What is a Missionary? The word mission means “to be sent out.” A missionary is someone who is sent out to bring the Good News of Jesus to others. Missionaries often go to far-off places, especially places where people struggle every day to survive. They help run hospitals, schools, orphanages, clinics. They provide food programs, and they help people learn how to care for and build better lives for themselves, their families, and their community. And, most importantly, they share their Catholic faith— all of their actions for others motivated by God’s great love for each one of us!

How are we Missionaries? By our Baptism, we become members of a family—the family of the Church. Family members have responsibilities, and our responsibility is to share our faith. Some people fulfill this responsibility by actually going to mission countries to bring the Good News of Jesus to our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Most of us are missionaries by prayer and sacrifice.

Missionary spirit begins with prayer. Every person is able to offer prayers. Prayers lead to sacrifices. Every person can offer up suffering, temporary or chronic, for those who suffer daily in mission lands. Every person can give up something with the intention of sacrificing for the missions.

The Origin of the World Mission Rosary

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was a national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society like the Missionary Childhood Association. He even had his own television show – and won an Emmy Award! Archbishop Sheen loved the missions, and he wanted us to pray for our mission family. So in 1951 he created the World Mission Rosary, inaugurating it during his regular address on the The Catholic Hour radio show.

He used to say that when you had finished praying the World Mission Rosary, you have given the world a “great big hug!”

His cause for sainthood was opened in September 2002. He was declared venerable on June 28, 2011.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Amen.

THE OUR FATHER
Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

THE HAIL MARY
Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

THE GLORY BE
The glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thy eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen

DAILY PRAYER is the best way to make a real difference in the lives of children all over the world!
The Colors of the World Mission Rosary
Each set of beads on the World Mission Rosary is a different color, representing a different area of the world where missionaries continue to share the Good News of Jesus. To pray the World Mission Rosary, think about each area of the world when you start a new set of beads.

Yellow is for Asia, where the sun rises first each day.
Red is for the Americas, where missionaries journeyed, “on fire” with faith in Jesus.
White is for Europe, home to the Pope, clothed in white.
Blue is for the islands of the Pacific, surrounded by the ocean waters.
Green is for Africa, with its many trees and plants.

The Mysteries
Certain days of the week are reserved for thinking about each set of Mysteries. For example, since Sunday is the day when we remember that Jesus rose from the dead, Catholics think about the Glorious Mysteries when praying the Rosary. On Friday, which is the day we usually recall Jesus dying on the cross, we reflect on the Sorrowful Mysteries.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES
(Monday & Saturday)

The Annunciation That the Good News of a Savior, first announced to Mary, may be proclaimed to all the world.
The Visitation That missionaries who travel long roads bearing Christ to those in need may be strengthened in faith and holiness.
The Birth of Jesus For the children of the Missions, especially those who are poor and homeless, that they may know the love of Jesus.
The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple That Catholic families of the Missions, by the example of their lives, may show the love of Christ to their neighbors.
The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple That all people in the Missions, who live in sorrow may find peace and hope in the Gospel message.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
(Tuesday and Friday)

The Agony in the Garden That all those filled with faith living in the Missions may feel the presence of the Lord in their lives.
The Scourging at the Pillar That children in the Missions who hunger and thirst may be fed and comforted through our sharing.
The Crowning with Thorns For refugees and homeless children in the Missions, may they find hope in Christ’s promise of eternal happiness.
The Carrying of the Cross For the Church in the United States, that by our prayers and sacrifices for the Missions, we may help bear the burdens of our brothers and sisters worldwide.
The Crucifixion That those who hunger and thirst for justice in the Missions may work peacefully and successfully toward their goal.

How to Pray the Rosary

✦ Hold the Crucifix, make the sign of the cross, and pray the Apostles’ Creed.
✦ On the first large bead, pray the Our Father once.
✦ On each of the next three small beads, recite one Hail Mary.
✦ On the next large bead, announce the first Mystery and think about that mystery. Pray the Our Father.
✦ On each of the next small beads, pray a Hail Mary. Then pray a Glory Be.
✦ On the next large bead, announce the next Mystery and think about that mystery. Pray the Our Father.
✦ On each of the next ten small beads, pray a Hail Mary. Then pray a Glory Be.
✦ Continue in the same way as you just did until each of the five Mysteries in that decade is said.
✦ After the five Mysteries are completed, pray the Hail Holy Queen.

Additional prayer guides and materials are available on our website’s World Mission Rosary resource page: www.MissionsLA.org/mca/wmr

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
(Sunday and Wednesday)

The Resurrection For the Church worldwide, that our faith in the Risen Christ may draw others to Him.
The Ascension That Christ, who lived as a man and returned to the Father, will grant to all people knowledge of the Way to eternal life.
The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles For our Holy Father, that the Holy Spirit will grant to priests and religious the gift of the Holy Spirit, that they may proclaim Christ to the world.
The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven That Mary, who gave the human body of Christ to the world, may inspire us who form the Body of Christ on earth to proclaim His message to all peoples.
The Crowning of Our Lady Queen of Heaven That through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Missions, young men and women will offer their lives to God as priests and religious in service of their neighbors.

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
(Thursday)

The Baptism in the Jordan In a hospital in Hong Kong, a Sister spoke to a young cancer patient about God, our loving Father, and about heaven, our eternal home. Baptized, the child made the journey to God clothed in Christ, because he had shared with him the fruits of her own baptism.
The Wedding at Cana Blessed Mother Teresa once brought rice to a hungry family, only to find the next day the food was gone. A neighboring family also had no food, receiving from the first family not only the sustenance but also the Christian love.
The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God and Call to Conversion In East Africa, a Catholic family, hearing of a village far from their own where the people had never heard of Christ, moved there. Day by day, they would tell – and show – the people what it means to be a follower of Christ.
The Transfiguration To catch even a glimpse of the glory that awaits us in Christ is a gift beyond compare for millions of people whose lives are a daily struggle. Such a glimpse was caught in Liberia, West Africa. When people by the hundreds fled from their homes in the midst of civil war, their pastor said, “They left all of their belongings behind, but they brought with them one valuable possession – their faith.”
The Institution of the Eucharist World Mission Sunday, celebrated each year on the next-to-last Sunday in October, in the context of the Mass, reminds us that we who eat Christ’s Body and drink His Blood are sent to continue his mission to the world.