

It's Our World

LEADER'S
Guide

New Name -
Same
"Great Works"

The Holy Childhood Association has changed its name to the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). This recent change, made after thorough consultation with diocesan staff nationwide, emphasizes the missionary nature of our work and brings us into alignment with MCA worldwide. While there will be a period of transition, the new name will be a part of all new materials moving forward.

LIVING LENT

Lent is the season of the Church year when we begin a special journey of remembrance, prayerfully recalling the suffering and death of our Lord, and the power of His Resurrection. It is a time when many of us seek spiritual renewal through repentance, prayer and sacrifice, and affirm our belief in the Risen Christ.

Lent is also a most appropriate time to turn our attention away from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Today in the Missions, Christ is alive in the missionaries who bring Jesus' Gospel message to the poor and who stand with them through their trials and sufferings -- missionaries, like Sister Lucienne Schmitt who works among the Aka, a native tribe of the rainforests of the Central African Republic.

"I wanted to be here with these people, who were kept as slaves," said Sister Lucienne. "I wanted to show them that they are loved, help them to understand that God loves them."

Two years after Sister Lucienne arrived in Africa from her native France, the first school was opened. Here, the children receive a balanced meal three times a week and lessons in writing and math. Sister Lucienne also works to provide basic medical care to all the Aka families. "Through small steps," said Sister Lucienne, "walked with God and His people; we change lives."

Activities

Scripture Challenge

- **Grades 4-8**
- **Materials: Index cards (2 per student), pens/pencils, tape, Bibles (one per student)**

Directions: Before students arrive, label the back of each chair or desk with a number using index cards and tape. For example, if there are 15 students in the class, desks should be labeled from one to 15. On the remaining index cards, write one of the following Scripture references on each card along with written directions for using the card (see illustration below; Scripture verses can be repeated if needed). Allow time for students to complete the task, then ask students to share their answers / illustrations. Conclude by encouraging them to commit to one activity this Lent that will help them to share Jesus with others – to be missionaries.

Lenten Prayer Circle

1. Pick up a Bible and a pencil at the teacher's desk.
2. Find and then sit down in the chair marked number _____
3. Look up and read the following Scripture passage _____
4. Think about this question:

What does this reading say about sharing Jesus with others? Write your answer on the back of this card or draw a picture that illustrates this reading on the back of this card. Be prepared to share your work.

Adapted from KidsSundaySchoolPlace.com

Love, Healing and Forgiveness

- **Grades 6-8**

Participation in the Sacraments helps to unite the people of God. Ask students to write a short essay which tells how the Sacrament of Reconciliation in particular helps bring God's people together. Ask students to focus on how this Sacrament helps nourish the soul and leads to healing. As a group, prepare a classroom prayer service asking for forgiveness. Include a litany of forgiveness that includes:

- For all the times I have been mean to my friends, forgive me Lord.
- For talking back to my parents...
- For being unkind in words and actions...
- For being selfish...

Conclude the service by reciting the Act of Contrition together and then lead a class discussion about areas of the world that are most in need of hope, peace and healing. As a group, commit to praying daily for those areas of the world during the Lenten Season.

- **Matthew 18:14**
- **Mark 16:15**
- **Acts 5:20**
- **Acts 5:42**
- **Romans 10:15**
- **Ephesians 4:32**



Known By Our Fruits

- **Grades K-5**
- **Materials: one overripe banana, one just ripe banana**

Directions: Show students the overripe banana first and ask for their reactions. Perhaps ask: Who would like to eat this banana? Why would you choose not to eat it? How can you tell this banana will not taste very good? Allow time for answers. Next, show them the “good” banana and ask the same questions.

Read Matthew 7:17-20 aloud to the class. Then challenge students to think about their lives as compared with the bananas you have displayed. Explain that others will know who we are by the type of fruit we produce. Ask them what kind of fruit they want to produce – do they want to look like the overripe banana or the good banana?

Allow time for discussion and encourage them to think of things they can do this Lent – particularly in support of the Missions – that will help them bear “good fruit.”

Adapted from KidsSundaySchoolPlace.com

Lenten Prayer Circle

- **All Grades**
- **Materials: A small globe**

Form a circle with your group. Hand the globe to one student and ask him or her to pass it to the right. As each child receives the globe, ask him / her to pray aloud for one child in the Missions. While not naming the child, have the prayer be directed to a child in a specific mission country. Explain that through their prayers and gathering they are building community and contributing to a better world by expressing their love and faith in Jesus.

Online Ideas!

Seeing Lent Come Alive

This Lent, consider adding a visual reminder in your classroom of Christ’s death and Resurrection with a “Resurrection Plant” also known as the Rose of Jericho or Miracle Fern. These plants can be ordered online at a number of sites, including: <http://www.dunecraft.com/products/resurrectionplant.htm>

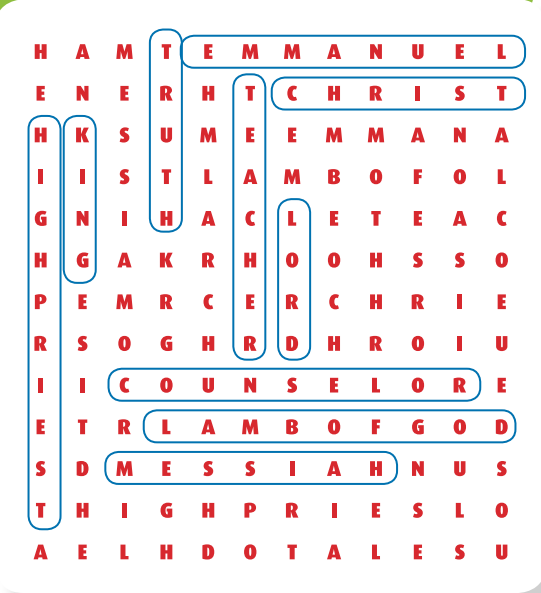
Easter Triduum Plate

This craft requires a little patience and time but yields a great teaching tool for kids. <http://www.catholicinspired.com> (use search term: Easter Triduum Spinning Paper Plate)

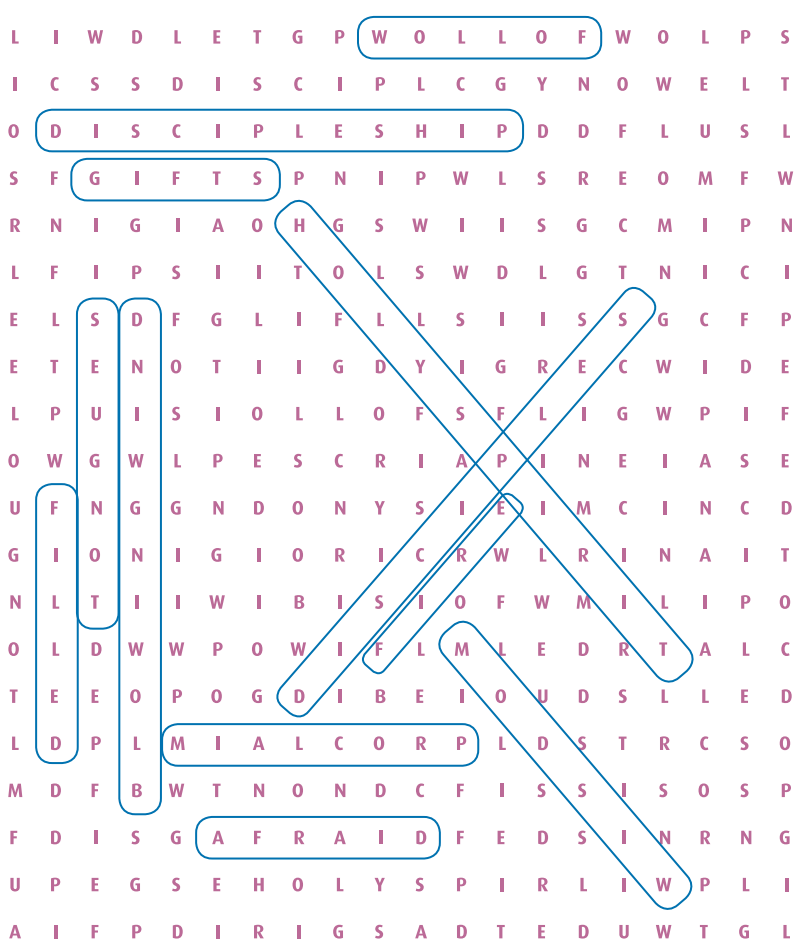
Mission Passports

This Christian blog site features a neat idea for making “Passports for the Missions,” offering directions and print outs. The activity could easily be adapted for home or classroom use. Visit <http://heartofthematteronline.com/passports-for-missions/>

Grades 2-3
Word Search Solutions



Grades 4-5
Word Search Solutions



Grades 2-3
Brain Teaser

A: \$2.10

Grades 6-8
Lent IQ

1. Spring
2. Ash Wednesday
3. Stone
4. throw himself down to be saved by angels
5. bow down and worship Satan
6. fasting
7. charity
8. The Our Father

Be a Part of Our Mission!

We are most grateful to you for inspiring a missionary heart among the students you teach. To keep up with news from the mission world, we encourage you to visit our main website, www.OneFamilyInMission.org; you may also visit the news agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies, www.FIDES.org. Please pray daily for your mission family, and offer help when you can at www.GiveToTheMissions.org.

