MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD TEACHER'S TOOLBOX ~ DECEMBER 2026

Mission Monday prayers!

Inspiration from Heaven's Heroes!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Short reflection questions on Sunday's Gospel	Saint Francis Xavier ~ his feast day is Thursday and he is the patron saint of the missions! In his honor, pray and give to MCA tomorrow!	1 #iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY Give to MCA today!	2 Give your class the student calendar to pray with and fill their mission banks as they ADVENTure to Epiphany!	3 Did you enter your art classes into the MCA National Artwork Contest? The winner gets their drawing printed onto Christmas cards!	4 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Africa.	5 Most places in the missions do not have a parish "Giving Tree" to lean on. Your students' prayers and sacrifices become the greatest gift to children in the missions!
6 Mark 1:1-8 Do you know the date of your baptism? Find out! How will you renew your baptismal promise to make disciples of all nations?	7 Use MCA's Prayer Service today: Advent Resource Booklet	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception! God prepared a "home" for Jesus on this day. How do I prepare my soul to receive Him in the Eucharist?	9 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the Americas.	10 Explain to students that Missionary Childhood invites children to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, who became a child. Discuss: How do I make my childhood holy?	11 Use the MCA Country of the Month lesson plan: Sierra Leone!	12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! She asked St. Juan Diego to build a church. How do you build the Body of Christ?
13 John 1:6-8,19-28 Reflect on this quote from Pope Paul VI: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it's because they are witnesses."	14 Dear Jesus, help me to always turn away from sin. Shine into the recesses of my heart that sometimes say "no room for You at the Inn."	15 Use MCA's Saint of the Month Lesson Plan: Saint Juan Diego	16 Invite students to bring in a paper bag and create their own tilma. Use the steps from the Saint of the Month. Ask them to pay $1 for the missions to wear their tilmas for a day!	17 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Asia.	18 Challenge your students to pick one thing on their Christmas list that they could do without and ask for a donations to the missions instead.	19 Winter begins on Monday! Cut paper snowflakes to decorate your class. Make some in the colors of the World Mission Rosary!
20 Luke 1:26-38 The Angelus prayer is taken from today's Gospel. How does the Angelus help me respond to God's will?	21 Jesus, among the animals you came to Earth. A King who humbles himself reminds me just how much I am worth.	22 Saint Stephen~ Was martyred for Jesus while forgiving his killers. Christmas joy is not the absence of suffering, rather the presence of Jesus who is stronger than it.	23 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Europe.	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Happy St. Stephen's Day!
27 Luke 2:22-40 In what ways do I love as the Holy Family does? What does it mean to be part of God's family?	28 Dear Jesus, please hear my simple prayer of petition: that the peace and joy of Christmas reach every child around the world.	29 Saint Thomas Becket~ A man of habit, who woke up early to read Scripture and took afternoon naps. Physical well being influences spiritual well being!	30 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Oceania.	31 New Year's Eve! We number our years from the time Jesus was born. Every year belongs to Him. How will you show that He comes first in 2027?	Show off your students' artistic talents by entering them into the MCA National Artwork Contest! Check out one of last year's winners!	

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

Adventure to Epiphany

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 MARK 13:33-37 Journal: What do I need to do this Advent to prepare my heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas and for His Second Coming?	**30** Set up the nativity scene in your house where everyone can see it. Put your mission bank near it!	**1** #GIVINGTUESDAY Ask the adults in your life to donate to MCA. Remind them why the missions are important to you!	**2** Use your art skills and enter the MCA Christmas Artwork Contest! Ask your teacher to upload your artwork. Winning entries will be printed onto Christmas Cards!	**3** Today is the feast day of Saint Francis Xavier, patron of the missions! He was a missionary to India and Japan! Find a creative way to earn $2 in his honor.	**4** Pray one Hail Mary for children in the missions in Africa. *Find Kenya on a map for tomorrow!	**5** MCA gifted Saint Peter and Paul parish in Kenya $5,000 to feed local children who are starving. Skip takeout this week and put what you would have spent into your mission bank.
6 MARK 1:1-8 Ask your parents about your baptismal day! In what ways do you share Jesus' love to all corners of the Earth?	**7** Journal: Missionary Childhood invites children to follow the footsteps of Jesus, who became a child. How do I make my childhood holy?	**8** Feast of the Immaculate Conception! Go to Mass and pray to God for the grace to always answer "yes" as Mary did.	**9** Pray one Hail Mary for children in the missions in Europe. *Find Germany on a map for tomorrow!	**10** MCA members in Germany raise money for the missions as "Starsingers." They sing Christmas carols door to door and fill their mission banks. Try this with an adult and group of friends!	**11** On Sunday, many priests will bless the "bambinelli" - the baby Jesus from your nativity. Earn $1 for children in the missions who have yet to hear His name.	**12** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Join the Walk with Mary procession and Mass!
13 JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28 John the Baptist gives witness to God. Discuss what it means to be a witness.	**14** Pray 1 Hail Mary for children in the missions in the Americas. *Find Peru on a map for tomorrow!	**15** MCA gifted $4,200 to an emergency room in Peru to help sick children receive the medical care they need. Keep a tally of all the ambulances you hear this week. Earn a $1 for each one.	**16** Research the tradition of the Posadas in Mexico, an event that marks Mary and Joseph's journey to find shelter for Jesus' birth.	**17** O Come Emmanuel "Emmanuel" means "God is with us." Journal: Where/in whom did I see Jesus today?	**18** Think about a candy cane. The white symbolizes Jesus' birth and the red represents the blood He would shed for us. The shape also reminds us that He is our Shepherd.	**19** Winter starts Monday! Have a hot cocoa stand and donate what you earn for children in the missions!
20 LUKE 1:26-38 Ask your family to help you learn to pray the Angelus. Pray it everyday!	**21** Journal: Imagine being in Bethlehem. How would you feel looking into the small eyes of the Savior of the entire world?	**22** Pray one Hail Mary for children in the missions in Oceania. *Find Papua New Guinea on a map for tomorrow!	**23** MCA gifted Saint Michael School in Papua New Guinea $22,000 to build two classrooms so more children go to school. How many classrooms did you enter today? Earn $1 for each one!	**24** Christmas Eve	**25** Merry Christmas!	**26** Today starts the 12 days of Christmas! Count how many gifts are given in the song "12 days of Christmas." Earn 364 cents for YOUR GIFT to the missions!
27 LUKE 2:22-40 What does it mean to be part of God's family? Discuss it with your family.	**28** Pray one Hail Mary for children in the missions in Asia. *Find India on a map for tomorrow!	**29** MCA gifted Holy Cross School in India $5,000 for a water filter for safe drinking water. How many appliances do you have at home that use water? Earn $1 for each one!	**30** Did you know we number our years from the time Jesus was born? Every year belongs to Him. Journal: How will you show that He comes first in 2027?	**31** Stuck on finding a New Year's resolution? Pray a daily Hail Mary this year for the missions.	**1** New Year's Day! Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Go to Mass!	**2** Help clean up the house after Christmas. Find any lost change? Remember: "Found money is mission money!"
3 MT 2:1-12 Bring your gift to the Newborn King! Ask your priest if you can bring your mission bank up during the offertory!	**4** Mary and Joseph presenting baby Jesus to the world is similar to when the priest holds up the Eucharist in church.	**5** Count up your mission bank! How much did you raise this month? Did it surprise you? Remember, children need your help ALL year!	**6** Epiphany! INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD DAY! Watch the Noon Angelus for Pope Leo's Message to MCA!			

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Saint Juan Diego



Heaven's Heroes: growing in faith with a little help from the saints

This month, we are inspired by
Saint Juan Diego

Feast Day
December 9th

Canonized
In 2002 by Pope John Paul II

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

- This lesson plan and worksheets
- A map or globe

It may be helpful to remind students that a saint is a person who lived their lives 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 Juan Diego by introducing the new places, vocabulary, and unfamiliar concepts.

Concepts to Understand

- Who is a missionary? What do they do?
- Marian apparitions

Find On A Map

- Mexico

Resource courtesy of The Pontifical Mission Societies of Boston.

Saint Juan Diego



May I find the message God would like me to hear in the life of Saint Juan Diego.

Juan Diego was born in an area of Mexico that is just north of modern day Mexico City. His native name, “Cuauhtlatoatzin,” means “one who talks like an eagle.” Historians describe him as a poor man—one that did not belong to the ruling or educated class. Juan was known to be a hard worker. He owned a small piece of land, on which he built a house and farmed. He also made mats out of local cactus fibers to support himself and his wife. When he was about 50 years old, he was baptized into the Catholic faith by one of the first Franciscan missionaries to reach Mexico. He was given the Christian name Juan—Spanish for John. Juan was very devoted to his faith, walking 14 miles several times a week to attend Mass.

Being a poor man, Juan walked barefoot, clothed in a cape, or **tilma**, made of fibers from the maguey cactus or agave plant. At the time, only the wealthy had access to cotton for their clothing.

It was during one of these walks that Juan first encountered a beautiful young woman dressed in the clothing of an Aztec princess. She told Juan Diego that she was the Virgin Mary and that she wanted a church to be built on the spot where they stood.

She asked Juan to bring that message to the local bishop. Juan delivered the message but the bishop was skeptical—why would the Blessed Mother appear to someone so poor and lowly? He asked for proof that it was truly Mary.

As Juan was preparing to meet again with the beautiful lady, he got word that his beloved uncle was gravely ill. He felt guilty for disobeying the bishop, but hurried to see his uncle, avoiding the route where he had met Mary. She found him as he traveled, assured him that his uncle was cured, and told him to go to the hillside to gather flowers in his tilma as proof of her true identity.

Juan gathered roses—flowers that never grew in that area—and presented them to the bishop as a gift from Mary. As he opened his tilma and the flowers spilled out, everyone was amazed that the image of Mary herself was imprinted on his cloak. Juan’s tilma hangs to this day in the Mexican Basilica that was built as the Blessed Mother instructed.

Juan lived out his life in a hut that he built next to the church. He died at age 74 and was canonized in 2002. He is the first Indigenous American saint!

Saint Juan Diego - pray for us!

Saint Juan Diego



Pray

Saint Juan Diego, pray for us to be kind, humble, and faithful like you.
Help us remember we are all worthy of God's miracles.
Teach us to love Mary, our heavenly mother, just like you.
Help us become future saints.
Amen.

**Adapted from Little Saint Stories.*

Think

1. Saint Juan Diego was a humble man. Why is it not surprising that Mary appeared to someone so "lowly?"
2. Juan didn't give up when the bishop did not believe him and asked for a sign that he had truly seen Mary. How does it feel to be questioned when you know you are right or telling the truth? What gives you conviction of your faith?
3. What missionary qualities do you see in Saint Juan Diego? What qualities make you a missionary? The next time you pray, ask God to help you grow into them!

Act

Activity for Students:
Saint Juan Diego was chosen to be a messenger. His tilma was his sign. We are daily messengers with our words and actions! What does your "sign" say? Create your own tilma, **using the directions on the next page**! Decorate your tilma with whatever you want the world to know about you and your faith in God.



GO! : If you don't have an MCA Mite Box (mission bank), make your own from a shoebox or plastic jar. Follow the **MCA ADVENTure to Epiphany Calendar!** As you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas and for His Second Coming, help **all** children come to know the peace and hope He brings. Wear your tilma to this year's Walk with Mary procession and Mass on December 12!

All Ages Craft Activity

Make Your Own Tilma

Materials Needed: A brown paper bag, scissors, and a glue stick for each student, colored pencils, markers or crayons, templates of flowers to cut and color , picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe - colored and not colored included for different age groups.
Note: It does not matter if the paper bag has print on it as it can be turned inside out once it is cut!

Instructions



1. Open the paper bag. Cut sides out of the bag starting at the open top and working towards the bottom.





2. Cut a 6-7" hole in the center of what was the bottom of the bag. It must fit over the student's head!

3. Choose one of the versions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. If you choose the outlined version have students color it in before cutting. Your choice may be time, age, or ability-dependent.

4. Cut out the image. Tips for cutting irregular shapes: turn the paper, not the scissors, as you cut; remember, only God is perfect!



5. Glue Our Lady of Guadalupe to the center of one side of your "tilma" using your glue stick.

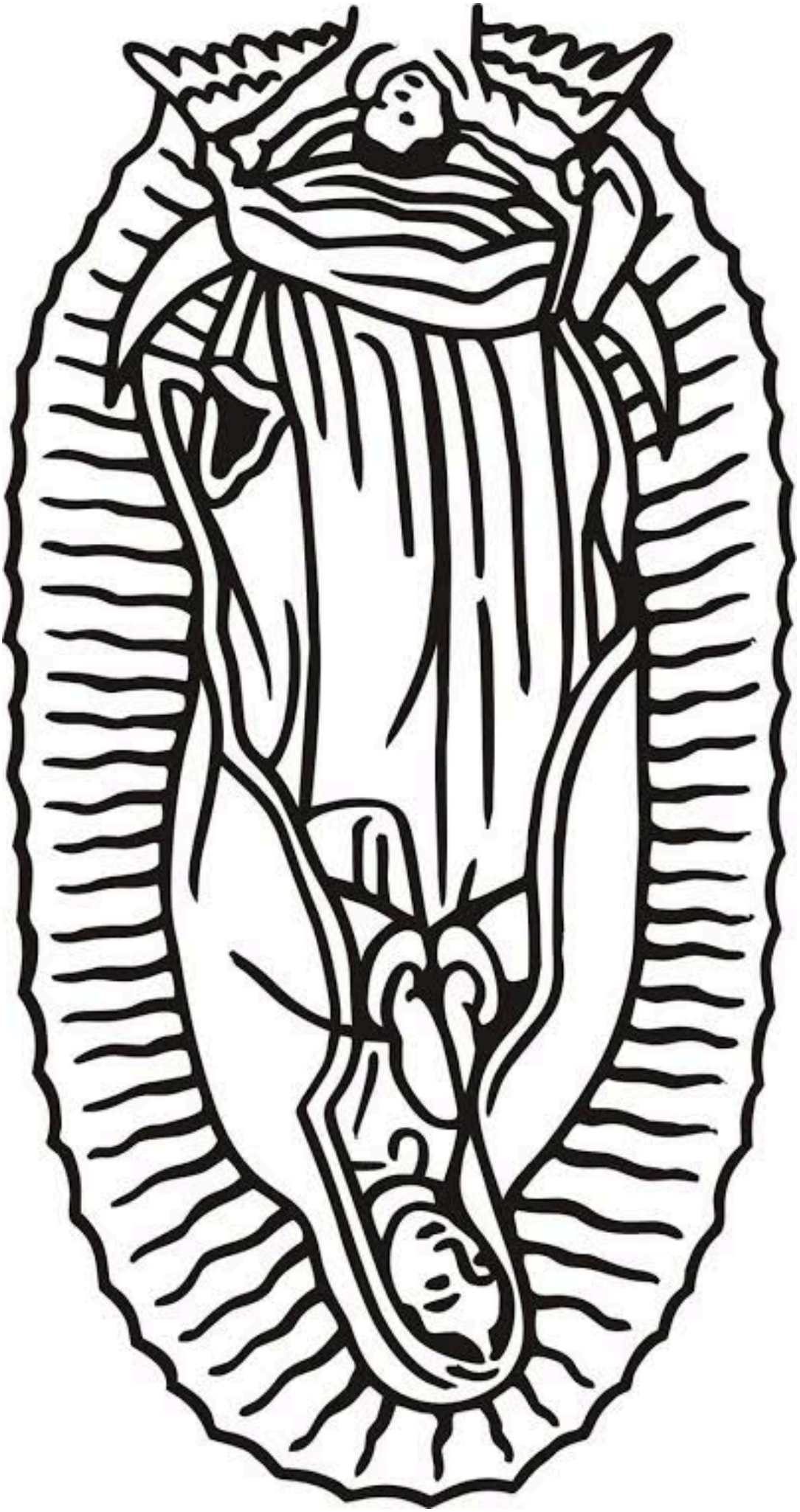
6. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with the flower templates. Then cut "fringe in the bottom of the tilma, if desired.

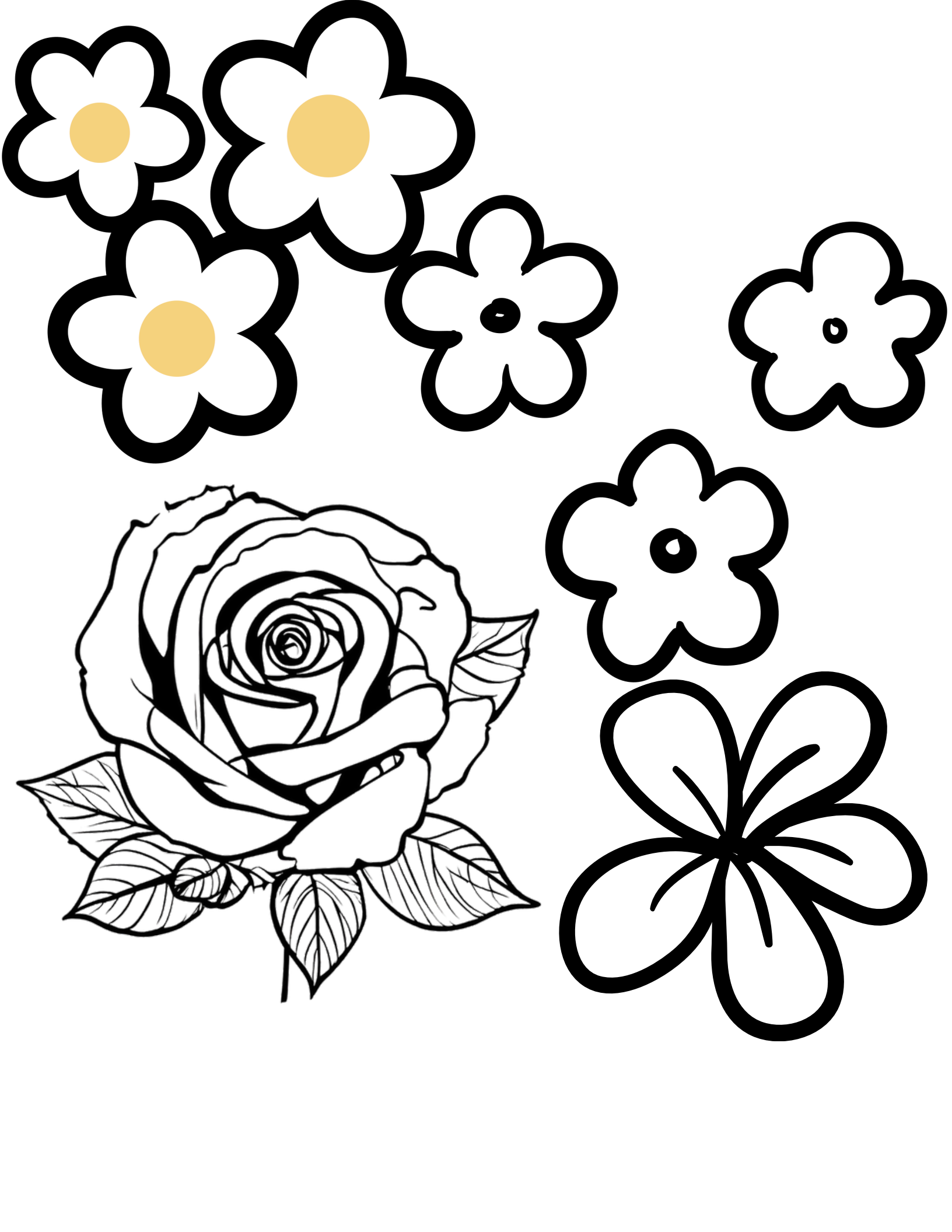


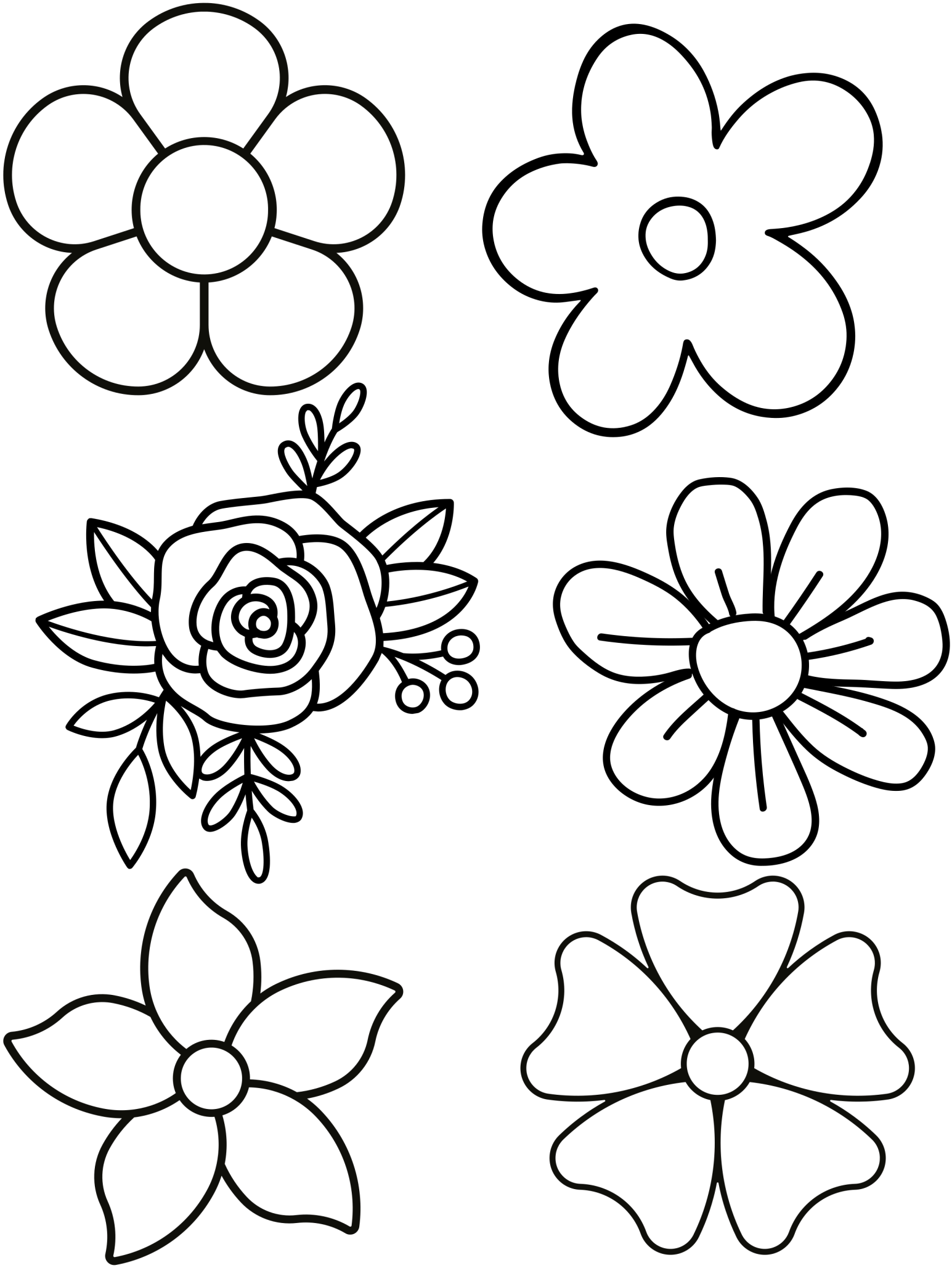
7. Wear your tilma to this year's Walk with Mary procession and Mass on December 12!











Sierra Leone





Welcome to Sierra Leone, located in west Africa! The country borders Guinea to the north and east and Liberia to the south. The country is blanketed in thick jungles, which for much of the country's history protected people from invaders. Traders exchanged timber (wood), ivory, and introduced Islam, which influences Sierra Leone's culture and history today.

In 1961 Sierra Leone gained independence from the United Kingdom. At first, the country held peaceful elections, but in 1967, the prime minister became authoritarian and banned all political parties who opposed him. In 1991, soldiers responded by launching a civil war that killed thousands of people and displaced one third of the population.

Among the most vulnerable were poor and uneducated children. Leaders of the military kidnapped thousands of children and forced them to become child soldiers.

Through intense manipulation and abuse, they forced the child soldiers to harm and kill their victims. Over time, many of these children lost all sense of morality (decision between right and wrong) and became numb to violence.

When the war ended in the early 2000's many charities and religious organizations stepped in to help heal the physical and psychological (mental) trauma that the child soldiers faced. These groups focused on rescuing children from the military, disarming them, reuniting them with their families (if possible) and transitioning them back into society.

Today, nearly 25 years after the war, the Church remains present through the help of Missionary Childhood members. Missionaries are at work healing former child soldiers who are now young adults, and ensuring that the next generation of children does not suffer the consequences of the war.

*CIA World Factbook

Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone

Since 2001, Salesian missionaries have been living and spreading the Gospel message in Sierra Leone through healing former child soldiers and caring for others affected by the civil war. In the aftermath, an estimated 60,000 children were left homeless. Many schools were destroyed or converted into shelters for refugees (people who leave their homes due to violence or unrest). Access to resources and materials to rebuild the schools is limited, which has caused high illiteracy rates among children. Children who are uneducated have a harder time finding a job to help their families earn money. Today, most Sierra Leoneans live on about $2 a day and rely on the work of their children to survive. The Salesian missionaries know that the future of Sierra Leone is the hands of children.

The Salesians run St. Theresa School in Bo, Sierra Leone. They help children



get off the streets and into classrooms. School offers children structure to their day and hope as they grow their talents to use them in faith in their troubled communities.

While the children are nourished in mind and spirit, their bodies are nourished, too!

Many schools across Sierra Leone and in the missions do not have running water. Some schools have water pumps or wells, from which students draw water to clean their hands and safely drink. For many others, no running water leads to poor sanitation, illness, and a higher likelihood of children to drop out. A child's education that is rooted in the knowledge of Jesus' unconditional love is the first step to re-building peace. With the school's access to running water,



students stay in school longer. They learn the skills they need to answer God's call to serve others with peace in their hearts. Thanks to the heartfelt prayers and faith-filled sacrifices of Missionary Childhood members worldwide, the school received $8,000 for a clean water project.



Catholics prepare their hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas and for His Second Coming by loving Him and their neighbors. Share the peace of Christ this Christmas to our neighbors in places of unrest, like Sierra Leone. These children and many others in the missions rely on **you**! Use the Missionary Childhood "Adventure to Epiphany Calendar" to help you this Advent and Christmas season.

Story inspired by https://salesianmissions.org/salesian-country/sierra-leone/
Image from Don Bosco Fambul Facebook Page

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER SERVICES



THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
The Pontifical Mission Societies USA

Adapted from a Missio Ireland resource.

Advent is taken from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming" and it marks the beginning of our Church year. It starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which this year is Sunday November 28th, and ends on Christmas Eve.

For Christians the season is one of anticipation and hope. The most common themes for the four weeks of Advent are:

- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love

Traditionally the primary color of Advent is purple, which reflects the fasting and waiting in the build-up to Christmas. It also represents the connection between the birth and death of Jesus (a Lenten connection). On the third Sunday of Advent the color changes to pink in anticipation of the end of fasting and the beginning of rejoicing the birth of Jesus (it is sometimes celebrated as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "rejoice").

Preparation

If you don't already have one, set up a Prayer Space. You can do this by covering a small table with a purple cloth. Have the children make an Advent Wreath with foliage from evergreen trees and holly. You will also need:

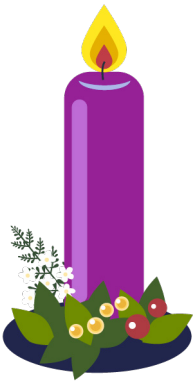
- Three Purple Candles
- One Pink Candle
- One White Candle

If you can't find colored candles, simply use colored ribbons around white candles instead.

At the beginning of each week during Advent, light the appropriate candle in your Advent Wreath, and use the prayers in this resource book to bring the children together in prayer. Invite the children to discuss what each candle/theme means, particularly what it means to them personally.

Blessings to you this Advent Season!

WEEK 1 Light the first purple candle. This candle represents **HOPE.**



Leader: Father in heaven, we need the warmth of Your love in our hearts and the light of Your Word in our minds. Help us to grow in our faith so that we will be prepared and filled with HOPE when Jesus comes.

Reader: Jesus said, "Let your goodness shine out like a light in the darkness, so that through you, the love of our heavenly Father will touch the lives of others." (Matt 5:16-17)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:
Dear God,
In our own little way, help us to bring hope to children who are afraid, sad, or alone. We ask You to bring hope for tomorrow. Through us, shine your light of ***hope*** *upon them. Amen.*

WEEK 2 Light the first and second purple candles. The second purple candle represents **PEACE.**



Leader: Father in heaven, very soon the birth of Your Son, Jesus, will light up the world. May His quiet coming bring us true inner peace.

Reader: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and He will be called the Prince of Peace. His kingdom will continue to grow; His kingdom will always be at peace. (Is 9:6-7)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:
Dear God,
Help us to bring peace to those around us. Look after children who live in conflict at home, at school, and in their country. Help us to throw Your blanket of peace around their shoulders and comfort them with our friendship. Amen.

WEEK 3 Light the first two purple candles and the pink candle. The pink candle represents **JOY.**

Leader: Father in heaven, we know that you love all Your people. Your love brings the gift of joy to our hearts.

Reader: May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again, rejoice! Show a gentle attitude towards everyone. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need with a thankful heart. (Phil 4:1-6)



Leader: Let us close our eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:
Dear God,
We think of all the unhappy children in the world today. We ask You to bring a little joy to their hearts this Christmas. Thank You for the joy we feel as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Amen.

WEEK 4 Light the three purple candles and the pink candle. The third purple candle represents **LOVE.**

Leader: Father in heaven, bless our families and bring us a spirit of understanding and love. May our homes be places of peace and laughter and may Your love shine from each of us.

Reader: Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or proud. Love is not rude, selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs. Love is not happy with lies but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up. Love is forever. (1 Cor 13:1-8)



Leader: Let us close our eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:

Dear God,
In everything we do and say, help us to show love to others. Today we ask Your blessing on our circle of love and prayer. Keep us forever safe in the warmth of your love.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL STORY

Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem to register for the census ordered by Augustus. The time came for Mary to have her baby and he was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. On a hillside near the town, some shepherds were watching over their sheep.



Suddenly, an angel appeared and the sky was filled with God's glory. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, for I have great news for you. Today a baby has been born in Bethlehem, he is Christ the Lord. You will find him lying in a manger."

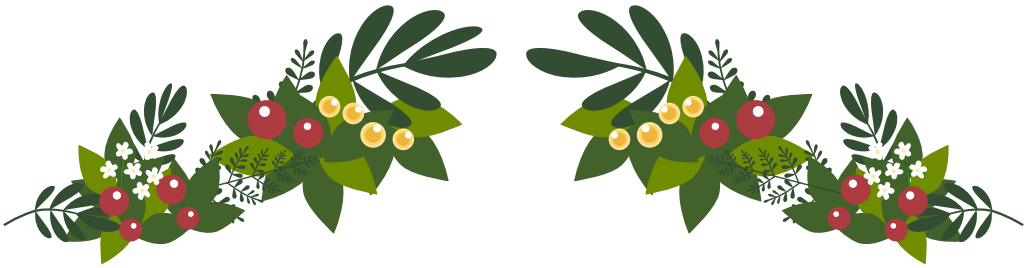
The sky was filled with the sound of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!" The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and soon found the stable. There in the manger lay a tiny baby. They told Mary and Joseph what they had seen and heard that night, and they shared their amazement. Mary listened carefully and cherished all these things in her heart. The shepherds went back to their sheep on the hillside, singing God's praises for everything had been as the angel had said. (Luke 2:1-20)

CHRISTMAS DAY



Light all the colored candles and the white candle, ask the children to light a candle at home. The white candle represents Jesus.

Prayer: *Baby Jesus, bless us today, Your special day. We light this white candle to welcome You as our Savior. As we carry You to our family creche, we think about what You have taught. You taught us to share with others, to help one another, to be friends and, most importantly, You taught us to pray. When we look at the light of the candle we remember these important lessons. Amen.*





On Christmas Eve my mother read
The story once again
Of how the little child was born
And of the Three Wise Men.

And how by following the Star
They found Him where He lay,
And brought Him gifts; and
that is why
We keep our Christmas Day.

And when she read it all, I went
And looked across the snow
And thought of Jesus coming As
He did long ago.

I looked into the East, and saw
A great star blazing bright;
There were three men upon the road
All black against the light.

I thought I heard the angels sing
Away upon the hill…
I held my breath…it seemed as if
The whole great world stood still.

It seemed to me the little Child Was
being born again…
And very near…and THEN
somehow
Was NOW…or NOW was THEN.

The Missionary Childhood Association is part of the Pontifical Mission Societies. It is the Church's official charity for overseas mission.

Resource shared with thanks to Missio Ireland.

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Advent Lesson Plan 2026

Children Helping Children

Introduction

This Advent, your students will prepare for Christmas by praying and making small sacrifices for children in the missions around the world. Each week, they'll meet a child from the Home of Charity in Thailand, a home for children with disabilities from poor and remote communities. Through the Missionary Childhood Association, children everywhere support missions like this one and children like these: one Hail Mary a day, one dollar a week.

Each lesson takes about 20–30 minutes: Light the Candle, Pray, Meet a child from the Home of Charity, and take the Mission Challenge. Week 1 (Hope) begins Sunday, November 29; Week 2 (Peace), December 6; Week 3 (Joy), December 13; and Week 4 (Love), December 20.

Build a World Mission Rosary

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen created the World Mission Rosary in 1951, and this year marks its 75th anniversary. Each color stands for a continent. Each week, pray one decade together and add that decade to a classroom paper rosary: Week 1, yellow for Asia; Week 2, green for Africa; Week 3, red for the Americas; Week 4, white for Europe. Add the last decade, blue for Oceania, at Christmas!

Action: Pray one decade each week for the children of the world!



Before You Begin

- **Order one Mite Box per student** early, so boxes arrive before Advent.
- Print a Mission Challenge card for each student (next page).
- Print Christmas Artwork Contest entry forms in English or Spanish. Entries are due January 31, 2027.
- Follow your (arch)diocesan mission office's instructions for collecting Mite Box gifts.

Action: Order your Mite Boxes today!

Materials Checklist

- Every week: Advent wreath and 4 candles
- Mite Box and Mission Challenge card for each student · paper in yellow, green, red, white and blue for the World Mission Rosary
- Week 1 (Hope): a globe or world map · a yellow sticker or marker to mark Thailand · a World Mission Rosary to show the colors (optional)
- Week 2 (Peace): open space for a circle · paper and pencils for a peace pledge (older students)
- Week 3 (Joy): clay or play dough · white 8.5" x 11" paper (not lined or construction paper) · crayons, markers, pastels, colored pencils or watercolors for contest artwork
- Week 4 (Love): construction paper strips · markers · tape or a stapler

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

My Mission Challenge

My name: _____

How It Works

Each week, do your Mission Challenge and add your gift to your Mite Box. Then check the boxes! Your gifts join those of children around the world to support missions like the Home of Charity and children like these.

Week 1 · HOPE

Meet Mint

Challenge: Keep trying at something hard every day.

▫ I did my challenge

▫ I added my gift to my Mite Box

Week 2 · PEACE

Meet Chia

Challenge: Include someone new, or let someone else go first.

▫ I did my challenge

▫ I added my gift to my Mite Box

Week 3 · JOY

Meet Achai

Challenge: Make a card or drawing to cheer someone up.

▫ I did my challenge

▫ I added my gift to my Mite Box

Week 4 · LOVE

Meet Woranit and her friends

Challenge: Help a younger student, sibling or friend.

▫ I did my challenge

▫ I brought my Mite Box to school or church

My World Mission Rosary

Check off each decade as your class prays it:

▫ Green, Africa ▫ Blue, Oceania ▫ White, Europe ▫ Red, the Americas ▫ Yellow, Asia

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

First Week of Advent



Week 1: Light the first purple candle.

The first PURPLE candle represents HOPE.

This week, we meet Mint at the Home of Charity in Thailand.

Pray

Loving Father, fill our hearts with hope as we wait for Jesus. Bless the children of the Home of Charity and all children in the missions. Help us bring Your hope to others. Amen.



Meet Mint

When Mint came to the Home of Charity in 2016, she was four years old. Her legs were too weak to hold her up, and she could not stand or walk. She came from a poor rural family and had never had the therapy or schooling she needed.

At the Home of Charity, she was welcomed with love and patience. Every day she practiced in physical therapy and pool therapy, slowly and with great courage. Today, Mint walks with support, takes part in school activities with her classmates, and is continuing her education at Sri Sangwan School in Chiang Mai.

Talk About It

- What do you think Mint hoped for?
- What helped her keep going when things were hard?
- Who brings hope to you?

Find It on the Map

Find Thailand on a map. It's in Asia, which is represented by yellow on the World Mission Rosary. This year marks the rosary's 75th anniversary: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen created it in 1951. Pray one Hail Mary together for the children of Asia.



This Week's Mission Challenge

Hope grows one step at a time, just as it did for Mint. Choose something that's hard for you and keep trying every day this week. Add $1.00 to your Mite Box. Your gift joins the gifts of children around the world to support missions like the Home of Charity and children like Mint.

Second Week of Advent



Week 2: Light the second purple candle.

The second PURPLE candle represents PEACE.

This week, we meet Chia at the Home of Charity in Thailand.

Pray

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, calm our hearts and help us live in peace with one another. Make us peacemakers in our homes, our classrooms and our world. Amen.

Meet Chia

Chia has developmental delays, and getting along with other children used to be hard for her. With patient guidance, lessons adapted just for her, and an encouraging community, she has grown confident and eager to join in.

Now her cheerful spirit helps bring the children together. Peace often begins with one person who helps everyone feel welcome.



This Week's Mission Challenge

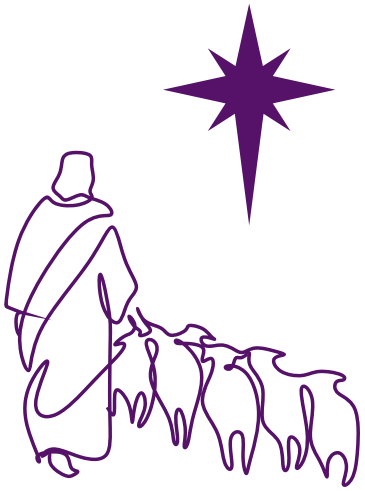
Be a peacemaker like Chia: include someone new at lunch or recess, or let someone else go first. Then make a small sacrifice for missions like the Home of Charity and children like Chia around the world. Add 25 cents to your Mite Box.

Talk About It

- How does Chia help bring peace?
- How can you help someone feel included?
- Where do you need more peace this week?

Do It: Peace Circle

Sit in a circle. Have each student say one kind thing about the person next to them. Older students can write a peace pledge for the classroom.



MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Third Week of Advent



Week 3: Light the third pink candle.

The third PINK candle represents JOY.

This week, we meet Achai,
the artist of the Home of Charity in Thailand.



Pray

Lord Jesus, source of true joy, fill our hearts with gladness as Christmas draws near. May every child in the missions know the joy of Your love. Amen.

Meet Achai

Achai was born with a severe physical disability that makes everyday tasks very hard, like holding objects, writing and feeding himself.

But he has always had a radiant smile and a joyful heart. Through therapy and adapted classes, he has grown remarkably. His biggest breakthrough came through art: with clay and simple tools, he learned to shape small, colorful figures. Today he's known as "the artist of the Home of Charity," and he proudly shows his creations to visitors and friends.

Talk About It

- What brings Achai joy?
- How can art be a way to praise God?
- What gift has God given you that you can share?

Do It: Create Like Achai

Use clay or play dough to shape something joyful from the Christmas story, like a star, a sheep or an angel. **Then start your entry for the MCA Christmas Artwork Contest, due January 31, 2027!**



This Week's Mission Challenge

Share joy like Achai: make a card or drawing for someone who needs cheering up. Then make a small sacrifice for missions like the Home of Charity and children like Achai around the world. Add 25 cents to your Mite Box.

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fourth Week of Advent



Week 4: Light the fourth purple candle.

The fourth PURPLE candle represents LOVE.

This week, we meet Woranit and her friends at the Home of Charity in Thailand.



Talk About It

- How does Woranit show love?
- Who has been a big brother or sister to you?
- Why is Jesus' birth the greatest gift of love?

Do It: Mission Family Chain

Each student writes one way they'll show love on a paper strip. Link the strips into a chain for the classroom Nativity or tree.

Pray

Lord Jesus, You are Love made flesh. Teach us to love as You do, with patience, kindness and generosity. Bless the children of the Home of Charity and everyone who cares for them. Amen.



Meet Woranit and Her Friends

Woranit is the oldest in her group. She used to be shy, but now she's a caring "big sister" to the younger children. She helps them during activities, supports them during therapy, and sets a good example in her studies. Her friends are growing too. Anna once needed help with almost every movement, and now she can stand and move short distances with supportive equipment. Phakin loves walking outdoors with his friends and encourages everyone, even on difficult days.

This Week's Mission Challenge

Be a big brother or sister like Woranit: help a younger student, sibling or friend this week. Together, our gifts support missions like the Home of Charity and children like these around the world. Bring your Mite Box to school or church. Children Helping Children!

ASOCIACIÓN DE LA INFANCIA MISIONERA

Plan de lecciones de Adviento 2026

Niños ayudando a niños

Introducción

Este Adviento, tus alumnos se prepararán para la Navidad orando y haciendo pequeños sacrificios por los niños de las misiones alrededor del mundo. Cada semana, conocerán a un niño del Hogar de la Caridad en Tailandia, un hogar para niños con discapacidades de comunidades pobres y remotas. A través de la Asociación de la Infancia Misionera, niños de todo el mundo apoyan misiones como esta y a niños como estos: un Ave María al día, un dólar a la semana.

Cada lección dura entre 20 y 30 minutos: Encender la vela, Orar, Conocer a un niño del Hogar de la Caridad y Participar en el Reto de la Misión. La Semana 1 (Esperanza) comienza el domingo 29 de noviembre; la Semana 2 (Paz), el 6 de diciembre; la Semana 3 (Alegría), el 13 de diciembre; y la Semana 4 (Amor), el 20 de diciembre.

Rosario de la Misión Construye un Mundo

El arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen creó el Rosario Misionero Mundial en 1951, y este año se celebra su 75.º aniversario. Cada color representa un continente. Cada semana, recen juntos una decena y añádanla a un rosario de papel para el aula: Semana 1, amarillo para Asia; Semana 2, verde para África; Semana 3, rojo para América; Semana 4, blanco para Europa. ¡Añadan la última decena, azul para Oceanía, en Navidad!

¡Acción: Ora una década a la semana por los niños del mundo!



Antes de comenzar

- **Pida una caja Mite Box por alumno con antelación, para que las cajas lleguen antes del Adviento.**
- **Imprime una tarjeta de Desafío de la Misión para cada estudiante (página siguiente).**
- **Imprima los formularios de inscripción para el concurso de arte navideño en inglés o español. La fecha límite para la presentación de trabajos es el 31 de enero de 2027.**
- **Siga las instrucciones de la oficina de misiones de su arquidiócesis para recolectar las ofrendas de la caja de ofrendas.**

¡Acción! ¡Pide tus cajas para ácaros hoy mismo!

Lista de verificación de materiales

- **Cada semana: Corona de Adviento y 4 velas.**
- **Tarjeta de la Caja de Mitos y del Desafío de la Misión para cada estudiante • Papel de color amarillo, verde, rojo, blanco y azul para el Rosario de la Misión Mundial**
- **Semana 1 (Esperanza): un globo terráqueo o mapa del mundo • una pegatina o marcador amarillo para marcar Tailandia • un rosario de la Misión Mundial para mostrar los colores (opcional)**
- **Semana 2 (Paz): espacio abierto para formar un círculo • papel y lápices para un compromiso de paz (estudiantes mayores)**
- **Semana 3 (Alegría): arcilla o plastilina • papel blanco de 21,5 x 28 cm (no rayado ni cartulina) • crayones, marcadores, pasteles, lápices de colores o acuarelas para las obras de arte del concurso**
- **Semana 4 (Amor): tiras de cartulina • marcadores • cinta adhesiva o grapadora**

ASOCIACIÓN MISIONERA DE NIÑOS

Mi desafío de misión

Mi nombre: _____

Cómo funciona
Cada semana, participa en tu Reto Misionero y añade tu donación a tu Caja de Donaciones. ¡Luego, marca las casillas! Tus donaciones se unen a las de niños de todo el mundo para apoyar misiones como la Casa de la Caridad y a niños como estos.

Semana 1 · ESPERANZA

Conoce el reto Mint: Sigue intentándolo cada día, haciendo algo difícil.
▫ Completé mi reto ▫ Agregué mi regalo a mi Caja de Atajos

Semana 2 · PAZ

Conoce el reto Chia: Incluye a alguien nuevo o deja que otra persona empiece.
▫ Completé mi reto ▫ Agregué mi regalo a mi Caja de Atajos

Semana 3 · ALEGRÍA

Conoce el reto Achai: Crea una tarjeta o un dibujo para animar a alguien.
▫ Completé mi reto ▫ Agregué mi regalo a mi Caja de Atajos

Semana 4 · AMOR

Conoce a Woranit y sus amigos. Desafío: Ayuda a un estudiante más joven, a un hermano o a un amigo.
▫ Cumplí mi reto ▫ Llevé mi caja de ahorros a la escuela o a la iglesia

Mi Rosario Misionero Mundial

Marca cada década a medida que tu clase la recite:
▫ Verde, África ▫ Azul, Oceanía ▫ Blanco, Europa ▫ Rojo, América ▫ Amarillo, Asia

Primera semana de Adviento



Semana 1: Enciende la primera vela morada.

La primera vela MORADA representa la ESPERANZA.

Esta semana, nos reunimos con Mint en la Casa de la Caridad en Tailandia.

Orar

Padre amoroso, llena nuestros corazones de esperanza mientras esperamos a Jesús. Bendice a los niños del Hogar de la Caridad y a todos los niños de las misiones. Ayúdanos a llevar tu esperanza a los demás. Amén.



Conocer a alguien como

Cuando Mint llegó al Hogar de la Caridad en 2016, tenía cuatro años. Sus piernas estaban demasiado débiles para sostenerla y no podía ponerse de pie ni caminar. Provenía de una familia rural pobre y nunca había recibido la terapia ni la educación que necesitaba.

En el Hogar de la Caridad, fue recibida con cariño y paciencia. Diariamente practicaba fisioterapia y terapia acuática, poco a poco y con gran valentía. Hoy, Mint camina con ayuda, participa en las actividades escolares con sus compañeros y continúa su educación en la Escuela Sri Sangwan en Chiang Mai.

Hablemos de ello

- ¿Qué crees que esperaba Mint?
- ¿Qué la ayudó a seguir adelante cuando las cosas se pusieron difíciles?
- ¿Quién te trae esperanza?

Encuéntralo en el mapa

Localiza Tailandia en un mapa. Se encuentra en Asia, región representada en amarillo en el Rosario de las Misiones Mundiales. Este año se conmemora el 75.° aniversario del rosario: el arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen lo creó en 1951. Recen juntos un Ave María por los niños de Asia.



Desafío de la misión de esta semana

La esperanza crece paso a paso, tal como le sucedió a Mint. Elige algo que te resulte difícil y sigue intentándolo cada día de esta semana. Añade $1.00 a tu Caja de Ayuda. Tu donación se suma a las donaciones de niños de todo el mundo para apoyar misiones como la del Hogar de la Caridad y a niños como Mint.

Segunda semana de Adviento



Semana 2: Enciende la segunda vela morada.

La segunda vela MORADA representa la PAZ.

Esta semana, nos reunimos con Chia en la Casa de la Caridad en Tailandia.

Orar

Señor Jesús, Príncipe de la Paz, calma nuestros corazones y ayúdanos a vivir en paz unos con otros. Haz de nosotros constructores de paz en nuestros hogares, en nuestras aulas y en el mundo. Amén.

Conoce a Chia

Chia tiene retrasos en el desarrollo y antes le costaba relacionarse con otros niños. Gracias a una guía paciente, clases adaptadas a sus necesidades y una comunidad que la apoya, ha ganado confianza y ganas de participar.

Ahora, su espíritu alegre ayuda a unir a los niños. La paz a menudo comienza con una persona que hace que todos se sientan bienvenidos.



Desafío de la misión de esta semana

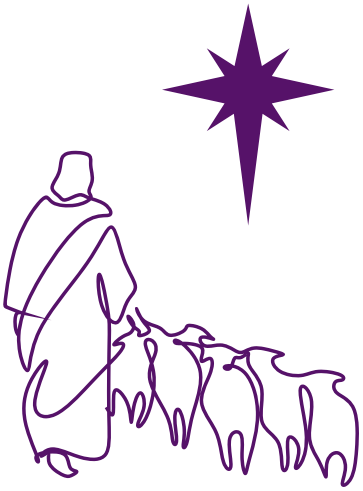
Sé un promotor de la paz como Chia: incluye a alguien nuevo en el almuerzo o el recreo, o deja que alguien más vaya primero. Luego, haz un pequeño sacrificio para misiones como el Hogar de la Caridad y niños como Chia en todo el mundo. Añade 25 centavos a tu alcancía.

Hablemos de ello

- ¿Cómo ayuda Chia a traer la paz?
- ¿Cómo puedes ayudar a alguien a sentirse incluido?
- ¿Dónde necesitas más paz esta semana?

Hazlo: Círculo de la Paz

Siéntense en círculo. Cada estudiante dirá algo amable sobre la persona que tiene al lado. Los estudiantes mayores pueden escribir un compromiso de paz para la clase.



ASOCIACIÓN MISIONERA DE NIÑOS

Tercera semana de Adviento



Semana 3: Enciende la tercera vela rosa.

La tercera vela ROSA representa la ALEGRÍA.

Esta semana conocemos a Achai, el artista de la Casa de la Caridad en Tailandia.



Orar

Señor Jesús, fuente de verdadera alegría, llena nuestros corazones de gozo al acercarse la Navidad. Que cada niño en las misiones conozca la alegría de tu amor. Amén.

Conoce a Achai

Achai nació con una grave discapacidad física que le dificulta enormemente las tareas cotidianas, como sujetar objetos, escribir y alimentarse por sí mismo.

Hablemos de ello

- ¿Qué le produce alegría a Achai?
- ¿Cómo puede el arte ser una forma de alabar a Dios?
- ¿Qué don te ha dado Dios que puedas compartir?

Hazlo: Crea como Achai

Usa arcilla o plastilina para dar forma a algo alegre de la historia de la Navidad, como una estrella, una oveja o un ángel. ¡Luego, comienza a participar en el Concurso de Arte Navideño del MCA, cuya fecha límite es el 31 de enero de 2027!

Pero siempre ha tenido una sonrisa radiante y un corazón alegre. Gracias a la terapia y a clases adaptadas, ha progresado notablemente. Su mayor avance se produjo a través del arte: con arcilla y herramientas sencillas, aprendió a dar forma a pequeñas figuras coloridas. Hoy se le conoce como "el artista del Hogar de la Caridad" y muestra con orgullo sus creaciones a visitantes y amigos.



Desafío de la misión de esta semana

Comparte la alegría como Achai: haz una tarjeta o un dibujo para alguien que necesite ánimos. Luego, haz una pequeña donación para misiones como el Hogar de la Caridad y niños como Achai en todo el mundo. Añade 25 centavos a tu alcancía.

Cuarta semana de Adviento



Semana 4: Enciende la cuarta vela morada.

La cuarta vela MORADA representa el AMOR.

Esta semana, conocemos a Woranit y a sus amigas en la Casa de la Caridad en Tailandia.



Hablemos de ello

- ¿Cómo demuestra Woranit su amor?
- ¿Quién ha sido como un hermano o una hermana mayor para ti?
- ¿Por qué el nacimiento de Jesús es el mayor regalo de amor?

Hazlo: Cadena familiar de misiones

Cada estudiante escribe en una tira de papel una forma en que demostrará su amor. Unan las tiras para formar una cadena que represente el Nacimiento o el árbol de Navidad del aula.

Orar

Señor Jesús, Tú eres el Amor hecho carne. Enséñanos a amar como Tú lo haces, con paciencia, bondad y generosidad. Bendice a los niños del Hogar de la Caridad y a todos los que los cuidan. Amén.

Conoce a Woranit y sus amigos.

Woranit es la mayor del grupo. Antes era tímida, pero ahora es una cariñosa "hermana mayor" para los más pequeños. Los ayuda en las actividades, los apoya en la terapia y da buen ejemplo en sus estudios. Sus amigos también están creciendo. Anna, que antes necesitaba ayuda para casi cualquier movimiento, ahora puede ponerse de pie y caminar distancias cortas con la ayuda de algún aparato. A Phakin le encanta pasear al aire libre con sus amigos y anima a todos, incluso en los días difíciles.



Desafío de la misión de esta semana

Sé un hermano o hermana mayor como Woranit: ayuda a un estudiante, hermano o amigo menor esta semana. Juntos, nuestras donaciones apoyan misiones como la Casa de la Caridad y a niños como estos en todo el mundo. Lleva tu alcancía a la escuela o a la iglesia. ¡Niños ayudando a niños!