Mission Awareness Week 2017

Daily Activities for
October 16 — October 22
Mission Awareness: Prayer Service

Prayer of commitment to the missions

Accept and bless, O God our Father, the commitment we are about to make to You. Give us a spirit of generosity, so that, just as we have received freely, we may give freely, for the glory of Your name.

We accept anew our calling first received in Baptism, to spread the Good News, not only in word but also in deed. We will make greater efforts to take an active interest in MISSION:

- by learning about mission;
- by praying for the missions;
- by actively participating in the Missionary Childhood Association mission projects;
- by sharing, through our sacrificial giving, with others around the world.

Come Holy Spirit, help us in this task.

Amen.

“For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”

Saint Teresa

This can be done anytime during the week of mission awareness. Plan your prayer service using the missionary prayer service included in this month’s material. It includes the prayer of commitment to the missions. Use the prayer service in this month material appropriate for our grade level.

Mission Awareness: Guest Speakers

Missionary Guest Speaker

“Through the Church, Christ continues His mission as the Good Samaritan, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity, and as Good Shepherd, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere.” Pope Francis

Local and visiting missionary speakers are available to visit your school. Send in your Missionary Speaker request form. Let us know if you would like a school assembly or classroom visit. Missionaries are always looking forward to share their experiences and answer questions the students may have.

Missionary Childhood Association – October 2017

www.missionsla.org/mca
Mission Awareness: A Mass for the Missions

MCA Youth Appreciation Mass

“The Christian community will be a sign of God’s presence in the world: for by reason of the Eucharistic sacrifice, this community is ceaselessly on the way with Christ to the Father” Ad Gentes

Join us for our MCA Youth Appreciation Mass as we come together to celebrate the breaking of the bread as family. We also recognize all the efforts and sacrificial givings by the students in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in solidarity with their brother and sisters in other countries.

If you are unable to join us on October 18, 2017, then celebrate with us at your parish school using the readings we will have for the mass or by including the petitions for the missions in your mass.

Readings for the MCA Youth Appreciation Mass

First Reading: 2 TM 4:10-17

Responsorial Psalm: PD245: 10-11, 12-13, 17-18

Second Reading: 1st Corinthians 12: 12-26


General Intercessions

Opening Prayer: Father, we are thankful for your many blessings. As a Church without borders we pray, now, for the needs of our Church and of our world.

Our Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

- For our Holy Father, Pope Francis and Archbishop, Jose Gomez, that the Lord might strengthen them in faith and courage as they show the world the missionary heart of our faith. We pray to You, Lord.
- For all elected leaders, that they may govern justly, heal divisions and foster peace. We pray to You, Lord.
- For all missionaries who serve God and their fellow brothers and sisters, here at home and abroad, that they may continue to give witness to the Lord’s loving kindness and redeeming presence. We pray to You, Lord.
- For all children in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles who support the missionary efforts of the Church throughout the world, that they may continue to share the missionary spirit of our Christian faith. We pray to You, Lord.
- For all who are sick, in our parish family and throughout the world, and for all who have died, especially those martyred for our faith in Jesus. We pray to You, Lord.

Closing prayer: Father of all, we seek Your mercy and Your love, as we pray for the strength to serve Your mission each day, in prayer and sacrifice. Amen.
Mission Awareness: World Mission Rosary

A prayer for the world

“Dear brothers and sisters, in carrying out our mission, let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. Moved by the Spirit, she welcomed the Word of life in the depths of her humble faith. May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own “yes”, conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time.” Pope Francis

Gather your students and pray a World Mission Living Rosary!

What better way to teach students to pray for the missions than to teach them how to pray the rosary. This marian devotion reminds us to follow the example of Mary, our mother, to always trust in God. This rosary was started by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

The World Mission Rosary allows those praying the rosary to say a decade of the rosary for every part of the world. We ask Mary our mother to intercede and help all missionaries working in remote and dangerous places. October is also the month of the Rosary. As we pray the rosary, we are saying our own yes to the calling that God has made to us to spread the Good News in all corners of the world.

You will need to cut a circle of each bead of the World Mission Rosary to put on the floor. You will then have one student sit on top or next to one of the circles.

As you pray the rosary, each of the students sitting at a color bead will stand up when the prayer corresponding to that bead is being said.

Another option would be to have each student at each bead say the first half of the prayer, either the Our Father or Hail Mary, while the rest of the students answer with the other half of the prayer.

They will remain standing until the entire rosary has been said. The adult or the student leading the rosary can announce the mystery for each decade.

Order your WMR brochures to help teach your students how to pray the rosary for free at your local MCA office.

Material: Material to cut out beads (construction paper, white paper to color in beads, or color cardstock.) If using white paper to color, you will need crayons, markers, or paint.

11 yellow beads, 12 blue beads, 12 white beads, 12 red beads, 12 green beads.

Instructions: Cut out a circle in the color corresponding to the beads in the World Mission Rosary. For the beads, you can use construction paper, cardstock or you can also use white pieces of paper and have the students color the corresponding bead color. Once you have all the beads, arrange them on the floor in the space where you will pray the rosary (the gymnasium, auditorium or play ground). Each bead should be attached to the floor securely with tape or by simply placing something heavy on top.

Altar with crucifix
Mission Awareness: Multicultural Diversity

We are the Body of Christ

“The Beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people” - Unknown

While teaching your students about the missions during Mission Awareness Week, you can’t help but notice all the different cultures and countries that make up the Catholic Church. The cultural diversity of the body of Christ is a wonderful tapestry that allows us to see all of the different faces of God in the world. All of the different languages, skin tones, customs and traditions enrich our faith and show us in many different ways how God manifests His love for His children all over the world.

The Missionary Childhood Association is for children and made up of children. So what better way for children to relate to other children than through games they play.

Using the different colors of the World Mission Rosary we, have included some games from other parts of the world. Play with your students so that they can be aware and learn of other games children around the world play. If you know a game of your own from any of these parts of the world, share them with your students. Praying for other children and doing sacrificial giving is wonderful, but we cannot forget that in these mission countries there are children who still play and have fun, just like we do here at home.

Page 6 has suggestion of games that you can use.

Mission Awareness: Mission starts at home

Share what you learn

Encourage students to share what they learned during mission awareness week with their families at home. They can use the word search on page 7 as a conversation starter.

Tell them that once they have unlocked the message it is their turn to share the Good News with those in their homes. Highlight that World Mission Sunday is on October 22, 2017 and that all over the world in every mass, they will be speaking about the missionary work being done around the world. Check with your parish to see if they requested a missionary speaker.

You can also share information about World Mission Sunday found on page 8 so parents can know more about it. A prayer can also be found, that can be said for all the missionaries around the world.
Mission Awareness: Multicultural Diversity

Games from around the world

Republic of Korea: Kongki Noll Today, Korea is a modern nation, but with its history dating back more than 5,000 years, the country also retains a great deal of traditional culture. Korean children celebrate many festivals throughout the year, with colorful costumes and special foods.

Players: Two or more; ages 5 and up

What You’ll Need: Five small stones.

How to Play: This traditional childhood game is similar to the American “jacks.” Player 1 scatters five small stones on the ground. He then picks one up and tosses it in the air and quickly tries to pick up another stone in time to catch the one he just threw. Now he has two in his hand; he throws one of the stones up in the air, and picks up a third. This goes on until he has all the stones in his hand. In the second round, the player picks up two stones every time he throws one up. In the third round, he picks up three, four in the fourth, and the fifth time he picks them all up. For the game’s last step, the player tosses all the stones in the air and tries to catch them on the back of his hand. Then he tosses them up again and tries to catch them in his palm. The number he catches is that player’s score. If he fails to catch them all, it’s the next person’s turn.

Australia: Skippyroo Kangaroo Ah, Australia! It’s both a country and a continent: a vast, mysterious, and diverse land filled with wonderfully wacky wildlife — animals like the Tasmanian devil, platypus, wallaby, wombat, koala, kookaburra, and, of course, every kid’s favorite, the kangaroo, which gives this game its name.

Players: As many as 25 or as few as six; ages 3 and up

How to Play: This is a popular game played in many Australian preschools and kindergartens to help teach children their classmates’ names as well as good listening skills. Kids sit in a circle and an adult asks one child to go into the middle — she is the first Skippyroo, the kangaroo. Skippyroo crouches forward on the floor with her eyes closed while the kids in the circle chant: “Skippyroo, kangaroo, dozing in the midday sun, comes a hunter, run, run, run.” At this stage an adult points to a child sitting in the circle, who then touches Skippyroo’s shoulder and says, “Guess who’s caught you just for fun?” and waits. Skippyroo tries

United Kingdom: Pass the parcel A popular party game in the United Kingdom, “Pass the Parcel” may have been played during the medieval era. During that time, a special gift would have been wrapped in cloth and pretty ribbons. Today, a package covered in layers of colorful paper is passed from child to child to the sound of music.

Players: Five or more; ages 4 and up

What You’ll Need: A white elephant “surprise gift”. Wrapping paper (or newspaper) and tape. Music.

How to Play: Before the game begins, Mom or Dad will need to make the parcel by wrapping something fun or silly they have around the house upon layer of paper. Using a different pattern or color for each layer will make it easier for kids to tell them apart. To play, ask the kids to sit or stand in a circle, then turn on the music. Players pass the parcel around until an adult stops the music. The player who is holding the gift removes one layer of wrapping paper. Start up the music again and continue playing until the final layer of paper is removed. The child who “wins” the prize can keep it or not. This is also a fun game for children to play at birthday parties, but an adult ensures that the child celebrating opens a nice present.

Ghana: Pilolo In rural parts of Ghana, in West Africa, children’s choice of toys is quite limited, but they find plenty of ways to have fun.

Players: Six; ages 4 and up

What You’ll Need: Sticks and stones. (If this is too confusing for the kids when playing in a backyard packed with them), you can use pennies—one for each player.

How to Play: Designate a leader and a timekeeper, and determine a finish line. The leader secretly hides the pennies while the other players have their back turned. The timekeeper waits at the finish line to judge which player is first. When the leader says “Pilolo!” (which means “time to search for”), the timekeeper starts the watch and players race to be the first to find a penny and take it across the finish line. The winner is awarded one point. To play again, gather the pennies and designate a new timekeeper and leader. The game is repeated as many times as energy allows; the player with the most points wins.

Chile: Corre, Corre la Guaraca: The fun-to-say game name translates to “Run, Run, la Guaraca.” Chilean kids typically speak Spanish, but Guaraca is actually a nonsense word.

Players: Five or more; ages 5 and up

What You’ll Need: A handkerchief.

How to Play: Players sit in a circle while a runner jogs around the outer rim with a handkerchief. The seated kids are not allowed to watch. They sing “Corre, Corre, la Guaraca who looks back will be bopped on his head!” Trying not to be felt, the runner drops the handkerchief on a child’s back and runs. If he/she makes it around the circle before the player realizes that it’s on their back, the seated player is out. If the seated player catches on, he/she must tag the runner. If he/she succeeds, the runner is out. If he/she fails to tag the runner, they play again, but this time player 2 is the runner.
Mission Awareness: Missions Around the World

Share what you know with others

Directions: In the word search below, circle the following places missionaries have called home while spreading the love of Christ: Albania, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, East Timor, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Sudan, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, United States, and Zimbabwe. (These are only a few of the places.) After you have found all the places listed above, write the leftover letters on the blanks below to reveal a secret message. Then, using a map or globe, find where each country is located.

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Mission Awareness: World Mission Sunday

The Mission at the Heart of the Christian faith

Sunday October 22, 2017

Catholics around the world celebrate World Mission Sunday in October. It is the 3rd Sunday of October. We pray for our missionaries, take up special collections for their missionary work and welcome missionaries to speak of their experiences at church. Just as Christ called His apostles to proclaim the Good News to all people, He calls missionaries to continue that work today. We, as members of the Church, are also called to share the Good News right where we are.

Did you know that every person baptized is called to mission? “In virtue of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt. 28:19).” The word missionary comes from the Latin word *missio* that comes from the verb *mittere*, which means “to send.” Implying that if we are missionary, we are being sent out for a particular task. It is Jesus himself who sends us out to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel as His disciples.

This year the theme of World Mission Sunday is “The Mission at the Heart of the Christian Faith.” Our call to mission is what keeps our faith alive and flourishing. It calls us to share in the love of God for us and to share this love with others. “A missionary disciple witnesses to his or her experience of the love of God in Jesus. Filled with the joy of this love, one wants to share this with others.”

The church carries on its missionary work with the help of the Pontifical Mission Societies. They were created to help continue the work being done through mission, to help form missionary disciples and to create awareness of the work being done through mission. Each of these societies uses the crest of the Pope because they were created under a special Papal decree. There are four societies: Society of St. Peter, Missionary Union of Priest and Religious, Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and the Missionary Childhood Association.

The Missionary Childhood Association was created for children and with children by fostering in children a missionary spirit that would allow them to answer and put into practice their baptismal call to mission. It is the official agency of the Holy Father for the distribution of the fund raising proceeds realized through the efforts of children for their underprivileged brothers and sisters in mission countries. The Mission Office in the archdiocese of Los Angeles, the local office for the Missionary Childhood Association, distributes resources and material to help teach our young church that they are never too young to start putting into practice their missionary call.

To learn more about MCA and what we do, please visit our website at www.missionsla.org/MCA.

This World Mission Sunday say a prayer for all missionaries all over the world.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please bless all missionaries around the world.
Keep them safe from harm.
May the Holy Spirit sustain the mission of the Church in the whole world,
and give strength to all men and women missionaries of the Gospel.
Help me to be a missionary right here and now by what I say and do.
This I pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen