

MCA MISSION NEWS ✚

Lent 2013 | Celebrating The Year of Faith

"In His name the nations will put their hope." (Matthew 12:21)

It's Our World

GRADES

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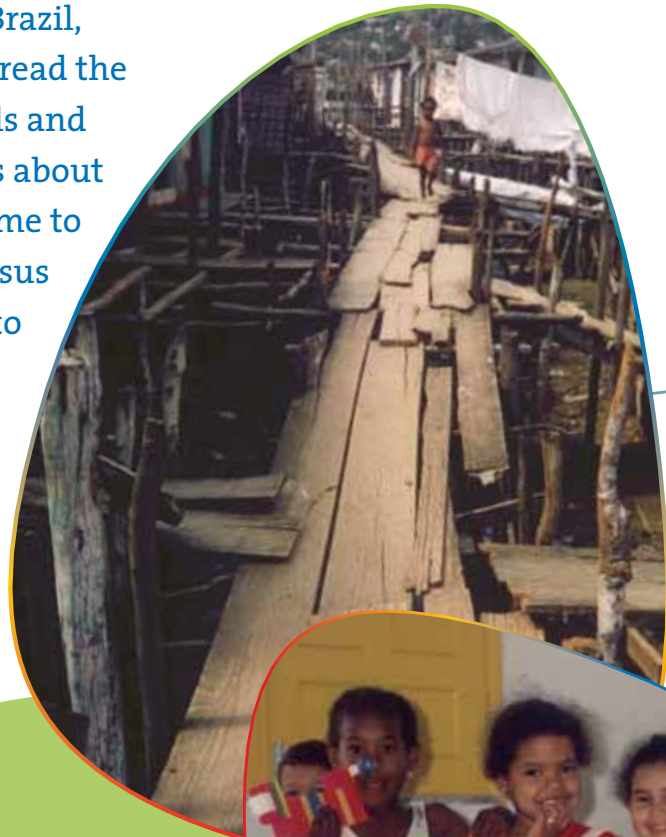
YOUR DOLLARS FOR NIGERIA

Did you know that your MCA dollars stretch all the way to the coast of Nigeria? Well, they do! And those dollars – *along with your prayers* – do great things! For example, your donations helped St. Martin de Porres Clinic in Lagos, Nigeria. The clinic distributes medicine, vitamins and clean water to children. The missionaries who run the clinic also teach the children about Jesus. Children and families who want to learn more about the Catholic faith are taught by catechists. And every Sunday in Lagos at a nearby church, St. Andrew, some 5,000 people go to Mass. So the next time you give a dollar to MCA, think about how far it will travel – and the smiling faces of children in Nigeria!

MISSION SNAPSHOT

At the John Paul II Crèche School in Brazil, children learn about Jesus, pray and read the Bible. They also receive healthy meals and medical check-ups. The school serves about 200 children. Sometimes, parents come to the school so they can learn about Jesus too! Some families have even asked to be baptized!

Where do you live? Most of the children who attend Pope John Paul II Crèche live in Novos Alagados. Novos Alagados is an area in Brazil where very poor people live in houses built on stilts over the Todos Santos Bay.




BRAIN TEASER

MCA knows how hard you work to save money to sacrifice for kids in the Missions during Lent. Imagine that inside your coin holder is one dollar bill, three quarters, two dimes and 15 pennies. How much money would you have to give to the Missions? Try to figure this out without pencil and paper.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Paschal Candle is one of the main symbols of the Easter Season, representing the light of Jesus Christ and His victory over darkness (death). "Pasch" comes from the Hebrew word "pesah," meaning deliverance, or Passover (when the Jewish people were delivered by God from Egypt).



**PRAISE JESUS
WORD SEARCH**

- TRUTH
- LAMB OF GOD
- EMMANUEL
- HIGH PRIEST
- LORD
- TEACHER
- MESSIAH
- COUNSELOR
- KING
- CHRIST

DON'T GIVE UP – FILL UP

Lent is a good time to make sacrifices, to give up things we enjoy so that we become closer to God.

But Lent is also a time to “fill up” with good things. For example, you can spend time with your family learning more about the Missions. Read a mission magazine together – or *It’s Our World*. Do you know a priest from a mission country? Talk to him after Mass. Ask him what it was like growing up in his country, and how he came to be a priest.

You can also spend some time learning about the days before Jesus died. Read those stories in your Bible. Imagine what it would have been like to be with Him at that time. Right before Jesus was arrested, He was very sad and needed to pray, but the friends He brought with him fell asleep. Would you have been able to stay awake?

H A M T E M M A N U E L
 E N E R N T C H R I S T
 H K S U M E E M M A N A
 I I S T L A M B O F O L
 G N I H A C L E T E A C
 H G A K R H O O N S S O
 P E M R C E R C H R I E
 R S O G H R D H R O I U
 I I C O U N S E L O R E
 E T R L A M B O F G O D
 S D M E S S I A N N U S
 T H I G H P R I E S L O
 A E L H D O T A L E S U

**FAMILY TIME! MAKE A
RESURRECTION GARDEN!**

During Lent or at Easter, share this activity with your parents or grandparents, an aunt or uncle, maybe even an older brother or sister.

Directions

1. Fill a shallow dish or tray (such as a foil baking pan) with soil from your garden or potting soil (available at garden centers and hardware stores).
2. Arrange the soil so that there is a hill on one side.
3. Cover the soil with moss, scattered cut grass or sand.
4. Make three crosses with dried twigs (or popsicle sticks) tied with sewing thread or glued together and place on top of the hill.
5. Make a cave in the bottom of the hill to represent the tomb where Jesus was laid. Place a stone in front of it.
6. Make one or two little holes in the soil on either side of the hill or across from it. In these holes place small containers, such as egg cups, and then fill them with water.
7. If you like, you can make a path coming from the tomb with gravel to remind you of the disciples running to the tomb and finding it empty on the first Easter morning.
8. On Easter Sunday, put some pretty flowers in the containers and move back the stone from the tomb – all to represent Jesus’ Resurrection.

LENTEN MISSION PRAYER

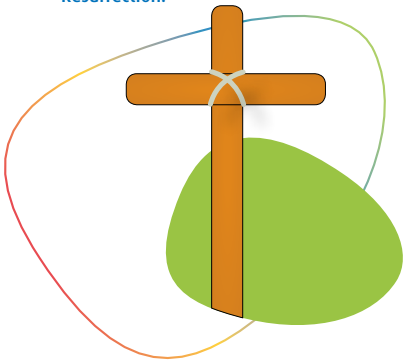
Jesus, sometimes it’s hard to do what is right and good. But I know You are always with us, even if we sometimes forget, helping us to be kind and giving just like You.

Help us to be more like You by making good choices and by sharing with others, thinking of others first, even when that is hard to do.

Jesus, we love You and want to be like You, kind and loving.

We want to be Your missionary and share Your love.

We promise to do our best to be like You and to love our neighbor, at home and in the Missions, especially during Lent. Amen.



I AM A MISSIONARY TODAY!

Complete the form below, and display it at home or in your classroom to remind you to be a missionary EVERY DAY this Lent!

This Lent, I promise to make a special effort to be a missionary for Jesus. I know that to be a missionary, I can pray, and I can sacrifice and offer money to MCA to help children in the Missions.

This Lent, I will pray (list who you'll pray for, or what country)

Today I will sacrifice (give up)

This Lent I will do my best to offer \$ _____ to MCA to help children in the Missions learn about Jesus!

Name

Date

Signature

