MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD'S TEACHER'S TOOLBOX ~ NOVEMBER 2026

#GivingTuesday is December 1st, 2026! Consider the ideas on this calendar to help fill your mission banks for children in the missions. Let's see how many more children can you invite to Jesus through your creativity this month!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Short reflection questions on Sunday's Gospel	Pray these Mission Monday prayers with your students	Inspiration from Heaven's Heroes! Help from: *365 Saints by Koenig-Bricker*		Class Fundraiser Ideas!		
1 All Saints' Day! John 6:37-40 What are my goals? Is getting to heaven one of them? How often do I act on this goal?	**2** All Souls' Day! May the souls of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.	**3** All Saints Day was on Sunday. A saint is anyone who is in heaven! Discuss: how often do I ask for saints to pray for me? Am I leading others to holiness?	**4** During November, we practice gratitude. How does gratitude help us see God at work in our lives? Does it lead us to be more generous?	**5** Penny War! Wage a penny war against the other classes. 	**6** Use the MCA Country of the Month lesson plan: Pakistan! 	**7** National Cappuccino Day! Skip a cup of coffee today and put what you would've spent into your class mission bank for children who become ill from drinking dirty water.
8 Matt. 25:1-13 If Jesus walked through my door today, would I be ready to receive Him? If not, what needs to change?	**9** Dear Jesus, Guide my steps and help my words echo Your voice, so that I may lead many to You.	**10** Saint Benen A friend of St. Patrick and a singer. One who sings prays twice! Many children in the missions sing and dance for Jesus! Discuss: How does singing deepen prayer?	**11** Veteran's day! Pray for the safety of our troops. Pray, also, for child suffering from violence and the missionaries who minister to them.	**12** DIY Day! Bake sales, hot cocoa stands, bracelets, slime - you name it! Students sell their crafts to friends and family. Proceeds go to MCA! 	**13** MCA children in Sri Lanka earn $0.05/hr working on tea plantations. In 2024, they raised $15,956.08 for children who have yet to hear about Jesus' saving love. Follow their lead!	**14** 
15 Matt. 25:14:30 Notice that Jesus gave talents to each person according to their ability. Why do I doubt what God, who knows me best, has entrusted to me?	**16** Use MCA's Prayer Service today: "An Attitude of Gratitude"	**17** Saint Andrew Dung-Luc A priest and martyr during persecution in Vietnam in the 1800's. Discuss: Not all of us are called to die for the faith, rather to *live* it. How do I live the faith?	**18** Pray the World Mission Rosary! Assign each grade level their color. 	**19** Dress Down Day! Students give $2 to dress in the colors of the World Mission Rosary: Blue (Oceania), yellow (Asia) green (Africa), white (Europe), and red (The Americas).	**20** Micronesia celebrates 40 years of independence. Ask your students to pick up an extra chore to earn $2 to help missionaries who share the Gospel with children in Oceania.	**21** Tomorrow is Go For A Ride Day! Go online and calculate how long it would take to walk to the store, work...etc. What wouldn't you get done in the meantime? Pray for children in the missions who walk long distances daily.
22 Mt. 25:31-46 Besides the sheep and goats, do I notice a third group to which Jesus hints?	**23** Dear Jesus, Help me to serve others with You in my heart.	**24** Use MCA's Saint of the Month Lesson Plan: Saint Guido Maria Conforti 	**25** Tally up the fundraiser proceeds!	**26** Happy Thanksgiving! Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ Our Lord. Amen.	**27** 	**28** In addition to a gift towards your parish's Giving Tree, share the gift of Christ's love with children in the missions by putting the cost of a toy into your class mission bank.
29 Mark 13:33-37 Am I excited or fearful for my redemption?	**30** Dear Jesus, Help me to be generous in all that I do without expecting a "thank you."					

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

Living with an Attitude of Gratitude

MCA Prayer Activity for All Ages

Goal: Introduce students to the virtue of gratitude. Saint Ignatius Loyola made gratitude the first step in his daily Examen saying, "I note the gifts that God's love has given me this day, and I give thanks to God for them."

Materials Needed: This prayer service (printed or projected on a board). Set an altar with a crucifix, a bible, and a globe to represent the missions. Going desk by desk, have each student read a blessing until the alphabet is complete.

Leader: In November, we are especially thankful for the gifts with which God blesses us. By practicing gratitude, we recognize and appreciate what we have to better use those gifts in service to others. A grateful heart leads to a humble and generous heart, which allows us to share more abundantly. Let's express our attitude of gratitude using every letter of the alphabet!

Leader: After reading each blessing, we will respond with: "God, we thank you."

All: "God, we thank you."

A- for Autumn's colorful leaves and scenery.

B- for the Bible, in which Jesus teaches us how to live our lives.

C- for Cars, buses, and bikes that help us travel.

D- for Doctors, nurses, and hospitals to visit when we are sick.

E- for the Eucharist, which strengthens us to become more like Jesus through our thoughts, words, and actions.

F- for the Five senses (sound, sight, smell, taste, touch) that allow us to enjoy what's around us.

G- for the Globe, especially the areas for which we pray the World Mission Rosary: **Africa**, **Asia**, **Oceania**, **Europe**, and the **Americas**.

H- for the Help that missionaries bring children around the world: food, water, shelter, education, and the knowledge of Jesus' saving love.

I- for Ice cream sundaes and all the sweet treats we crave that we can offer up for children in need.

J- for Joy that children all over the world experience.

K- for Knowledge we gain from school and personal experiences.

L- for Love. Let us spread it to others with Jesus in our hearts so that others may see Him through us.

M- for all Missionary Childhood members. May the stories of the growing Church deepen our faith and inspire heartfelt prayer and sacrifice.

N- for Nighttime, when the world grows quiet as we think about our day and rest for a new one.

O- for our Own special imaginations that give us a creative view of the world.

P- for our Personalities that make us who we are.

Q- for Questions. Let us not be afraid of curiosity.

R- for Recess and playtime that allow us to explore.

S- for the Saints, who show us how to live holy lives.

T- for the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), whose mystery helps us to remain in awe of Him.

U- for Unforgettable memories with our friends.

V- for our Voices. May we use them to communicate Christ's love as His sons and daughters.

W- for Water and the life it brings to us physically and spiritually.

X- for the XOXO (hugs and kisses!) from our families.

Y- for You, God. Thank you for creating us, listening to us when we pray, and for loving us so dearly that when we choose to follow You, we may spend forever with You in heaven.

Z- for the Zillions of blessings that we haven't said already. May we be grateful for them all, big or small!

All: For all our blessings, God, we thank you. May we use them to lead more children to You.

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Saint Guido Maria Conforti



Heaven's Heroes
Growing in Faith with a Little Help from the Saints

This month, we are inspired by:
Saint Guido Maria Conforti

Feast Day
November 5

Canonized
October 23, 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI

Catholics are encouraged to ask the saints, blesseds, and venerable people for their intercession while praying to God. Reading about their lives can serve as inspiration to us for our daily lives. May the following lesson, **follow-up questions, prayer, and activities** bring us closer to Jesus and help us to grow as missionary disciples.

Goals of the Lesson

- To inspire children to have a love for saints.
- To help students understand that we are all called to holiness.
- To teach children to turn to saints in prayer.

Materials Needed

- A map or globe

It may be helpful to remind students that a saint is a person who lived their life in a way that honored Jesus' teaching and by doing so, taught others about Him. Also, it is important to know that it is not only those whom the Church has proclaimed a saint who are in Heaven. The official recognition simply allows us to venerate them.

BEFORE YOU READ Prepare students for the story of Saint Guido Maria Conforti by introducing the new places, vocabulary, and unfamiliar concepts.

Concepts to understand:

- Who is a missionary? What do they do?
- Seminary
- Ordination
- The Xaverian Fathers

Find these places on a map:

- Parma, Italy
- Shanghai, China

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

Saint Guido Maria Conforti



May I find the message God would like me to hear in the life of Saint Guido Maria Conforti.

Born the eighth of ten children, Guido Maria Conforti was a young man who's future had been determined by his successful father—he would get a good education at the local Christian Brothers' school in Parma, Italy and grow up to run the thriving family farming business. It seemed that Guido, with God's inspiration, had other ideas.

Every day after school Guido would stop by his local parish, The Church of Peace, and pray before a large crucifix. He felt he was in a deep conversation with Jesus. Guido later said, "I looked at Him, He looked at me, and He said many things to me." It was before this crucifix that the young boy decided that he wanted to be a priest.

Whenever he spoke about this new found vocation at home, his father dismissed it. There was already a plan in place for Guido's life. Guido persevered, however, and entered the seminary (school to become a priest), causing his father to have little contact with him and to cut off his financial support.

Guido began to read about the great missionary, Saint Francis Xavier, and was inspired to help bring the Catholic faith to China.

After various missionary orders turned him away and a battle with his epilepsy (seizures due to a disorder in the brain) that interrupted his priestly formation, Guido was eventually ordained (became a priest).

At twenty-three years old, he decided he should start his own order of missionary priests to proclaim the Gospel. He asked permission from the Vatican (headquarters of the Catholic Church). With approval, on the feast of Saint Francis Xavier, he opened the doors to his new institute, The Xaverian Fathers, with the motto: "The love of Christ impels us."

Though facing many difficulties, both in finding funding and personnel, Guido persevered and eventually sent missionaries to the far East. Meanwhile, Guido was named bishop and stayed in Italy at service to his local church.

In 1928, Bishop Guido Conforti's wish to reach China finally came true. As Superior General (leader) of the Xaverians, his ship sailed into Shanghai so that he could better learn the scope and need of his missionaries. Today, Xaverian Fathers and Brothers serve in many countries including Japan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia.

Saint Guido Maria Conforti - pray for us!

Saint Guido Maria Conforti



Pray

A prayer written by Saint Guido

Oh God of goodness and love, you desire the salvation of all: I beseech you with all my heart to grant me the grace of final perseverance. Help me to resist all the assaults of my spiritual enemies and always respond to the gentle influence of Your grace, so that I might reach the degree of perfection You want from me. Amen.

Think

1. Saint Guido was known for his **perseverance**, even when people were against him, including his father. When have you shown that same trait? Why do you think it is important for missionaries to have this trait?
2. Saint Guido was excited about the growing Church in China! What areas of the mission Church interest you in particular? Why?
3. In order to accomplish all that he did, Guido nurtured his relationship with Jesus daily through prayer and the sacraments. How can you develop this same habit?

Act

Activity: Saint Guido sailed to China, achieving his dream of going to the missions. Sail your prayers to the missions using the attached activity sheet. Write your prayer intentions for the missions and personal intentions on the boat. Cut the boat out and display them all on a bulletin board, classroom wall, or door. Pray for these intentions daily.

Go!: Saint Guido was a young man of action. You, too, are called through faith to take action! If Saint Guido travelled today, he would fly to China from Parma, a distance of about 5,633 miles. Collect $56.33 (5,633 cents!) per class by doing extra chores or giving up a treat and donate it to MCA in Saint Guido's honor.

Saint Guido Maria Conforti, *pray for us!*



My prayer for children in the missions:

Pakistan





The Indus river cuts a path through the mountains.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is located in southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea. The country's name literally means "Land of the Pure" translated from the Urdu and Persian languages. The name "PAKSTAN" was first used in 1933 as an acronym for five northern territories under British control that longed to be a united nation. The "I" was added later for easier pronunciation.

Pakistan covers an area that is just a bit less than twice the size of the state of California with a population of 257,047,044 people. The capital city of Pakistan is Islamabad.

Most people who live in Pakistan are Muslim (about 97%) while the remaining 3% are Hindu and Christian. There are about one million Roman Catholics, which is about 1% of the population. The Catholic Church was established between World Wars I and II when the area was under British colonial rule.

Although education is free and mandatory up to Grade 8 in Pakistan, literacy rates show that the laws are not well enforced. About 60% of the population above age ten can read and write, but when broken down by gender, a gap is revealed—for boys, the literacy rate is 69.1%, while for girls it is 48.5%. In very rural areas, the literacy rate for girls can drop to as low as 3%.

Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani, has become world renowned for her efforts to shine a light on the issue of education for all children, especially girls in Pakistan. Taliban terrorists targeted and shot her, hoping to stop her advocacy.



Her survival and recovery brought further attention to the issue. Malala was a co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize and now lives in England where she continues her work for children's educational rights.

*CIA World Factbook

Diocese of Islamabad-Rawalpindi

In Pakistan, girls and women are expected to follow strict rules. Some of these laws prohibit women to go out in public without the presence of a man, such as a father, brother, or uncle. Other laws limit a girl's ability to attend school and get a job to support herself. With the help of Missionary Childhood Association members, the Catholic Church is working with Pakistani girls by providing the tools to be successful through an education rooted in the Gospel.





During the 2023-2024 school year, Missionary Childhood gifted $7,000 to maintain a boarding home, run by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary and the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Presentation Sisters). Next door to the boarding home, the sisters run Saint Catherine Convent School.



These sisters prepare the girls they care for to face societal challenges by developing the special talents that God has given them. The students learn English, writing, math, science, social studies, computers, and religion. They achieve a wide variety of skills that will allow them to be active members of society.



Last month, students helped lead a Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Imagine the hope these girls will inspire in others as they work to create a better future for their country! At last report, Missionary Childhood members in Pakistan raised $6,430.31 to remind other children in the missions that, through Jesus, the have been given eternal life.

Follow Their Lead

This month, we pray to God in thanksgiving for our many blessings, including education and the freedom to practice our Catholic faith.



Use gratitude this season to help you fill your mission bank with a greater missionary spirit! Ex: Thankful for the nutritious food you eat? Skip your favorite snack and offer up the cost of it for children who will go hungry in the missions.

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.