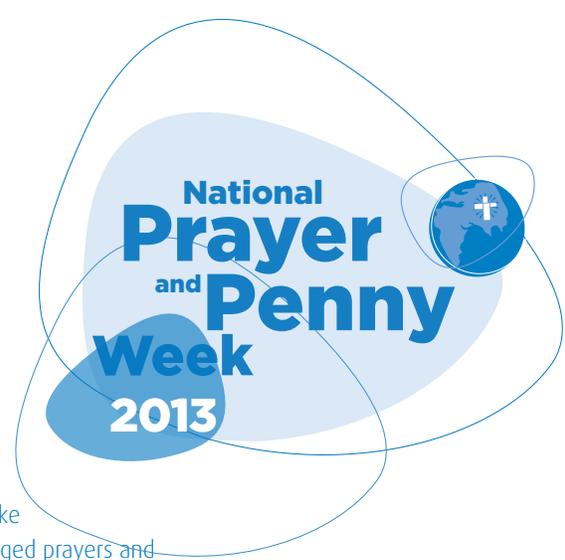


# Welcome to National Prayer and Penny Week!

This year, the Missionary Childhood Association celebrates **National Prayer and Penny Week from March 10 to 17**. This year's enhanced program honors the vision and legacy Venerable Pauline Jaricot, founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society like the Missionary Childhood Association. This young French laywoman encouraged prayers and financial help – “prayers and pennies” – for the Missions of her day (including our own country). Today, her vision calls us to action – to do for the Church in the Missions of our day what she helped do for us in building the Church here in the United States. To learn more about Pauline Jaricot and her vision visit <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/society-propfaith/paulinejaricot.html>.



At the time our **National Prayer and Penny Week** went to press, the world received news of the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI. In a statement to all who love and support the missionary work of the Church, Father Andrew Small, OMI, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, noted: “When I was introduced to Pope Benedict in 2011, the Pope immediately recognized the tremendous love that American Catholics have for him and for the Church: ‘Great works,’ he said to me, smiling, acknowledging the generosity of Catholics here at home for the Church throughout the world.” Father Andrew continued: “The Pope’s decision to retire is a characteristic act of love for the whole Church, above all else. He has offered us an example of true humility. The consummate teacher, he continues to show us that only in union with Christ are all things possible.”

To read Father Andrew’s complete statement and learn more about the life and witness of Pope Benedict XVI visit our website at <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/homepage/pope-benedict-xvi.html>

During this National Prayer and Penny Week in particular – dedicated in part to the Year in Faith as declared by the Pope – we offer the following prayer for reflection on this period of transition for the Church. As we do, we remember as well the earnest hope of Pope Benedict XVI, that this Year of Faith would bring “renewed energy to the mission of the Church.”

*Dear Lord,*

*We pray for Pope Benedict XVI who has poured out his life in service of God, the Church and the poor. May he find peace and joy in this next stage of his life. Inspired by his life and ever-prayerful witness, may we boldly proclaim the Gospel – particularly during this Year of Faith – as we too embrace the world in prayer. Amen.*

## Resources for National Prayer and Penny Week

During National Prayer and Penny Week (March 10-17), participants turn their focus to the hope they can offer to those in need throughout our world through the loving service of missionaries – the hope that saves, Jesus Himself.

A Leader’s Guide is provided with activities for daily prayer and giving during National Prayer and Penny Week. Resources are designed to engage students in grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Choose strategies that work best for your environment and students. Many of these strategies are easily adaptable for use at home with families as well.

The Leader’s Guide also offers additional resources to get ready for the weeklong celebration of National Prayer and Penny Week. This includes stories introducing young people to missionaries and to the poor of the Missions to whom they offer the Good News of God’s great love. You will also find learning ideas and strategies to introduce students and families to the missionary life of the Church. Again, these resources are designed to engage students in grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Choose strategies that work best for your environment and students. Many of these strategies are easily adaptable for use at home with families as well.

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If time allows, we encourage you to participate in at least one activity a day. If you are unable to do so, we recommend implementing the program on “Day 6” as these activities lay the groundwork for participation in National Prayer and Penny Week itself.

### **After National Prayer and Penny Week**

As National Prayer and Penny Week concludes, we encourage you to continue to educate and involve students and families in the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies, especially the Missionary Childhood Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. For this reason, the Leader’s Guide features a variety of follow-up ideas and strategies in support of the Church’s missionary activities around the globe. Suggestions are provided for engaging students in grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Choose strategies that work best for your environment and students. Many of these ideas are easily adaptable for use at home with families as well.

### **Enclosed are the following materials for MCA’s National Prayer And Penny Week:**

- **National Prayer and Penny Week Poster (8.5” x 11”)**
- **National Prayer and Penny Week Response Card (to record the number of participants)**
- **National Prayer and Penny Week Leader’s Guide**

### **Contributions collected through this program may be sent to:**

MCA National Prayer and Penny Week  
The Pontifical Mission Societies  
70 West 36th Street, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10018