

Mission Connections: Special Catechetical Leaders Edition

Youth Connecting in Mission

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October 2016
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Journeying like Joshua

It was an emotional day—the first day of school, sending my children off into the unknown of another year, for one of them for the first time. It was also the day our missionary from our partner diocese of Homa Bay, Fr. John Odero, boarded the plane to return to his home in Kenya. Good-byes, letting go, and uncertainty all weighed heavy on my heart that day.

But in my prayer that afternoon I was led to the book of Joshua. From its beginning, GOD promises Joshua and his people that prosperity and fullness of life are available for them; that both expanded territory and glory await if they but trust; that Joshua, being called to lead, would not be left alone in his journey: *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your GOD will be with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9). It was not always easy! They experienced many challenges, enemies and adventures along the way. Like me that day, they had to enter into new beginnings and had to accept difficult endings. And GOD was with them.

As I thought about my children and my friend, having to say good-bye for a day and for a potential lifetime, I was reminded



that GOD was with these loved ones, already having a plan of promised goodness for their journeys beyond me. So

too, God had a plan for my day, and for my journey forward, and I was being asked to be courageous in entering into it, trusting in GOD's presence with me also.

Today, exactly one month later, I find myself reflecting back on what has already been a crazy journey of life and ministry for us here at the Mission Office this year. I also find myself at the beginning of what looks to be another wild month filled with more events and tasks and adventures. Sometimes these can feel overwhelming; but I am again reminded of God's call to Joshua to journey with courage and trust. And I am invited to respond the same as Joshua also: *“Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go”* (Joshua 1:16).

October is Mission Month! And as we enter this exciting month in which we celebrate reaching out beyond ourselves and our comfort zones and limitations, I encourage you to do likewise. To celebrate mission—celebrate being like Joshua and the Israelites, venturing out and finding God in new places and ways. And to respond like them—trusting in all that God asks and feeling Him wherever you go. It won't always be easy, but it can always be Holy.

So, whether you find yourself entering into new beginnings or difficult endings, whether it's a busy month or a crazy year, know that God is with you on this journey. Have courage, don't stay where you are, help one another, lead when you least feel like you can, reflect on His Word, trust in GOD, and you too can reach the destination our LORD promises!

A blessed “journey” and a happy Mission Month everyone!

Words of Wisdom:

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” (Chinese Proverb)

Don't Forget:



All October long: Mission Office quilt sale - 10% off!

Oct 7: Missionary Childhood Day / World Mission Rosary Day of prayer

Oct 8: Parish Social Ministry Training; and Peace March in St. Cloud

Oct 11: International Day of the Girl

Oct 23: World Mission Sunday

Oct 27: Fall Forum

Oct 30: Senior High Rally

Oct 31: Happy Halloween!



Give it a Try!

Try incorporating these resources, projects or activities into your ministry.



Mission Education Resources & Ideas

October 7th is Missionary Childhood Day, the day when young people all over the world recognize their call to help their young peers in need, and pray for our world! You can join in by praying the World Mission Rosary (on Oct. 7th or anytime). Contact the Mission Office for free rosaries. Meanwhile, be sure to share the following video with your students as an intro to this beautiful prayer and call to mission: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-oKfzfhoHA

October 11th is International Day of the Girl. Did you know that over 62 million girls in our world are not enrolled in schools? For various

reasons education, among other challenges, continues to be an issue for girls. Learn more about this issue and ways to help encourage and provide education for all with resources put out by the Peace Corps's World Wise Schools program. Visit: www.peacecorps.gov/educators

If you are looking for a fun and easy way to bring more mission into your October, try using Fair Trade candies for Halloween. Whether it's in your classroom, your school, your parish or even what you hand out at your own home, using Fair Trade can help our young people and their families be more aware of important social justice issues, while also helping farmers around the world to thrive! Not to mention, it tastes “frightfully” good!

