

## 2023-2024 School Year

Dear Parent/Guardian,

To be a missionary is to share the Good News of God's love and salvation. That's the opportunity offered to young people by the **Missionary Childhood Association**, with a motto of "*children helping children*." The Missionary Childhood Association is the official mission project in the Diocese of Harrisburg schools and religious education programs. MCA provides basic support for outreach in mission countries towards projects that directly support a child in the missions. By participating in the activities of the Missionary Childhood Association, children learn about their brothers and sisters in mission countries—children just like themselves. And they also learn that their prayers and personal sacrifices make them missionaries today.

Your child has brought home an MCA mite box (or an MCA envelope). You may remember receiving the mite boxes from the Holy Childhood Association, MCA's former name, when you were a student. Mite boxes are popular with children because they can fill them with small change, teaching them the principle of giving to the poor and sharing what they have with others.

Please, would you encourage your child to pray regularly for children around the world, and sacrifice some of their pocket money and place it into the mite box? As children offer their prayers and sacrifices, they can be assured that the children in the missions also come to experience the abundant love of our Lord through the service of local priests, religious, and lay catechists.

Help your child to think of weekly sacrifices they can make. Students can give up a favorite candy or a Happy Meal, and give the sacrifice to the missions. They can perform an extra chore, or give a portion of their allowance. It is important that your child makes the sacrifice and is *not just given the money to donate*.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the worldwide mission of the Church and for opening up the missionary heart in your own child to a world of need.

Gratefully yours in Christ,



Reverend Robert F. Sharman  
Diocesan Director

P.S. Please note that boxes/envelopes with donations should be returned to their teacher.