Even though Saint Charles Borromeo isn’t considered a Missionary Saint, his legacy affects many Missionaries today who are being taught at the Seminary institutions that are named in his honor.

Saint Charles Borromeo was Roman Catholic Archbishop of Milan [1564-1584], who became a Cardinal. Together with Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Philip Neri, he played a leading role in the Counter-Reformation combat against the Protestant Reformation.

Saint Charles was responsible for significant reforms in the Catholic Church, he believed that abuses in the Church arose from ignorant clergy. Among his most important actions, he established seminaries, colleges, and communities for the education of candidates for holy orders. His emphasis on Catholic learning greatly increased the preparation of men for the priesthood and benefited their congregations. In addition, he founded the fraternity of Oblates of St. Ambrose, a society of secular men who were not ordained, but devoted themselves to the church and followed a discipline of monastic prayers and study. They provided assistance to parishes where ordered by the Church. His efforts for catechesis and the instruction of youth included the initiation of the first “Sunday School” classes [PREP] and the work of the Confraternity for Christian Doctrine [CCD].

Feast Day: November 4th  
Patron of: Listed Above  
Birth: October 2, 1538  
Death: November 3, 1584  
Beatified: May 12, 1602  
Canonized: November 1, 1610

Missionary Vocations Prayer

God of all nations, we are most grateful for the first Catholic Missionaries and explorers who came to Philadelphia. As strangers in a strange land they brought with them countless skills, talents and traditions, but their greatest treasure was their faith.

May the good News of Jesus Christ, which molded and shaped their lives, continue to mold and shape our lives today. Bless our Archdiocese with men and women who will follow in their footsteps to serve the Church as Religious Brothers, Sisters, priests, and deacons.

AMEN

FUN FACT: Did you know that there are young men from Mission lands studying for the priesthood here in Philadelphia?

Pictured above are seminarians from Mission Lands who attend St. Charles Borromeo Seminary at this year’s World Mission Dinner.