



Catholic Schools Week 2017

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Have you ever wondered how Catholic Education began in the United States? The mission of Catholic education originated in the evangelical mandate of Christ: “Go and teach all nations.”¹ Although there are no records, many missionaries, priests and sisters would accompany the Spanish and French explorers to the Americas desiring to share the Faith with the people they found. Some of the early Missionary Orders to come to the United States were the Franciscans, the Sisters of the Holy Family, Sisters of Charity, and School Sisters of Notre Dame.² The earliest continually operating school for girls in the United States is right here in New Orleans, Ursuline Academy, founded in 1727 by the Ursuline Sisters.

In many ways, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the first missionaries who came to the United States desiring to share the Faith, which eventually led to the desire to educate the many immigrants who arrived in the “new world.” In this case, it seems appropriate to spend some time reflecting on the call to be missionaries wherever we are and “to the nations.”

To enhance your celebration of Catholic Schools Week – and to remind children of their baptismal responsibility for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the *Missionary Childhood Association – Archdiocese of New Orleans* has put together this Mission Awareness Packet that can be used as is, adapted, or transformed for your schools and parishes. Thank you for the missionary zeal you already have in sacrificing so much to help educate and hand on the Faith to our young missionaries in today’s Catholic Schools.

To help you plan a World Mission Awareness Day in your school or parish, we offer the following:

- 1) World Mission Prayer Service
- 2) Getting Started Guide for Mission Awareness Day
- 3) “On the Way to School.” (Education in other countries).
- 4) Mission Education Programs.
- 5) Resource List
- 6) Scripture References



“Faith is strengthened when it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support.”

(John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*)

**For more resources or information about
The Missionary Childhood Association contact:
Missionary Childhood Association – Archdiocese of New Orleans
504-527-5773; mca@arch-no.org; www.archnomo.org**

¹ See CatholicHistory.net, Spotlight Archive: Catholic Schools at <http://www.catholichistory.net/Spotlights/SpotlightSchools.htm>.

² See History of Catholic Education in the United States, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Catholic_education_in_the_United_States.



World Mission Prayer Service

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Display a globe or world map on a table with the Bible and artifacts or photographs from the Missions. Hand out an even number of construction paper strips of the different colors of the [World Mission Rosary](#) to your students (see color descriptions below) to represent the Missions of the world as designated on the World Mission Rosary. Each decade of that World Mission Rosary – inaugurated by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1951 – calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission: *green for the forests and grasslands of Africa; blue for the ocean surrounding the islands of the Pacific; white symbolizing Europe, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; red calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas, and yellow, the morning light of the East, for Asia.*

Leader: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

(Each student is invited to step forward and raise his / her paper strip as indicated below; adapted from a variety of Psalms, Ps. 97, 98, 100, 117, and 122).

Leader: Pray for the peace of all the nations

All: **Jerusalem, may peace be within your walls, and security within your towers**
(raise yellow strips of paper).

Leader: For my brothers and sisters in Africa

All: **May the mountains ring for joy and peace be within you** *(raise green strips of paper).*

Leader: For my brothers and sisters in the Pacific Islands

All: **May the coastlands be glad and peace be within you** *(raise blue strips of paper).*

Leader: For my brothers and sisters in the America’s

All: **May the heavens proclaim his righteousness and peace be within you**
(raise red strip of paper).

Leader: For my brothers and sisters in Europe

All: **May the gates and ancient doors be opened and peace be within you**
(raise white strips of paper).

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you nations!

All: **Praise him, all you peoples!** *(everyone raise their strips of paper)*

(Time for silent reflection)

Leader: Now let us join together in saying the words Jesus taught us

All: **Our Father...**



Optional Closing Activity: Staple the colored strips together to create a [paper chain](#) World Mission Rosary.



Getting Started Guide for Mission Awareness Day Catholic Schools Week 2017

Goals: Begin with identifying a few goals for your Mission Day/Week. Below are some suggested goals.

- ✚ To reinforce “we are all missionaries” through our baptism and knowledge of God’s love for us. *(Check out the MCA NOLA video [“MCA”](#) to help explain).*
- ✚ To help children understand what it means to be a missionary here and to the nations. *(Check out Rachael’s, a child missionary, [video](#) to help explain).*
- ✚ To raise funds for the Missions.
- ✚ To learn how children in other countries live. *(Check out a “Child’s View” on [MCA Monthly Highlights](#))*
- ✚ To teach something about the [origins](#) of the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) and its founder, Bishop Charles Forbin-Jansen.
- ✚ To celebrate the “Mass for the spread of the Gospel” as a school community.
- ✚ To become familiar with one or more missionary saints or pray the [Litany of Missionary Saints](#).
- ✚ To instruct the children how they can be a witness to Jesus in their own lives.
- ✚ To share with children how they can be a [missionary now](#).
- ✚ To learn a Scripture passage related to missionary activity *(See #6, Scripture References).*
- ✚ To pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for a certain part of the world.
- ✚ To invite a missionary or mission educator to come speak about mission and their missionary experiences.
- ✚ To build respect for people of other cultures and traditions. *(See the #4, Mission Ed. Programs).*
- ✚ To offer opportunities and incentives for children to reach out to others and share their faith.
- ✚ To have fun – and see its faith connection!

Themes: Choosing a theme will help you to select the appropriate activities, audio-visual materials, crafts, décor, learning games, music, service projects, etc. and to accomplish your specific goals.

- ✚ **Country / Geographic Focus** – Mexican fiesta, African safari, rainforest romp, etc.
- ✚ **Olympic Theme** – “Going for the gold” sports theme with focus on mission heroes/heroines
- ✚ **Bible J.A.M. (Jesus and Missions)** – Using music and Scripture to get into the mission arena
- ✚ **Globetrotters** – Travel from country to country; maybe include passports to the Missions
- ✚ **Mission Possible** – we are special agents through Baptism who bring the “Good News” to all people.

Get Help: Don’t consider “going it alone.” Enlist enthusiastic volunteers from the school and parish community.

- ✚ Set up a working committee of mission club members or interested students.
- ✚ Invite adult participation and help.
- ✚ Be specific in the planning of tasks, time, place, etc.

Be Creative and Have Fun: Plan for interesting decorations, according to the theme that also help to teach.



“On the Way to School”

Documentary featuring education in other countries.

Tie this video in with a Summary Writing activity or any writing activity for cross-curriculum teaching.

**If you do not have a library account and card, you will not be able to access the movie. Library cards/accounts are free. All you need is an I.D. to sign up for one. Access to documentary can be obtained online.*

First: Go to the New Orleans Public Library Website. Click [here](#) for the site.

Second: Look for the Downloadables link and click. You will be taken to the Downloadables page.

Downloadables
ebooks • audio books • music • magazines

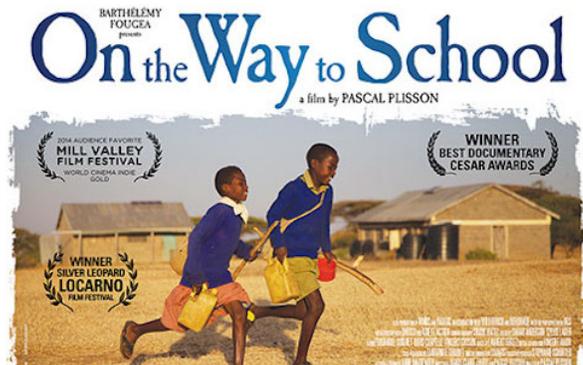
Third: Select the Hoopla link. You will be taken to the Hoopla sign in page.

Fourth: If you do not have a  Hoopla account, you are a New User, and you will have to set up a Hoopla account. Select sign up now. If you are a Current User, enter your information and password.

Fifth: When you sign up as a new user, you will be asked to register with a certain Parish Library. Please choose the Library you are affiliated with or closest to.

Choose Your Library

Jefferson Parish Library
New Orleans Public Library
St. Charles Parish Library
St. Tammany Parish Library
Lafourche Parish Library
Tangipahoa Parish Library



Sixth: If you are not registered at a Library (have a library card) you will need to register for a card to have access to this account. **You will need to enter your library card number to register!**

Seventh: Enter Account Information. If you do not know or remember your Library pin number, you will have to go to the Library to get it. The pin number is a four digit number.

Eighth: Once you are logged in, use the search engine at the top of the page and search for “On the Way to School.” You will be able to download and stream the video for showing purposes. You will only have access to show the movie for 72 hrs. so please plan on when you can show the movie to your students before you download/stream/access it.

If you need any help, please contact the Library you are affiliated with as they should be able to help you. Happy Streaming!!



Mission Education Programs

Journey With Jesus*

Columban Mission Education Online Program for Children

Pre-Kindergarten



Vinny's New Day
[Lesson Plans](#)

Kindergarten



Children of the World
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 1



Families Around the World
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 2



Building Communities of Peace
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 3



Respect for All God's People
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 4



Care for Creation
[Lesson Plans](#)

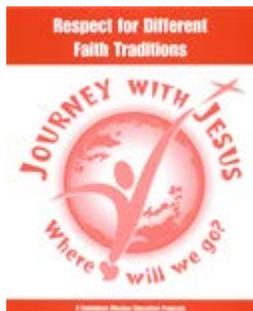


Mission Education Programs

Journey With Jesus*

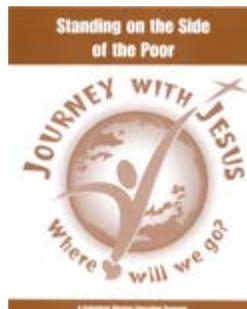
Columban Mission Education Online Program for Children

Grade 5



Respect for Different Faith Traditions
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 6



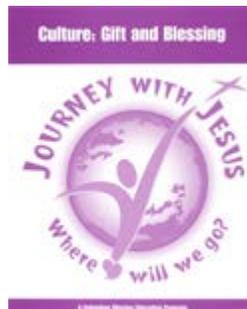
Standing on the Side of the Poor
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 7



**Beyond Borders: Migrants, Immigrants
and Refugees**
[Lesson Plans](#)

Grade 8



Culture: Gift and Blessing
[Lesson Plans](#)

**Lesson plans, videos, music, and worksheets for each grade are also available to borrow or reproduce at the Missionary Childhood Association Office in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Contact mca@arch-no.org or 504-527-5773 for more information.*



Catholic Schools Week Resource List

WEBSITES

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States

- www.YouTube.com/pmsusa
- www.missio.org

The Missionary Society of St. Columban

- <https://columban.org/misioneducation/>

Maryknoll

- www.maryknoll.org

Mission Together – MCA in the UK

- <http://www.missiontogether.org.uk/>

National Catholic Education Association

- www.ncea.org
- [National Catholic Schools Weeks 2017](#)

Missionary Childhood Association – Archdiocese of New Orleans

- Pinterest: [Missionnola](#).
- YouTube: [Missionary Childhood NOLA](#)
- Website: www.archnomo.org

BOOKS

- [Catholic Schools: Gift to the Church, Gift to the Nation](#). Michael Guerra.
- [What is the Mission of the Church: A Guide for Catholics](#). Roger P. Schroeder

DOCUMENTS

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- Teaching the Spirit of Mission Ad Gentes: Continuing Pentecost Today* <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/teachingthe-spirit-of-mission-ad-gentes-continuing-pentecost-today.cfm>

Latin American Episcopal Conference CEIAM

- [The Aparecida Document](#) (Concluding document of the Conference and Document).

Saint John Paul II

- [Redemptoris Missio](#) (Mission of the Redeemer) Pope John Paul II's Encyclical Letter on the permanent validity of the Church's missionary mandate

Pope Francis

- [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (The Joy of the Gospel) Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World
- [Laudato Si](#) (Praise Be to You) Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home.