 80% of the indigent live in the rural, mountainous region, which is very difficult to reach. With few roads, most people travel by airplane or by foot. Researchers believe that it is home to the most uncontacted groups of people and undiscovered plants and species on our planet. Most of the people are Christian with about 27% Roman Catholic. Many Religious orders—Marists, Divine Word Missionaries, Capuchin Franciscans, Vincentians and Missionaries of the Sacred Heart—are still at work planting the seeds of faith among the people of this remote and beautiful country. *Bringing the word of God to all remains alive and well!*

Father PJ Alindogan, Director of MCA in the Diocese of Trenton, NJ took a Mission trip to the island country and visited to Diocese of Alotau-Sideia. *It took four plane rides to get to there!* He went to the Alotau-Sideia Diocese, where 60,000 Catholics are served by just 20 priests spread out over an area the size of Massachusetts. Because most supplies arrive by boat, islanders live frugally. Father PJ said of his experience, *"They sleep on the floor. They don't have electricity, even the professionals walk barefoot by choice. They live in the present moment."* He continued, *"The basic virtue I observed was patience. They are patient with what the Lord has given them."*

Father PJ met many children along the way and shared his pictures with us. Here you can see the different cultures of PNG. The children were proud to show Father how they paint their faces and dress in traditional ways.

**MCA members worldwide** have been hard at work helping the children of PNG—**\$50,020 to-date** was sent to the Alotau-Sideia Diocese to build new classrooms for students! A total of \$224,300 went to children's aid projects

across the country funding education, health programs and orphanages.

*Our children helping other children a world away!*

**And, the children of PNG sacrificed \$14,021.50 to MCA so other children around the world may benefit from the love and care of Missionaries.**

**Sacrifice = Sacrifice = Helping Others Always**



Kids happy to attend the Mission school.



*Remember  
the Missions  
during Lent!*



Missionary Sisters carrying a cross in the Diocese of Kampala, Uganda



Stations of the Cross in the Mahobe Mission



Child praying the World Mission Rosary in Cambodia



Young boy sacrificing during Lent and giving at a Mass in Kenya

**Missionary children around  
the world make sacrifices,  
fast and observe the  
Stations of the Cross  
*just like we do!***

**This is Lent in Mission  
Lands—reflect on this  
through Easter.**

**Missionary Childhood Association·Philadelphia·[www.phillymissions.org](http://www.phillymissions.org)·215-587-3945**