**Student Activity**
Prayer—A Garden of our Own

**Grades:** K - 2nd

**Goal:** To give the students an opportunity to create a space in the classroom that can be used for prayer. This can also serve as a reminder to the students as you call them to prayer, that anywhere we desire can be a place to be with God because He is always with us.

**Materials:** Cut-out of template flowers, birds, or butterflies. Markers or crayons. Tape or pins for the board.

**Instructions:** Make copies of the template on cardstock. Cut out template of flowers, birds or butterflies to make a garden like that of St. Rose of Lima. Each student will color an item. Then help place it at the bottom of the bulletin board or around the space of your mission corner or any space you think is appropriate to designate as a prayer space for them. The flowers can also be placed around the classroom as the whole classroom can be a prayer space.

Prayer is an important aspect of what members of the Missionary Childhood Association do, as it is the foundation of our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is through prayer that we are connected to our brothers and sisters around the world as we pray for them. When we pray, we are transformed, not only as individuals, but as members of the body of Christ, helping to change the world through what God is calling us to do.

Talk to the students about the importance of prayer. Just as St. Rose of Lima would feel the presence of God in her garden and in her hut, show the students how to see the presence of God in every place and be at prayer with Him.

Let them know that you will be creating a space in the classroom that will be a special place where they can be with God in prayer. It will be a garden that will remind them of the beauty that God has created for us when He created our world. A space that they can use whenever they have the desire to pray and be with God. Next time they are praying, they can also say a prayer for children just like them in other parts of the world.
Student Activity: Prayer — A Garden of our Own
Cut-out template
Grades: K-2nd
**Student Activity**

Creating a Prayer Space — The “Prayer Hut”

**Grades: 3rd - 5th**

**Goal:** To give the students an opportunity to create a prayer space that can be used for prayer and as a reminder to them that anyplace we desire can become a place to be with God because He is always with us.

**Materials:** Cardboard boxes (shoe boxes or small mailing boxes). Markers or crayons. Tape, glue, scissors, magazines, or construction paper.

**Instructions:** You can ask the students to bring in a shoe box or a small box from home a week prior to doing the activity. After you have explained the purpose of the box as a personal prayer space, ask them to personalize the box to reflect their interests and what they like. They can also decorate the box to look like a garden like that of St. Rose of Lima. When the box is done they can place the MCA prayer card or bookmark in the box.

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Talk to the students about the importance of prayer. Remind the students how St. Rose of Lima would feel the presence of God in her garden and in the prayer hut that she built so she could have a place to be alone in prayer with God. Let the students know that they will be creating their very own “prayer huts” with the prayer boxes, where they can create a space to be alone with God and take wherever they are.

In the box students can place religious articles they can use while praying, such as:

- Rosary
- Bible or favorite bible passage or quote
- Prayer Card
- Prayer book

Allow the students to add to their boxes throughout the school year. Whenever you have a classroom prayer service or when the students have the opportunity to be in prayer, they can pull an item from their prayer box to help them.
Student Activity
Catholic Social Teaching & Prayer

Grades: 6th - 8th

Goal: To have the students see the correlation between prayer and the call to action we receive as members of the body of Christ and for them to see how as members of the Missionary Childhood Association, they are called to pray for those in mission countries. This is a way of helping to anchor the practice of Catholic Social Teaching in their lives.

Material: Access to the internet and projector to show video clip to students.

Instructions: After viewing the clip, divide students into small groups and ask them to discuss what is Catholic Social Justice and how it connects to prayer. Then, have them write a commitment to prayer and reflection to strengthen their commitment to help the poor.

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St. Rose of Lima believed that no one was too poor to help someone else because we are all capable of giving a helping hand not matter how humbly we live. Through her charity, she made others aware of the great need of those who are less fortunate. Her efforts to bring free medical care to the poor led her to the start of social services in Peru. Social services is defined as an activity aiming to promote the welfare of others by providing services to benefit a community such as education, medical care and housing.

We learn how we, as the body of Christ, can help better the lives of others and our community through the church’s Catholic Social Teaching. Visit the USCCB website at the following link and view a short video about what is Catholic Social Teaching http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm. After viewing the video ask your students to have a small discussion (Allow the students to share their discussions—about five minutes)

• What are our rights and responsibilities as Catholics?
• Why should we see Christ in others?
• How can prayer and reading scripture help us put the Catholic Social Teaching into action?
• How are we serving Jesus when we serve the poor?

After the group discussion say the following or paraphrase the following to your students:

Anchoring Social Ministry: Prayer and Worship The most important setting for the Church’s social teaching is not in a food pantry or in a legislative committee room, but in prayer and worship, especially gathered around the altar for the Eucharist. Social ministry not genuinely rooted in prayer can easily burn itself out. On the other hand, worship that does not reflect the Lord’s call to conversion, service, and justice can become a pious ritual and empty of the Gospel. Our social ministry must be anchored in prayer, where we uncover the depths of God’s call to seek justice and pursue peace. In personal prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, and quiet reflection on the Christian vocation, we discover the social mission of every believer. In serving those in need, we serve the Lord. In seeking justice and peace, we witness to the reign of God in our midst. In prayer, we find the reasons, the strength, and the call to follow Jesus in the ways of charity, justice, and peace.” (Excerpt from USCCB “Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish”)

At the end of the discussion, ask your students to write a commitment of how they will use prayer, scripture reading, and quiet reflection throughout the year to strengthen their commitment to helping those in need. (Post the commitments on your classroom mission corner!)