

Dear Mission Moderators, Principals and
Directors & Coordinators of Religious Education,

Called to be missionary. Who me?

In today's world, there are so many references to **Mission**. There are local missions to help those in need, missions to keep yourself healthy, mission statements, and on and on. But in days past, the word "**Mission**" immediately brought to mind men and women who went to distant places to tell others about Jesus. The challenge before us is awakening the **Missionary spirit** in the lives of the children in your schools, PREP programs and classrooms, so that they understand we are **ALL called to further the Mission of Jesus Christ**.

Through membership in the **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]**, one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, children in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and around the world learn about their baptismal responsibility to evangelize, grow in understanding of the lives of children their age in the developing world, and become active Missionary Disciples through their own witness, prayer, and sacrifice.

This year, Pope Francis has proclaimed an "**Extraordinary Month of Mission**" to be celebrated in **October, 2019**. In response to this request by the Holy Father, Archbishop Charles Chaput has approved an **Extraordinary Year of Mission** in the Archdiocese. This will begin with World Mission Sunday on **October 21, 2018** and lead up to the international Extraordinary Mission Month. In this resource, you will find the many ways that MCA can assist you in encouraging your students to fulfil their baptismal promise to be Missionary during this **Extraordinary Year of Mission**, and many years to come.

Sincerely in Christ's Mission,



Monsignor Arthur E. Rodger
Archdiocesan Director



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Extraordinary Year of Mission



Pages 1-3: Resource Overview & Archbishop's Letter

Pages 4 & 5: MCA Activities to Start the Year

Page 6: MCA Participation Response Form

Page 7: September Mission Saint Spotlight

Page 8: Back to School Litanies

Page 9: Word Maze Mission Worksheet

Page 10: Mission Focus: Iraqi Refugees in Jordan

Page 11: September Photo Page for Prayer Table

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship
and live

In the peace

Of God's love,

Now and forever.

Amen

Not familiar with the Missionary Childhood Association [MCA] ?

In collaboration with OCE & OCF, MCA provides this **Monthly Mission Resource** so you can pull ideas from it, engage your children with Missionary activities and teach them about the missions. Archbishop Chaput has asked that all Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREPs **prioritize the Mission Societies**. [Letter from the Archbishop is on page 3]. We understand that you cannot possibly use all of these resources, but you are asked to implement them however possible into your curriculum to inspire the youth of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia **to be Missionary Disciples!**

Resources for fostering *EXTRAORDINARY Missionary Disciples* during ORDINARY Time

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Ideas to kick off the *Extraordinary Year of Mission* and MCA Mission Animation and Education Materials Flyer [Page 4 & 5]
- † MCA Participation Response Form. [Page 6]
- † September Mission Saint Spotlight: Saint Peter Claver [Page 7]
- † Back to School Litany. [Page 8]
- † Mission Word Maze Worksheet [Page 9]
- † Distribute the “**Mission Focus: Iraqi Refugees in Jordan**” information piece. Pray with your students for children who had to leave their homes and start in a new place [Page 10].
- † This is the start of a new school year. Create an area for a Mission Prayer Corner with photos and, perhaps, items like crosses, nativity sets, etc. that are from different places in the world. Each month, include our *Mission Photo page*. For September, place the photos of the Namapiri Primary School in Mangochi in a prominent location on the table. [Page 11]
- † **Create a Mission Oriented Bulletin Board.** Examples and Resources provided [HERE](#) by the Office of Catholic Education



Children learning at the Lindalva Center in Cambodia

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Watch this short film with your students explaining the role of a Missionary in one of the 1,111 Dioceses support by MCA and the *Societies*. *Sister Sonia's Journey*, can be found [HERE](#).
- † Read with your students Pope Francis' letter to Cardinal Fernando Feloni on the upcoming **Extraordinary Month of Mission** found [HERE](#). Explain that Archbishop Chaput, in response to this declaration, has proclaimed an **Extraordinary Year of Mission** in Philadelphia.
- † Include the Holy Father's September Prayer Intention in your daily communal prayer: *That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.*

This Summer, the Missionary Childhood Association visited numerous Summer PREPs and Vacation Bible Schools. Thank you to all of the children in these following programs for the prayers and sacrifices they made for the Missions:



Mother Incarnation, SSVM at St. Pius X SPIRE

- † **Camp Caritas, Office of Catechetical Formation**
- † **St Richards Summer PREP in Philadelphia**
- † **Saints Simon and Jude Vacation Bible School**
- † **St. Pius X Immersion Religious Education Program (SPIRE)**
- † **St. Mary of the Assumption Summer PREP, Phoenixville**
- † **St. Andrew Summer PREP, Newtown**
- † **Queen of the Universe Summer PREP, Levittown**
- † **St. Rose of Lima Vacation Bible School, Eddystone**
- † **St John Fisher Vacation Bible School, Chichester**
- † **St. Helena Vacation Bible School, Blue Bell**

•If you would like this resource printed in **COLOR** for your catechists, simply contact Ali Holden at the MCA office and request the quantity you will need•



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 4, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am aware that many worthy charities contact you annually. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support first the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Childhood Association*] and Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

Church documents direct that the Pontifical Mission Societies should be given "first place" [*Ad Gentes* no. 38] and "the leading role" [*Redemptoris Missio* no. 84] in the Church's work of missionary formation through their material support, benefiting the poorest in the world. We need to support that work as best we can. We also need to support Catholic Relief Services [*CRS*] in the international humanitarian assistance they give to impoverished people overseas.

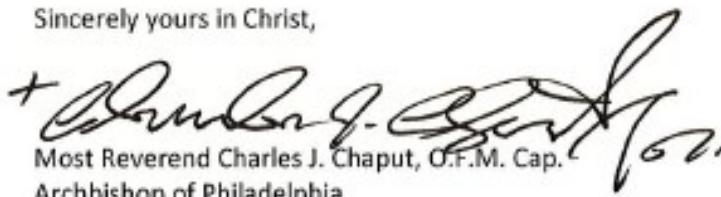
Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to first accommodate the Pontifical Mission Societies and CRS/Rice Bowl. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list.

Parishes, schools, and religious education programs may elect to support other worthy charities, but this should be in addition to their works of prayer and sacrifice through the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and CRS/Rice Bowl. I also ask that you carefully research any additional groups you choose to support to ensure that their work follows Catholic teaching. The Pontifical Mission Societies, given their standing in the Church internationally, are in the position to vet credentials of other Catholic mission relief groups if you require assistance.

Following these guidelines should help better support the universal evangelization efforts of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies, and the overseas humanitarian relief efforts of CRS.

I extend my thanks to those parishes, schools and religious education programs that already actively participate in the works of these charities, and am ever grateful for your efforts in forming those you serve in the Catholic Faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+ *Charles J. Chaput*

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Ideas to Kick off the School Year

The **MCA** resources for this year connect Missionary outreach and the teachings complementing the monthly resources from the Archdiocesan Office for Catechetical Education.

September . . . Begin the year *being Missionary*

- Include an **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** Commissioning Prayer, online at www.phillymissions.org, in one of your first assemblies.
- Create a **MCA** with a focus on Mission bulletin board display. [OCE Examples: [HERE](#)]
- Add a Mission prayer corner to your classroom or place an **MCA** photo and Mission bank on your prayer table [Page 11]
- Share with your students the news from the **MCA** in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. These children are a perfect example of living the **MCA** motto of children helping children and, “*Everyone has something to give and to receive.*” How might your students benefit from the prayers and example of these Missionary Children? Find out more [HERE](#)
- **Select classroom MCA Mission Representatives, start a Mission Club or a Mission Rosary Group.**
- **Schedule an MCA presentation.**
- Include the Holy Father’s Missionary Prayer Intention for September in your communal prayer: *That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.*
- Visit the website of Agenzia Fides, the information service of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, <http://fides.org/en> for news and photos. You can also subscribe to a daily email service.



Looking ahead to October:

- Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of the Missions, is October 1.
- **World Mission Sunday** will be celebrated in every parish around the world on October 21. Plan a Mission Day or Mission Fair to learn about the Missions and conduct a simple fundraiser such as a dress down day
- In Philadelphia, World Mission Sunday is the official start of the **Extraordinary Year of Mission**. The October MCA resource will focus on this *Extraordinary Year*!

For more Mission ideas, contact **Alixandra Holden**

Mission Education and Communications Coordinator

MCA@archphila.org • 215-587-3945 • www.phillymissions.org

Archdiocese of Philadelphia • 222 N. 17th Street • 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mission Animation for Students brought to you by Missionaries

MCA in Philadelphia exists to raise awareness of what it **means to be a Missionary** and how to foster the **Missionary spirit** to students throughout the Archdiocese.

Invite a local Missionary to your school & bring to life the imagination of your students hearing personal testimony of what it means **to be a Missionary** in prayer and service of others. The MCA office collaborates with many local Missionaries from around the world who are happy to share their experience with your students.

The school visits can be scheduled for your entire student body,

for a selected student-grade group or your Religious Education Program on any day, in the evening and even on the weekend. This is a great learning “real-life” activity for your students to experience more about Missionary work, the Mission spirit and our call as baptized Catholics **to be Missionaries!** MCA, along with Archbishop Chaput, encourages all schools to invite a local Missionary speaker to speak with their students.



Father Anthony Bursascano, OSA, at Holy Trinity School in Morrisville

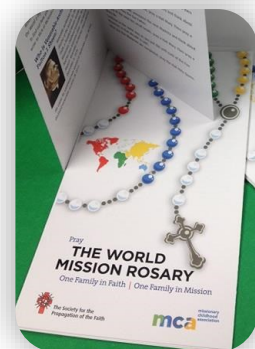
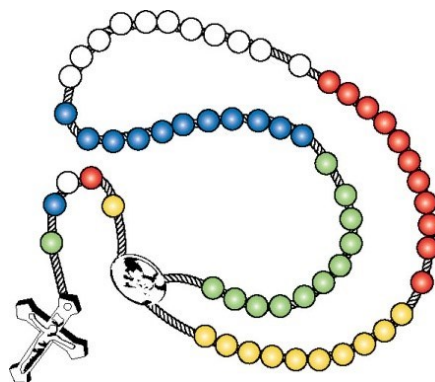


Sister Lisa Valentini, MSC, at Holy Cross Regional Catholic School, Colleagueville

Did you schedule a Presentation for the Mission Month of October? Call **215-587-3945** or email Ali Holden at **MCA@archphila.org** to invite a Missionary to your school or PREP.

Mission Education Materials 2018-2019

Use the Form on the next page to order your MCA Mission Materials
All are Free!



MCA Resources will be emailed monthly to the contact below.

MCA Mission Contact _____

Check one DRE _____ Principal _____ MCA Moderator _____

Parish/School _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

MCA members support children in the Missions in the following ways. Contact MCA for details on each. *Please check at least one item in each section below to indicate how your students will respond to the Pope's call to be missionary disciples this year.*

Mission Prayer and Animation

- _____ MCA Commissioning Prayer Service
- _____ MCA monthly Resource
- _____ World Mission Rosary Prayer Service (includes video of MCA-funded school in Malawi)
- _____ Living World Mission Rosary
- _____ Missionary Childhood presentation
- _____ Celebrate October as Mission Month (World Mission Sunday is October 21, 2018)
- _____ Advent Calendar and Resource for Missionary Children and Families
- _____ Celebrate the World Day of Missionary Childhood on the Solemnity of the Epiphany
- _____ Catholic Schools Week – MCA Catholic Schools in the Missions
- _____ Lent Calendar and Resource for Missionary Children and Families

Mission Sacrifice

- _____ Classroom mission banks
- _____ Walk for the Missions or Mission Mile
- _____ Dime, Nickel, Penny, or Quarter Race
- _____ MCA mite boxes
- _____ Mission Fair
- _____ Recycled toy design contest

Other (please describe) _____

Please contact me to schedule an MCA presentation. Requested date(s): _____

Please send MCA materials in the following quantities:

- _____ MCA Mite Boxes for Collections
- _____ World Mission Rosary Posters for Teachers/Catechists
- _____ World Mission Rosary Brochures [*Bilingual*]
- _____ Children's World Mission Rosaries @ \$5 each [*call for discounts on large orders*]
- _____ MCA Membership Cards
- _____ World Mission Rosary DVD

Please return to

Alixandra Holden, Missionary Childhood Association, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone 215-587-3945 / Fax 215-587-3561 / MCA@archphila.org

Saint Peter Claver: *Patron of the Missions to African people*

Saint Peter Claver, born in 1581, completed his studies in his early 20s and entered the Society of Jesus. From the beginning, Saint Peter knew his calling as he explained, *"I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave."*

Saint Peter began his ministry in Columbia, South America. The slave trade flourished in the port city of Cartagena. Ten thousand slaves arrived into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa. **The conditions were horrific and inhumane; many arrived ill and an estimated third of the passengers died in transit.**

As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Saint Peter Claver ministered to the ill-treated and exhausted passengers. After leaving the ship, Claver worked and lived among them providing them with medicine, food, bread, etc. With the help of interpreters, he gave basic instructions in faith, God's love and assured his Brothers and Sisters of their human dignity. Father Peter saw the slaves as fellow Christians, encouraging others to do the same. **During this 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.**



His Mission extended beyond caring for slaves. He preached in the city square, to sailors & traders and conducted country Missions, returning every spring to visit those he had baptized, ensuring that they were treated

humanely. **During these missions, whenever possible, he avoided the hospitality of planters & overseers; instead, he would lodge in the slave quarters.** After four years of sickness, he died on September 8, 1654. Peter Claver was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the **worldwide patron of Missionary work among slaves.**

Discussion Questions:

- **How can you teach someone who speaks a different language about Jesus' love?**
- **What could you do in your everyday life to act/live like Saint Peter Claver?**



Feast Day: September 9th

Patron of: Slaves, Colombia, Race Relations, **Missions to African-Americans**, Seafarers

Birth: June 26, 1581

Death: September 8, 1654

Beatified: July 20, 1850

Canonized: January 15, 1888

"We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips."

Saint Peter Claver

Back to School Litany

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles *[unlit]*, a globe to represent the missions and a **World Mission Rosary**

Leader: A litany is a form of prayer; the reader reads the beginning of the sentence and the group answers with the same response each time. Today, we will pray a **Back to School Litany**, thanking God not only for the time of rest we had during the summer but also for the opportunity we have to learn and grow during this school year. We will also pray a **Missionary Childhood Litany**, asking God's blessing on children around the world who lack some of the blessings we enjoy.

Back to School Litany

Reader 1: *Our response will be: We thank you God, Father of all.*

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For the time to rest, play and enjoy our friends -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For the summer sun and refreshing rains that help to grow the food to nourish us -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For our families, especially the adults who care for us -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For good books to read, games to play and new places to visit -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 2: For the mountains and the sea, the city and the farms we may remember from our summer vacation -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Reader 1: For every moment of our lives this past summer -

All: We thank you God, Father of all.

Leader: Gracious God, Father of all, we thank you for the moments of our summer. Help us to keep them in mind as we now remember those children who don't have the luxury to have time to play, to eat well or to be cared for by loving families and friends.

All: Amen.

Missionary Childhood Litany

Reader 1: Our response will be: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions whose work is exploited every day -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 1: For children who don't have enough to eat -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions who have no one to care for them -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 1: For mission children who may never know how to read and write or go to school -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

Reader 2: For children in the missions living in lands scarred by war and natural disaster -

All: May our help and prayers reach all God's children.

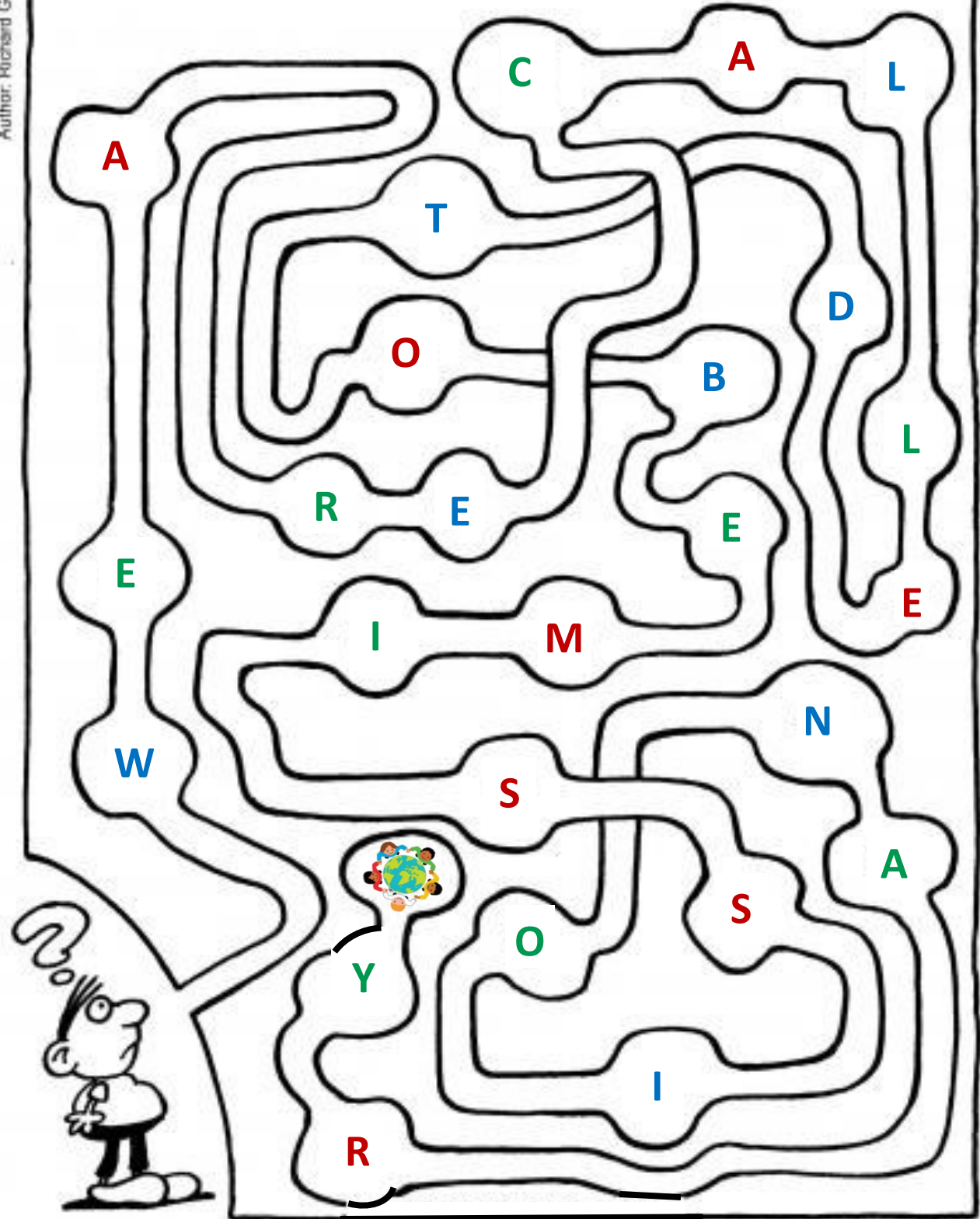
Leader: God, our Father, hear our prayers for those in need. Guide us as we work this year to reach out as missionaries in Your Name.

ALL: Amen.

Through your Baptism . . .

To find out, read the letters as you come to them along the road.

Author: Richard Guntner



Mission Focus: Iraqi Refugees in Jordan

When Sandra and her family fled Iraq they arrived in Jordan with nothing. Devastated after years of living with conflict and violence they had nowhere and nobody to turn to. The local Catholic community in Marka – a poor suburb in Jordan’s capital – **made it their Mission to help.**

The Sacrifices of Missionary Children in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will help children in Mission areas like Jordan and throughout the world.

They found the family somewhere safe to stay and made a place for Sandra at their school.



Students at the Marka School



Sandra, with her Mom, Hadeel

Established by Father Khalil, Marka’s parish priest, the school provides refugee children with a free education, pastoral care and spiritual formation. Father Khalil encourages refugee parents to volunteer at the school, which provides them with a welcome sense of purpose and belonging – vital to children and adults torn from their homes, families and friends. Sandra’s mum Hadeel, a volunteer teaching assistant at Marka, explains the difference this makes:

“We don’t have family in Jordan. The school is like a family. The teachers help me too. We help each other.”

and to welcome the many refugee children still waiting for a place at the school. By working together we can provide the children with books, stationery, a school bag, a daily snack and drink.

In a Mission land like Jordan:

\$1.50 would pay for a snack and a drink for one child

\$5 could buy stationery for a child

\$10 would be enough to give a child a school bag



Father Khalil handing out snacks

- Will ***your students*** say a Hail Mary for children like Sandra each day this school year? Pope Francis asks all students in **MCA** do so.
- Can ***your class*** sacrifice and help to pay for a set of school books in one class at Marka School or others like this school throughout the world?
- Can ***your school*** raise enough to provide Marka’s children with a drink and a snack?

Pray for children in school all over the world!

This is the Namapiri Primary School in Mangochi. Mangochi is in the Southern Region of Malawi. Currently, there is only a thatch roof for teachers and students to gather under. *There are no desks and no chairs!* Children in the U.S head back to school this month, but most children in the Missions go to school all year around. Malawi's rainy season lasts from mid-November to April, and there is no school when it rains, because it is too hard for the children to get there. The lunch at school, for many of the children, is their only meal of the day. As you purchase school supplies, and get ready for the school year, it is important to remember how different it is for the children in the Missions, and pray for the children going to school in Malawi.



An MCA donation of \$8 can provide books and pencils for five children in the Missions!



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
mca missionary
childhood
association