



APRIL 2019 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

Missionary Disciples in our Archdiocese during the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**

Let us know how your students are getting creative with their prayers and sacrifices for the **MISSIONS!**

Our Mother of Consolation School

The 4th grade students of Our Mother of Consolation School in the Chestnut Hill area of Philadelphia have worked hard during this **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**, making World Mission Rosaries. With a goal of 100 Rosaries, the children have already completed 50 that will be sent to children in Mission Lands! The other 50 rosaries, when completed, will be sold to parishioners at OMC, and the profits will be donated to the **Missionary Childhood Association**. On March 20th, the 4th grade students, (pictured right) saw a Mission presentation, were officially inducted into the **Missionary Childhood Association** on and received membership cards.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

"Your presentation has really effected the children. Two have set up stands [cookies and hot chocolate] and another went to all of his relatives to plead for the money for the children of the Dominican Republic. You really touched a cord with them and they are responding!"

- Mrs. Cindy Balceniuk
DRE at OLMC in Doylestown, PA



Mission Resources for the Month of April

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Information on the First Annual Archdiocesan Mission Day [\[Page 2\]](#)
- † 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 [\[Page 3\]](#)
- † Use these prayers after each station, in addition to your regular Station of the Cross [\[Page 4\]](#)
- † Complete the Word Search to learn about "The Great Commission" [\[Page 5\]](#)
- † Read the April Mission Saint Spotlight about St. Peter Chanel, Martyr and Patron of Oceania [\[Page 6\]](#)
- † Mission Focus: Thika Kenya [\[Page 7\]](#)
- † 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 April Prayer Intention: *For Doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.*
- † 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.

As you may know, to renew our baptismal call *to be Missionary* and bring the “Good News” of Jesus to all, Pope Francis has called for an **Extraordinary Month of Mission** to be celebrated in **October, 2019**. In response to this request by the Holy Father, Archbishop Charles Chaput has approved an **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**, which is being celebrated from October 2018 to October 2019 in our Archdiocese.

To reawaken the Missionary spirit among young people in Philadelphia and celebrate this Extraordinary Year, the **Missionary Childhood Association** will host its **first Archdiocesan Mission Day**. We cordially invite you to send a chaperone, with one or two Mission Ambassadors to join us on May 6, 2019 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM for a day of Mission animation, service and a meet and greet with local Missionaries. The gathering will conclude with Lunch, and a Mission Mass celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul Chapel. Our hope is that the Mission Ambassadors return to your school and inspire their peers *to be Missionary* from what they have learned.

We ask you to kindly fill out the enclosed registration form for your participation. Information about traveling arrangements will soon follow. Registrations will be accepted on a first come-first placed basis.

We look forward to hearing from you and fostering young Missionary disciples on May 6th.

School Form

to be filled out by Principal or Administrator

Parent form
































to be filled out by parent/guardian of Mission Ambassador



We hope to one day, also host an Archdiocesan Mission Day for all Religious Education Programs in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In the meantime, please pray for all involved in the planning and execution for this event, and the students, missionaries and volunteers that will attend.

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

Stations of the Cross

As early as the 4th century, Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land would walk the route that Our Lord walked as He made His way to be crucified for our Sins. When Muslims captured Jerusalem and it became too dangerous to make this pilgrimage, Christians replicated the sites back home in Europe, and developed the "Stations of the Cross" devotion. Today, all over the world, people are replicating the Stations of the Cross differently. Whichever version you use, remember the Missions in a special way with the reflections found here.

REFLECTION ON THE JOURNEY

Leader: Together we will walk along the way of the cross with Jesus. We will think about Jesus' suffering and about how that suffering ended in joy and new life at His Resurrection.

ALL: Jesus, with Your heavy wooden cross, unite our Lenten sacrifices with Your sacrifice, along the way of the cross. Be present to us about the meaning of each Station of the Cross for us and for children in the Missions.

FIRST STATION

Leader: Jesus is Condemned to Death

ALL: Jesus, innocent, yet condemned to death, help children who try to hide from war each day; let them know peace through Your love. Help those of us who live in peaceful lands spread love and peace among our family, friends and neighbors.

SECOND STATION

Leader: Jesus carries His Cross

ALL: Jesus, suffering, make us aware of the suffering in the world around us. Help us to be generous members of HCA so we can help heal our broken world and turn suffering to joy.

THIRD STATION

Leader: Jesus Falls the First Time

ALL: Jesus, we are stronger and have fewer burdens than many children in the world. With Your guidance, we can help to lift those who suffer by sharing our love with them.

FOURTH STATION

Leader: Jesus Meets His Mother

ALL: Jesus, son of God, we thank you for sharing your mother with us. Help us to follow her example of love and faithfulness.

FIFTH STATION

Leader: Simon helps Jesus Carry His Cross

ALL: Jesus, weakened under the heavy cross, teach us to be grateful when friends help us, and open our hearts to make us generous and helpful to others in need like so many children in the Missions.

SIXTH STATION

Leader: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

ALL: Jesus, gentle and kind, help us to be like Veronica. Show us the way to bring comfort and joy to children who do not know Your love and kindness.

SEVENTH STATION

Leader: Jesus Falls the Second Time

ALL: Jesus, our loving brother, help us to be generous in our MCA Lenten sacrifices so that we may help Missionaries teach children about Your love.

EIGHTH STATION

Leader: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

ALL: Jesus, who loves all children, help us to show the mothers of suffering children that there is hope. Through our sharing and caring as MCA members, help us give all children a future with You.

NINTH STATION

Leader: Jesus Falls the Third Time

ALL: Loving Jesus, when we fail or get hurt, help us to remember Your pain and the pain of children in the Missions who are poor, hungry and hurt. May our love for all children help heal this suffering world.



TENTH STATION

Leader: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

ALL: Jesus, who sacrificed all for us, help us not to want more than we need. Open our eyes so that we appreciate what we have, and help us to share with others who do not have shelter, clothing or food.

ELEVENTH STATION

Leader: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

ALL: Jesus, when we join in the celebration of Mass, we will remember those who are not free. We are happy to be free and we pray that all children will know freedom some day.

TWELTH STATION

Leader: Jesus Dies on the Cross

ALL: Jesus, crucified for us, help us to be obedient to our loving Father in heaven.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Leader: Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross

ALL: In the name of the Father, who sent Jesus to us; and of the Son, who died for us; and of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with love. Let us thank God for the love He has given us to share.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Leader: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

ALL: Jesus, silent and hidden in the tomb, we want to help children who suffer silently. Please make us generous during Lent so suffering children will know we hear their cries.



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” - Matthew 28: 19-20

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OBEY
JESUS
BAPTIZING
NATIONS

DISCIPLES
MOUNTAIN
HEAVEN
MAKE

EARTH
ALWAYS
COMMANDED
WORSHIPPED

AUTHORITY
TEACHING
ELEVEN
GIVEN

St. Peter Chanel: Missionary Saint and Martyr

St. Peter Chanel was born in 1803 in the diocese of Belley, France. His intelligence and simple piety brought him to the attention of the local priest, Father Tromprier, who saw to his elementary education. Entering the Diocesan Seminary, Peter won the affection and the esteem of both students and professors. After his ordination he found himself in a rundown country parish and completely revitalized it in the three year span that he remained there. **However, his mind was set on Missionary Work; so, in 1831, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary [Marists] which concentrated on Missionary work at home and abroad.** To his dismay, he was appointed to teach at the seminary at Belley and remained

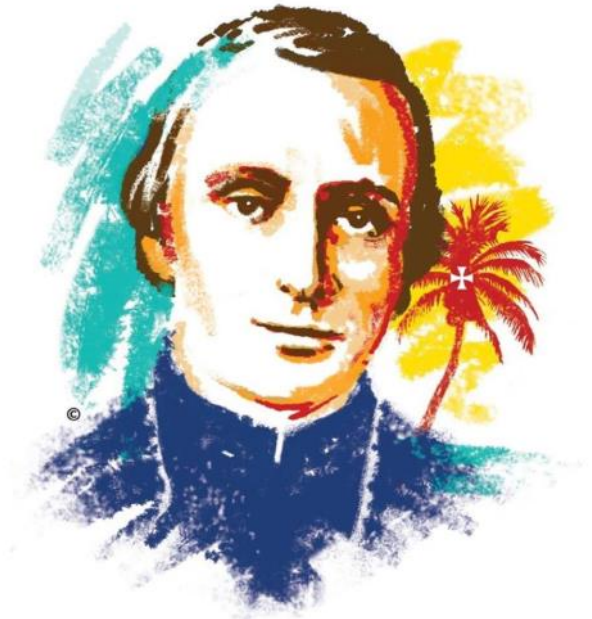
there for the next five years, diligently performing his duties.



In 1836, the Marists were given the New Hebrides in the Pacific as a field for evangelization, and the jubilant St. Peter was appointed Superior of a little band of Missionaries sent to proclaim the Faith to its inhabitants. On reaching their destination after a long ten-month journey, the band split up and St. Peter went to the Island of Futuna accompanied by an English lay person, Thomas Boog. They were at first well received by the pagans and their king Niuliki.

However, the King's jealousy and fear were aroused when the Missionaries learned the language and gained the people's confidence. The King realized that adoption of the Christian faith would lead to the end of his privileges as High Priest and Ruler. Finally, when his own son expressed a desire to be baptized, the King's hatred erupted and he dispatched a group of his warriors to set upon the Saintly head of the Missionaries.

On April 28, 1841, three years after his arrival, St. Peter was seized and clubbed to death by those he had come to save. With his death, all his work came to fruition - within five months the entire island was converted to Christianity. St. Peter was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1954. **Peter Chanel is the first Missionary, Martyr and Patron of the Isles of Oceania.**



Feast Day: April 28th

Birth: July 12, 1803

Death: April 28, 1841

Beatified: Nov. 17, 1889

Canonized: June 12, 1954

Patronage: Oceania

Discussion Question

Oceania is made up of many small islands that have dozens of villages that speak different languages. Discuss the struggles that St. Peter Chanel must have faced while trying to learn a new language and evangelize.

Mission Focus: Thika, Kenya

A small village in Kenya, called Thika, is part of a large coffee plantation. Most of the adults in the village work on the plantation. The work is hard and wages low, only around \$1.18 per day. Workers live in small tin huts on plantation land and must pay rent to the landowner. They own no land of their own to grow food. This desperate situation means that most families cannot afford essential items and often go hungry. **As a result, many children are taken out of school to help their parents earn money for food by working on the plantation.**



Homes in Thika, Kenya



Children enjoying Lunch in Thika

The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi recognized the need for change and came to Thika to help. With support from *Missionary Children* around the world, the Sisters help feed lunch to the children who attend school. They hope by having meals for these children living on the plantations, they will at least have one healthy meal every day.



The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, above, in the midst of the children at the school's feeding program in Thika

What the Sisters do for the children is more than simply physically feeding them. They also fuel their faith, nourish their hope and empower them through love.

The Thika Feeding Program is changing lives. By easing the financial pressure on families to provide lunch every day, and by encouraging them to send their children to school rather than work, Thika is enabling a better future for the children of their village.



If all children in just two classes gave \$1.20 in a month, together they would raise enough to feed 120 Mission children!

- Will **your students** say a Hail Mary each day in the school year for children like those in Thika during in the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**? Pope Francis asks all students in **MCA** do so.
- Can **your class** sacrifice & help the Thika Feeding Program provide lunch for students in Kenya?

The month of April marks us halfway through the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**.
Thank you for all your prayers and sacrifices since October 2018.



The Daughters of Mary, cater to the poor families living in the slums of Tamil Nadu in South India



"Jesus in Thy Neighbor" - a Missionary has worked tirelessly in Kenya & Ethiopia to provide roto tankers [water storage] for a number of poor villages, desks for schools, blankets & medicines for abandoned families and other help to families in need. They even successfully built a kitchen for the village which would be used everyday to provide food for families and children who lack even a small piece of bread.

The Institute of the Incarnate Word cares for the disabled people of Argentina (pictured right) as well as the poor and sick people of Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Iraq, Palestine and others. In over 40 countries, they run educational institutions and provide homes for the poor.



Remember to continue as Missionary Disciples in the **EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION**, and pray and sacrifice for the many children who are in need of our love and the Missionaries that serve them not just this year, but all the time!