

# Mission Education Guidelines

for Religious Educators and Catechists



**Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States**  
Very Reverend Andrew Small, OMI, STD  
National Director  
National Office | 70 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor | New York, NY 10018  
[www.OneFamilyInMission.org](http://www.OneFamilyInMission.org)

## Why Mission?

At Baptism, God places into the hearts of all a special missionary calling, asking a generous response. Children have received this calling, as has each religious educator / catechist. In a special way, religious educators / catechists have been called not only to be disciples of Christ, but also to *make* disciples for Him.

The task of ministering to children is vital indeed. Through their love, their witness, their prayers and sacrifices, young Catholics open new pathways to evangelization among those who have yet to encounter the love and hope of Jesus Christ and His “Good News.” Young people are generous and enthusiastic, eager to use their talents to bring the Good News “*to the ends of the earth.*”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: “Those who with God’s help have welcomed Christ’s call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world.”<sup>1</sup> It directs further: “All Christ’s faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in Liturgy and prayer.”<sup>2</sup>

The *National Catechetical Directory* offers us an integrated vision of the baptismal profession of faith and its catechesis as explored in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. “This ministry is Trinitarian and Christocentric in scope and spirit, consciously emphasizing the mystery of God and the plan of salvation... the most important task of such catechesis is to provide, through the witness of committed adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith.”<sup>3</sup>

These *Guidelines* have been prepared<sup>4</sup> to assist catechists and religious educators in their preparation of classes related to **World Mission**, with topics of specific interest under these three domains: Sacraments and Liturgy, Prayer, and Christian Living. Basic concepts are listed under each to supplement lesson preparation. Activities are included to help make the learning concrete and to stimulate the personal creativity of individual catechists and educators. Throughout, there are references to support the goals and objectives of particular lesson plans.

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<sup>1</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 3

<sup>2</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 3

<sup>3</sup> *National Catechetical Directory* 47; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 426

<sup>4</sup> Guidelines were prepared by a Task Force on Mission Education, under the direction of the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies; that Task Force consulted with diocesan directors of Religious Education / Catechesis.

## Domain One – Sacraments / Liturgy

### Sacraments

All seven Sacraments are privileged encounters with Jesus, which make the presence of God-grace-perceptible to us through our senses. Christ has entrusted the sacraments to His Church. They are the sacraments “of the Church” in a twofold sense: they are “from her” insofar as they are actions of the Church which is the sacrament of Christ’s action; and they are “for her” in as much as they build up the Church. (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church 226)

- Sacraments touch all stages of Christian life.<sup>5</sup>
- The Sacraments of Christian initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – are the foundation of every Christian life of holiness.<sup>6</sup>
- The Sacraments of healing – Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick – remind us of our humanness and God’s great love and mercy.
- Matrimony and Holy Orders – Sacraments at the service of communion and the mission of the faithful – call us to reach out to our sisters and brothers.<sup>7</sup>
- We proclaim faith in Jesus by “following His footsteps,” taking on his attitudes and continuing His mission.
- The Church honors Mary, Mother of God “with a special love. She is inseparably linked with the saving work of her Son.”<sup>8</sup>

### Activities / Actions

- Research how the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated in different parts of the world. How are the Sacraments of Initiation celebrated in your home parish? Draw a picture to share your discoveries.
- Write an acrostic poem using the words Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation; emphasize a mission theme.
- Plan a lesson around the theme of water (and water issues throughout the world); make the connection with the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Compare and contrast the mission of the prophet Isaiah and that of Jesus. What changes are called for?
- Invite adults going through the RCIA program in your parish to speak to students about the Sacraments and the role models they have in their lives.
- Ask students to write letters to missionaries from the area who are serving the global Church. (Contact your (arch)diocesan office for the Pontifical Mission Societies for this information.) Let the missionaries know that the children are praying for their work, and all the Missions. Ask missionaries about the customs and rituals related to the Sacraments in the countries in which they work.

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<sup>5</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1210

<sup>6</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1076

<sup>7</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1211

<sup>8</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1172

### Mission

Recognizing that youth are a vital part of the life of the church today, they must be engaged and challenged to live out their baptismal call to the principle mission of the church as expressed by Pope Paul VI. “The Church exists in order to evangelize” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14).

- Mission means witness and a way of life that shines out to others.<sup>9</sup>
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”<sup>10</sup>
- In this age, Christ lives and acts in the Church that continues His mission by adhering to His example and witness.<sup>11</sup>
- In Mary “we contemplate what the Church already is in her mystery on her own ‘pilgrimage of faith,’ and what she will be in the homeland at the end of her journey. There, ‘in the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity,’ ‘in the communion of all the saints,’ the Church is awaited by the one she venerates as Mother of her Lord and as her own mother.”<sup>12</sup>
- The mission of the Church, like that of Jesus, is God’s work...the work of the Spirit.<sup>13</sup>
- One purpose of mission is to bring people together in hearing the Gospel, in fraternal communion, in prayer and in the Eucharist.<sup>14</sup>
- Mission is a “community commitment, a responsibility of the local Church, which needs ‘missionaries’ in order to push forward towards new frontiers.”<sup>15</sup>

### Activities / Actions

- Ask students to design a poster about what they think it means to continue the mission of Jesus.
- Select a song about mission – the mission of Jesus or of the Church today – and illustrate it.
- Make a collage representing the Body of Christ around the globe. Use pictures from mission magazines or other multi-cultural resources.
- Ask students to read about missionaries today – in a print publication or online. Ask them to answer the following through a brief essay, rap, poem or short video: What do you admire about these disciples? What do you find challenging about their life and ministry? Have you ever considered a missionary vocation?
- Children learning their alphabet can be introduced to some of the cultures and customs of their sisters and brothers of the universal Church, as in A is for Africa, B is for Brazil, etc.
- Host a “Mission Week” in the Catholic school. Each day focus on the awareness of a different continent. Tie in the use of the World Mission Rosary<sup>16</sup> (initiated by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen). Ask various classes to research food, music, religion and customs of a continent, and prepare a display.
- Have students work out an acrostic using the word MISSION. Each letter might stand for a particular prayer intention of a missionary (M: for motorcycles so missionaries can travel to bring the Good News of Jesus to others) or for a country that child might like to visit and why

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<sup>9</sup> *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 41, 42

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1276

<sup>11</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 520, 618

<sup>12</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 972

<sup>13</sup> *Redemptoris Missio* 24

<sup>14</sup> *Redemptoris Missio* 26

<sup>15</sup> *Redemptoris Missio* 27

<sup>16</sup> [www.WorldMissionRosary.org](http://www.WorldMissionRosary.org)

(S: I would like to visit Senegal to serve the poor and help them come to know Jesus). At the end of class, allow students to present their acrostics; then post them as mission reminders.

- Bring inexpensive adhesive strips and copies of the local newspaper or mission magazines to class. Help students sort through stories and name a place where the healing presence of Jesus is needed. Then during a time of prayer, take a flat map or globe and place an adhesive over the country that is hurting. Or, write words like God, food, peace, love, bread or other Gospel values on the adhesives. Invite the children to place the strips on the map where people are hurting and in need of those gifts/qualities.
- Ask Catholic school or religious education students to print out the Great Commission from St. Matthew's Gospel (28:19-20). Use a dictionary to find the definition of the word, "commission." Discuss who Jesus was "commissioning" and how each person is commissioned today to help people know Jesus. Have the students make a construction-paper frame, and bring the passage home to put on their bedroom mirrors or family refrigerator.

### **Witness and Proclamation**

*But the Christian in whom Christ is risen dares to think and act differently from the crowd. He has ideas of his own, not because he is arrogant, but because he has humility to stand alone and pay attention to the purpose and the grace of God.*  
(Thomas Merton, "He is Risen")

- The missionary mandate of Jesus to evangelize has various aspects, closely connected with each other: "proclaim" (Mark 16:15), "make disciples and teach" (Matthew 28:19-20), "be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8), "baptize" (Matthew. 28:19), "do this in memory of me" (Luke. 22:19), "love one another" (John 15:12).<sup>17</sup>
- We teach and are taught about the mission through the words and actions of others.
- The Church talks about words and actions as proclamation and witness.
- All who believe in Christ should feel an apostolic concern to pass on to others its light and joy.<sup>18</sup>
- Conversion is a personal decision to accept Christ and become His disciples.<sup>19</sup>
- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has proved especially useful for catechetical renewal.<sup>20</sup> (*General Directory of Catechesis* no. 3)
- Celebration of Mary, the Star of Evangelization, particularly in the months of October or May can reaffirm her role as both mother, disciple and witness.

### **Activities / Actions**

- Read Luke 4:16-22. Using a dictionary record the meanings of: anointed, proclaim, captives and oppressed. Discuss why Jesus might have chosen to read that passage.
- Using your computer skills compare and contrast the mission of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61) with that of Jesus (Luke 4:16-22). (alike/different) What action is called for in both?
- Brainstorm with your class ways you all, regardless of your age or grade in school, can *witness* to and *proclaim* the Good News of Jesus. Make a commitment to perform at least one of those actions regularly (every day or every week). Consider keeping a class chart to record your efforts.
- There is the phrase, "*Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words.*" What does this phrase mean to you? Put on mime skits that demonstrate Gospel values.

<sup>17</sup>*General Directory for Catechesis* 46

<sup>18</sup>*Redemptoris Missio* 40

<sup>19</sup>*Redemptoris Missio* 46

<sup>20</sup>*General Directory for Catechesis* 3

- A common American saying is: “*Practice what you preach.*” Compose, alone or with others, a rap or cheer, encouraging people to be models of what they ask of others.
- Never underestimate the role of a religion teacher. “Catechists are specialists, direct witnesses and irreplaceable evangelizers who...represent the basic strength of Christian communities, especially in the young churches.”<sup>21</sup> As a catechist, make time in class to share with students a part of your own faith journey. Invite them to prepare questions for your response.
- Invite students to create a personal mission statement incorporating their five senses and their belongings, for example — I use my mouth to pray to God (to say nice things to my classmates); I use my eyes to see the good in others (to read and learn more about children in mission countries); I use my hands to offer help to HCA (to carry groceries or packages for an elderly person in my neighborhood); etc. Reinforce that every child is a missionary, continuing the good works of Jesus and sharing the Good News of Jesus.
- Place a mirror in the classroom. Label it: “I am a missionary.” When youngsters sneak a peek at themselves from time to time, they will be reminded of their responsibility to continue the mission of Jesus.

## Liturgy

The foundation of a good life is good prayer. The most important task for a Christian is to pray and worship God faithfully. Prayer and worship of God are key ways that we remind ourselves that we are spiritual at our core, and regular worship is a critically important way to care for our spiritual lives. Good prayer = good life.

- Appreciation of the Mass, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, is to be “the source and summit of the Christian life.”<sup>22</sup>
- The Eucharist occupies a unique place as the “Sacrament of sacraments”: “all the other sacraments are ordered to it as to their end.”<sup>23</sup>
- At Mass we are fed by both the Word of God and the Eucharist.
- Eucharist is food for mission.<sup>24</sup>
- Mass is a communal meal that has ethnic, cultural, linguistic and racial diversity.
- The People are the Church. Church buildings can be big, as in the great cathedrals of Europe, or small, as the simple grass huts of Africa.
- There are different cultural liturgical expressions around the world.
- The Liturgical Year revolves around the Birth, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ no matter where you are in the world and draws us to Christ.<sup>25</sup>
- We can celebrate local/national/international feasts, and the lives of the saints and missionaries.
- Special mission celebrations can be planned to emphasize the connection of Eucharist and Mission.

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<sup>21</sup>*Redemptoris Missio* 73

<sup>22</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324

<sup>23</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1211

<sup>24</sup>*Catholic Update*, World Mission Sunday 2004

<sup>25</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1171

**Activities / Actions**

- Go to [www.HCAKids.org](http://www.HCAKids.org) (soon to be [www.MCAKids.org](http://www.MCAKids.org)). Find and click on the section, “The Bread of Life.” Make notes on what you learn. How does this connect to the Eucharist, Bread of Life? Consider making a display for your school cafeteria demonstrating what you have learned.
- Perhaps once a month at a school Mass, pray for a specific country of the world. Have one class make and carry a banner related to that country, and offer a few facts about the country before Liturgy begins; include that country’s needs in your General Intercessions. Following Mass, post the banner in a public place to remember the country in daily prayer.
- Use adhesive strips for a fundraiser for the Missions. Prepare a set of clear labels with a mission Scripture passage, such as, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Sell the adhesives for a reasonable price, or ask for a donation on the day of a school Mass or get permission to take donations after a Saturday/Sunday Masses in the parish. Encourage students/families to use them as bookmarks for a text book or the Bible.
- Get the students involved in making a “love chain” for October, Mission Month. In the vestibule of the church, have strips of paper where people can write their names before Mass. Staple the strip of paper in a closed circle and then connect it to others to make a chain. Add in the name of missionary saints, or people from the diocese working in Missions. Print a sign that says something like: *Each link in this chain has the name of a missionary who spreads the love of Christ here at home or in another country. You can help our foreign missionaries by your prayers and generous monetary gifts.* As a reminder, drape the chain around the vestibule or in the sanctuary, as permitted. What a great way to get your whole parish involved. Ask the pastor to mention this effort at the homily and include a General Intercession for missionaries.
- Periodically plan a Mass with a mission theme for the student body, perhaps even using the Mass for the Spread of the Gospel. Invite students to select music, write General Intercessions, prepare gifts for the Offertory – all illustrating their role as missionaries sent to heal a broken world.

**Sacrifice**

A true sacrifice calls us to surrender that which is dear to us for the sake of someone who or something that is even more valuable than that which we let go.

- The Mass is called the Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ and includes the Church’s offering. The terms holy sacrifice of the Mass, “sacrifice of praise,” spiritual sacrifice, pure and holy sacrifice are also used, since it completes and surpasses all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.<sup>26</sup> The Sacraments, “encountering Christ in all aspects of his life,” are channels of grace.
- Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, His death.
- The “sacrament of the present moment” is attentiveness to the here and now; it can take sacrifice and discipline to keep focused.
- Modeling Christ-like behavior is witness for evangelization.
- The practice of virtue and a life of sacrifice make us more like Christ.
- As we experience the Cross in our daily lives, we unite our aches, pains, and suffering with the sufferings of Christ that He might be better known, loved and served.

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<sup>26</sup>Catechism of the Catholic Church 1330

### **Actions/ Activities**

- Learn more about sacrifice by hosting a Pauper's Banquet. One interesting source with varied activities and dramas is found at:  
[http://www.cwrc.org/site\\_uploads/uploads/cwrc/resources/cwrc\\_GodsBanquet.pdf](http://www.cwrc.org/site_uploads/uploads/cwrc/resources/cwrc_GodsBanquet.pdf)
- As part of a home or classroom recycling effort, remind young people that the few extra minutes spent in crushing a can and placing it in the bin, using the back side of papers, tearing down a box, or collecting old newspapers are really a small sacrifice that helps others for years to come, especially the poor in mission countries.
- During Lent, invite children to bring in an article from a newspaper or a mission magazine that illustrates how Jesus continues to suffer in the world today. Staple articles to a large cross made of wood or paper. Allow students time to write in their prayer journal their feelings and thoughts.
- Sacrifice characterized Jesus' death on the Cross. We have to learn to make sacrifices. *"Live with less, that others might simply live,"* said Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. One way to make a financial sacrifice is to set a goal for a mission offering from the class. One fun example: Add together the combined height (or weight) of a class. Encourage the class to give-up or sacrifice a nickel for every inch. Keep a chart to mark progress. This could also be an ideal time to discuss nutrition/health issues affecting children in the Missions.
- Collect an assortment of fast food containers: cups, bags, meal boxes, small boxes for hamburgers or chicken nuggets, etc. Put these empty containers on display in your classroom or in the school cafeteria, along with the actual price of the food item they contained. Have other students "purchase" the cartons. Post a sign detailing what the \$1 or \$2 might be able to provide for children in mission countries.

## DOMAIN TWO – PRAYER

### Prayer as Gift

Prayer, like life, is a unique journey. Prayer too is very personal. In fact, a common definition of prayer is *the deepening of one's personal relationship with God*. How the Lord meets and speaks with each of us is a deeply personal gift.

- Prayer is a relationship developed through talking and listening to God.
- Prayer is a conscious recognition of the work of the Holy Spirit and a self-surrendering to God.

### Actions / Activities

- Listening, feeling and talking to God are all part of praying. Close your eyes and listen to a variety of music from different cultures. How does each type of music help you think about God? feel His presence? talk to Him in prayer? Draw images to explain your answers.
- People pray in many languages. Research the “Our Father” prayer in different languages. Learn to say the words “Our Father” in the language of a mission country. Use the “Our Father” in the language you learned to start your prayers. <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/pater/>
- Find pictures from mission magazines of people praying. Create a bulletin board in your classroom of these people. Add to the board during the year to remind you of the importance of your own daily prayers for the Missions.
- God is like a parent who listens to how you feel. Say “thank you” to God for that feeling in a prayer you compose.
- Learn how to say “thank you” in languages from several mission countries. Teach students in younger classes to use these words. Use these new words in your day.
- Speak to God by using prayers you know. Say a prayer you know for a missionary.
- Write your own prayer for children in mission countries.
- Think about a time you prayed for strength to do something hard. What difficulties might a child in a mission country have? Say a prayer for strength to help that child.
- How is the Holy Spirit being active in your life? What does that mean? How does the Spirit make you aware of the needs of others? Say a special prayer for children in mission countries every day.
- Choose a parable or healing narrative from the Gospel of St. Matthew.<sup>27</sup> How does the passage give you hope or direction? Create an acrostic of the word “HOPE” using ways we can bring hope to others as a missionary today.
- Determine the meaning of “self-surrender.” Discuss how Mary surrendered herself to God’s will. Mary was the first disciple of Jesus. Research the many images of Mary. Reference the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception ([www.nationalshrine.com](http://www.nationalshrine.com)) in your search. Create a PowerPoint of what you find to teach others about Mary.

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<sup>27</sup>Parables: Matthew 13:1-9; 13:24-30; 13:31-35; 13:44-46; 13:47-53; 18:21-35; 20:1-16; 21:28-32; 21:33-46; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; 25:14-30. Healing: Matthew 8:1-4, 8:5-17; 8:28-34; 9:1-8; 9:27-31; 9:32-38; 17:14-21; 20:29-34.

### **Prayer as Covenant**

We are in relationship to God merely because God has made us and keeps us in existence. By praying, we continuously discover what God had already given us. Prayer deepens what we already have – a life with God – and helps us appreciate it even more.

- The sign of the Cross is a symbol of our relationship with the Trinity.
- Our faith and spirit of mission are strengthened through prayer.
- The “Our Father” prayer reminds us that how we respect and forgive others is connected to our relationship with God.

### **Actions / Activities**

- When we make the sign of the Cross we remember Jesus shared His life with us and died on the Cross for us. Sharing is not always easy, but it shows we want to love others as Jesus loves us. Research missionary saints who shared their love with others. Make a booklet about these saints.
- Read John 20:24-29 (Jesus appears to Thomas) with a friend. Explain what Jesus said about those who believe in Jesus, but have not seen Him. What carries you through moments of doubt, when you feel separated from the love of Jesus? Research the missionary life of St. Thomas. Make a map showing where he went to spread the Good News of Jesus. On our journeys today, just here at home, how can we help others come to know Jesus better, and experience His great love?
- Say the “Our Father” with your classmates. Listen to each line and think about what it means. On a map, use pins or stickers to locate the predominantly Christian nations where God is called “Father.” Refer to the 10/40 Window website ([www.1040window.org](http://www.1040window.org)) and CIA World Fact Book (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>) for information about religious populations.
- Think about the words, “*forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*” How do you forgive others? as God would have you forgive? Think about this line the next time you need to forgive someone who has hurt you.
- Think of the hardships of refugees in mission countries. Pray that they can forgive those who bring fighting and division to their countries, causing others to flee.

### **Prayer as Communion**

Each of us is a word of God, speaking God’s love and goodness to the rest of the world. Each of us prays – relates to God – in special and deeply personal ways; each of us is a unique prayer God has given to the human family.

- Prayer is essential to our Christian life and joins us to the universal Church.
- We show love for others throughout the world through prayer.<sup>28</sup>
- The Liturgy is a communal prayer.
- All the faithful in Christ, living and dead, form the Communion of Saints.

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<sup>28</sup>John 17:20-23

**Actions / Activities**

- Talk about the importance of communicating with your family and friends. What do you discuss? Why is it important to communicate with God? Set a certain time aside each day to pray. Create a world time chart; use it to find what others are doing at the time you are praying. Discuss what children in mission countries may be doing at that time; for example, if it's bedtime, they may be sleeping – or looking for a place to sleep; if it's dinner time, they may be eating – or going hungry; etc. Say a special prayer for these children during your prayer time – your “communicating” with God your Father.
- When do Christians gather together to pray? Why is it important to pray with others? At each celebration of the Eucharist, we join Catholics around the world, united in one faith, one Church. Use mission magazines to find pictures of people in different countries praying together at Mass.
- The Catholic Church is universal. Describe what makes us universal. How does the Church connect us to all people? Draw or create a symbol that shows prayer connecting us to the universal Church. Keep your symbol where it can remind you of your connection to others around the world every day.
- Read John 17:20-23 (Jesus prays for all believers). How does this passage speak to the meaning of the “Universal Church”?
- What happens when we stop talking to our family and friends because we're angry or upset? How does this relate to conflicts throughout the world? How does this relate to our talking to God? Create a prayer portfolio. Find prayers from places around the world that have special meaning to you in the portfolio. Pray one of these special prayers for our brothers and sisters living in countries that are in conflict. On a map or globe put a band aid on the country in conflict.
- We are different in our “colors and cultures,” so how can we all be one? What color is God? Create a rainbow showing the oneness of all people.
- Holy people of very strong faith are named saints by the Church. Many countries have patron saints. Learn about the patron saints of several mission countries. Tell or act out for younger students the stories of the lives of these saints; be sure to include examples of the way the saints witnessed to their faith in their words and actions.
- Celebrate the day associated with missionary saints. How did they spread the Good News of Jesus? Research one important fact about each saint. Create a collage or bulletin board with images of those saints and those facts.
- Learn the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. How does this prayer relate to the mission? Create a visual representation of each line of the prayer.
- Research the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Francis Xavier, co-patrons of the Church's worldwide missionary work and of missionaries. How were their lives, lives of prayer? Choose a lesson from their life to guide your own missionary life.

**Source of Prayer**

The Lord “speaks” to us in many ways; we need to be sure that the many distractions of our lives don't keep us from hearing what the Lord is saying. The Eucharist is the preeminent expression of our faith in prayer.

And God's words surround us. God speaks to us in all created things – sunsets and sunrises, gentle rains, cooling breezes. God addresses us in the events and the people who come to us in our everyday lives, and the Father speaks to us in a very special way through Jesus who lives in Scripture, in the Eucharist, and in the people we meet. We need only listen, remaining silent and letting God speak to us in the depths of our hearts.

- Through Creation God calls every being into existence.<sup>29</sup>
- Prayer and spirituality are the building of God's relationship with all people.
- The prayer of the People of God flourishes in God's dwelling places.<sup>30</sup>

### **Actions / Activities**

- Read the Creation story in the Bible (Genesis 1:1-31). In this story, God creates us and asks us to care for His creation. Draw pictures of the various days mentioned, illustrating the beauty of God's creation. Now find pictures that show the destruction of creation that is occurring in today's world. Glue these pictures to your pictures of the beauty of creation. What can we do about this? Discuss a plan to be good stewards of creation.
- Raise the level of consciousness in children through research on the environment and all God's creatures, including the human race. Those living in mission countries are often hardest hit by the destruction and over use of land and water. Stress the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – in class and at home.
- Take a walk and look for the beauty in the earth and all creatures. Write about the experience of taking time to "see" God's work. Write a prayer about creation, thanking God for all His gifts to us. Think of children in war-torn countries. What beauty might they see? Pray for them.
- Research the use and abuse of water in our world, and the impact it has on all life. Find ways (with the children) to curtail water use at home and in school.
- Research World Religions (i.e., Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.). Have children create a presentation of each religion for the class. After the presentations, find the similarities and differences. Emphasize the love of God for all people and Jesus' call that "all may be one."<sup>31</sup>
- Visit a parish church and spend some time in prayer. Then look at the various parts of the church, and consider what inspires others who come here to pray. Find pictures of churches, synagogues, temples, etc. that show different houses of prayer in mission countries. Use the pictures to talk about different faith communities and their beliefs.
- Research a missionary saint to learn how he/she related with God, in prayer. Share what you learned about this saint's spirituality with a classmate. Are there similarities and differences? What does this tell us?
- Discuss the importance of a church, a synagogue, a temple. How are these special places for people to pray? Visit one or more of these places. What makes it different than a house, an office building, a museum, etc.? Why? Keep a journal of your thoughts about your visit to different prayer spaces.

### **Expression of Prayer**

Like any good friend, God is available to share our thoughts and our feelings, our hopes and our fears, our life and our love. God is always present and open to us. God is, to borrow an image from St. Teresa of Avila, an ever-present companion walking next to us along the path of life.

There are times when we can express ourselves to God spontaneously, much as we would to a close friend. The words flow in an atmosphere of love and trust, and we pray simply in words that come from the heart. Other times we are drawn to express ourselves using formal prayers, the traditional words of our Christian community. In either case we come to our conversation with God with a loving openness and trust that our relationship with the Lord will deepen.

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<sup>29</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2566

<sup>30</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2578

<sup>31</sup>John 17:21

- Prayer can be formal or spontaneous, private or vocal (spoken, sung, gestured).
- Blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise are forms of prayer.<sup>32</sup>
- There are various prayer traditions in our faith – the Rosary, Benediction, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, novenas and litanies.
- The World Mission Rosary is a special prayer for people throughout the world.

### Activities / Actions

- List examples of how we pray alone, and how we pray with others. Explain the difference between private and public prayer. Pretend you are a missionary and you have lost your voice. Show other ways to communicate your prayers.
- Participate in prayer using words, rote prayers, spontaneous prayers, prayers with gestures, songs, sign language, and dance. Have children create prayers for children in mission countries, adding gesture, music or dance to their prayers. Use these prayers in your classroom.
- Write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, forgiveness, petition, each relating to the Missions and missionaries. Keep these prayers, as well as a picture of a child in a mission country for each prayer, in a prayer journal. Pray for mission children daily.
- Make a list of wants and needs. Help students distinguish the difference, using a prayer of petition. Connect mission with praying for the needs of others.
- Explain or research the meanings of the various prayer traditions in our faith. Have the students research prayer traditions in faiths found in mission countries. Compare these prayer traditions.
- Provide time for students to pray a novena (nine consecutive days using the same prayer) for people living in poverty.
- After praying at the Stations of the Cross, have the children create pictures of the stations that would relate to children in mission countries.
- Pray with the Beatitudes of the Maryknoll Missionaries ([http://www.maryknollsocietymall.org/studyguides/10444\\_36.pdf](http://www.maryknollsocietymall.org/studyguides/10444_36.pdf)).
- Create a litany of missionary saints – St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Francis Xavier, St. Martin de Porres, St. Paul, St. Thomas, etc. and use it in prayer.
- Explain that the decades of a World Mission Rosary, as the colors represent missions and missionaries throughout the continents of the world. (Each color represents a different part of the world where the Church continues the mission of Jesus.) Use materials from the Missionary Childhood Association as part of the explanation and as a meditation guide while praying the World Mission Rosary. Celebrate a “living” World Mission Rosary with children wearing the color of the area their decade represents. Focus on one mission area or mission country each week, and pray the decade of the World Mission Rosary associated with that area / country. Prior to beginning the Rosary, have students locate the continent / country on a globe or map. Mark that area with a paper cross. Pray specifically for people living in poverty or in need of the Lord’s love and healing in one of those countries.

### Taught to Pray

One of the most famous definitions of prayer comes from St. Clement. He defined prayer as “conversation with God.” This is particularly apt because *conversation* implies an ongoing and developing relationship. We can get caught up in conversation, our attention totally focused.

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<sup>32</sup>Catechism of the Catholic Church 2644

- Jesus showed us the importance of relationship with the Father.
- Jesus modeled the importance of prayer when He prayed before all decisive moments in his mission and the mission of His Apostles.<sup>33</sup>
- Jesus gave us the “Our Father” to teach us to pray.<sup>34</sup>
- Jesus taught us about God’s love and assured us our prayer for ourselves and others is heard.<sup>35</sup>

### Actions / Activities

- Use Scripture to find passages where Jesus modeled prayer to the Apostles.
- Research how many times prayer is mentioned in the New Testament. Why do think Jesus found it so important to pray and to teach others to pray? If we are following Jesus like the Apostles did, why is it important for us to pray? Write an essay about this.
- Read Luke 3:21, Luke 9:28, and Luke 22:41-44 to find decisive moments in Christ’s mission when He prayed. What is meant by “decisive”? Give examples.
- Read Luke 6:12, and Luke 9:18-22 to find decisive moments in the mission of the Apostles. Why were they decisive times for them? When have you prayed before such a moment in your life? What prayer did you say? Why? If you were a missionary, what would be some of those same moments? What prayer would you offer to God?
- Read Matthew 6:5-15. Create a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for giving us the “Our Father.”
- Create a booklet depicting each phrase of the “Our Father,” with images that show God is the Father of all people.
- Read John 16:24. Explain this passage in your own words. Illustrate it, or write it out, as a bookmark, perhaps, to remind you of God’s love for all.
- Read John 14:11-14. If we are called to the mission of Jesus, why is this passage important to us? What do we learn about the power of prayer in this passage? Make prayers to create a mission prayer chain for the number of days in the school year. Break a link each day, and pray that prayer.

### Called to Prayer

Prayer is like love. It is a matter of the heart, a heart which longs for greater union with God. God loves me – that is the most essential truth of all. Realizing this truth and reminding ourselves of it can motivate us to pray. And even wanting to pray, to deepen our life with God, is itself a prayer. Prayer helps us realize and enjoy even more deeply the Lord and the wonderful life of friendship to which the Lord calls us.

- In prayer, the Holy Spirit enlightens and strengthens us for the mission.<sup>36</sup>
- Through the words, “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” the “Our Father” speaks to us of being on mission.
- The “Our Father” reminds us of the needs of the earth and its poor with the words, “give us this day our daily bread.”
- The Nicene Creed states the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- Prayers created by the saints are often used to help us pray.
- Advent and Lent are special times of prayer and preparation for Christmas and Easter.

<sup>33</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2600

<sup>34</sup> Matthew 6:5-13

<sup>35</sup> John 16:24, John 14:13-14

<sup>36</sup> John 16:5-15

**Actions / Activities**

- Read John 16:5-15. Jesus speaks of sending the Spirit to help the Apostles live the mission of Jesus by spreading the Good News. Choose one Apostle; learn about his travels and how he fulfilled his call to be missionary. Create a “diary” of his life on mission.
- Learn the song, “Take O Take Me As I Am” (John L. Bell, Iona Community GIA). How does this song relate to you and your mission?
- Discuss the meaning of God’s Kingdom. How can it be “on earth as it is in heaven”? Make a list of ways students “on mission” can make the Kingdom present here on earth.
- What does “sacrificing for others” mean? How can we help others in our world – those living in poverty, those who are treated unjustly, and those who feel unloved? Find a news item about an unjust situation in our world. Talk to your classmates about what you found, and what they might do to make a difference in this situation. Pray for the people (by name) in the article you find.
- How can we help people living in poverty? Why should we help them? Make a list of ways you can help. Become members of the Missionary Childhood Association, and make a weekly sacrifice to help children in need, and support those missionaries who are bringing them God’s love.
- Read the Nicene Creed together in class. Why do we have such a statement? The Creed states the church is “one, holy, catholic and apostolic.” What do these words mean? Create actions for being “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” Choose one of these actions to do each day to show you are living the mission of Jesus. How do these words remind you of the importance of the Missionary Childhood Association?
- Make an acrostic for each of these words – “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic” – to show its meaning.
- Show how we are inspired to pray through Mary and the saints. Choose a prayer of a saint to pray for those working in mission countries to say each week.
- Create a mission prayer service as a class during the Advent and Lent seasons using prayers of missionaries, petitions for issues of peace and justice, and Scripture readings cited in these activities about prayer. Invite families to join in the prayer service.
- Be generous in your donations to help people living in poverty in mission countries during these special Seasons.

**Prayer in Discipleship**

God is always with us, and prayer is a continuous reminder that we are in the presence of this friend who loves us very much. As St. Paul says: “Always be joyful; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

- Prayer leads to action and service to others.<sup>37</sup>
- We help others through prayer.
- We identify the needs of others in our church, world, community, and family, and hold them in prayer.
- Our understanding of stewardship is based on prayer.
- We pray for the Missions, missionaries and vocations to missionary work.
- At the end of every Liturgy, we are sent on mission with the words, “Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

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<sup>37</sup>John 13:12-17

**Activities / Actions**

- Prepare a list of petitions relating to the Missions for Liturgy. In your daily prayers, offer your intentions for people in need. Be sure to use the person's name, if you know it.
- Become more aware of the needs of people around you and those who live in distant countries. Pray daily for the needs for those in mission countries.
- Research environmental issues, peace and justice issues, poverty, water use, etc. around the world. How can we help and support our brothers and sisters in need? How can we support and care for the earth and its creatures? Provide time for presentations and discussions in class. Have students create a play to raise awareness of these issues. Perform the play for younger children.
- Put the names of world leaders on popsicle sticks. Choose a name daily, and pray for that leader to help find peaceful solutions to issues in his/her country or community.
- Provide opportunities for students to develop school and family projects to reduce, reuse and recycle, emphasizing that the poor and vulnerable are often those most affected by environmental issues.
- Get involved with the Missionary Childhood Association to learn more about mission countries, the cultures of people, and the financial support provided for children throughout the world.
- Invite a missionary into the class to talk about his/her work in helping others come to know God's love. Ask how prayer helps their work. Pray for vocations to missionary work.
- Connect with missionary communities – such as Maryknoll, the Columban Fathers – for educational materials to raise mission awareness of missionary work and our call to mission.
- Write your own explanation of the words, “Go now, to love and serve the Lord.” Discuss this as a sending of all on mission to spread the Good News of Jesus. Create a poster to illustrate the phrase. Put it on display in school or at home.
- Become more aware of the commissioning of disciples at the end of each Liturgy. Listen for it at the end of Mass. Say a prayer that we hear these words and take them to heart.
- Engage in a class discussion to find suggestions of how children can be missionaries through their words and actions every day. List the ideas and cut them into single pieces – one idea on each piece of paper – and then place them in a large bowl. Each day, draw a suggestion from the bowl and have children “be on mission” in that way.
- Ask children for their ideas of how to actively engage children in mission work – locally and throughout the world. Create a classroom project from their ideas to raise awareness of and financial support for Missions and missionaries.
- Make protecting the environment a priority in your classroom. Promote simple living – using less water in the shower, turning off the water when brushing your teeth, walking, bike riding or taking public transportation rather than a car to school and other activities, using both sides of a piece of paper, recycling all paper, asking your parents to buy products that use less packaging, etc. Remind others that we are “stewards” of the earth, of God's gift of creation.

## Domain Three – Christian Living

### Discipleship

Being a disciple of the Risen Christ requires courage. Jesus challenged His followers long ago, and He continues to challenge each of us now, to face difficult situations bravely, to live by the life-values of sacrifice and service for the sake of others in all circumstances, and to trust that if we choose to die to ourselves and our own selfish wishes in life Jesus promises that each of us will, like He did, experience a new life (“a resurrection”) of total happiness with Him in heaven.

- We live lovingly in our family.
- We respect our parents.
- Through Baptism all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service.
- Christians are to be missionaries, bringing the Good News to the ends of the earth.<sup>38</sup>
- There are a variety of Christian vocations that reflect our call to discipleship.<sup>39</sup>

### Actions / Activities

- Create a class or school bulletin board dedicated to the Missions. Focus on prayer, solidarity, sacrifice, and our common discipleship in Christ.
- Cut colored strips of construction paper. Have each student write a short prayer for the Missions on their strip of paper; connect the strips. Hang the chain in the classroom or hallway. Offer your prayer chain at a Commissioning Mass or Mission Prayer Service.
- Does your school have a wall that could be transformed into a vision of the Universal Church? Paint a mission mural.
- Have students write thank-you cards to their parents or family members, expressing gratitude for the things they have that young people in the Missions may not. This is a most appropriate activity for the month of November.
- Have each student write a short prayer to encourage a faith-filled response to the needs of the world. Decorate. Have the students share cards with each other for a week, and then pass these on again and again throughout the school year.

### Human Dignity

In the Catholic social vision, the human person is central, the clearest reflection of God among us. Each person possesses a basic dignity which comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment, not from race or gender, age or economic status. The test of every institution or policy is whether it enhances or threatens human life and human dignity. We believe people are more important than things.<sup>40</sup>

- Being created and loved by God is the source of our human dignity.<sup>41</sup>
- We respect all humanity.<sup>42</sup>
- All God’s children have the same basic needs.<sup>43</sup>
- We are holy when we care about people, especially those who are unable to care for themselves.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>38</sup>Jeremiah 1:5

<sup>39</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 806

<sup>40</sup>*A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, A Continuing Challenge*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1990

<sup>41</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 357

<sup>42</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2319

<sup>43</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1911

- God created persons of different races and cultures but all are one in God.<sup>45</sup>
- We must have an appreciation for racial, ethnic, and age differences.<sup>46</sup>
- Our Church is enriched through diverse cultural expressions.
- Life is sacred from conception to natural death.<sup>47</sup>
- Injustices are caused by discrimination and prejudice.

### **Actions / Activities**

- Create paper mobiles. You may do a mission country mobile with each piece representing a different aspect of that country's culture –flag, food, clothing, cultural items, etc. – or the needs of the children in that country – clean water, the love of Jesus, schoolbooks, etc.
- Research current patterns of migration. Talk about the causes of those patterns, and what may need to change so people may remain in their homelands.
- If we are all to be one family, how must we treat one another? Find news articles that show respect for others, and those that reveal the opposite. How can we live our lives each day marked with respect for others?

### **Human Interaction**

The human person is not only sacred, but social. We realize our dignity and rights in relationship with others, in community.<sup>48</sup>

- We treat others the way Jesus treated others, with love, respect and appreciation of the unique gifts they have been given by God.<sup>49</sup>
- All life is a gift from God which must be respected.
- Through the parables, Jesus tells us to love ourselves and one another.
- We need to examine our choices in light of the Christian message.
- God's Spirit calls all people to conversion and faithfulness.
- The Scriptures help guide our actions.
- Jesus taught us that relationships should be based on a life of service to others.<sup>50</sup>
- All responsible relationships are based on honesty, love, and respect and caring for God and for neighbor.<sup>51</sup>

### **Actions / Activities**

- Give each student a different colored piece of string or yarn. Go around the class asking each student to say a prayer for the needs of the people in the world, and then tie his or her strand to the previous strand. Students can reflect on their classmate's words while the string is wound into a ball. The entire school could make a "prayer ball" during Catholic Schools Week.

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<sup>44</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2208

<sup>45</sup>Galatians 4:28; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 361

<sup>46</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 814

<sup>47</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2319

<sup>48</sup> *A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, A Continuing Challenge*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1990

<sup>49</sup>John 15:17

<sup>50</sup>Mark 10:44-45

<sup>51</sup>Romans 12:18

## Social Justice

Our tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our sisters and brothers, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response.<sup>52</sup>

- We share what we have with others.<sup>53</sup>
- Whatever we do for people in need, we do for Jesus.<sup>54</sup>
- We share in Jesus' mission to bring a message of love, justice, and hope to the poor and victims of injustice.<sup>55</sup>
- Jesus heals others through us.
- The Church teaches that we must work for a more fair and just world.
- Our God is a God of freedom.<sup>56</sup>
- The Bible explores the mysteries of life: suffering, injustice, and death.
- The prophets spoke out against injustice and suffering.<sup>57</sup>
- We see that the way to the reign of God is a way of justice and peace.<sup>58</sup>
- Scripture teaches us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality and stewardship in our lives.<sup>59</sup>
- The Beatitudes challenge us to a continual conversion in our personal and social lives.

## Actions / Activities

- Rice in a Bag. Measure ¼ cup dry rice into a small zip lock bag and seal. Hand out the bags of rice to your students to take home and have them ask someone to cook the rice for them. This activity shows how much rice children in the Missions receive each day – for the whole day. Challenge the students to eat just that for supper while their family eats a regular meal. Spend time the next day reflecting on the experience.
- Decorate paper bookmarks with pictures from mission magazines. Write a short prayer or Scripture passage on the back. Laminate and punch a hole in the top and attach a ribbon.
- Create paper cranes<sup>60</sup> which represent peace! Have students fold cranes and string them together like they do in Peace Park in Nagasaki, Japan, site of the atomic bomb drop. Prayers for peace can be written on the papers before they are folded.
- Challenge students to contribute to the Missions a certain amount – penny, dime, nickel or quarter – for everyday items that they own. Give a penny for each crayon or a dime for each pencil, as examples; a quarter for each video game.

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<sup>52</sup> *A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, A Continuing Challenge*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1990

<sup>53</sup> Deuteronomy 15:4, 7-8

<sup>54</sup> Matthew 25:35-36

<sup>55</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2806

<sup>56</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1947

<sup>57</sup> Isaiah 61:1

<sup>58</sup> Micah 6:8

<sup>59</sup> 1 John 3:18

<sup>60</sup> [http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/japan/orig\\_crane.htm](http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/japan/orig_crane.htm)

- Set up a giving tree with paper ornaments to buy. List basic needs on each ornament that children in the Missions are lacking and assign a price. For example, “cup of milk,” a quarter; “school book,” a dollar. Collect and contribute the money for the Missions.
- Ask students to write a brief essay reflecting on who are “the poor, captive, blind and oppressed” in today’s world.

### **Community Service**

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers (see Genesis 4:9). In a linked and limited world, our responsibilities to one another cross national and other boundaries.<sup>61</sup>

- We follow Jesus by loving and serving others.
- We cooperate in school, church, and community projects.
- We are called to share in Jesus’ ministry of love and service.
- We reach out to those who suffer.
- The Church teaches that we must help the poor and needy.
- We should work to protect life and promote love of neighbor.
- Service is an essential element of discipleship.
- Service is action in and flowing from prayer.

### **Actions / Activities**

- Each day invite one student to bring in an article from the newspaper that illustrates how Jesus continues to suffer in the world today. After reading the article, tape or staple these articles to a large cross (wooden or paper). Allow each student to write a few lines in their prayer journal on what they might do to “heal the broken world” reflected in the article. Close the session with a group prayer. Over time, replace the pictures of suffering with photos or other evidence of the actions of the students to alleviate that suffering.
- Make a different kind of basket for Easter or Thanksgiving to raise consciousness about the plight of refugees and immigrants in the United States. Contact your local refugee / immigration office. Invite someone to speak to the students on issues that confront refugees / immigrants. Find out what kind of items students could collect in a basket to assist these people in need, connecting that to acting out of love for Jesus.<sup>62</sup>

### **Moral Conscience**

Flowing from our God-given dignity each person has basic rights and responsibilities. These include the right to freedom of conscience and religious liberty, to raise a family, to immigrate, to live free from unfair discrimination and to have a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and one’s family.<sup>63</sup>

- We can choose to do good.
- We sin when we choose not to do good.
- The Ten Commandments help us live good lives.
- Jesus sums up the commandments for us in His law of love.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> *A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, A Continuing Challenge*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1990

<sup>62</sup> Matthew 25:35-36

<sup>63</sup> *A Century of Social Teaching: A Common Heritage, A Continuing Challenge*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1990

- The Holy Spirit enables us to grow and act in a Christian manner.
- We are responsible for our own actions.
- Our conscience helps us know what is right and do what we believe is right.
- We learn how to live good lives through the teachings of Scripture.
- God sends prophets into our midst to call us to the justice and mercy of God's reign.
- All people are called to be faithful to God's love.<sup>65</sup>

**Actions / Activities**

- Help children learn more about God's love for all people by using international flags. Order or make a flag that combines parts of flags from various mission countries. Hang flags throughout your classroom as a reminder to pray for the missionary work of the Church and the people in those countries.
- Pray daily for all who continue Jesus' mission in our world today. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of all to believe in Jesus and His Good News. Pray for strength for missionaries.
- Imagine you are the principal of your school! What rules would you make to encourage civility and respect for others? What character traits would you want your students to possess?

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<sup>64</sup>Mark 12:29-31

<sup>65</sup>1 John 4:21

## General Mission Activities

- Spelling Bee ~ Hold a class spelling bee. Use words related to the Missions, such as country names, foods, etc. Perhaps you could have a similar event for adults on an evening or weekend. Sell admission tickets and snacks, and have the whole parish cheer on parents, priests, teachers and staff in your “Mission Is the Word” Spelling Bee.
- Collage ~ Have students create a “mission” collage with drawings, words, and pictures from magazines or newspapers. Use the collage as the cover of a prayer journal.
- Mission Quilt ~ Cut out squares of paper and have each student design their own quilt square for the Missions. Join the squares to make a quilt. Talk about how the quilt illustrates mission as “covering the world” with God’s love.
- Mission Yearbook ~ Does your school have a yearbook? Are the mission activities of the school as prominent as other activities and events? Work with those preparing your yearbook to include them, or create a Mission Yearbook that can include a new page for each year’s graduating class. What a beautiful school legacy!
- T-Shirts ~ Create mission T-shirts for your class with a scene or message of global solidarity or about the Universal Church. This could be a school-wide contest. Students could purchase shirts, and contribute moneys collected to the Missionary Childhood Association.
- Global Village ~ Use the classroom or the gymnasium to set up different stations, each representing a mission country. Have students research and display clothing, music, dance, prayer and other cultural elements of that country. Native foods or dishes could be served.
- Mission Carnival ~ Many schools hold Mission Carnivals. Set up your gym with games, activities, face painting, food, drinks and prizes. Donate the money you raise to HCA!
- Mission Garden ~ Plant seeds of hope! Pray over a garden as you plant it. Let your love for others bloom year round, and use the garden as a place for prayer and reflection.
- Mission Olympics ~ Hold Mission Olympics at your school. Form teams with different grade level members. Have teams compete in different mission-related activities. For example, a team member can carry a full bucket of water in each hand while walking an obstacle course, without spilling a drop. Award first, second and third place ribbons to teams. (Similar to the popular Field Days held at schools.)
- Mission Farms ~ Photocopy small templates of animals. Children can buy animals to add to their class “Mission Farm.” For example, a chicken may cost a dime, and a goat, a quarter; a cow may cost a dollar. Display your farm of animals on a class bulletin board. Donate the money raised to the Missions.
- Recycled Toys ~ Have students make their own toys / games out of everyday materials that could be recycled. These are the kinds of toys children in mission countries might have. Make a kite from sticks, string and plastic bags, or a toy car from an empty plastic bottle. Display the toys after Masses. You could even have a contest where students and parishioners vote for the best toy by “bidding” on that, donating money collected to the Missions.

## Resources

### Websites

- ***The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States***
  - [www.OneFamilyInMission.org](http://www.OneFamilyInMission.org)
  - [www.OneFamilyInMission.org/hca.html](http://www.OneFamilyInMission.org/hca.html)
  - [www.HCAKids.org](http://www.HCAKids.org)
  - [www.YouTube.com/pmsusa](http://www.YouTube.com/pmsusa)
  - [www.themissionreport.org](http://www.themissionreport.org)
  - [www.MissionVoices.org](http://www.MissionVoices.org)
  - [www.IAmAMissionary.org](http://www.IAmAMissionary.org)
  - [www.MISSIONMagazine.org](http://www.MISSIONMagazine.org)
  - [www.WorldMissionRosary.org](http://www.WorldMissionRosary.org)
  
- ***The Vatican***
  - [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)
  
- ***Fides News Service***
  - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)
  
- ***United States Conference of Catholic Bishops***
  - [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
  
- ***Catholic News Service***
  - [www.cns.org](http://www.cns.org)

### Other Websites of Interest

<a href="http://www.marypages.com/TheLordPrayer.htm">www.marypages.com/TheLordPrayer.htm</a>	The “Our Father” in various languages
<a href="http://www.etailersdigest.com/greetings/saythanks.htm">www.etailersdigest.com/greetings/saythanks.htm</a>	Phrase, “thank you,” in various languages
<a href="http://home.comcast.net/~motherteresasite/prayers.html">http://home.comcast.net/~motherteresasite/prayers.html</a>	A site devoted to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta
<a href="http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/1040.htm">http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/1040.htm</a>	Information about the <i>10/40 Window</i> concept
<a href="http://ciaworldfactbook.us">http://ciaworldfactbook.us</a>	Facts about countries of the world
<a href="http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org">www.catholicclimatecovenant.org</a>	Catholic Climate Covenant
<a href="http://worldtimezone.com/time24.htm">http://worldtimezone.com/time24.htm</a>	World Time Zone Map
<a href="http://www.endhumantrafficking.org">www.endhumantrafficking.org</a>	The Project to End Human Trafficking
<a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a>	United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
<a href="http://www.uscatholicmission.org">www.uscatholicmission.org</a>	U.S. Catholic Mission Association

<a href="http://www.cnvs.org">www.cnvs.org</a>	Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
<a href="http://www.ocp.org/">www.ocp.org/</a>	Oregon Catholic Press
<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIUz7U8hH2E">www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIUz7U8hH2E</a>	Kenyan Catholic Music Video
<a href="http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=92&amp;L=0">www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=92&amp;L=0</a>	World Water Council

### **Mission Publications**

- **MISSION** Magazine, a publication of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
[www.MISSIONMagazine.org](http://www.MISSIONMagazine.org)
- *Columban Mission Magazine* [www.columban.org](http://www.columban.org)
- *Maryknoll* [www.maryknoll.org](http://www.maryknoll.org)
- *Revista Maryknoll* (Spanish language mission magazine) [www.revistamaryknoll.org](http://www.revistamaryknoll.org)
- *Comboni Newsletter* [www.ComboniMissionaries.org](http://www.ComboniMissionaries.org)
- *Africa Magazine* [www.spms.org](http://www.spms.org)
- *Consolata Missionaries Magazine* [www.consolata.us](http://www.consolata.us)

### **Documents**

#### ***The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops***

- *Teaching the Spirit of Mission Ad Gentes: Continuing Pentecost Today*
  - [www.usccb.org/wm/spiritofmission.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/wm/spiritofmission.shtml)
- *To the Ends of the Earth: A Pastoral Statement on World Mission*
  - [www.usccb.org/wm/earth.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/wm/earth.shtml)
- *Go and Make Disciples, Tenth Anniversary Edition: National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*
  - [www.usccb.org/evangelization/goandmake/eng.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/evangelization/goandmake/eng.shtml)

#### ***Pope John Paul II***

- *On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (Redemptoris Missio)*
  - [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_07121990\\_redemptoris-missio\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio_en.html)
- *Message for World Mission Sunday 2004, "Eucharist And Mission"*
  - [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/messages/missions/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_mes\\_20040429\\_world-day-for-missions-2004\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/missions/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_20040429_world-day-for-missions-2004_en.html)

**Other Resources**

- **“Mission Lessons” Audio CD** – Reflections on the life-giving service of priests, religious and lay catechists in the Missions – and the lessons these stories hold for our own faith lives. [www.IAmAMissionary.org](http://www.IAmAMissionary.org) (for download); call 1-800-431-2222, extension 709, for more information.
- **“Faithful Witness: The Life and Legacy of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen”** – an audio documentary; call 1-800-431-2222 for more information.

*“I ask all Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit  
for an increase in the Church’s passion for her mission  
to spread the Kingdom of God and  
to support missionaries and Christian communities involved in mission,  
in the front line, often in situations of hostility and persecution.”*  
**Pope Benedict XVI**