

It's Our World

MCA MISSION NEWS ✝
Lent 2013 | Celebrating The Year of Faith
"In His name the nations will put their hope." (Matthew 12:21)

GRADES

4-5

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LET'S TALK ABOUT CHRISTMAS – IN LENT

This past Christmas Eve, a special visitor traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to meet with children at an afterschool program at St. Mary Virgin Catholic Church. Father Andrew Small, OMI, National Director of the Missionary Childhood Association, came to bring children in this part of the Missions your greetings and your love – a special gift any time of the year!

Father Andrew joined the children for their annual Christmas party. There was face painting – and Santa even stopped by for a visit, bringing gifts for the children. Father Andrew also brought presents for the children – "crazy bands" bracelets in the shape of famous New York places, like the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty. *(continued on page two)*

LENTEN CHALLENGE



Typical homes in the slum known as Makoko in Lagos, Nigeria

LET'S TALK ABOUT CHRISTMAS – IN LENT

(continued from front cover)

But those were just the gifts given to children on Christmas Eve. Last year, just after Easter, your help through MCA – \$5,000 in fact – was sent to this parish to provide food for children in this afterschool program. Contributions from children in the United States to MCA last year helped close to 1,000 children just in this Alexandria area of Egypt – ensuring each received nutritious food and an education!

More help is needed, however. That was the message Father Andrew heard from local priests and Sisters here. Requests for assistance from families are increasing, as are costs for food. Please continue to pray for the children of Egypt and children all over the world. And please consider making a sacrifice this Lent to MCA to help your brothers and sisters in Egypt and throughout the Missions learn about Jesus.

This Lent, don't just give up your favorite food or beverage. Instead, make the sacrifice more meaningful by learning about the diets of young people in mission countries. For example, according to the United Nations World Food Program, 870 million people do not have enough to eat, and 98 percent of them live in developing countries. In addition, one out of every four of those children – about 146 million children in total – is underweight.

This Lent, consider adding 25 cents to your coin holder each time you feel hungry. Add a dollar to your coin holder every time you have a craving for a fast food – *you know* a “dollar menu item.” In Lagos, Nigeria, just one dollar would buy two loaves of bread for a hungry family! Now might also be a good time to remind your family to offer a prayer of thanksgiving before each meal for God's generosity and to remember all who do not have enough food to eat or who have not yet heard the “Good News” of Jesus.



DID YOU KNOW?

Americans eat some 16 billion jellybeans at Easter. If all those jellybeans were lined end to end, they would circle the globe nearly three times!

READ MORE: Easter Candy Facts — Infoplease.com
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/eastercandy1.html#ixzz2HhcbA7QJ>

LENTEN MISSION PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Help us be strong, and always turn to You when we feel lost and weak.

Help us be brave, and always give of ourselves to others in Your name.

Help us be compassionate, and always share Your love.

Help us be charitable, and always give to others less fortunate than ourselves.

Help us increase our faith, and share Your Good News with the world.

Jesus, You came and died for us so that we may have eternal life.

Most especially during Lent, help us to be Your missionary disciples, as we recognize the opportunities we have every day to share in Your mission to the whole world! 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)

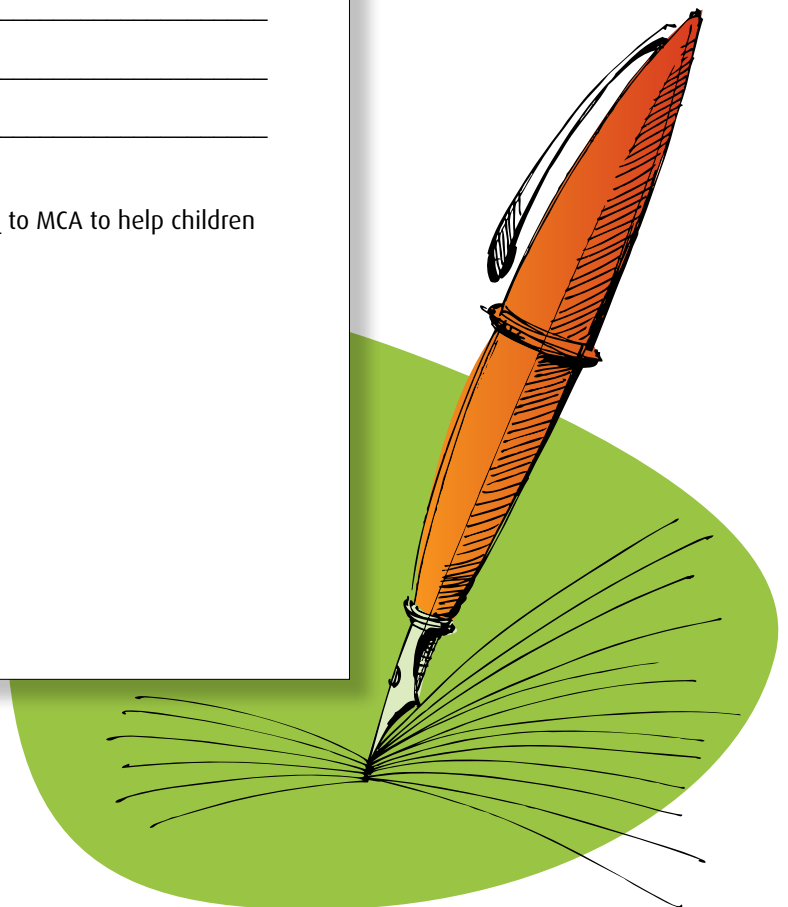
Today I will sacrifice (give up)

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

Name

Date

Signature



PENTECOST WORD SEARCH

Pentecost Sunday is a great missionary celebration of the Catholic Church. This Year, Pentecost Sunday takes place on May 19. Pentecost Sunday is always celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday. In fact, the word *pente* is a Greek word that means “50.” On that Sunday, we are reminded that, just like the disciples who lived with and knew Jesus, we too are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us share the “Good News” of His love with the whole world! Read from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-13), and then see if you can find all the answers in this Pentecost word search.

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

FIRE
BLOWING WIND
TONGUES
FILLED
DISCIPLESHIP
FOLLOW
GIFTS
DISCIPLES
AFRAID
WISDOM
HOLY SPIRIT
PROCLAIM



AT A GLANCE

Issues Facing Children in Bangladesh

- About 13 percent of children are involved in child labor – denied education and vulnerable to abuse.
- Only about half of the children in Bangladesh go on to high school.
- Many children are malnourished. Roughly half of all children under age five are underweight.
- Children face annual floods and other natural disasters, including cyclones and tornados. Bangladesh is also susceptible to earthquakes

SOURCE: The United Nations Children’s Fund



SENDING YOUR LOVE TO BANGLADESH!

At the St. Anthony Mission Center in Shimulia, Bangladesh, some 45 children receive an education, as well as food, clothing and shelter. The mission center was started by a local priest, Father Dominic Rozario. The village where the center is located has only seven Catholic families – all of whom came to embrace our faith in Jesus through Father Rozario’s own work and witness. Over several decades, his outreach to migrant workers and the most vulnerable peoples in remote areas of Bangladesh led to his opening at least five similar mission centers around the capital city of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Three religious Sisters care for the children at the mission center. Until last year, there was no electricity – and the children had to sleep on the floor; they endured sweltering heat in the summer and cold winters. Maximum summer temperatures in Bangladesh range between 86°F and 104°F. April is the warmest month in most parts of the country. January is the coldest, with an average temperature of 50°F. Thanks to your help through MCA, the Sisters were able to buy beds for the children – and to provide for their basic needs.

ABOVE: Sisters care for the children at the St. Anthony Mission Center in Shimulia, Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bangladesh tops the 2012 Global Climate Risk Index, a ranking of 170 countries most vulnerable to climate change, according to Germanwatch, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that works on environment and development issues. Bangladesh is particularly at risk because of its geography and vast flood plain. With your parents’ permission, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (<http://www.usccb.org>) and search “climate change” to read about this issue and about the service of the Church.

MISSION SNAPSHOT

“We thank MCA for helping us provide a home for children where they can learn and grow to become good citizens and faithful children of God,” wrote Sister Mariangela Costa in a letter to the Missionary Childhood Association. Sister Mariangela helps to run a boarding school for children in Meherpur, Bangladesh. “We provide a home to very poor girls,” she explained. “We offer food, clothing, education and medical care because their parents cannot afford to do so. The financial help that you give helps us to stretch our helping hands toward the poorest and most needy children.”

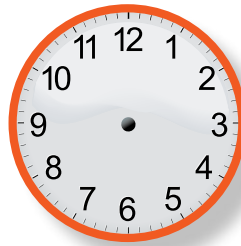
Each year, the children at this boarding school attend a special MCA Mass with other children in a nearby parish. During that Mass, they offer their prayers and gifts for children of the world.



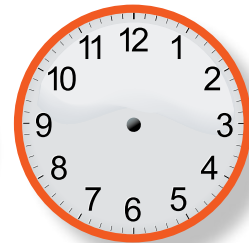
My Hometown



Egypt



Nigeria



Bangladesh

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Mission stories from three countries were featured in this issue of *It's Our World* – Egypt, Nigeria, and Bangladesh. Use a smartphone app or go online to find out what time it is when it is noon in your hometown.

SAY “THANKS” THIS LENT

God has done great things for us. He deserves our thanks and praise for his many gifts to us – the beauty of nature that surrounds us, the people who love and care for us, the good things we have to eat and drink, just to name a few. Above all, we are grateful to God for the gift of our faith. Today, write a thank you note to God, telling him that for which you are most grateful at this very moment! Don't feel like writing too much? Try writing a Twitter message to God – a “tweet” has no more than 140 characters. Even the Pope “tweets” these days!

