



Catholics around the world celebrate World Mission Sunday in October. It is the 3rd Sunday of October. We pray for our missionaries; we take up special collections for their missionary work and we welcome missionaries to speak of their experiences at church. Just as Christ called his apostles to proclaim the Good News to all people, he calls missionaries to continue that work today. We, as members of the Church, are also called to share the Good News right where we are.

Did you know that every person baptized is called to mission? "In virtue of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt. 28:19)." The word "missionary" comes from the Latin word "mission" that comes from the verb "mittere", which means "to send." Implying that if we are missionary we are being sent out for a particular task. It is Jesus himself who sends us out to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel as his disciples.

This year the theme of World Mission Sunday is "You shall be my witness" from Acts 1:8. In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us that 'the church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ.'

The church carries on its missionary work with the help of the Pontifical Mission Societies. They were created to help support the ongoing work being done through mission, to help form missionary disciples and to create awareness of the work being done through mission. Each of these societies uses the crest of the Pope because they were created under a special Papal decree. There are four societies: Society of St. Peter the Apostle, Missionary Union of Priest and Religious, Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and the Missionary Childhood Association.

The Missionary Childhood Association was created for children and with children. Fostering in children a missionary spirit that would allow them to answer and put into practice their baptismal call to mission. It is the official agency of the Holy Father for the distribution of the fund-raising proceeds realized through the efforts of children for their underprivileged brothers and sisters in mission countries. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Mission Office, the local office for the Missionary Childhood Association, distributes resources and material to help teach our young church that they are never too young to start putting into practice their missionary call. To learn more about MCA and what we do, please visit our website at www.missionsla.org/MCA. This World Mission Sunday say a prayer for all missionaries all over the world.

**HEAVENLY FATHER, PLEASE BLESS ALL MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD.
KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM.
MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT SUSTAIN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND GIVE STRENGTH TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN MISSIONARIES OF THE GOSPEL.
HELP ME TO BE A MISSIONARY RIGHT HERE AND NOW BY WHAT I SAY AND DO.
THIS I PRAY IN JESUS'S NAME.
AMEN**

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A PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

Mission Awareness Week

Monday, October 17, 2022 - Sunday, October 23, 2022





In this the week of mission awareness we pray for a church that is open to everyone.

Leader: Let us all put ourselves in the presence of God. Take a moment to quiet yourself and take a deep breath.

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

Reading: 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.

Reflection: When Jesus tells his disciples that they will be his witnesses, he also tells them that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then they were commanded to go and make disciples of all nations. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they were able to go and have the courage and wisdom to share the message of Christ with everyone. Today we too are called to be witnesses of Christ in the world and welcome everyone to be part of our communities.

Let us call on the Holy Spirit to guide us as we strive to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. Welcoming all who come to church and inviting others to come and be a part of our family of faith.

Leader: We pray, oh God, that you will inspire us and equip us to answer your call to be your witnesses. Now we ask you to listen to the following intercessions.

We pray that through the Holy Spirit all baptized Catholics may answer the call to witness and seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

We pray that as a church we will be inspired to "go out and make disciples of all nations" and transform our communities and society to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

We pray that all members of the Church will be empowered by the gifts of the Holy Ghost to bear witness to the Gospel and share our faith with others.

All together now let's pray:

Dear heavenly Father, You entrusted us the Church with the mission of evangelization. May we in our families, school, and church communities share and bear witness of our faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit giving us strength and courage. May we be inspired to follow the example of the saints opening our hearts to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Never ceasing to share the joy of knowing You and living as one family in faith and mission. Amen



When speaking of the work missionaries do around the world, Pope Francis describes it as an honor by which they are presenting Christ himself to others. "Missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate themselves, to exhibit their persuasive qualities and abilities or their managerial skills. Instead, **theirs is the supreme honor of presenting Christ in words and deeds**, proclaiming to everyone the Good News of his Salvation, as the first apostles did it, with joy and boldness." (*Pope Francis message for World Mission Sunday 2022*)

We, as witnesses to our faith, share in the honor of presenting Christ to the world. Hearing testimonies from missionaries will help students cultivate an awareness of our call to mission. This experience also gives students the opportunity to hear about mission work being done in other parts of the world and see how our faith is put into action.

Mission speakers are honored to share their experiences and work with students. Sharing their experiences often gives children insight into how they can help others simply by being there for them. Recognize others as children of God and see how God has made us all special.

It is our hope that in hearing the testimonies of the missionaries the children are inspired to also proclaim the Good News of the gospel with their everyday actions. **Praying** for other children and all of the church, **giving** service in their community and **sacrificing** what they can to the missions.

Arrange for a missionary visit any time of the year to motivate the children at your school.

School visits can be in person or they can also be done virtually. Please get in touch with our office to schedule a visit for your students during the school year.

Visits can also be arranged for Religious Education programs.



Sister Lisa Valentini was able to visit several schools in September 2022. This was her first in person visit to schools in the Los Angeles Archdioceses since the start of the pandemic.



This year the theme for the MCA Youth Appreciation Mass is "You shall be my witness". Acts 1:8 Jesus told his disciples that they would have to be his witnesses to the whole world and make disciples of all people baptizing them. As we continue with this mission today, Pope Francis reminds us that it is through our testimony that we share our faith.

This year was very special to us as we celebrated 100 years since MCA and the other Societies got to be named Pontifical. Allowing them to be part of the worldwide network of praying and giving at the service of the Pope and the church.

The participation of children in the missionary efforts of the church do not go unnoticed. With the motto of MCA being "**children evangelizing children, children pray for children, children help children the world over**" the mass gives us a chance to thank all the children in the Archdiocese for their generous donations.

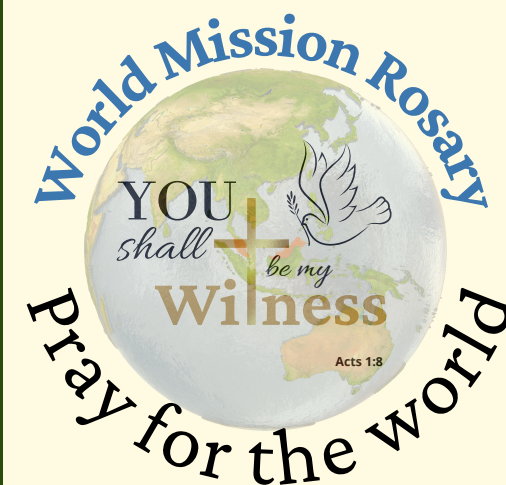
We will have a scavenger hunt with different missionaries that have served all around the world. Each of us as baptized Catholics are called to give testimony of our faith. The scavenger hunt will give students the chance to see how missionaries are giving testimony of faith through the work they are doing.

The students will be asked to go up to each cut out of a missionary and read about the work being done by the missionary group. Which involves ministry work with families, youth, children, the formation of seminarians and fostering of vocations. These cut-outs will also give students a visual that missionaries working in other countries are lay and religious people. All of them working to bring awareness of the love of God for all his children.

Everyone participating in the scavenger hunt will have a chance to hear a voice recording made by the missionary, sharing what the best part of being a missionary is! These recordings will also be available on our website for students to hear at any time.

As in previous years, all the students who are participating in MCA are invited to join us for the mass. It will be on Wednesday, October 19, at 10am.

If your school cannot join us that day at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, dedicate a mass at your school to the missions.



Gather the students to pray the World Mission Rosary. This can be done out in a field or in an auditorium. As the students gather, each of them can present a flower to the Virgin Mary.



As you pray the World Mission Rosary for each decade say the following:

First decade for Africa

African people are filled with joy! Mass on a Sunday can last 2 to 3 hours as there is always lots of singing and dancing. While we offer this decade to the people of Africa we think of Saint Josephine Bahkita. Bahkita means "fortunate." At 7 years old, she was sold into slavery in South Sudan. Despite facing such hardship. Her spirit was always joyful. She became a Canossian Religious sister.

Second Decade for the Americas

Red is the color of martyrs. All people need to be treated fairly and justly. All people deserve the basic needs - clean water, a safe place to live, enough food for the family, work and healthcare needs. As we offer this decade for the people living in north and south america we think of Saint Oscar Romero and the 4 Religious Sisters who were martyred. Bishop Oscar Romero was shot down during the consecration of the mass, while he proclaimed the Words: "This is my Body given for you."

Third Decade for Europe

We remember the white garment of baptism and the purity of Christ Jesus. St. Paul says "When we are baptized, we are clothed in Christ..." Rome is in Europe where our Holy Father, Pope Francis resides. He asks us to be in solidarity with the oppressed people.

Fourth Decade for the Islands of the Pacific (Oceania)

The ocean water is home to thousands of islands. Most of their food comes from the ocean. Everyone has a responsibility to keep the surrounding waters clean and healthy. As we offer this decade for the people living in the islands of the Pacific we think of Saint Francis of Assisi. He had a great love and respect for all of God's people and animals.

Fifth Decade for Asia

The sun rises in the East to bring a new day! We remember the many different religions in Asia like Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. God is present in every human being. We respect and reverence every person as a child of God. As we offer this decade for the people in Asia we remember Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, the first martyr of the Philippines. He said: 'If I had a thousand lives, I would give them all to God...'



(The pictures and prayers before each decade are taken from St. Lucy Paish in Long Beach)



Timeline of the Pontifical Mission Societies and anniversaries for 2022

When we speak of mission, we have to remember that we are not sent on mission alone. When Christ gave his disciples the mission of evangelization, he told them the Holy Spirit would be sent to give them strength and power.

"Mission is carried out together, not individually, in communion with the ecclesial community, and not on one's own initiative." This should give us comfort and encouragement that we are called to mission not alone but as a community. As members of a community that is universal, we are called to rely on each other not just by example but also by helping live out our faith.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot lived many years ago but her desire to help the missions made her reach out to others and ask for their help. Through the network of aid, she put together to help missionaries abroad, she allowed the lay people at home to participate in the mission of the church. As the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith she was able to organize a large group of people to help raise funds for missionaries.

When we read about her life, we come to see that by relying on others, her efforts were able to be fruitful and long lasting after her death. The Society of the Propagation of the Faith inspired the other societies, all of which support the missionary efforts of the church helping to further

the mission of evangelization the church has.

Earlier this year we celebrated her Beatification and learned more about her life. She was born in 1799 to a wealthy family. She was a very spoiled child but at the age of 15 she lost her mother and had a fall that left her in bed for a long time. This brought a change in her and also with the influence of her brother who was a priest. She was inspired to start organizing people to help support the missions. She gave her whole life and fortune to helping the missions. The seeds she has planted gave fruits and now all over the world the Pontifical Mission Societies exist to bring awareness and support to the missionary efforts of the church.

You can visit the National Office for the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States and see all the Mission Offices in the U.S. (<http://www.propfaith.net/diocesanmap/>)

The Pontifical Mission Societies are active all over the world. You can also see all the countries that have a National Office for the Pontifical Mission Societies by visiting the website of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the World (<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/ppoomm-nel-mondo.html>)

All of us are called to help support the mission efforts and children do so when they donate to the Missionary Childhood Association.



In the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday, we hear when Jesus calls his disciples and tells them they will be his witnesses when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. He is letting them know that they will not be left alone and that they will have the help of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the mission of being Jesus' witnesses to the world. Pope Francis tells us in his message for World Mission Sunday, "whereas [the disciples] had previously been weak, fearful and closed in on themselves, the Holy Spirit gave them the strength, courage and wisdom to bear witness to Christ before all."

When Jesus told his disciples that he wanted them to be his witnesses, it meant he wanted them to speak to others about the love God has for his children and the sacrifice he was willing to offer for their salvation. Share how their encounter with Jesus changed them for the better. When we bear witness to Christ, we are sharing his life, passion, death, and resurrection announcing the Good News of salvation just like the first disciples did.

As we share our faith experiences with others and give testimony of our faith and Jesus, we help to lead others to know Jesus and have a friendship with him. Just like the first disciples, we have the Holy Spirit to give us strength and wisdom. The Holy Spirit guides us and is among us.

We have so many opportunities to bear witness: when we are playing with friends, at meals, visiting family and friends and when we gather with our church community. Even when we post things on social media, we have a chance to be Christ's witness.

Make a bulletin with the whole school to remind the students that they are not alone when answering their call to mission. The Holy Spirit will give them courage and wisdom to be the best witnesses they can be.

Have each child think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and which one they think will help them best to be a witness of Jesus to others. Then on a cut out of a symbol of the Holy Spirit, a dove or a flame, have each student write how that gift would help them be witnesses of Christ to others.

"Would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!"



At the center of the bulletin put the theme for World Mission Sunday and the quote above.

Emphasize to the students that when we say to the ends of the world, depending on where we are in life, it could also mean just stepping out of our boundaries we might feel.