MISSION AWARENESS WEEK

"Together with young people, let us be Voices for Mission"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018
"The first task in life is this: prayer. But not the prayer of words, like a parrot; but the prayer, the heart: gazing on the Lord, hearing the Lord, asking the Lord." Pope Francis

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Dear Lord, you have entrusted us with the mission of letting all people know of You through us. We your church answer this call to mission by speaking up for those who don’t have a voice, by caring for those who don’t have a home, by loving one another as you have loved us.

With the help of the Holy Spirit...

God grant us the spirit of courage
that we may have the strength to fight injustice.
Give us the spirit of challenge
that we may not accept the status quo without question.
Give us the spirit of compassion
that we may see the world from other people’s viewpoint.
We ask for the spirit of gentleness
that we may listen to the voice of the poor
without trampling on their dreams in our rush to action.
God grant us your Spirit,
the Spirit of truth, justice and hope
that we may rest and work in the vision of a new future
where all are linked by the bonds of humanity
not enslaved by the chains of debt and oppression
Amen.
MISSIONARY GUEST SPEAKER

There is no better way to learn what missionaries are doing around the world than to have them share their experiences. Children are able to hear and see pictures of the work that is being done by missionary groups in different parts of the world.

Contact our office and let us know if you would like to receive a mission speaker or you may fill out a speaker request form.

If you are unable to receive a mission speaker, you may share a video with your students so they can learn of Sr. Sonia’s Journey and also what other children like them are doing around the world to help the missions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=107&v=IKaQoryBEKQ

Reflection Questions for video:
Where is Sr. Sonia originally from?
What did Sr. Sonia do to find out how she could help?
What is a missionary?
How can we follow Sr. Sonia example?

MASS FOR THE MISSIONS

October is the month of the Missions and the mission office wants to celebrate all of the young church who are part of MCA. On October 17, 2018, join us at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels as gather to celebrate mass as a family.

This year our mass theme is “the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.” (Gal 5:22-23) Guided by the Holy Spirit, we as a church are called to use the fruits of the spirit to answer the call to mission we all receive by virtue of our baptism. These are also the traits of a missionary disciple. For if we all act lovingly with one another, rejoice and promote peace, we will all live in a better world.

If your school or parish cannot attend the MCA Mass, consider dedicating the intentions of a mass celebrated at the school or parish for the missions during October.
One Body Many Parts: Multicultural Diversity of the Church

“For in One Spirit we were all baptized into one body”
1 Corinthians 12: 13

The universal church that we are all a part of is rich in multicultural diversity. Here in Los Angeles we can see for ourselves the cultural diversity that exist in our Archdiocese. Just in the area of Los Angeles there are 224 other languages spoken besides English. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, we celebrate mass in Vietnamese, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Croatian, Polish, Latin, Korean, Cantonese (Chinese), Lithuanian, Chinese, Igbo, Japanese, Italian, French, Indonesian and sign language. On this mission awareness week, let us celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ with different activities.

- Collage - Have students create a “mission” collage with drawings, words, and pictures from magazines or newspapers. Ask them to find as many countries as they can where mission is being done. Use the collage as the cover of a prayer journal.

- Mission Quilt - Cut out squares of paper and have each student design their own quilt square for the Missions. Ask them to show the diversity of the church in their design. Join the squares to make a quilt. Talk about how the quilt illustrates mission as “covering the world” with God’s love.

- Global Village - Use the classroom or the gymnasium to set up different stations, each representing a mission country. Have students research and display clothing, music, dance, prayer and other cultural elements of that country. Native foods or dishes could be served.

- Recycled Toys - Have students make their own toys or games out of everyday materials that could be recycled. These are the kind of toys children in mission countries might have. Make a kite from sticks, string and plastic bags, or a toy car from an empty plastic bottle. Display the toys after Masses. You could even have a contest where students and parishioners vote for the best toy by “bidding” and then donating money collected to the Missions.
We are one family in Mission and one family in faith. This means that we are called to pray for one another; raising our voices to our heavenly mother to intercede for us.

When we pray the World Mission Rosary we are also remembering how the love of God for us, his children, is one of everlasting mercy. The youth are the voices the world will hear as they continue with the mission of the church to spread the Gospel to all corners of the world. Let us empower our youth and help them raise their voices for those who cannot speak for themselves. To pray is to have a conversation with God. When we pray the World Mission Rosary we are having a conversation with God and reflecting on the life and death of Jesus Christ.

MCA offers free resources to help teach your students how to pray the rosary. (https://missionsla.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2018-Material-Order-Form-Fillable.pdf)

Make a bracelet (using the colors of the world mission rosary) for the students to pray a decade of the rosary and keep track of the good deeds they do.

Supplies Needed: 25” piece of cord (#9 twine), 11 beads (two red, two yellow, two blue, two green, two white, 1 clear or transparent color), 1 miraculous medal, and 1 crucifix/cross/saint medal.

Step 1. Put the miraculous medal or the medal that you wish to use and place it in the middle of the string.

Step 2. Take the first bead and pull the cord through the bead.

Step 3. Take the other end of the cord and pull it through the same bead but in the opposite side so that the string makes and X inside the bead. Pull both pieces in opposite directions until the bead is tight against the medal. Then, tug at the cords until they are both the same length when you place them besides each other.

Step 4. Pick-up your next bead and again form a X with the string through the bead. Pull both cords in opposite directions until the beads are tight against each other. Repeat this step until you have 10 beads in total.

Step 5. Leave about 3 bead lengths and tie a double knot—or do a corded rosary knot.

Step 6. Take your last bead (The Our Father Bead) and string both pieces of cord through the same side of the bead. Then, tie a knot.

Step 7. Take your cross, crucifix or medal and string both pieces of cord through the same side of it. Tie knot. If possible do a double knot so that the knot ends up touching the knot you made in step 6. (This will keep your cross or medal on more securely.)

Step 8. Burn/melt off your extra cord, as cutting it will cause it to fray. (Adult supervision required.)

Start pulling beads and doing acts of love!

♦ Encourage families to pray the rosary once a month.

♦ Pray a living rosary with the children at your school or parish using the bracelets they made

“With the Rosary, we allow ourselves to be guided by Mary, model of faith, in meditating on the mysteries of Christ, and day after day we are helped to assimilate the Gospel, so that it shapes all our lives.”

Pope Benedict XVI
MISSION STARTS AT HOME: BE A WITNESS!

At the school of the saints, who open us to the vast horizons of God, I invite you never to stop wondering: What would Christ do if He were in my place?"  
-Pope Francis, World Mission Sunday Message 2018

Through our baptismal right we all receive the light of Christ in our hearts. We also become part of the mission entrusted to the church by Jesus Christ to make all people know of the good news of the Gospel.

This month, we learned of Blessed Oscar Romero, who will be canonized during the month of October by Pope Francis. He like many other saints before him asked themselves “what would Christ do if He were in my place?” Jesus showed us through example to treat others with love, respect and appreciation. He also taught us that we are part of one family and that we must lead a life of service to help others know the love of God. Here are some suggestions on how you can be a witness of the faith.

- If we are all to be one family, how must we treat one another? Find news articles that show respect for others, and those that reveal the opposite. How can we live our lives each day marked with respect for others?

- Pray daily for all who continue Jesus’ mission in our world today. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of all to believe in Jesus and His Good News. Pray for strength for missionaries.

- Mission Garden - Plant seeds of hope! Pray over a garden as you plant it. Let your love for others bloom year round, and use the garden as a place for prayer and reflection. If you ever have guest at your garden, share with them how the seeds you planted are seeds of hope.

- Holy people of very strong faith are named saints by the Church. Many countries have patron saints. Learn about the patron saints of several mission countries. Tell or act out for younger students the stories of the lives of these saints. Be sure to include examples of the way the saints witnessed to their faith in their words and actions.

- Research the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Francis Xavier, co-patrons of the Church’s worldwide missionary work and of missionaries. How were their lives? Were they lives of prayer? Choose a lesson from their life to guide your own missionary life.
World Mission Sunday

October 21, 2018

Catholics around the world celebrate World Mission Sunday as one Family in Faith and one Family in Mission. This is a day dedicated to pray for all those doing missionary work abroad or at home. The theme for this year is “Together with young people, let us be Voices for the Missions” (http://missionsla.org/programs/world-mission-sunday/)

All who are baptized are called to be part of the missionary action of the church. On this day, all over the world, we as a church pray for the missionary work being done by the universal church. All over the world? Yes, on this Sunday all over the world, every church will be praying and doing a special collection for the missions.

This year, Pope Francis message for World Mission Sunday calls on the young church to take an active role in the missionary work of the universal church. He reminds them that by virtue of the Sacrament of Baptism we become part of the living church, calling the youth, to rely on the wisdom that is offered by the older generations in the church. At the same time he also reminds the universal church to rely and foster the energy and enthusiasm of the young church to further its missionary efforts around the word.

So how can you be more active in the missionary efforts of the church.? The great news is that you are already active. Whenever you share what you know about Jesus with others, you are doing mission. Whenever you are kind and show love to those who are suffering or less fortunate, you are doing mission. Whenever you pray for the universal church, for those who are suffering, and for missionaries all around the world, you are doing mission.

You are also part of one of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Missionary Childhood Association. This is a society made up of children helping children in countries where mission work is being done. It exists all over the world and this year we are celebrating its 175th anniversary.

As an active missionary we invite you and your family to say a special intention and prayer at mass on World Mission Sunday.

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Heavenly Father,

This World Mission Sunday, I unite my voice to that of the Universal Church.

Praying for and asking you to bless missionaries all over the world.

May I follow their example and help others know you through my words and my actions.

Help me to be an example and learn from the universal church, as I raise my voice for the missions and help care for the vulnerable and needy.

This I pray in Jesus name.

Amen

Missionary Childhood Association – October 2018  www.missionsla.org/mca