



Mission Education Programming

The Mission Office recommends a two-tiered approach to mission education: 1.) Imbedded Curriculum, and 2.) special activities to make the teachings of the curriculum materials relevant and alive for students. Below are several ideas of both curriculum and formational education materials available, as well as contacts, speakers, media resources, project ideas, and more to bring in the second piece. Please take a look and begin making your mission education all it can be!

Key: (F) = Formational (I) = Involvement (S) = Spanish Curriculum (age) = target audience

CURRICULUM TO UTILIZE:

Missionary Childhood Association (F) (I) (K - 8)

MCA (formerly Holy Childhood Association, or HCA) is one of the Pontifical Mission Societies, and focuses on connecting kids to kids through three principles: learning-about, praying-for and sharing-with other children. MCA materials are available through “membership;” this includes prayer cards, membership cards for students, commissioning aids, leaders’ guide (with prayer services, activity ideas, etc.) and the “It’s Our World” Newsletters (with information from other countries, games/activities and prayers in a fun fashion for kids at different age levels, grades K-8). These are sent three times a year – fall (for Missionary Childhood Day the 1st Friday of October), Advent and Lent. All of these materials are available for FREE!! They simply ask a \$10 flat rate shipping fee, which covers the shipping and any excess goes to help with projects and support the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in areas throughout the world. Involvement in MCA can be done individually, or within families, parish programs/classes, school classrooms, home school groups, entire schools or other settings.

For more info on Missionary Childhood:
70 West 36th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Phone: 212-563-8700
Email: pmsusa@propfaith.org
www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca.html
or www.hcakids.org

For a look at copies of MCA materials contact the

MCA also has a program called, “MCA Around the World.” This is a program designed to be part of the curriculum of schools/religious education programs, with the hope of helping young people learn more about the world around them within the context of mission and their Baptismal responsibility for that mission. This program includes teacher’s guides, maps, globe bank, and flag decals that get collected on a large map, to get kids excited about learning about the entire world around them as time goes on.

The World Mission Rosary, and many other prayer and learning resources, are also promoted by and available through MCA. This is a resource we strongly encourage schools, parishes and groups to use! The entire diocese is encouraged to pray the World Mission Rosary on the first Friday of October each year – this is Missionary Childhood Day, a day in which children all over the world are celebrating one another and their call as young missionaries. It is an exciting day, and great day to join in the celebration and prayer for children throughout the world!

MCA has other resources and programs available also. Contact the Mission Office, or view the MCA website to learn more.

Columbans (F) (Pre-K – 8 / K-adult)

The Missionary Society of St. Columban is a group of priests, sisters and lay missionaries whose special call is to cross boundaries of language, culture and faith to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. They endeavor to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, especially to the poor and the victims of injustice. They aim to help Churches mature until they are able to evangelize their own people, and they actively promote dialogue between Christians and those of other religions. In the United States, the Columbans form and strengthen missionary and global justice concerns through highly developed educational programs and materials. Their mission education materials include a wide variety of videos, lesson plans and prayer experiences, each designed for a specific age group (ranging from K through adult); these programs are available on loan free of charge to catechetical leaders and educators.

For more info on Columban Mission Ed Materials:

P.O. Box 10
St. Columbans, NE 68056
402-291-1920

<http://columban.org/missioneducation>

For a look at some of their videos, including their new "Journey with Jesus" curriculum, contact the Mission Office

The Columbans have put together a new and up-to-date curriculum for grades Pre-K through 8 (note, this curriculum in time will be replacing their previous materials which included a different country for each grade level). The new curriculum is called "Journey with Jesus: Where will we go?" and includes 5 lessons per grade. Lessons address areas of Catholic Social Teachings and mission messages, such as children and families around the world, communities of peace, respect for GOD's people and creation, different faith traditions, standing on the side of the poor, etc. Materials include videos, music, stickers and activities for students, as well as teachers materials, with such things as scope & sequence, lesson plans and copies to be reproduced for activities. All materials are on loan free to catechetical leaders and educators. They can also be previewed at the Mission Office.

The Columbans also have a special 'summer camp' program on mission for groups looking to do a Vacation Bible School or similar programming.

Glenmary Home Missions materials (F) (many ages K-teen)

In collaboration with the Glenmary Sisters and religious education professionals, Glenmary has put out multiple series of materials to help promote and educate about mission and our call as Baptized Catholics to be in mission; their main focus is on mission within our own country. Their materials include Vacation Bible School programs, Confirmation program supplements, poster series, prayer cards, free online mission-ed alerts, and more.

For more info on Glenmary materials:

P.O. Box 465618
Cincinnati, OH 45246
800-935-0975

www.glenmary.org/mission-ed

To view a promotional video on Glenmary Home Missions, contact the Mission Office.

Maryknoll (F) (K-High School & adults) (S)

Maryknoll magazine has a classroom program that accompanies their monthly magazine, which includes a ready-to-use lesson plan, accompanying poster and teacher's guide each month. This classroom accompaniment program has two pieces – one geared towards middle, junior and senior high school students, and the other geared towards elementary students. Each classroom accompaniment program includes the teachers pieces listed above, as well as a copy of Maryknoll Magazine for each student. And best yet, the program is FREE!

For more info on Maryknoll educational materials:

P.O. Box 302

Maryknoll, NY 10545

1-800-227-8523

<http://www.maryknollsociety.org>

For a look at several of Maryknoll's videos, their magazine, or classroom program, contact the Diocesan Media Center or the Mission Office.

Maryknoll also puts out multiple series of educational/spiritual posters and calendars for classroom use, including series on the Beatitudes, the Commandments, the Way of the Cross, The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Sacraments, etc. – all of which are presented with pictures from around the world.

They also have produced many videos that address a variety of global issues, such as AIDS, the School of the Americas, banking and debt, food distribution, inter-faith dialogue, etc. Their video series, "Field Afar," and more recent series of videos, "Children of the Earth," focuses on nine different countries/regions and features children's stories from those cultures in order to help us connect to the beauty and needs of our Global Church. **Many of these posters and videos are also available in Spanish.**

Maryknoll has also been working with Benziger Publishers to incorporate Mission education into more religious text book curriculum (so watch for that when you're discerning text books).

They also have a radio program, "Voices of Our World" that can be podcast and listened to for older grades. This program tells stories and has interviews with different Maryknoll Missioners around the world. You can find it at: <http://www.voicesofourworld.org>

Maryknoll holds an essay contest for students each year with unique themes for students to write about, and excellent scholarship awards for contest winners. Consider having your students enter – it can be a great project for composition units as well as religion classes on mission, evangelization, social justice, etc. depending on the current year's theme. Contact the Mission Office or view Maryknoll's website for more details. (Themes and information for the upcoming contest often come out in the fall, and deadlines are often due the beginning of December).

J-Walking from JustFaith Ministries (F) (teens)

JusticeWalking (J-Walking) is a 3-to 6-month, with sessions held bi-weekly (or as works for your group) process that forms small communities of adults and older teens in the implications of Catholic Social Teaching.

Through prayer, retreats, reading, dialogue, and encounters, J-Walkers broaden their circle of awareness and expose their lives to the compassionate spirit of Gospel justice.

For more information about the J-Walking program from JustFaith visit:

<http://justfaith.org/programs>

Catholic Relief Services (F) (I) (S) (all ages)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the organization begun and sponsored by the United States Catholic Bishops to help address global needs. It is truly the US Catholic Church's presence in the world! While begun to address emergent relief needs (such as Tsunami or drought disasters), CRS has grown to also address on-going development needs and create programs that empower local people in 99 countries to work for sustainable programs to better their communities. Global Solidarity is another focus of Catholic Relief Services, with the goal of connecting Catholics of the United States to our brothers and sisters throughout the world, and spreading awareness of our call to solidarity. CRS has a vast number of programs and opportunities in addition to financial contributions that address these areas.

For more info on CRS programs:
 209 West Fayette Street,
 Baltimore MD 21201
 1-800-235-2772
 Or
 770 N. Halsted, Suite 170
 Chicago, IL 60622
 773-610-9486
www.crs.org
 or <http://education.crs.org>

“Operation Rice Bowl” (ORB) is a seasonal program for use during the Lenten season. A parish guide and materials are sent to all parishes (and can be sent to schools as well). This guide includes facts about the countries where CRS works, ideas for a financial collection during Lent to help CRS's work (25% is kept for local food/hunger issue use in our Diocese), and other valuable information and activities (such as how to do a hunger banquet, Stations of the Cross, homily notes, recipes, etc.). These resources are developed to increase your knowledge of the vast needs in our world and our Catholic responsibility to help meet them.

<http://www.crsricebowl.org> (F) (I) (All ages)

“Food Fast” is another curriculum put together by CRS each year, which is designed to help teens address the needs of hunger and other relating factors throughout the world. It is designed to be a 24-hour retreat in which participants do activities to strengthen their knowledge of global hunger-related issues, while they experience the issues in a somewhat real way through fasting for the entire time. However the activities, information and options included can be adapted to be taken individually or used in other settings and time-frames. Food Fast can be done as a fundraiser as well as awareness-raising event; its goal is to move youth to both understanding and action on the world and hunger. <http://www.foodfast.org> (F) (I) (jr/sr high)

“Hope & Dignity in the Developing World” is CRS's programming for HIV/AIDS. It includes information on different areas of the world and the effects of HIV/AIDS in these regions, including the many factors that contribute to the spread and the continued progression of the pandemic. It also includes CRS's response to this problem in our world. (F)

Cyber Bridges is a project that CRS has started. It connects secondary school classrooms in the US with children in other nations through the use of the increasingly popular medium – especially among teens – the internet. Students have the chance to learn about other cultures through being an on-line pen-pal, under the safe guidance of CRS and teachers.

<http://crs.org/united-states/connecting-students-globally> (I) (Sr high)

“Going Global with Youth” is an online newsletter that CRS puts out monthly to provide educators with pertinent information and resources for addressing global issues with youth. Regular topics include: Announcements, Life in the Field, Active Solidarity, Called to Action and Global Thoughts. *To get on the mailing list for the “Going Global with Youth” Newsletter, send an e-mail to: Going_Global_with_Youth-subscribe@igc.topica.com (F) (adult educators)*

CRS sponsors various fair-trade programs – from coffees and chocolates to toys to artisan crafts. Items can be purchased individually (great appreciate gift ideas for staffs or volunteers, as well as wonderful personal birthday, Christmas or wedding gifts); items can also be ordered in bulk for fundraisers (you pay only for what is sold and the return postage on what doesn't sell).

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org> (I)

Our Diocesan Partnership with Homa Bay, Kenya is a CRS-facilitated program as well. CRS funds and programs in our diocese go through the Mission Office, so contact us for more info.

Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies (F)
(all ages)

The Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) is a National Resource center based out of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. They provide multiple educational resources for teachers and community leaders, including different publications, videos and curriculum. One example is the “Latin American Curriculum for the Middle Grades”, which is designed to help students in the middle grades explore different Latin American countries and cultures; it includes information and activities to address concepts ranging from trade, to communication, education, ethnicity, human rights development, language, history, art, gender roles, and more.

For more info on CLACS:
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
2025 E. Newport Ave., NWQ Building B,
Room 2479
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 229-4401 phone
(414) 229-2879 fax
Email: clacs@uwm.edu
www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS

Heifer International’s “Read to Feed” Program (F)
(I) (K-8, adaptable for older)

Heifer International is a program that works to help families and communities in developing areas of the world become self-sufficient, through education and the gifts of farm animals (the Heifer Project). The “Read to Feed” Program involves students in the awareness and fundraising efforts of the Heifer Project while encouraging them to read and learn more about other cultures and global issues. It’s a great way for them to be excited about their own literacy and education, while helping bring about the education and livelihood of other children throughout the world. Read to Feed Program’s curriculum deals with a variety of global economic issues and culture, presented in a creative way for students to engage at their level; materials include leaders guides, workbooks, maps/posters, story books and accompanying games and activities, video, etc. It also includes financial sponsorship options, such as where students can ask for sponsors for so many books or pages read, and funds collected then go to purchase farm animals for families in other countries – you can even choose the animal if your classroom has a specific interest (*Example: do you have a classroom pet rabbit? Are you part of a dairy community? Did you take a field trip to a petting zoo and enjoy the goats? Consider making it a goal to raise enough funds for that kind of animal to make it more interesting and personal for the students*).

For more info on Heifer International:
1015 Louisiana Street
Little Rock, AR 72202
1-800-422-0474
www.heifer.org
www.readtofeed.org

For a look at a copy of the Read to Feed curriculum contact the Mission Office.

The Read to Feed website also has games and activities for children to do right online.

Common Hope (I)

Common Hope, an educational and social development organization begun by a family from our own diocese and working in Guatemala, has put together a kit for teachers and youth leaders who are interested in helping sponsor children or families through their organization. This kit includes information on past service projects done, a fact sheet and map of Guatemala, videos about the work of Common Hope, posters and a school survey. Common Hope also provides a number of opportunities to be involved in mission and service through their organization.

For more info on Common Hope:
P.O. Box 8228
1400 Energy Park Drive, Suite 23
St. Paul, MN 55108
651-917-0917
E-mail: info@mn.commonhope.org
www.commonhope.org

GeoDeo “Journey into Africa” books (F) (Elementary and middle school)

This series of books was created by one of our local parishioners, Ann Jansen and published locally by GeoDeo Educational Resources. These books include information and fun ways for kids to learn more about Africa – the countryside, the people, the culture and the needs there. In addition to coloring and activities for young people, there are also books geared for grades 5-8, that provide valuable and exciting information on Africa, including featuring different countries, animals, recipes, maps, etc; a special section entitled “In Service to Others” is also included and profiles people who have worked to make a difference for our brothers and sisters in Africa (including some of our Diocesan missionaries). A study kit is also available, including a teacher’s guide, project supplies, videos and CD’s, reproducible worksheets, etc.

For more information on GeoDeo:
19808 Homestead Road
Clearwater, MN 55320
1-888-9-GEODEO (888-943-6336)
E-mail: info@geodeo.com
www.geodeo.com

For a look at, or to purchase any of the “Journey into Africa” books contact the Mission Office.

Anne Neuberger’s Catholic Social Teaching through stories books (F) (K-8)

Anne Neuberger is a Minnesotan Catholic who has written books (from Twenty-Third Publications) that help teach Catholic Social Teaching principals and the concept of being one family in faith through the use of stories and activities. Her books include: “To Love Tenderly: Teaching Compassion and Justice through Stories and Activities” (for ages 5-9), “To Walk Humbly: Stories and Activities for Teaching Compassion and Justice” (for ages 10-13), “To Act Justly: Introducing Catholic Social Teaching to Children with Stories and Activities,” and her most recent “All Children of God” (ages 3 to 8). They combine prayer and action, and connect our Catholic beliefs into a variety of academic subjects. These are great age-appropriate stories and accompanying activity ideas for schools, parishes and parents to help their children grow in their awareness of the world and what our faith teaches us about being involved in it (through the Beatitudes, Scripture and writings from Vatican II and Catholic Social Teaching).

For more information about Anne’s resources, visit:
www.anneneuberger.com

Anne also includes on her website great ideas for having a “mission club” in your school, parish or community. Resources for prayer, creative and frugal clubhouse ideas, lesson ideas, etc. can all be found on her website for use in mission clubs or other mission lessons or activities.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Educational Resources (F) (I) (all)

Equal Exchange is a Fair Trade cooperative that sells coffees, teas and snacks from products raised by farmers being paid a just wage for their work and crop. They offer a Fair Trade fundraiser opportunity for schools, parishes and groups to do – raise funds for your group and help ensure that farmers are getting a livable wage for their products. Along with the Fair Trade Fundraiser kit (or separately), they provide educational resources – including games and lesson plans on things such as understanding fair trade, what’s fair?, making a difference, etc. Their local warehouse in the Cities has also offered to arrange field trips to see the products and hear more about fair trade if groups are interested in a great experience! *(Note: Fair Trade crafts, coffees and chocolates, including from Equal Exchange, are available for sale through the Mission Office, if you would like to do a fair trade sale at your school or parish, or want to buy fair trade and didn’t know where to find it)*

These resources are available for download online, along with more information on Fair Trade, Equal Exchange and even fundraising options).

<http://www.equalexchange.coop>

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/ee-and-you/fundraising>

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/programs/education/for-your-classroom>

“That’s Not Fair!” (F) (6th grade up)

This is a curriculum designed for middle school aged students in schools, parishes and youth ministry settings, based on the Catholic Social Teachings. It includes numerous lessons as well as many hands-on activities to illustrate unjust situations in our world as well as our part in causing and eliminating them. This is a great way to help our adolescents understand some of the most relative and essential teachings of our Church.

To order this curriculum visit
Amazon.com

My Wonderful World (F)

This is a website sponsored by National Geographic with numerous facts, resources, games and more for educators and students alike striving to give kids the power of global knowledge. Visit it and learn more about our wonderful world! You can find it at:
<http://www.mywonderfulworld.org>

MEDIA / RESOURCES:

Mission Office Library (F)

The Mission Office has a variety of resources available for use by our Diocesan parishioners. All resources can be checked out free of cost (not including postage), or viewed at the Mission Office. These resources include:

- Books (theology, prayer, culture/country information, language, mission, partnership, etc.)
- Documents (from Vatican II, the USCCB, Bishop Kinney, and Papal encyclicals, etc.)
- Music (from Venezuela, Kenya, and various kids songs from other countries)

Videos (home footage of intercultural interactions, educational documentaries, our diocesan partnerships, various missionaries, various countries, social justice, mission organizations and vocations, talks, and more) Check out a fuller list of these videos available on our website.

- Environment items (maps, cultural cloths, cultural clothing, statues and cultural toys, etc.)

For the list of media resources available at the Mission Office, visit:

<http://mission.stedio.org/mission-office-homepage/mission-education>

REFERENCES / CONTACT PEOPLE

Mission Office Staff & Speakers Bureau (F)

The Mission Office has only 3 full-time staff persons; but the Speakers Bureau is made up of *many* people from throughout the Diocese who have been involved in Diocesan delegations and mission experiences both long and short-term throughout a variety of countries. They are available to present on their experiences of culture, faith and mission. Examples of presentation needs have included vocation panels, Faith Formation programs for children, teens and adults, school classrooms in subjects such as religion, social studies, geography (learning about a certain country or area) and service-learning, and much much more. You can view our Speakers Bureau brochure and a more complete list of topic areas online at our Mission Office website under “educators:”

http://mission.stcdio.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2013/06/speakers_bureau_brochure.pdf

For more info on the Speakers Bureau or to set up a presentation for your parish or school, contact Kateri Mancini at the Mission Office.

Service Learning Coordinators: (F) (I)

Kevin LaNave, director of *The Center for Service-Learning and Social Change* of St. Cloud and curriculum writer for CRS. klanave@victorcc.net

St. Cloud State University and St. John’s/St. Ben’s campuses also have Service Learning coordinators you can contact for insights into volunteer opportunities in the area, as well as how to best process service experiences with your young people.

For more info on the Center for Service-Learning and Social Change:
821 22nd Ave N
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-259-5480
E-mail: klanave@victorcc.net
<http://www.centerslsc.org>

Inter-Faith Issues: (F) (I)

Malcolm Nazareth, director of former organization *UNIITE (Understanding the Need for Interfaith/Intercultural Togetherness & Education)*, member of Christ Church Newman Center in St. Cloud, and strong advocate/speaker for inter-faith dialogue and social justice.
malnazareth@charter.net / 320-291-7124

Note: UNIITE disbanded as an organization summer of 2008, but Malcolm is still dedicated to its principles

Fr. Virgil Petermeier, OSC also does a significant amount of work in inter-faith dialogue. He along, with Brianda Cediell from Hands Across the World, would be excellent contacts to answer questions or build inter-faith relationships.
virgilposc@crosier.org (Fr. Virgil) or handsacrosstheworldmn@gmail.com (Brianda)

Social Justice Issues: (F) (I)

Sr. Merle Nolde, OSB, St. Benedict’s Monastery, Pax Christi member
m nolde@csbsju.edu

Kathy Langer, Director of Social Concerns, Catholic Charities of St. Cloud Diocese
klanger@gw.stcdio.org / 320-229-6020

Social Concerns or Social Ministry Committees in your parish

Parish Mission Groups or Global Solidarity Liaisons: (F) (I)

Ask your parish if there are currently active mission groups meeting to support the work of mission. If so, join them in their efforts or ask how they might support you in yours; it's great to have generations of youth and adults working together for this common goal of serving our global church! If there's not a group in your parish, consider starting one of your own; contact the mission office for information on how.

Long-Term Volunteer Opportunities:

Catholic Volunteer Network (*directory of full-time faith-based volunteer opportunities*)

cnvsinfo@cnvs.org / 1-800-543-5046 / or visit online at: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org>

Franciscan Community Volunteers (*10-month volunteer program in St. Cloud*)

Contact Pat at: pschlauderaff@fslf.org / 320-229-0307 / or visit online at: www.fcvonline.org

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:

Partnerships:

Global Solidarity Partnership: Diocese of Maracay, Venezuela – Diocese of St. Cloud, MN

Global Solidarity Partnership: Diocese of Homa Bay, Kenya – Diocese of St. Cloud, MN

Guatemala:

Common Hope

www.commonhope.org

San Lucas Toliman Mission

www.sanlucasmision.com/Home.htm

Rising Villages

www.risingvillages.org

The Message Program

West Indies: The Good News Project

<http://goodnewswi.com>

Sudan:

Southern Sudanese Bishop's Conference

Holy Trinity Peace Village

www.kuronvillage.net

Brazil: Fr. John Schwieters, Franciscans in the Amazon

Mexico: Franciscan Sisters in Monterrey and Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Democratic Republic of Congo: Crosier Fathers and Brothers

Papua, Indonesia: Crosier Fathers and Brothers

Philippines: Indigenous People's Hospital

Tanzania: Diocese of Same

Diocese of Zanzibar, and Fr. Thomas Assenga (former missionary to St. Cloud)

International Students and Immigrant (in parishes, communities, schools, college, through Hands Across the World, etc.)

*Find out more about Hands Across
the World at:*

<http://handsacrosstheworldmn.org>

MANY Missioners from our diocese serving all over the world (*full list available upon request; and Adopt-a-Missioner program available for groups looking to offer prayer and letter support for these missioners*)

Sister Parishes (with connections to Mexico, Venezuela, Kenya, Peru, India, etc)

Foreign Missioners in the St. Cloud Diocese:

Fr. John Odero (from Homa Bay, Kenya)

Fr. Oswaldo Roche (from Maracay, Venezuela)

Vincentian Priests (from Kerala, India)

*Learn more about our
Diocesan Partnerships,
Sister Parish relationships
or view those from our
Diocese who are serving
overseas at:
www.stcdio.org/mission*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Diocesan Partnership projects:

Friends of the Seminarians Fund and/or Mass Stipends (Maracay, Venezuela)

This fund provides scholarships for the formation of seminarians in Maracay; Mass Stipends support the priests and diocese including pensions and health care, funds for which were recently cut off by their civic community.

Child Survival Project (Homa Bay, Kenya)

This project works to support orphans and vulnerable children in Homa Bay in the areas of education, HIV/AIDS relief, social workers and community support.

Partnerships' General Funds (both Maracay & Homa Bay)

These general funds help the ongoing work of the partnership, needs that come up unplanned, scholarships for delegates to and from St. Cloud & much more.

For more info on our Diocesan partnerships or how to support them through one of these or other projects, contact the Mission Office.

*Or learn more at our website:
www.stcdio.org/mission*

Holy Trinity Peace Village in Sudan: Bishop Paride Taban (*especially the well-project, to put a solar-powered well in the community*) www.kuronvillage.net

Healing Center – Assisting Victims of war and trauma in Eastern Congo: Crosiers

Munduruku Indians in Brazilian Rain Forest: Franciscans in the Amazon

Mass Stipends or Funds to support the struggling Diocese of Zanzibar

Sponsor a Woman in Guatemala through Rising Villages

School Lunch Program in Chacraseca, Nicaragua (Monica Rudawski, Franciscan Associate)

Adopt one of our diocesan missioners to contact and support with prayer

Catholic Relief Services (*general funds, or work towards specific projects such as the Madonna Plan (to help mothers) or Water-for-Life, etc; work in conjunction with the DCCW council, who do a lot of projects for CRS*)

www.crs.org

Operation Rice Bowl

<http://orb.crs.org>

World Mission Sunday (*celebration of and support for the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies, held the second to last Sunday each October*) <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org>

Missionary Childhood Association <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca.html>

Common Hope

www.commonhope.org

Heifer International

www.heifer.org

St. Cloud Mission Office

11 8th Avenue S., St. Cloud MN 56301

(320) 251-1100

<http://mission.stcdio.org>

The H2O Project (*great to use to gather funds to support Holy Trinity Peace Village in Sudan's well or the Child Survival Project in Homa Bay, Kenya, among others*) www.theh2oproject.org

Hands Across the World www.handsacrosstheworldmn.org

Mission Cooperative Plan (*held in various parishes each spring/summer to support the ministry of many mission organizations, groups and areas throughout the world; ask your pastor about when the MCP presentations will be taking place in your parish, or contact the Mission Office for more information*)

OTHER GREAT GIFT OR PROJECT IDEAS:

Financial Projects are always helpful, but sometimes a more relational gift or project can have an even longer lasting effect – on both your community and those you're reaching out to! When you're looking for service ideas, be sure to also consider such gifts and projects as:

- Have students make a banner sharing a message of unity (such as "Brothers and Sisters in Christ" or a phrase from our Eucharistic Prayers), to send to one of our connections abroad to be hung in their schools or parishes
- Make peace, unity or justice messages (ex. written prayers or letters, or drawings) to be sent to children in areas of the world who are suffering and need to know we hope these things for them
- Connect with the Parish Mission Group(s) to see what projects they're working on, and help them with certain item collections or gift-making
- Connect with the DCCW, Christian Mothers group, Knights of Columbus, Social Concerns Committee, or other groups in your parish or community to help them or enlist their help in your projects or events
- Have students make World Mission Rosaries (the 5 different colored decades) to be shared around the diocese and world, or for your own prayer use. Host a World Mission Rosary prayer service in your community – prayer is a great gift to give in mission! (and don't forget that every first Friday of October is Missionary Childhood Day, in which our diocese celebrates by praying the World Mission Rosary as schools, parishes and groups)
- "Adopt a Missioner" by committing to pray regularly for one of our diocesan missioners and their ministry throughout the year; exchange letters or emails as well to really build a relationship with these great people living and serving in our global church!
- Have students make nice blankets or quilts for our mission connections; be sure to pray over them before you send them to make them a prayer blanket others can wrap themselves in!
- Organize a Fair Trade sale or fundraiser to raise awareness and help those in need (the fundraiser could benefit your school or group, or could raise support monies to send to a mission ministry elsewhere in need so that your fundraiser creates a double-donation!)
- Create a kit to share about your school, community and Minnesota (ex. A shoebox with pictures of your school, information about your parish or town, favorite foods and activities of the students here, etc.)
- Make a video introducing yourselves and sharing messages with those in our global connections
- Gather information about those receiving Sacraments (ex. Pictures of First Communion or Confirmation class; dates of the celebration; letters explaining what you're doing to prepare; names of candidates; etc.) to give others an idea of what we do, and to share a commonality with young people in other countries also receiving these same great Sacraments that unite us as a universal Church
- "Tax" yourselves on the number of pairs of shoes, number of jackets, toys, sinks/water fountains, or other common item in your home or classroom to see how lucky we are; then donate that money to those who don't have easy access to these and other important items

- Collect or make items specifically for a country where someone from our diocese will be traveling to (*to find out when and where folks from our area are traveling, contact the Mission Office*)
- Host an “international day” or “culture fair” in your school, parish or community to include fun and educational displays, foods, music, etc from around our world
- Plan a multi-cultural, mission or social justice oriented liturgy (the Mission Office has Liturgy planning aids for these types of Masses or prayer services)
- Raffle off simple things such as a pitcher of water, pound of meat, carton of milk, book, or other common items to us, and donate the money to places where these things are not easily accessible
- Host a “Hunger Banquet” (or “M&M Banquet”) or Rice Meal to raise awareness of hunger and food distribution injustices in our world; “charge” people an entrance fee and donate those monies to Operation Rice Bowl, the School Lunch Program in Nicaragua, or other hunger-relief ministries (*ask the Mission Office which of our missionaries are working in such areas where your donations can be sent to do good work*)
- Sponsor a “Walk a Mile in their Shoes” event, and pledge to walk a certain distance in honor of those displaced or refugees who have to flee their homes; collect pledges to go towards Refugee Emergency funds (*there are various ones; see the Mission Office for info*)
- Host a Vocations Fair or panel, and include speaker on the mission vocation
- Volunteer to help with delegation events, welcome packages or farewell gifts for guests in our diocese from other countries or from our Diocesan Partnerships in Homa Bay, Kenya or Maracay, Venezuela
- Write a class mission statement that includes how you hope to better your world outside your classroom
- Host a “toy contest” where entry toys must be made entirely out of recycled or reused materials; ask a local group (such as the KC’s or Lions) to donate prize money for the winner and/or a matching grant to be given to a charity or mission location of the winner’s choosing.
- Measure your class (in weight or inches) and total it up to determine your donation to a favorite mission organization
- Research and share with your young people what the cost of a Happy Meal could do in other countries (such as how much food it could buy, how much school supplies, medicine, etc), and then ask the class to consider donating that amount instead of getting a Happy Meal the next time they go out to eat with their family
- Print phrases such as “*Sent to heal an aching world (John 20:21)*” on clear address labels, and stick them to bandaids that you can hand-out or sell after Masses or at a health fair in your community
- Write the names of different mission connections you’re aware of on the sides of a dice; then roll that dice each week to determine who/where your school Mass will be said for, or who/where you will pray for at the start of this week’s faith formation class, etc.
- Plan an experience for your group on World Day of Peace (January 1st)
- Organize a World Mission Sunday (second to last Sunday in October) or Missionary Childhood Day (first Friday in October) garage sale to help raise funds for global mission
- Ask students to bring-in newspaper clippings and current events of where Jesus is suffering in the world; make a bulletin-board of these to share with your community, or keep it in your youth room or classroom and cross off the articles when you’ve prayed for them
- Offer a “dress-up” or “dress-down” day for Mission, where students can pay a quarter to dress different than the usual dress code in order to raise funds for a special mission passion
- Invite a mission speaker during Catholic Schools Week to talk about what schools are like in another country.
- Ask community groups (such as Christian Mothers or KC’s) to sponsor a “Missioner of the Year” contest in your parish or school, where your class discusses who in the community has been a true example of mission and justice, and awards them with this title, the prize being funds (donated by the sponsoring group) to donate to their charity or mission ministry of choice.

- Have a rice fundraiser after Masses, sharing with families who purchase your rice that many children around the world receive only ¼ cup of rice a day (put this much rice in ziplock baggies to illustrate). Or have a “rice-lottery,” where people pay \$1 for a chance, and some win a full bag of rice and others only the ¼ cup depending on what they draw; use this to talk about the inequalities of food distribution and hunger in our world today.
- Ask students to get pledges for how many age-appropriate books they can read in a certain time frame; donate these funds to Heiffer International’s “Read to Feed” program, or to “Books for Africa” to raise funds to send textbooks to Sudan.
- **Or others – be creative!!** *Check with the Mission Office about special gift needs or ideas that may come up throughout the year; or share your creative ideas with us!!!*

SUGGESTED FIELD TRIPS:

American Museum of Asmat Art, followed by the Marjorie McNeeley Conservatory at Como Park, St. Paul MN (a great chance to learn about the Indonesian culture, and then visit the “rain forest” in which they live)
 (651) 287-1132 www.stthomas.edu/asmart
 (651) 487-8200 www.comozooconservatory.org

Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Onamia MN, and connecting with the school in that community.
 (320) 532-3632 www.mnhs.org/places/sites/mlim

The Colleges of St. Ben’s/St. John’s for their culture fair or other cultural presentations/activities

St. Cloud Mission Office, St. Cloud MN
 (320) 251-1100 www.stcdio.org/mission

Events during delegation visits from our partners in Homa Bay, Kenya or Maracay, Venezuela

Immigrant or Social service Agencies (Such as Catholic Charities or Hands Across the World)

Parishes within our Diocese that have Spanish Masses or multi-cultural ministry events (Such as Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations or A taste of Africa dinners)

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Cooperative warehouse in St. Paul (to learn about Fair Trade, and do a tasting of fair trade treats), followed by a visit to Ten Thousand Villages store about 5 blocks away (to see more non-food Fair Trade products), and maybe even a visit to “Living Bread” Catholic Bookstore right next door.

Equal Exchange St. Paul office: (651) 379-5020
 Ten Thousand Villages: (651) 225-1043 <http://stpaul.tenthousandvillages.com>

To the Cathedral or join with other schools at another church in the diocese to pray the World Mission Rosary on the first Friday of October (Missionary Childhood Day). Call the Mission Office if you would like help organizing this.

YOUTH OR PARISH MISSION TRIP ORGANIZATIONS: (I)

There are several organizations that help to plan and facilitate mission or service trips for church or school groups of youth, both domestically and internationally. Some of these organizations plan trips specifically for youth, others for adults and some are intergenerational. The following are a few that we recommend based on their model of service and mission. *(For a more complete list of short and long-term mission trip opportunities, contact the Mission Office or view our website)*

Young Neighbors in Action or Just5Days (youth) <https://cmdnet.org>

Young Neighbors in Action is a program designed to help youth recognize the needs of their brothers and sisters, as well as their call for both direct service and work towards justice, all based on the Call of the Gospels and the principles of our Catholic Social Teachings. It organizes week-long trips, including meaningful service worksite experiences, prayer, reflection and Liturgies, community living, and daily challenges to live out their faith and the Gospel. Just5Days is similar, but a bit shorter, geared towards middle school youth. Both are developed by the Center for Ministry Development.

Glenmary Home Missions <http://www.glenmary.org/volopps> (513) 874-8900

Glenmary Home Missioners is a Catholic society of priests and brothers who, along with coworkers of Glenmary Home Mission Sisters and lay volunteers is dedicated to serving the spiritual and material needs of people throughout Appalachia, the South and Southwest of the United States.

Community Links International <http://www.commlinks.org/node/81> 408-723-5366

Community Links is a service-learning, volunteer, and international educational organization. Through cross-border, cross-cultural immersion experiences we provide people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to learn about the interconnectedness of our local, national, and global realities. We also teach participants to recognize how our lifestyles, values, choices and consumption patterns affect people, cultures and the environment the world over. They have a variety of projects primarily focusing on border and Latin American countries, as well as travel immersion experiences in these areas.

BorderLinks www.borderlinks.org (520) 628-8263

BorderLinks is a bi-national non-profit organization that offers experiential educational seminars along the border of the US and Mexico. They offer unique trips for unique groups, each experience fitted to the needs and interests of its participants. Be ready to open your hearts and minds in new ways and return home transformed and ready to share with others about the issues, culture, economics, and lives of people living in the borderlands. BorderLinks also offers a special trip a few times a year that is specifically for educators. For more information, check out their website.

GATE (Global Awareness Through Experience) (adult) www.gate-travel.org 608-791-5283

GATE offers cultural immersion programs, women's spiritual quests and pilgrimage opportunities in Latin America and Europe. Their mission is to create an awareness of other cultures and their realities through people-to-people connections. They offer opportunities to learn from the poor, as well as from social analysts, teachers, theologians and economists. The program connects participants with marginalized who, despite struggle, find hope in their reality.

CRS's Immersion Resources <http://education.crs.org/immersion-resources>

In conjunction with the National Catholic Education Association and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, CRS has developed immersion programs designed specifically for School educators and youth ministers, as well as work camp experiences. The focus of these trips is to provide an experience of global solidarity, an overview of CRS's work, and concrete experiences for those in education ministries to use when sharing about solidarity with the young people they work with.

St. Cloud Diocesan Delegations (*senior high students and adults*)

Through our Diocesan Partnerships in Homa Bay, Kenya and Maracay, Venezuela, the Mission Office offers travel opportunities on rotating years to our partners. These trips are relational, and a chance to meet our brothers and sisters and learn more about their way of life and church; rather than trips to do or “help,” they are cultural immersion and relationship-building. If you are interested in participating in a delegation to either or both of our partner dioceses, please contact the Mission Office with your mailing address, and you will be notified when upcoming delegations are scheduled.

KEY TIMES TO INCORPORATE THESE RESOURCES:

Advent:

Advent is a great time to incorporate mission education into your school or parish. As we strive to teach about the preparations, not for the birth of Jesus but for His coming again, it is a great time to teach about the beauty and justice of His Kingdom that His coming will bring about.

Advent is also a great time to talk about refugees, and how Jesus’ family had to leave their home like so many who suffer from having to do the same today; it can open doors for talking about the why’s of this, as well as our call to be welcoming and address the issue. Use this season to teach about inequalities in our world, and about ways in which we are all called as disciples to work towards bringing about that Kingdom in our world now as we wait and prepare.

Possible seasonal activities for Lent include:

- MCA’s Advent Program
- Send art contest entries from the Visitor’s contest to MCA for their contest

Lent:

Lent is another great time to incorporate mission education into your programs and curriculum. The theology of Mission that our Church calls us to includes the three main focuses of the Lenten Season: *Prayer* (through prayer we can be united with our brothers and sisters around the world no matter how far away or whether or not we ever meet face-to-face), *Fasting* (through giving up of our excess – be it food, material goods or extravagances both materially and entertainingly – we can better reflect on and understand our vast surplus and unequal distribution of goods and rights throughout the world, and can therefore better unite with our brothers and sisters in their needs); and *Alms-giving* (in recognizing our part in one global human family we also recognize that we are our brothers and sisters’ keeper, and therefore have a responsibility to share our gifts with each other).

Possible seasonal activities for Lent include:

- Operation Rice Bowl
- Food Fast
- MCA’s Lenten Programs
- Maryknoll’s Stations of the Cross
- Do the H2O Project in connection with the ‘desert’ image of Lent

The image of the desert so often used during Lent is a reality for many people; use this time to talk about that reality and water issues, hunger, refugees, etc. in our world. Use these Lenten focuses and images in conjunction with the message and call we all share to be missionaries.

Easter:

At the Easter vigil we celebrate in a special way our Baptism; this celebration is continued throughout the Easter Season as we continue to be sprinkled with Holy Water and proclaim our Baptismal promises in a very real way. This ritual action that we experience each Sunday is a

great way to bring to life and reiterate the message of our Baptismal promises and the call we all have through our Baptism to be missionaries and be part of a global family of faith.

Possible seasonal activities for Easter include:

- **Renewal of Baptismal vows**
- **Invite students to make special vows as missionaries (and/or join special “Mission Clubs”)**
- **Columban mission video on Baptism (“As Water in the Desert”)**

Mission Month (October):

October is Mission Month, and includes the celebration of World Mission Sunday (always the second to last Sunday in October). This day is a day for our Catholic churches around the world to join together in the Eucharistic celebration while recognizing our common faith, solidarity and partnership with our brothers and sisters across the world, who are at the same time celebrating a special Eucharistic Liturgy, wherever they may be.

Possible activities for Mission Month include:

- **Praying the World Mission Rosary with students (Oct. is also the month of the Rosary)**
- **Inviting a speaker on, or near, World Mission Sunday**
- **Special mission project or gift**
- **Celebrate a mission Liturgy**

October also includes **Missionary Childhood Day** (always the first Friday of October); this is a day to emphasize children and the needs of children in our world as well as the call each child has to be a missionary to others and the difference they can make in answering that call. Our Diocese, along with others, recognizes this day and this month (which is also the month of the rosary) by praying the World Mission Rosary. These days are just two of the ways in which, during the month of October, we strive to bring the message of mission, and our Baptismal call to be missionaries, more fully and clearly into view and understanding. It is also a great time for you to strive to do the same within your programs, and help add to the world-wide celebration of our belonging to one another. For more information on the World Mission Rosary, visit our Mission Office website. Or to order rosary making supplies for your class, visit Our Lady of the Rosary Makers website: www.olrm.org

Catholic Schools Week:

Catholic Schools Week, in which we celebrate our Church’s commitment to education, evangelization and care for our young people, is also a great time to celebrate our Church’s commitment to education, evangelization and care for all peoples. Why not expand the week’s solidarity of Catholic schools throughout the Diocese and local Church, to include being in solidarity with schools and children throughout the world?

A possible activity for Catholic Schools Week includes:

- **Connecting with one of our Diocesan Partnerships, possibly communicating with or supporting a school from a partnering Diocese**
- **Collect school supplies or make a gift from your school to another school in our world**

Plan the week to include activities done by children in catholic schools in other parts of the world, or projects to address the needs of those children. We’re not the only catholic schools, and so much can be done to celebrate this fact during this week each year!

Vocation Awareness Week:

Vocation Awareness Week is a great time for us to help students realize that each and every one of us shares in the universal call to holiness and has a special vocation, no matter what form it may take. One of these vocational forms is that of missionary – long or short term, locally

or oversees. This is a great time to begin planting the seed of mission work in its variety of forms.

Invite a mission speaker or panel, or invite vocations directors from various mission congregations to come and share stories about their vocation in your school or parish.

A possible activity for Vocations Awareness Week includes:

- **Inviting a missionary (or panel) to speak about their vocational call and work in mission**
- **Learn about different priests and religious from our diocese who have served in mission**

Others:

There are countless other times at which the inclusion of mission education materials and activities will fit very well into your programs and curriculum. The mission message is one that fits into every aspect of our faith and lives, and therefore fits into all aspects of education as well. Incorporate it all the time! Here are some ideas of times when you can make it easy on yourself to include mission education:

- **Geography lessons** (learn about the culture, including the faith-practices, of different locations you're studying; invite speakers from different areas)
- **Current events** (discuss the socio-political aspects globally surrounding current events such as elections, wars, tsunamis, Olympics, etc.)
- **History lessons** (research family history and immigrant/refugee background of your students and communities; compare them to current immigrant/refugee issues)
- **Music lessons** (listen to, learn, sing and dance with music from other cultures; *note: some cultural music and lesson plans around it are available at the Mission Office, or by our foreign missionaries*)
- **Religion classes** (Catholic Social Teachings lessons; learning about the Church/faith of Africa, Latin America, Asia or other areas of the world; discussing the Church's theology of mission)
- **Confirmation Programs** (opportunities and lessons dealing with the service component; what it means to be confirmed into the broader faith community, not just locally but globally as well)
- **Liturgy planning** (mission Masses; multi-cultural Masses; discuss Eucharist as the common thread of all Catholics world-wide)
- **All Saints Day** (talk about missionary saints and martyrs, such as Archbishop Oscar Romero, Sr. Dorothy Stang or Fr. John Kaiser)
- **World AIDS Awareness Day** (bring in information or fundraising for our partners in Homa Bay where HIV/AIDS is very prevalent on or around World AIDS Day on December 1st)
- **World Day of Peace & World Day of Prayer & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- **Valentine's Day** (make valentines for children in another part of the world, such as San Lucas Toliman's "Mission of Love" project)
- **Christmas Season** (incorporate multi-cultural traditions for celebrating the holiday; do a fair trade or alternative gift sale)
- **Mothers Day** (make gifts or donations for struggling mothers in other parts of the world, learning about what their struggles are and compare it to Mother Mary and her struggles yet faith; do this for Grandparents Day or Fathers Day if you have a summer program)
- **Birthdays** (for each student's birthday, ask them to make a birthday card or give a gift for a child's birthday in another part of the world; or encourage students to give away one toy, clothing article or book for each new birthday gift they get)
- **Marian feast days or units** (look at different cultural images and icons of Mary – such as the black Madonna, the Native American mother and child, etc.)

- **Month of the Rosary or Rosary units** (pray or make the World Mission Rosary instead of solid-colored Rosaries; make Rosaries to send to churches and schools around our world)
- **Feast of the Holy Family** (invite a speaker to talk about family structures and values in other cultures; view different cultural images of the Holy Family)
- **Units on the Mass or Eucharist** (talk about how the Mass is the universal prayer of the Catholic Church, and share examples of how it is similar and different in other cultures – such as reading the LORD’s Prayer in a different language, or borrowing video footage from the Mission Office of a Liturgy in Kenya or Venezuela; talk about how the Eucharist is what binds Catholics in the entire world together)
- **And more – be creative!**

WE’RE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Please never hesitate to contact us for more information or to be of assistance in any way to you and your parish, school or group!

Just as we are striving for solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the global family, we also recognize our need to be in solidarity with each-other locally. For this reason, we ask for your help as well. Please offer us feedback on any of these resources, or on other resources you are aware of, as well as share your ideas with us so that we can share them with others throughout the Diocese. *Together* we can all make great strides toward answering our Baptismal call to mission, and help our students, youth and parishioners to answer that call as well.

The renewal that will blossom forth will be mutual. **“The grace of renewal cannot grow in communities unless each of these extends the range of its charity to the ends of the earthy, and devotes the same care to those afar off as it does to those who are its own members”** (*Ad Gentes, #37*). Thank you for sharing in this opportunity for renewal and grace in our Diocese and our world!

“I thank GOD every time I think of you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:3-5)

Be sure to explore our website, and check back often for our continuous Mission Ed. Bulletins, updates on even more events, ideas, needs, resources, contacts, mission stories and so **much more!**

<http://mission.stcdio.org>

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