



MISSION MONTH PRAYER SERVICE

October 2018

Leader: This month celebrates the Missions of the Church and looks to support missionaries serving in those Missions. We join with Catholics all around the world in renewing (which means to say YES again) our commitment to be missionaries. To be missionary we share the love and hope of Jesus with people everywhere. Today, we come together to renew in prayer our commitment to the missionary Church, and to pray as well for all missionaries who spend their lives serving the poor and suffering in Jesus' name. This also means sharing our faith with others with our words and actions. You might be thinking, "Me? *Share my faith with others? I can't do that!*" This can be an adventure for us which can be a risk, let's start experiencing this by entering into a minefield.

THE MINEFIELD

+ All Grades

+ Time Needed: 20 minutes

+ Supplies: Blindfolds for half the number of students

Prepare: Prepare area in which you have placed various obstacles to walking, e.g. chairs, blocks, small toys, etc).

Directions: Pair off students. Designate one member of each pair to go first. That student puts on the blindfold. Then, explain how the minefield activity works.

The blindfolded partners will be led—verbally—through the minefield from the beginning to the end by the "seeing" partners. Those who are blindfolded need to trust their partners to guide them safely so they do not step on any 'mines' or get hurt in any way. Once the blindfolded students reach the end of the minefield, they can take off their blindfolds and hand them to their partners. Allow a few minutes for all the participants to move through the minefield area. The "seeing" partners cannot step into the minefield or touch their partners as they guide them through the dangers that await them! When all have successfully navigated the minefield, ask students to return to the main meeting space.

Note to Leader: Depending upon the size of your group, you may need to let several people get a bit of the way through the minefield before others may start.

Prayer Leader: Now let us listen to what God has to say to us:

O God, you call us to be risk-takers in spreading the Good News. Just as we trusted our partner to get us through the minefield, we trust in you to guide us along the way.

All: Amen.

Reader: Isaiah 2:1-5

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of

Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

R./ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day pours out the word to day,
and night to night imparts knowledge.

R./ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Not a word nor a discourse
whose voice is not heard;
Through all the earth their voice resounds,
and to the ends of the world, their message.

R./ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Reader: Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer: God, our Father, we thank you for all the blessings we have received. We ask you to forgive us our failings and to grant us the grace to continue working to be better disciples of your Son Jesus. Guide and protect us always. Amen.

Let’s Build it Together!

What could you build with only one block? You certainly couldn’t build a city. You couldn’t even build one house! What if your friends share their blocks? Working together you could build a house. And, as more friends join in the work, you could even build a city. Sharing makes the work easy!

God wants us to share in this same way. He wants us to work together to build the City of God. During this Mission Month, we are called upon as Catholics to make a special effort to be missionaries and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to all nations. When you join in the work of the Missionary Childhood Association, you join with your brothers and sisters across the globe who want to build a better world. By sharing our faith, through our prayers and our gifts, we share our love – and *together*, we build the City of God.

CHALLENGE: Ask friends or classmates to share Lego® bricks to mark your contributions to the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). Each time someone says a prayer for children in the Missions or makes a personal or financial sacrifice to MCA, add a brick to your building. How high do you think your building will reach?



Girls who attend Catholic school in Agartala, India represent different tribal groups. All are taught to love and respect one another.

Activity: Making a Faith Collage

Materials needed:

- Various, old magazines, at least one per participant
- Scissors, at least one pair per two participants
- Glue sticks, at least one per two participants
- Construction paper, all colors, or other heavy-weight paper, one sheet per participant
- Fine-tip markers, 2-3 per participant
- Half sheets of newsprint, one per small group of four

Invite the participants to spend a minute or two thinking about the answers to the three questions.

- What is one thing I love about my faith?
- What is my favorite experience of Jesus?
- What is the riskiest thing I've done as a Christian?

With the supplies on the table, look for pictures in magazines that you can clip and glue to the construction paper 'palette.' With the markers, write in words or phrases or even Scripture quotes that help describe a part of your faith.

When everyone is done have individuals share and describe their collage to the group.

MCA Kids Help!

The Missionary Childhood Association supports a large number of schools and religious education programs in India, where just about 2% of the population is Christian. In the Diocese of Agartala, a recent contribution of \$5,000 from MCA kids in the United States helped purchase uniforms, books and stationery for 120 girls who attend a boarding school run by the Sisters of Charity. The Sisters also used some of the funds to build a rainwater tank so they could provide clean, safe drinking water to their students.

"We are grateful to MCA children in the United States for helping our students," said Sister Mary, president of the school, in a letter to our national office in New York. "We tell students that they are children of God and teach them to appreciate the richness of different cultures."

Faith formation classes are taught on Sunday and each night ends with special prayers for the children of the world. When they return home for holidays, the girls are missionaries to their own families – sharing what they have learned and reading from the Bible to their parents and siblings.



This tank was designed to capture clean rainwater allowing the Sisters to provide clean drinking water to students.

Students receive religious education and learn how to pray the Rosary.