

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD'S TEACHER'S TOOLBOX~SEPTEMBER 2026

Short reflections
on Sunday's Gospel

Mission Monday
meditations!

A little help from
Heaven's Heroes - the saints!

SUN



6 Mt. 18:15-20
When someone is hurtful toward me, do I wish them punishment or help them seek reconciliation (forgive and move on) as God would want?

13 Mt. 18:21-35
The "Our Father" is arguably the scariest prayer because we ask God to forgive us the same way we forgive others. Who do I need to forgive today?

20 Mt. 20:1-16a
Am I envious of the graces others receive from God? Challenge yourself this week to celebrate them instead! Thank God for your own, too.

27 Mt. 21:28-32
"How you treat people is the evidence of God working in you. Not your words... but your walk." ~ Anonymous. Do my actions reflect my words?

MON



14 Use MCA's Prayer Service today:
Back to School Litany!

21 Loving Father, I offer You this day, my thoughts, words, and deeds, my joys and sufferings for the spread of the Gospel.
*Missio Ireland

28 Lord, put your thoughts in my mind, your words on my lips, and your love in my heart.
*Missio Ireland

TUE

1 Saint Gregory the Great
During his time as pope, he unified the Church's liturgical music. Play a sample of Gregorian chant for your class. Discuss: Does music deepen your prayer?

8 Saint Teresa of Calcutta
She dedicated her life to serving the poorest in India even those near death. Discuss: What might inspire someone to give up everything to share the Gospel?

15 Saint Cornelius
Call him the "saint of second chances" because he let the Christians who fled persecution back into the Church. Discuss: Do I forgive others the same way God forgives me?

22 Use MCA's Saint of the Month!
Lesson Plan: Blessed-to-be Fulton Sheen


29 Sts Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael
Angels have free will to honor God, just like us! Ask these three for their intercession to help you be a better missionary for Jesus!

WED

2 Did you request MCA Mite Boxes yet?
Visit <https://sta.tpms.cloud.site/finity.com/resources/mca-mitebox-order-form>

9 Will there be Open House or Parent Night soon? Share what you do for MCA and why our faith calls us to share the Good News with others.

16 Papua New Guinea celebrates 51 years of independence from Australia today. Ask students to earn \$ for children in remote areas of the Pacific Islands who have yet to hear Jesus name.

23 Fulton Sheen will be beatified in St. Louis, Missouri tomorrow! Celebrate his legacy of the World Mission Rosary with a \$2 dress down day in its colors. All proceeds go to the missions!

30
Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the Americas.

THU

3 Set a goal with your class!
How much can we raise for children in the missions this month? Keep track on the thermometer on the back of this page!

10 In September 2023, a deadly flood struck Derna, Libya. 16 inches of rain fell in 24 hrs. 25% of the city was destroyed. Ask students to earn \$2 each for missionaries who help rebuild people's lives after natural disasters.

17
Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Oceania.

24 Blessed-to-be Fulton Sheen will be beatified in St. Louis, Missouri today! Lead your students in asking for his intercession to help them discover their talents! God is calling them to use to share the Good News!

PSST! October is Mission Month, and it's right around the corner! Our office would love to visit and discuss the life of children in the young or under developed Church. YOUR students play a vital role in their prayers and sacrifices. Please call or email us to schedule us in!

FRI

4
Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Asia.

11
Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Africa.

18 Use the MCA Country of the Month lesson plan:
 Sri Lanka!

25 List the 7 virtues. Which do we practice first by going to Mass? (Answer: justice!) In thanksgiving for many local churches, ask students to earn \$1 for children in the missions who walk a couple of hours to spend time with Jesus.

SAT

5 National Cheese Pizza Day!
Enjoy a box of pizza and give the cost of it to your class mission bank for children who will not eat today.

12 Tomorrow is National Peanut Day! Embrace being "nutty" for the missions! How does keeping children in the missions in your heart everyday deepen your own faith?

19 Autumn begins on Tuesday! As you enjoy all the leaf colors, pray a Hail Mary for children who live in areas where nature is destroyed by war.

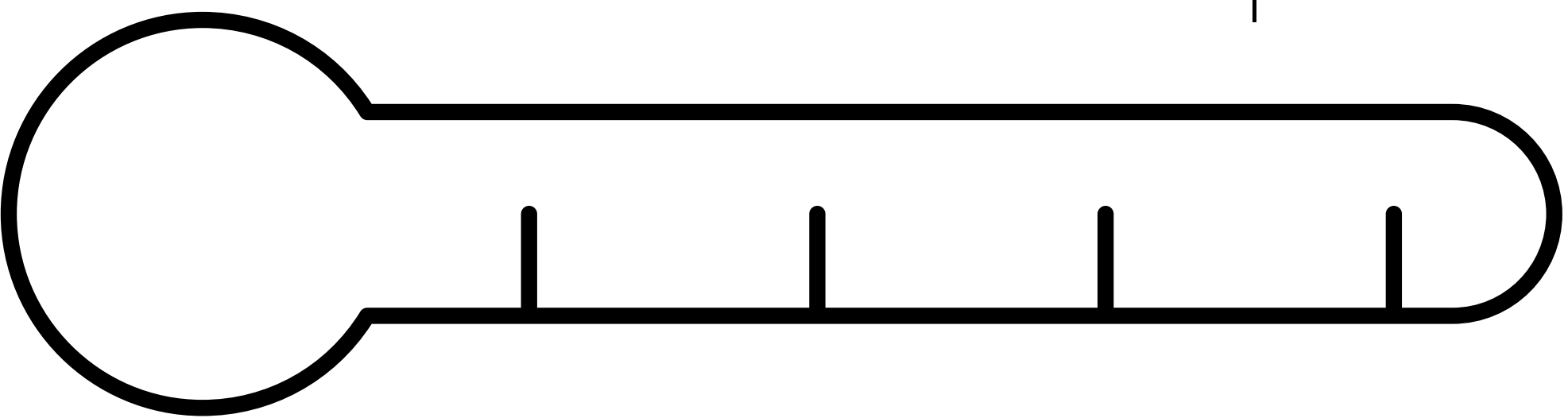
26 Yesterday was World Pharmacist Day! In thanksgiving for access to medicine, give \$2 towards your class mission bank for children in the missions without healthcare.



Our class goal is to raise \$ _____
for children in the missions.

Mary, Queen of the Missions,

pray for us!





MCA Prayer Activity

Back to School Litany

Goal: To introduce students to a litany. After the reader finishes the prayer intention, the group answers with the same response each time.

Materials Needed: readers; leader; copies of this handout (or projected text); a small altar set with a Bible, crucifix, and rosary set upon it.

Back to School Litany

Leader: Today, we will pray a **Back to School Litany**, thanking God for a restful summer and the opportunity to learn and grow this school year. We will also pray a **Missionary Childhood Litany**, asking God's blessing on children around the world who lack some of the blessings we enjoy.

Leader: Our response will be: We thank you God, Father of all.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For the playtime with friends and times of rest we had this summer.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For the oceans, mountains, cities, and farms we may have seen on vacation this summer.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 3: For the warm sun and refreshing rain that help grow the food we need to be nourished.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 4: For our families, especially the adults who help take care of us.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 5: For our teachers who help us to learn new things everyday.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 6: For our classmates with whom we will learn and grow this school year.

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Leader: Good and gracious God, watch over us as we begin a new school year. Help us to remember children around the world who need our prayers.

All: Amen



MCA Prayer Activity

Missionary Childhood Litany

Missionary Childhood Litany

Leader: Our response will be: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 1: For children in the missions who don't have enough to eat or drink. In **Myanmar**, many children rely on their hard work on their farms to provide a successful harvest. We pray that they be nourished physically and spiritually, so that they may share the peace of Christ in a country torn by civil war.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions who must work hard daily to earn money to help support their families. In **Ethiopia**, many children carry heavy logs down from the mountains to be used to build homes. We pray that their burdens are eased.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 3: For children in the missions who are orphans and don't have a family to love and care for them. In **Thailand**, missionary sisters step in to take care of street children. We pray that these children experience Jesus' love through the sisters' gentle care.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 4: For children in the missions who may never get to go to school. In **Cameroon**, many schools are too far for children to reach on foot, or too small to admit more students. We pray that every child has the chance to develop the talents God gave them so that they may use them in service to others.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 5: For children in the missions who live in areas of war or natural disaster. In **Venezuela**, two earthquakes, just seconds apart from each other, destroyed many homes and disrupted countless lives. We pray for missionaries who stay to rebuild their communities and that the gentle presence and support of the Church restores peoples' hope and faith.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 6: For children in the missions who wait to hear about Jesus. In **Papua New Guinea**, missionaries help children use their tribe's culture and traditions to glorify Jesus. We pray that children recognize Him already at work in their lives and allow Him to transform their hearts. **All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.**

Leader: God our Father, hear our prayers for those in need.
Guide us as we work this year to reach out as missionaries in your name.

All: Amen.



VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

Previous National Director of the
Society for the Propagation of the Faith (1950-1966) and
Missionary to the World

TEACHER INTRODUCTION



Today, we are inspired by:
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Feast Day

While Archbishop Sheen does not yet have an official feast day before his September 24, 2026 beatification, his future feast day will likely be celebrated on December 9, 1979; his “birthday into heaven.”

Loving God,

You gave us Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen as an example of joyful faith and missionary love. He trusted You and shared the message of Jesus with people around the world.

Help us, like Archbishop Sheen, to be missionaries in our daily lives, showing kindness, praying for others, and sharing Your love wherever we go. May we remember that even small acts of love can make a big difference.
Amen.

Goal of This Activity

To inspire in children a love for the saints and help them understand that we are all called to a life of holiness, inspired by those who came before us, and in whom we can trust to intercede on our behalf when we are struggling.

Materials Needed

This lesson plan and saint biography, we encourage you print a picture of this saint to add to your classrooms “mission corner”.

Depending on each month and the age of the students, other materials, such as coloring pencils, might be necessary.

Remind the Students

A saint is someone who loved God very much and tried to live like Jesus. During their lifetimes, saints showed kindness, helped others, and shared God's love in special ways. They are now in Heaven with God, and we can look up to them as examples of how to live a holy and loving life.

We venerate saints, which means we show them special honor and respect, not because they are God, but because they followed God so closely. When we venerate saints, we thank God for their lives and ask them to pray for us. The official recognition of sainthood also allows us to venerate them.

In the Classroom

1. Prepare the children to read or listen to the biography of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.
2. Read the attached story of his life. Elaborate/abbreviate as necessary due to time constraints or the age level of learners.
3. Present optional extension activities below. Any follow-up activity can be substituted.
4. Close the lesson by connecting the life of Fulton Sheen to the work of the Missionary Childhood Association.





ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

*"Charity is to be measured not by what one has given away, but by what one has left."
— Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (attributed)*

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was born Peter John Sheen on May 8, 1895, in El Paso, Illinois, to a farming family. From an early age, he showed a deep interest in the Catholic faith and a strong desire to serve God.

As a young altar server, he once assisted Bishop John L. Spalding of Peoria during Mass. At one point, Sheen accidentally dropped a wine cruet, which shattered. After Mass, the bishop spoke to the anxious boy in a calm and encouraging way. According to accounts of the moment, Bishop Spalding told him two striking things: first, that he would one day study at the University of Louvain in Belgium, and second, "someday you will be just as I am." This encounter left a lasting impression on the young Sheen.

Sheen went on to study at Spalding Institute in Peoria, then at St. Viator College in Illinois, and later at St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota. He was ordained a priest on September 20, 1919.

After ordination, he continued his academic formation, first at The Catholic University of America and then at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, where he completed advanced studies in philosophy. He returned to The Catholic University of America as a professor, where he would spend more than two decades forming seminarians and students in theology and philosophy.

During his years as a professor, Father Sheen became known as an exceptional lecturer and orator. His courses, covering topics such as the philosophy of religion, God and society, and modern philosophical thought, drew large audiences of students and visitors.



FUN FACT!

He was one of the first Catholic priests to become a major television personality in the United States. In the 1950s, his show *Life Is Worth Living* reached millions of viewers each week. He famously won an Emmy Award in 1952, beating out popular entertainers of the time.



www.pontificalmissions.org



His ability to communicate complex theological ideas with clarity and conviction quickly set him apart.

His reputation as a preacher grew beyond the classroom. In 1926, he was invited to record Lenten sermons for radio, marking his first experience with broadcasting. By 1930, he became a regular speaker on The Catholic Hour, where his talks reached a national audience. His reflections addressed both spiritual themes, such as devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and pressing social concerns of the time.

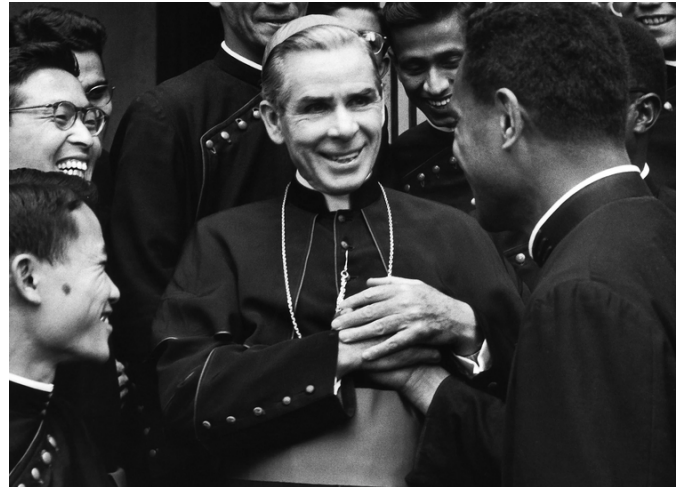
As his influence expanded, so did the volume of correspondence he received. He once wrote that he was receiving between 75 and 100 letters every day requiring personal attention, in addition to his teaching duties. Despite the demands, he considered the work a form of apostolate and continued faithfully.

Sheen was also a prolific writer, publishing dozens of books and pamphlets during his lifetime. His writings and broadcasts made Catholic teaching accessible to a broad audience across the United States and beyond.

In 1940, he participated in one of the earliest Catholic television broadcasts, speaking on the spiritual meaning of the new medium.

A decade later, after being consecrated a bishop in 1951, he launched his most famous television program, Life Is Worth Living. The program reached millions of viewers weekly and made him one of the most recognizable religious figures in America. He received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Television Personality.

Throughout his life, Sheen remained deeply committed to missionary work, especially through his leadership of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, where he helped raise millions of dollars for global missions.



He also played a significant role in guiding people into the Catholic Church, including intellectuals, public figures, and cultural leaders.

He attended all sessions of the Second Vatican Council and remained active in preaching and writing well into his later years. A consistent theme of his spiritual life was daily Eucharistic adoration, which he called essential to his priesthood.



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen died on December 9, 1979, while praying before the Blessed Sacrament in his private chapel. His life of prayer, teaching, and evangelization led to the opening of his cause for canonization. He is now recognized as “Venerable Fulton J. Sheen,” and is remembered as one of the most influential Catholic voices of the 20th century. His beatification is scheduled to take place on September 24, 2026.



Extension Activities

Kindergarten - Third Grade

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen had the courage to speak about Jesus to huge audiences on the radio and television when it was still very new. He didn't keep his faith private, he shared it clearly and boldly with the world.

Challenge: This week, choose one moment to speak about your faith or do what is right even if it feels uncomfortable—just like Fulton Sheen used his voice to share Jesus with the world.

Fourth Grade - Eighth Grade



Have students choose one topic Fulton Sheen often preached about (faith, suffering, media, truth, prayer, or mission). Then ask them to create a short modern message using a format that is popular today, like a 1-2-minute TikTok, meme, or social media post.



They must include:



- A clear message about faith or truth
- A real-life modern example
- One sentence that sounds like something Sheen would say (bold, reflective, or thought-provoking)



Goal: Help students see how Sheen used media to evangelize and challenge them to do the same responsibly today.

Wrap Up: Fulton Sheen's Influence on MCA Members today

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen continues to inspire Missionary Childhood members today through his example of bold faith, joyful evangelization, and deep love for Jesus in the Eucharist. He reminds children that mission is not limited to faraway places, but begins in everyday life—through prayer, kindness, and sharing God's love with others. His use of radio and television shows that even young people can use modern tools and their own voices to bring Jesus to the world. For Missionary Childhood members, Sheen's life is a call to be brave in faith, generous in love, and confident that even small acts of prayer and sacrifice can help change the world for Christ.





Popsicle Stick Fulton Sheen



Materials Needed:

- ✓ popsicle stick
- ✓ black and red markers
- ✓ cut outs at the end of this packet
- ✓ glue
- ✓ scissors

Directions:

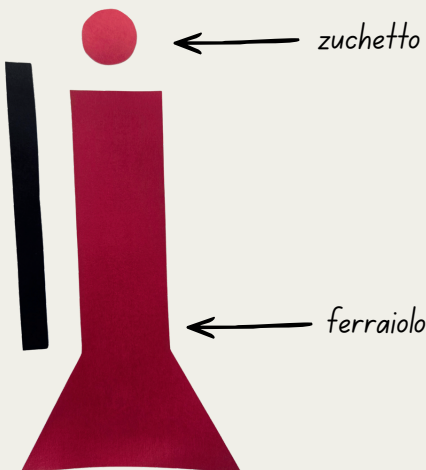
1) Draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth at the top of the popsicle stick.



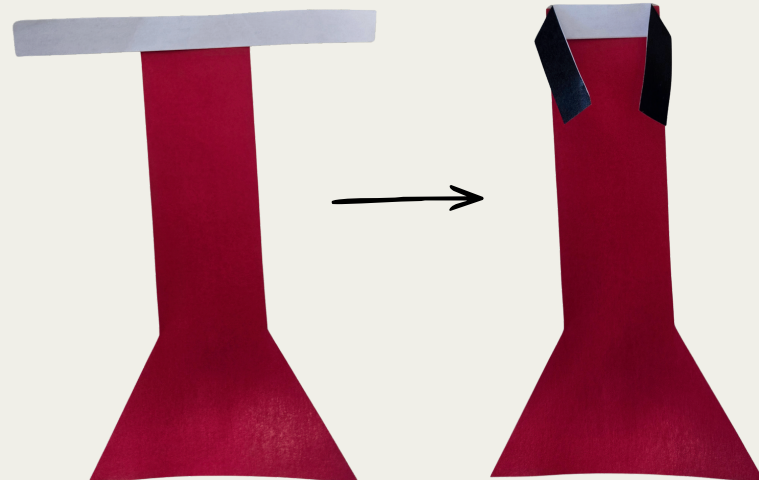
2) $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down the stick, draw a red belt about half an inch thick. Color the rest of the stick black for the cassock (robe).



3) Using the cutouts at the end of this packet, cut out the thin, black rectangle. This will become the arms. Next, cut out the ferraiolo (cape) and zucchetto (cap).



4) Glue the BACK of the black rectangle (arms) from Step 3 to the top of the ferraiolo (cape). Fold down the sides at an angle to shape the arms.



5) Glue the zucchetto (cap) to the top of the popsicle stick.



6) Glue on the popsicle stick to complete the figure.



7) Cut out one of the small rectangle signs at the end of this packet that say,

*"Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer."*

Glue it to the bottom of the popsicle stick.



8) Put your Popsicle Stick Fulton Sheen next to your mission bank at home to help remind you to pray and sacrifice in faith for children in the missions.

Or...

Ask all students in the class to write a prayer for children in the missions on the back of your popsicle stick. Collect them all in a cup and take one out to read each day!





Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer!
~Blessed Fulton Sheen



Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer!
~Blessed Fulton Sheen



Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer!
~Blessed Fulton Sheen



Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer!
~Blessed Fulton Sheen



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Pray the World Mission Rosary.
Embrace the world in prayer!
~Blessed Fulton Sheen







Sri Lanka



Welcome to Sri Lanka, a small island country located near the southeast coast of India! People from Northern India first came to live in Sri Lanka hundreds of years before Jesus was born. It was not until the 16th century (1501-1600) when Christian missionaries arrived in Sri Lanka that people heard the Gospel. Today, in a country of 22.1 million people, about 70.2% are Buddhist - the official religion. There are also many practicing Hindus and Muslims. Only 7% of Sri Lankans are Catholic.

Most people living in Sri Lanka are Sinhalese, which is a blend of Indian and native islanders. Sinhala and Tamil are the two official languages, however English is typically spoken in business and government.

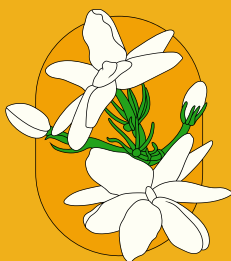
Nearly half of the island is used for growing crops and livestock. For centuries, Sri Lanka – or Ceylon as it was then called – was known for its coffee. In the late 19th century (1800-1900's)



world's largest producers of tea. Sri Lanka is also known for its production of rice, sugar, and coconuts.

The island is mostly flat, with rolling plains and mountains in the south. The climate year round is tropical monsoon, which means it hot and humid with rainy seasons that occur in the northeast from December - March and in the southwest from June - October. Sri Lanka is also vulnerable to cyclones and tornadoes.

Most people who work in the city have jobs in tourism. In the suburbs and rural areas, people work in mining, rubber production, and on tea plantations. All of these areas require hard labor for little pay. Many families live in "line rooms", which are long buildings made of small, single units. There is usually a lack of running water and sanitation. Missionaries are at work helping children to build better lives for themselves and, through their presence, share with them the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.



Galle, Sri Lanka

Galle, Sri Lanka's beautiful beaches and tall city buildings attract tourists year round, but just up the road many families live in poverty. Most people work so hard to make a living wage as tea plantation farmers that many of them have never seen their own country's famous beaches.

According to the U.S Department of Labor, minimum wage in the U.S ranges between \$7.25 - \$18.00 per hour, depending on the state. In Sri Lanka, impoverished children are forced to work and earn \$4-5 per day on the plantations - that's only 50 cents an hour.



Work on the tea plantation is exhausting. Before planting seeds, farmers must weed and clear miles of mountainous land. Each worker has a section of plants for which they are responsible. They trim hundreds of leaves to ensure quick and healthy plant growth. At harvest time, the farmers gather the tea leaves into heavy baskets. They carry the full baskets on their backs in the heat across rugged terrain to the nearest factory. From there, the tea is processed and shipped to grocery stores worldwide.



Fr. Lasantha, a local priest in Galle, helps to ease the daily hardships for child plantation workers by reminding them of Jesus' presence and love. He visits with them in the fields to listen to their physical and spiritual needs. On weekdays, Fr. Lasantha says Mass at 4:00 pm in the "line rooms." He invites the local children to spend time with Jesus and to pray the rosary at 6:00 pm. During the weekends, Fr. Lasantha feeds them rice, eggs, and chicken for protein! On one special occasion, he took them into the city to eat at a local popular fast food chain. For many children it was their first time leaving the village!

MCA is helping children, Catholic and non-Catholic, in Sri Lanka by building more rural schools to get them off the fields and into classrooms. More children are fed nutritious meals through



programs, like Fr. Lasantha's, where they are also nourished spiritually by learning about Jesus' life death, and resurrection. With hearts and lives recentered on Jesus, they uplift others in faith on the fields - even if it's the person trimming leaves in the next row over.

*Do you remember the daily wage for tea farmers in Sri Lanka? At last report, MCA members in Sri Lanka sacrificed \$11,739.68 so that all children come to know the love of Jesus Christ! **Challenge:** What is one way I can use my talents this month to earn at least their "minimum wage" for my mission bank? How will the faith of children in Sri Lanka inspire me to do so?*

WE ARE ALL MISSIONARIES!

A comprehensive lesson plan focused on teaching elementary students about the **Missionary Childhood Association** and connecting it to their baptismal call to be missionaries.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to

- Explain what the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is and its purpose.
- Understand how their baptism calls them to be missionaries.
- Identify ways they can participate in missionary work in their daily lives.
- Participate in an MCA commissioning prayer service to become MCA members.

Grade Level: Elementary (1st-4th Grade)

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Subject: Religious Education and Faith Formation

Topic: The Missionary Childhood Association and Our Baptismal Call to Mission

Materials

- Whiteboard or Chalkboard
- World map or globe
- Baptismal candles (real or paper craft versions)
- Art supplies (colored paper, markers, crayons)
- MCA Mite Box or collection box



WE ARE ALL MISSIONARIES!

Introduction

Opening Prayer: Begin with the Sign of the Cross and a simple prayer for children around the world.

Engagement Activity: Show students a globe or world map and ask the questions below.

- What do you think a missionary does?
- Where do missionaries work?
- Can children be missionaries too? How?

Connect to Personal Experience: Ask students to share if they remember anything about their baptism (or if their parents have told them about it).

Instruction

Part 1: Learning About the Missionary Childhood Association

Explain: "Today we're going to learn about a special organization called the Missionary Childhood Association."

Share the history of MCA:

- Founded in 1843 by French Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson
- Started when the bishop wanted to help children in mission territories
- Originally asked French children to pray a Hail Mary daily and donate a small coin monthly
- Motto: "Children helping children"
- Now works in 140 countries around the world

MCA's Work:

- Explain how MCA funds help children worldwide:
- Health and nutrition programs
- Orphanages and homes for children in need
- Schools and educational supplies
- Teaching children about Jesus and the faith



More on the history and work of MCA can be found at pontificalmissions.org

Part 2: Baptism and Mission

Discussion:

- Ask: "What happens at baptism?"
(We become part of God's family, receive the Holy Spirit, etc.)
- Explain: At baptism, we also receive a special mission from God to be missionaries.

Key Message:

- From the moment of baptism, we're called to share God's love.
- Children don't need to wait until they're grown-ups to be missionaries.
- We can be missionaries right where we are - at home, school, and in our communities.
- The Holy Spirit gives each of us special gifts to help others

Reflection: Have students think about ways they already act as missionaries in their daily lives.

Part 3: Hands-On Activity

Option 1: "My Missionary Promise" Cards

Provide art supplies for students to create cards with their personal missionary promises. Students write/draw ways they can be missionaries at their age.

Examples: praying for children in other countries, sharing with others, being kind to someone who is lonely

Option 2: Distribute MCA Mite Boxes or start a small fundraising project for MCA

Each child receives their own mite box. Encourage the children to make sacrifices for the children in the missions. Discuss ways in which they can sacrifice their time or their allowance. Get creative and solicit ideas from the students about creating their own fundraiser for MCA.

Option 3: Mission Corner

Research a mission country where MCA works and create a classroom display, using pictures and cultural artifacts from that part of the world. Reach out to the Office of Missions for worksheets on various mission countries.



Option 4: Daily Mission Reflection

Begin a classroom "Mission Moment" where students share a daily prayer for children in mission countries. Create a place in the classroom to track prayers and participation.

BONUS:

Invite a guest speaker from the archdiocesan Office of Missions to speak about MCA!

MCA Prayer Service and Commissioning Ceremony

Opening Song: “Here I Am, Lord”

Welcome (Leader):

Welcome to this special moment where we gather as one family of faith to commission you as members of the **Missionary Childhood Association**. As missionaries, you are called to pray, to share, to sacrifice and to love others—especially children around the world who need our help and hope.

Let us begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, You sent Your Son Jesus to bring light, love, and peace to the world.

Today, we thank You for calling these children to be part of the Missionary Childhood Association.

Help them to be joyful witnesses of Your love through prayer and sacrifice.

May they grow with generous hearts and never forget their brothers and sisters in mission lands.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading (Leader):

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflection (Leader):

Jesus sends each of us to be missionaries—not just in faraway places, but in our schools, homes, and hearts. As members of the Missionary Childhood Association, your small prayers and gifts bring big love to children in need. Today, you promise to say a Hail Mary every day for children in the missions and to make sacrifices—whether it’s one penny or ten dollars—so others may know God’s love.

Commissioning Pledge (Children Repeat After the Leader):

- I promise to pray a Hail Mary each day for children in the missions.
- I promise to make sacrifices, big or small, to help my brothers and sisters in need.
- With God’s help, I will be a missionary of love, hope, and peace.

Closing Prayer (Leader):

God of all nations, Bless these children who have answered Your call. Give them hearts that are open and hands that are ready to serve. Fill them with courage to be true missionaries every day. May Mary, Queen of Missions, guide them always.

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

Closing Song: “Go Make a Difference”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION!



www.pontificalmissions.org



WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Students will learn about the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, and understand how it connects to their baptismal promises and their call to be missionaries. They will also learn about the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) and its work in supporting children around the world.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to understand:

- the purpose and meaning of the World Mission Rosary
- their role as missionary disciples
- the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)
- how to pray the World Mission Rosary

For Grades 5–8

**Theme: Called to Mission through
Prayer and Baptism**

Length: 45–60 minutes

Materials

- A World Mission Rosary
- Handout with rosary color meanings (pg. 5)
- Globe or world map
- List of Baptismal Promises
- MCA Mission Project Handouts
To receive these worksheets please
email: aholden@pontificalmissions.org)



WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Opening Prayer

Begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the needs of others. "Lord, help us to see the world through Your eyes and to pray with love for children around the world."

Baptismal Promises & Missionary Identity

Discuss:

- At baptism, we became part of God's family and were called to be missionary disciples. This means that every baptized person is invited to share the love, truth, and message of Jesus with others, just like the first disciples did.
- At baptism, we become members of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are given a share in Jesus' mission: to bring the Good News to the whole world. This doesn't always mean traveling to distant countries. It means living like Jesus wherever we are by being kind, forgiving, praying for others, helping those in need, and telling others about God's love.
- In short, baptism gives us a purpose: to help build God's Kingdom by being lights in the world, showing love in action. That is the heart of being a missionary.
- Read aloud the baptismal promises, discuss ways in which we can live them out each and every day and encourage others to do the same.
- When we pray for others and help those in need, we are living out those promises.

What is the Missionary Childhood Association

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies. MCA serves to remind young people of their baptismal calling to be missionaries for Christ.

Teach:

- The MCA was founded to help children around the world through the prayers, sacrifices, and offerings of other children.
- Motto: "Children helping children."
- Each day, MCA members promise to say one Hail Mary for the missions and offer a small sacrifice (even a penny!) to help children in need.
- MCA Members all over the world, pray a special rosary called the World Mission Rosary.



WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Introduction to the World Mission Rosary

The World Mission Rosary is a simple way to live out our baptismal call to be missionaries by praying, loving, and thinking of others all over the world.

- Archbishop Fulton Sheen, former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, created the World Mission Rosary in 1951. He wanted to encourage Catholics—especially children—to pray for the whole world and become aware of the Church’s missionary work in every corner of the globe.
- He believed that prayer is powerful, and that when we pray the rosary, we can spiritually reach out to people everywhere, even those we’ve never met. He said: “When the Rosary is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in prayer.”
- Each decade is a different color, representing a part of the world where missionaries and the Missionary Childhood Association help children:
 - Green – Africa
 - Red – The Americas
 - White – Europe
 - Blue – Oceania
 - Yellow – Asia

Show the rosary or a diagram and briefly describe the needs of children in each region. When praying the World Mission Rosary, it calls to mind these needs, and asks God to support the Missionaries who are living amongst the people in these areas, sharing the word of God to those who may be hearing it for the first time.



WORLD MISSION ROSARY

How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

The World Mission Rosary is prayed like a regular rosary, but with special intentions for the children and missionaries in each region of the world, represented by the five colors of the decades. It combines traditional rosary prayers with a global missionary focus.

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

2. On the Crucifix

Pray the Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty..."

3. On the First Large Bead

Pray one Our Father

Intention: for the Pope and the worldwide mission of the Church

4. On the Three Small Beads

Pray three Hail Marys

Intention: for an increase in faith, hope, and charity around the world)

5. On the Next Large Bead

Pray one Glory Be

Intention: to glorify God for all the good done by missionaries and children helping children

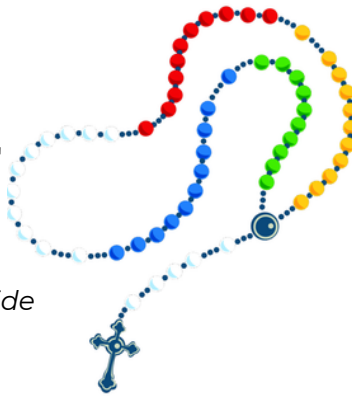
The Five Decades (One per Region)

Each decade is a different color, representing a region supported by the Missionary Childhood Association. Before each decade, announce the region and offer a special intention.

Green Beads – Africa

Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: Green symbolizes the rich forests and natural resources of Africa. We pray for the children and families in Africa, many of whom face poverty, disease, and lack of access to education, healthcare, and clean water.



Red Beads – The Americas

Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: Red represents the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas. It also reminds us of the courage of those who share the Gospel throughout this vast region, including in places where it's still difficult to be a Christian.

White Beads – Europe

Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: White stands for the seat of the Church in Rome. It is a reminder to pray for the Church's continued witness in a part of the world where faith is sometimes forgotten or taken for granted.

Blue Beads – Oceania

Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: Blue represents the waters that surround the many islands of Oceania. We pray for the people living on these islands, especially where missionary priests, sisters, and laypeople bring the love of Jesus to remote communities.

Yellow Beads – Asia

Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: Yellow stands for the bright light of the East and the sunrise, symbolizing Asia—home to many ancient cultures and religions. We pray for those who face challenges living their faith, and for all who seek to know the love of Christ.



Pray

THE WORLD MISSION ROSARY

One Family in Faith | One Family in Mission



Instructions for Making a World Mission Rosary



Part One

1. Cut the **string** into an arm's length (24 inches).
2. Burn end of string to prevent fraying or dip in clear nail polish.
3. Tie the **white cross** to the end of the white string.
4. String **one yellow bead** (Our Father).
5. String **two clear spacer beads**.
6. String **one red bead, then one white bead, then one green bead** (Hail Mary, for the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity).
7. String **two clear spacer beads**.
8. String **one large green bead** (Our Father, First Decade for Africa).
9. Take the **end of the string** and put it through the **singular hole at the bottom** of the **white Mary medal**, then immediately string it through **one** of the top holes. Leave the other hole open as you will use this at the end. Tie a **single knot** to seal the medal.





Part Two

10. String **ten green beads** (Hail Mary).
11. String **two clear spacer beads**.
12. String **one large blue bead** (Our Father, Second Decade for Oceania).
13. String **two clear spacer beads**.
14. String **ten blue beads** (Hail Mary).
15. String **two clear spacer beads**.
16. String **one large white bead** (Our Father, Third Decade for Europe).
17. String **two clear spacer beads**.
18. String **ten white beads** (Hail Mary).
19. String **two clear spacer beads**.
20. String **one large red bead** (Our Father, Fourth Decade for the Americas).
21. String **two clear spacer beads**.
22. String **ten red beads** (Hail Mary).
23. String **two clear spacer beads**.
24. String **one large yellow bead** (Our Father, Fifth Decade for Asia).
25. String **two clear spacer beads**.
26. String **ten yellow beads** (Hail Mary).



Part Three

27. Take the **end of the string** and feed it through the last open hole on the **white medal**. Make a **double knot** as close to the medal as possible, to prevent the beads from moving.

