

WEEK 1

September 28th - October 4th

AFRICA

Saint Daniel Comboni:
Missionary to Africa

Feast Day: October 10



St. Daniel Comboni (1831–1881) was born in Italy and became a priest who felt called to bring the love of Jesus to the people of Africa, especially in Sudan. He saw the challenges of mission work, including poverty, illness, and slavery, but he never gave up. He believed the people of Africa could lead and grow the Church themselves. He said, “Save Africa with Africa!” meaning the mission should be shared with local communities.

St. Daniel founded the Comboni Missionaries and helped educate local leaders, especially young people. Like the Missionary Childhood Association, he believed children had a role in building the Church through prayer, learning, and sharing.

Mission Prayer Inspired by St. Daniel Comboni

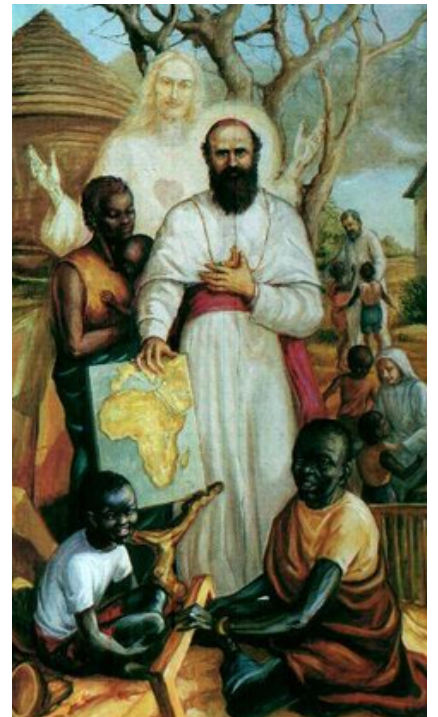
Dear God,

Thank You for the life of St. Daniel Comboni, who gave his heart to the people of Africa. Help us to love others like he did — with courage, joy, and hope.

May we remember the children in mission lands who need our prayers and sacrifices. Through the Missionary Childhood Association, help us be missionaries from home.

St. Daniel Comboni, pray for us!

Amen.



Mission Inspiration

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS ORPHANAGE BURKINA-FASO



The Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus Orphanage is a special place in Loumbila, Burkina Faso (a country in Africa) that's been helping children since 1995. It's like a big, caring home that welcomes kids of all ages - from tiny babies to teenagers - who need extra help and love.

FUN FACT: Saint Terese of the Child Jesus is the Patroness of the Missions, even though she never even left her convent! She prayed fervently for the Missions, showing that we can all be missionaries from our own homes!



At the orphanage the children are welcome to learn about faith and take part in church activities. The orphanage opens its doors to kids who might be going through tough times or need medical help in the Loumbila area. They also make sure children have a safe place to sleep, yummy food to eat, and comfortable clothes to wear. The orphanage doesn't just help children who live there - they also give supplies to families who might be having a hard time.

The most important thing about this orphanage is that they teach children all the skills they need to grow up to be strong, independent, and caring people who can follow their dreams and help others too! In Loumbila, they grow something really cool called spirulina, which is like a super healthy food that helps keep the children strong and healthy! The orphanage is working on building new pools to grow more spirulina, along with a special room where they can collect and package it. This will help the orphanage take care of even more children.



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Mission Inspiration

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS ORPHANAGE BURKINA-FASO



When school children in the United States give gifts to help, it means the orphanage can continue looking after kids who need their help the most. This orphanage is one of many supported by the Missionary Childhood Association. MCA members are asked to not only help support places like the Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Orphanage through financial sacrifices, but also offer up their prayers. The children not only need material things now, but our love and prayers throughout the rest of their lives.

Reflection and Activity:



You just learned about Spirulina, a food supplement for the nutrition of children. What is your favorite meal?

What about this meal makes it nutritious? As a group, share the different ingredients, and come up with a new recipe on your own, that incorporates Spirulina as a food supplement!

Pray and Sacrifice:

Lord, we ask you to pray for the children who are struggling at the orphanage to have hope and joy in their lives. We pray that our sacrifices help them feel comfort through the food, shelter, and clothing that MCA can help provide.

\$1 can help support the St. Terese Orphanage in Burkina-Faso

\$10 can help fund the orphanage for the construction of new collection basins (electrical system, seeds, etc.)

\$25 helps build a laboratory (for cultivation, harvesting, packaging) to increase the production of spirulina



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WEEK 2

October 5th - October 11th

AMERICA

Saint Isaac Jogues:
Missionary to North America



Feast Day: October 19 (with the North American Martyrs)

St. Isaac Jogues (1607–1646) was a French Jesuit priest who traveled to North America in the 1600s to bring the message of Jesus to Indigenous peoples, especially the Huron and Iroquois. He worked with love and respect, learning native languages and cultures. Isaac suffered greatly for his faith—he was captured, tortured, and eventually martyred. Even after escaping back to France, he chose to return to mission territory to continue his work.

Like members of the Missionary Childhood Association, St. Isaac Jogues shows us how to be brave in sharing Jesus' love, even when it's hard. His story reminds us to pray for children and missionaries who live in places where faith can be dangerous.

Mission Prayer Inspired by St. Isaac Jogues

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for the courage of St. Isaac Jogues,
who brought Your love to new lands.
Help us to be brave missionaries too — with kind
words, strong faith, and open hearts.
We pray for children around the world who are
learning about You and growing in faith.
Bless the work of the Missionary Childhood
Association and help us support it with our
prayers and sacrifices.

St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us!

Amen.



Mission Inspiration

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF REQUENA PERU



Deep in the Amazon Rainforest, the Catholic Church is planting the seeds of faith in children through the Missionary Childhood Association. The Apostolic Vicariate of Requena is playing a crucial role in evangelizing indigenous peoples and rural communities. An Apostolic Vicariate is similar to a diocese, but is typically established in mission territories where the Church is still emerging and growing.



In the Amazon region of Peru, including places like Requena, a lot of families don't have much money. They live in small wooden houses, and some don't have running water, electricity, or good schools nearby. Many people grow their own food, go fishing, or work in the forest to survive. Because the towns are far apart and surrounded by jungle and rivers, it's hard to travel, and getting help—like doctors, teachers, or even churches—can take a long time. That's why the missionaries are so important there: they try to bring hope, education, and help to the people who need it most.



"Let us thank the Lord because He is good and His mercy is eternal." - Parishioner from San Jose Parish in Requena after receiving help from MCA



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Pictures and Stories from www.ppoomm.va





Mission Inspiration

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF REQUENA PERU



This year, the **Missionary Childhood Association** helped over 200 children in Requena. MCA provided:

- School supplies, uniforms, and enrollment for young kids in kindergarten and elementary school
- Meals and vitamins for undernourished children
- Breakfasts for children after catechism (religious classes)

This support has made a huge difference in the lives of the children and their families in this mission area. As members of MCA themselves, they continue to meet with their catechist each week to learn about the faith and grow as missionary disciples, just like you!

Supporting missionaries in the Peruvian rainforest means bringing light, hope, and opportunity to some of the most forgotten corners of the world. Every gift—whether big or small—helps children learn, families grow stronger, and entire communities experience the love of God in real, life-changing ways. In places where roads don't reach and electricity is rare, your support becomes a path of compassion that reaches hearts and builds a future.

MCA Prayer

Dear God,

*Thank You for the missionaries in the rainforest of Peru.
Give them strength, joy, and Your love as they help others.*

*We also pray for the families they serve—
bless them with food, health, and hope.*

*May they feel Your love through the kindness of others.
Help us to always remember and pray for them.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Classroom Mission Activity

Hope Station

Have Students work in small groups to create "imaginary care kits" (draw or write down items like school supplies, vitamins, or snacks). Lead a discussion on how these items help children and families in missionary areas.



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Pictures and Stories from www.ppoomm.va



WEEK 3

October 12th - October 18th

EUROPE

St. John Paul II: A Missionary to the World

Feast Day: October 22



St. John Paul II was born in Poland in 1920 and became one of the most beloved popes in Church history. As pope for over 26 years, he traveled to more than 100 countries — more than any pope before him — sharing Jesus' love and hope with people everywhere. He said that the Church is “missionary by nature” and reminded young people that everyone is called to be a missionary, no matter where they live.

St. John Paul II supported the Missionary Childhood Association, encouraging children to pray, learn, and give for the Church in mission countries. He believed that children have an important role in spreading the Gospel.

Mission Prayer Inspired by Saint John Paul II

Loving God,

Thank You for the joyful heart of St. John Paul II.

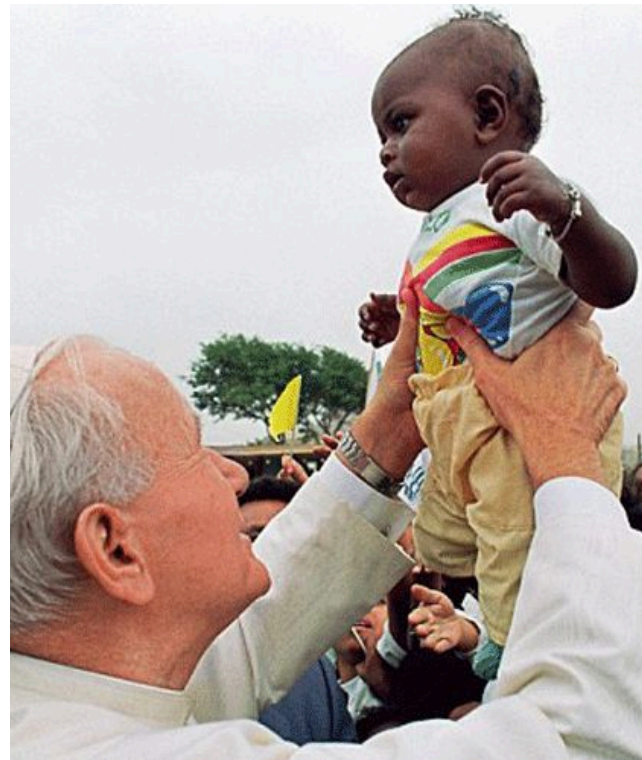
Help us to be missionaries like him — bringing Your peace, truth, and love to others.

May we never be afraid to say “yes” to You and to serve with courage and joy.

Bless all the children in the Missionary Childhood Association and help us grow in faith together.

St. John Paul II, pray for us!

Amen.





Mission Inspiration

A MISSIONARY ADVENTURE IN MALLORCA SPAIN

“A MISSIONARY IS THE BEST THING A HUMAN BEING CAN DO ”

Last year, something very special happened on the island of Mallorca, Spain. The Missions Office wanted to help children and teens learn more about missionaries— So Mr. Toni Miró and Fernando González, who work in the Mission office, traveled to visit schools all over the island.

Fun Fact: Fernando served in missions in Togo and Peru!

Toni and Fernando didn't use a car... they traveled on motorbikes! They zoomed from school to school, giving up to 7 presentations in a single day! They brought fun things like:

- Photos and videos
- Games
- A missionary Quiz
- And their own powerful missionary stories!

The purpose was to share this universal message:
Jesus wants all of us to be missionaries! Even kids!
Sometimes, when we talk about mission, it doesn't feel like anything changes right away. But God works in hearts quietly, and this time, something amazing happened...



Story by Fernando González, *Missionary Childhood in Spain*
www.pontificalmissions.org





Mission Inspiration

DIOCESE OF MALLORCA SPAIN

After Fernando and Toni's visit, a sister from Colegio Ramón Llull in the town of Andratx called with exciting news: The students were so moved by the missionary stories that they wanted to write letters to real missionaries! Here are some of the beautiful things they said:

- "Thank you for helping children have a better life and future."
- "You help us dream of a better world."
- "How can I help people from here?"
- "Can I come with you?"
- "You inspired me to become a marine biologist and care for creation!"

These young writers are a perfect example of why the Missionary Childhood Association exists! Missionaries often inspire others to show that you can be a missionary wherever you are!

Reflection and Activity:

- **What would you write in a letter to a missionary?**
- **How can you be a missionary at school or at home?**
- **What do you think is the best thing a missionary does?**



Mission Prayer

*Dear Jesus,
Thank You for sending missionaries to
share Your love with the world.
Bless Toni and Fernando, and all those
who ride, walk, or fly to tell others about
You.
Help me remember that I, too, am a
missionary.
Even from my school or home, I can show
kindness, pray, and help others.
Let my words and actions bring hope, just
like the letters we wrote.
Holy Spirit, give me a big heart, full of
courage, joy, and love.
Make me brave like the missionaries who
help children in faraway places.
Use my hands, my smile, and my prayers
to make the world brighter.
Amen.*



Story by Fernando González, Missionary Childhood in Spain

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WEEK 4

October 19th - October 25th

OCEANIA

Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores:
Missionary to the Pacific

October 6 (optional memorial in Guam)



Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores (1627–1672) was a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary who brought the Catholic faith to the island of Guam, part of the Pacific Islands. He arrived in 1668 and founded the first Catholic mission there. He baptized many people and taught them about Jesus with love and respect.

Even when faced with danger, he continued to preach peace. He was eventually martyred for his faith but is still honored today in Guam and throughout Oceania.

Like members of the Missionary Childhood Association, Blessed Diego believed in sharing the Gospel with joy, especially with children and families. His mission reminds us that even remote places are deeply loved by God.

Mission Prayer Inspired by Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores

God of All Nations,

Thank You for the courage and love of
Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores.

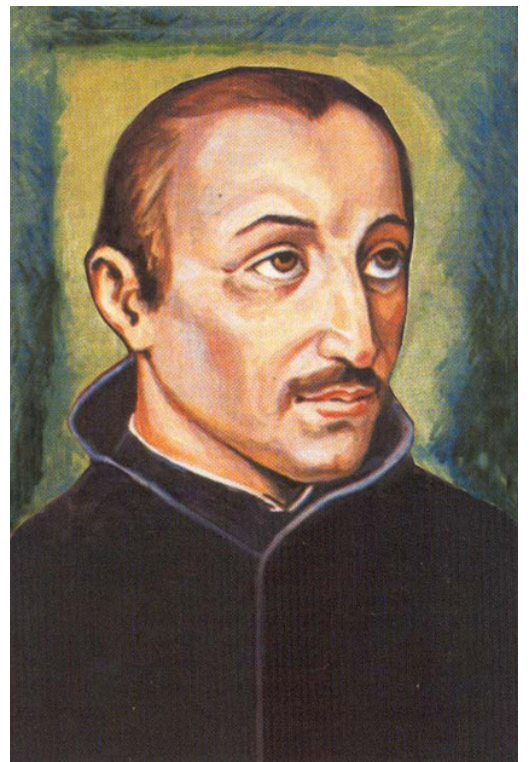
Help us to be faithful missionaries like him —
peaceful, prayerful, and brave.

We pray for the children of the Pacific Islands
and all those in mission lands.

Bless the work of the Missionary Childhood
Association and help us grow in faith and love.

Blessed Diego, pray for us!

Amen.





Mission Inspiration

DIOCESE OF WABAG PAPUA NEW GUINEA



High up in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, there is a special Diocese in Wabag. Many children here live in far-away mountain villages where it's hard to get to school or see a doctor.



This is where MCA steps in to help. Supporting MCA provides funds to help build schools where children can learn about both regular subjects and about Jesus who loves them!

The diocese creates many fun activities for children:

- They have Sunday School where kids learn about Jesus and pray together
- They hold special church services just for kids
- They host competitions of storytelling, drawing, drama, singing and questions for the children and distribute gifts to encourage them
- They teach about MCA and it's motto "children helping children" and paying it forward
- They make sure to include everyone, especially disabled children who might need extra help or care

The best part is that more than 3,875 children get to join in these activities, thanks to the help of missionaries, teachers, priests, and other grown-ups who work together to make all this happen.



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Mission Inspiration

DIOCESE OF WABAG PAPUA NEW GUINEA



**Every day,
children gather
to pray for peace
in their villages.
They learn that
they can make
their world a
better place by
working
together and
caring for one
another.**

The diocese would like to continue these activities in the future, in training children in the Christian faith and in living the values of the Gospel, because they will be the future leaders of the Church and their country. As members of the **Missionary Childhood Association**, young people are called to make sacrifices for children in communities just like this one. Take time to reflect on how you can help the children in the Diocese of Wabag.

- **Just \$1 can help support this diocese and contribute to continuing these programs**
- **\$5 can support the local church and school structures where they host their education programs**
- **\$25 can help provide safe transportation to the children attending these activities**

Dear God,

Please watch over our friends in the mountains of Papua New Guinea. Keep the children safe as they walk to school and play with their families. Help them learn and grow strong. Bring them joy in their daily adventures. Guide their teachers and caregivers who work so hard to help them.

We are thankful for their beautiful smiles, For the songs they sing and the stories they share. Help them always feel loved and cared for, And give them peaceful days in their mountain homes.

Please help all children around the world To be kind to one another, To have enough food to eat, Good schools to learn in, And safe places to sleep.

Amen.



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WEEK 5

October 26th - November 1st



ASIA

St. Anthony Mary Claret:
Missionary of God's Word

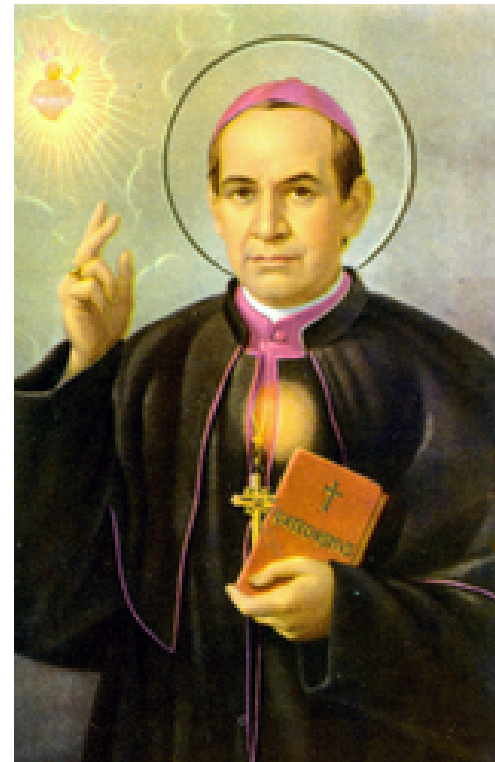
Feast Day: October 24

St. Anthony Mary Claret (1807–1870) was a Spanish priest who became a missionary, preacher, writer, and eventually the Archbishop of Cuba. St. Anthony Claret founded the Claretians in 1849 in Spain with the mission to evangelize wherever the Gospel was most needed, especially among the poor and forgotten. While he served mostly in Spain, the Canary Islands, and Cuba, he inspired a missionary movement that expanded across the globe — including Asia. While St. Anthony Mary Claret himself did not travel there during his lifetime, his missionary legacy has had a lasting and growing impact with Claretian presences in Asia, Philippines, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Japan and East Timor.

In Asia, many children served by MCA also attend schools or receive aid from Claretian missions. Students here in the U.S. who support MCA may be directly helping children in Asia who are being taught, fed, and loved by Claretian missionaries today.

Mission Prayer Inspired by St. Anthony Mary Claret

Loving Jesus,
Thank You for the passion and energy of St.
Anthony Mary Claret.
Help us be like him — always ready to speak
Your truth and love others with joy.
May we remember children in mission places
who need our prayers and support.
Through the Missionary Childhood
Association, help us share Your Good News
with the world.
St. Anthony Claret, pray for us!
Amen.



Mission Inspiration

MARONITE DIOCESE OF BATROUN LEBANON



Father Rouphael Zgheib, the National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in Lebanon, shared with TPMS-US that as violence escalates between Israel and Lebanon, the country faces a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale.



The suffering of children, particularly in challenging, conflict torn regions like Lebanon, is a poignant reminder of the Church's mission to bring hope and love.

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) even amidst suffering, shares the profound opportunity to encounter Jesus with children around the world. The Maronite Diocese of Batroun particularly focuses on the joy of the Eucharist, and instruction for recipients of their first Holy Communion.

With the theme of "I come to you, because I love you" 6 parishes in this diocese are working together with families who have children preparing to receive the Eucharist.

Children in Lebanon are turning their suffering into joy and experiencing Jesus' love through a special book and catechism program. Their journey begins with an initial meeting during which the children are given a map with 13 stations, symbolizing the journey to be made with Jesus during the year.

As usual, for a trip, you need a bag and, therefore each child received a bag, containing a booklet of prayers that the child can consult at any time, either alone or with a member of their family.

In the bag there is also an empty bottle of water. In the course of the preparation, the child must fill it with drops of water as a reward for any effort, sacrifice, a good deed performed.

This may sound similar to the instruction or activities during a First Holy Communion retreat that would be held here in the US, but due to the economic crisis that the children have experienced and the fact that the country faces some serious and dangerous challenges, this book serves as sign of hope. It is a means to soothe the soul, to live with Jesus and prepare to receive Him in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, without pressure or added stress.



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Mission Inspiration

MARONITE DIOCESE OF BATROUN LEBANON



"I would like to thank the whole team who formed us to receive our First Communion. It was a great idea to meet new friends, from Jrane and neighbouring villages. I was so happy, every Saturday, to hear about Jesus through group games. This led me more and more to attend mass every Sunday. It was an exceptional year and one I will never forget."

**-Rayan Elias
8 years old**

Reflection and Activity:

"I come to you, because I love you"

Following the instruction of the parishes in the Maronite Diocese of Batroun, work in groups to create you're own lesson plan on the Eucharist. Work together with your classroom to combine into one large lesson plan to share with Mission countries who are just begining their religious instruction!



Pray and Sacrifice:

Lord, we ask you to accept our suffering as we offer it to you. Please turn our hardships into a deeper love for you and our Brothers and Sisters in the Missions who need our prayers the most.

**\$1 can help support parish
education programs in Lebanon**

**\$10 can help rebuild schools and
classrooms in countries affected
by war and conflict**

**\$25 buys school supplies and
other necessary items for
instruction, to support the
learning of children in the
Missions**



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