'VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR' BARRIE PONCE REFLECTS ON 24 MCA YOUTH APPRECIATION MASSES UNDER HER BELT

The annual MCA Mass often gathers 3,000 students with their chaperones and teachers. As one can imagine, the organization behind making this Liturgical celebration a success requires months of practices, meetings, and love. Barrie Ponce, a teacher at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School in Whittier, has been contributing to this success for 24 years (and counting). We recently asked Barrie about her experience helping with MCA and the association’s students. (continue pg. 6)
Religious Education Congress 2019!

"Trust! God’s Gotchu" was this year’s theme for the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim. For three days, the Mission Office staff got to meet catechists, DRE’s, teachers, and so many other missionaries! And we did trust that God was allowing everyone to receive the information MCA and the Mission Office was presenting to everyone.

We introduced a game to everyone that stopped by our booth—the Wheel of Mission! We had 24 questions and those who answered correctly would get a ‘Baptized for the World’ Stress Ball. This turned out to be a highlight for everyone, because it helped them learn more about the Missions or help refresh their prayers and saints knowledge.

We passed out new materials and lesson plans that could be used during Lent, and World Mission Rosary materials. This year for the Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM), MCA and the Mission Office has created a special Prayer Card with the EMM Prayer.

For those interested in receiving the MCA Material on a monthly basis email mca@la-archdiocese.org or to reference older lesson plans, visit our website at www.MissionsLA.org.

Meet and Greet

This year’s Meet and Greet took place on September 21st! We are happy to see the list of Mission Moderators growing each year! Thank you to those who attended and participated. We love hearing your ideas on how your schools are using the MCA Material.

- Yolanda Medina--Resurrection School
- Elizabeth Bragagnini--All Souls World Language School
- Elizabeth Sotoj--Our Lady of Peace School
- Doreen Zuno--St. Frances of Rome School
- Jonelle Edrosolano-Faria--Beattitudes of Our Lord School
- Susie Gordillo--Our Lady of the Rosary School
- Sr. Linda Wimer--St. Vincent School

A Message from the Executive Director

THANK YOU for responding YES to the calling of “Children Helping Children” through the Missionary Childhood Association this school year 2018-2019. Because you were willing to care and share your love with prayer and financial support – we were able to help many countries offering medical, education, shelter and most importantly evangelization with your financial gift of $83,395.25 collected this school year. You truly stepped up to your baptismal right of being a young missionary here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. --Msgr. Terrance Fleming

Top Ten Fundraising Schools

Beatitudes of Our Lord, La Mirada
Nativity, El Monte
St. Finbar, Burbank
Cathedral Chapel, Los Angeles
Corpus Christi, Pacific Palisades
St. Agnes, Los Angeles
St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower
St. Gregory the Great, Whittier
Paschal Baylon, Thousand Oaks
Maria Regina, Gardena

Congrats to the RE Congress Raffle Winners:

Veronica Martinez, Santa Rosa Parish in San Fernando
Martha Vasquez, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Los Angeles
Ruby Flores, St. Mary’s Parish in Delano

Everyone loves the big World Mission Rosary.

Mission Office staff with Bishop Trudeau, when he came to visit our booth.

Mission Office Staff member, Nicole asks a Maryknoll missionary a question while playing the Wheel of Mission.
Missionary Speakers Motivate Students throughout Los Angeles

Looking to motivate your students with the mission spirit? Or simply trying to show your students how their monetary help and prayers are being received? Get in contact with us to schedule a missionary speaker to come to your school! We have been blessed to have such great speakers go to schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in hopes of giving children a glimpse of everything they do for their respective mission groups.

This year, several schools requested a speaker and their students had a great time learning more about MCA and how they help other children around the world.

The Energetic Sr. Lisa Valentini is coming back to Los Angeles this September! Students and faculty always enjoy her upbeat and musical mission awareness talks. This year she will be making her Mission Appeals at St. Malachy (Los Angeles), St. Lorenzo Ruiz (Walnut), and St. Luke the Evangelist (Temple City) from September 8th-23rd. If you would like her to visit your school please get in contact with our office as soon as the 2019-2020 school year begins. Arrangements will be made on a First Come-First Serve basis.

Wheel of Mission!

This year we began playing the Wheel of Mission! We first introduced our wheel at the Christian Service 4Life Event where high school students answered questions regarding the missions to enhance their understanding of our call to mission. We then revamped our wheel and took it to congress! Many of the attendees had fun answering questions, learning more about the Missions, and even winning a Stress Ball! If you are having a mission fair or vocation fair, invite us so we can bring the Wheel of Mission with prizes for your families or students!

Message from the MCA Program Coordinator

What a wonderful year we’ve shared. Thank you to all the children who are part of MCA. Without your prayers and generosity none of the work MCA does would be possible. All of you are a wonderful and great example to us all on how to share the love of Christ with others.

Thank you also to the teachers, catechists, parents, DRE’s and principals for encouraging and fostering in the children the desire and enthusiasm to answer the call to mission we share via virtue of our Baptism, through which we all became one family in faith and one family in mission.

As we prepare to enjoy the summer break let us also continue to pray for all the children around the world. Let us remember that everywhere we go and everyone we meet, we must continue to bring the peace and love of Christ.

—Magdalena Arellano
Extraordinary Missionary Month: October 2019

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. To honor and commemorate this, Pope Francis has declared this October as the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The theme for this celebration is Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World. We encourage everyone to prepare with these 4 steps:

1) Have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal or communal prayer (ex: Attending the MCA Mass in October)
2) Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith (ex: Hearing a Missionary Speaker talk about their experiences)
3) Missionary formation: Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological (Ex: Using the MCA Monthly Material for further formation in the faith)
4) Missionary charity (ex: Monetary Donations to MCA)

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Family Mission Days!

MCA in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is inviting all parishes to a Family Mission Day. This is something that we started this year as a special event to promote, educate, and animate our baptismal call to be missionaries among children and families. The goal is to foster the missionary spirit that we are called to have as a church going out to the peripheries serving the poor and spreading the joy of the Gospel. This event is filled with activities, mission awareness talks, games, and a Family Mass. All talks and activities are suitable for adults and children of all ages. For highlights on our Family Mission Day’s, take a look at page 8.

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Prayer

Proposed by Pope Francis

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.
MCA continues making history! On May 18th, the first group of Romanian children joined MCA. Inspired by the Extraordinary Missionary Month, they chose a theme of “Baptized and Sent. Little missionaries in the world.” This celebration began with a Mass at Sf. Iosif Cathedral in Bucharest. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Romania who are now part of our MCA family.

For the full article visit: http://www.fides.org/en/news/66016-EUROPE_ROMANIA_With_the_first_group_of_small_missionaries_Missionary_Childhood_is_born_in_Romania

Shout Outs!

It's always great to hear about activities and fundraising events your schools are doing! This year St. Dominic Savio School in Bellflower, had a Walkathon to raise funds for MCA. Their walkathon was a Western themed event organized by the students, parents, teachers and donors.
"I love the feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit when Mass begins, and throughout the entire Mass. The energy amongst everyone is incredible..." recalled Barrie. Usually, students and teachers will see Barrie in the back of the Cathedral getting the students ready for the Opening Procession.

For years now the procession continues to change—but for the better. "I have been helping HCA/MCA for 24 years. In 1995 I was asked to be a member of Holy Childhood Association (our prior name) to brainstorm ways to boost donations... Eventually in 2002, Sr. Imelda decided to have students who donated to HCA participate in a modest Opening Procession...About 5 years ago, I took complete control over the coordinating of the Procession and Student Volunteers... I am thankful that MCA has given me some creative freedom, and are open to suggestions."

The MCA Mass is a special event that we all look forward to and Barrie recalls a year that still stands out to her. "I will never forget the 2015 Mass, because sadly one of my students lost his dad a week before Mass. I didn't think he would be strong enough to participate, but I was wrong. He showed up, and held the Mother Teresa banner in the Opening Procession. After Mass (with tears in his eyes) he said to me, 'Ms. Ponce, my dad was with me as I walked down the aisle. I felt him. He was with me."

Anecdotes and students' smiles are what make the MCA Mass so special, and Barrie agrees. "I hope to continue to bring new ideas for the Mass, and to always assist in any way I can. I enjoy working with Lydia (Director) and the MCA Staff. Being able to work with so many different schools is a blessing because they are always more than happy to help in any capacity. They believe in MCA!"

We believe in MCA too and hope to see you at this year's Mass, with Barrie helping alongside the other volunteers.

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MCA YOUTH APPRECIATION MASS 2019!
Mark your calendars: October 16th

Save the Date!

Youth Appreciation Mass 2019
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Missionary Childhood Association in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd. 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, California 90010 • Phone: (213) 637-7229
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•facebook.com/mcaLosAngeles
Congratulations to all Local Finalists for their amazing artwork!

This year we are proud to announce that Sia (Chae-ee) Jeong and Elise Kim have been selected as two National Finalists!

Their artwork will be displayed at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels during the 2019 Advent Season.
Thank you St. Joseph Church (Hawthorne), Sacred Heart Church (Covina), St. Agnes Church (Los Angeles), and St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Church (Walnut) for allowing us to have a Mission-filled day with your parish families. Your parish can also have an event like this! Call or email our office for more information.