

Mission Connections: Special Catechetical Leaders Edition

Youth Connecting in Mission

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<http://mission.stcdio.org>

Signs of the Resurrection

It's been getting harder and harder to watch the news lately. Hurricanes, shootings, bombings, illness, prejudice, fear! The stories of tragedy and sorrow seem so prevalent both near and far. At times it can be overwhelming. At times, I want to throw up my hands and wonder what I can possibly do.

And while there are always many things we can do—to help after as well as to prevent before—today I want to focus on the thing we can do each and every day to make a difference regardless of what headline we're reading: *seek hope!*

This may seem easier said than done with current social media feeds. But it is the one thing that will help us stay closest to our faith, closest to our Creator. **Finding hope is to find life in death; it is to be like Christ!** Christ's very coming into our world was to bring hope to the hopeless, light to the darkness; his leaving this world was to bring life to death. And in refusing to give in to the hopeless nature of our world today, in choosing to seek out—no matter how hard at time—signs of life and joy and goodness and love, we become co-creators with Him, also shedding light into darkness and life into death.

As Pope Francis said in Joy of the Gospel, and reminded us again in his message for World Mission Sunday this weekend:

"His resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force." (Evangelii Gaudium, 276)



October is Mission Month; this weekend is World Mission Sunday. As I reflect on these events, I find it a beautiful "coincidence" that they take place at this time of year, a time when even nature is reminding us of the need for hope. Our leaves do not just fall to the ground and die, but first they burst forth in color and glory, as if to say there is still beauty here, even in death; there will be life again!

Likewise I encourage you, *I implore* you, to seek out signs of the resurrection! Seek out signs of goodness, those things and people and moments and stories and thoughts in your life and your community that are life-giving, positive, holy and joyful. Find them. Affirm them. Share them. **Make a great-big-stinkin'-deal out of them!!**

What could be more powerful against the tragedies and challenges of our world today than an army of hopeful people sharing the signs of the resurrection with a world in darkness? We are called to light a candle and put it on the nightstand for all to see. We are called to be hope. Truly I believe together we can be "an irresistible force!"

Don't Forget:



October: Mission Month!

Oct 22: World Mission Sunday

Oct 29: Senior High Youth Rally; check out the Mission Office table for free fair trade coffee and cocoa

Oct 31: **Happy Halloween!**

Nov 1: Mission Office closed; Blessed Feast of All Saints

Nov 10: Entry deadline for Maryknoll essay contest

Nov 16: Give to the Max Day; visit givemn.org and look for us under "Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Inc."



Give it a Try!

Try incorporating these resources and activities into your ministry.



While finding and holding onto hope is the first greatest thing we can do in the face of difficulties in our world, it is certainly not *all* we can do! If you are looking for other ways to make a difference and help *bring* hope to others, consider the following activities or resources (or contact us for more):

- ◆ Invite students to reflect on peace and how to foster it. Students K-12 can enter Maryknoll's annual essay contest for a chance to win up to \$1,000 in each age category. For more details or to enter, visit: <https://maryknollsociety.org/publications/essay-contest>



- ◆ In September, Pope Francis kicked off the

"Share the Journey" campaign; last week the U.S. Catholic Church had a Week of Prayer and Action for migrants and refugees. The journey continues for so many of our brothers and sisters, and it's never too late to learn more or take action on the situations forcing so many to leave their homes. Find stories and resources at www.sharejourney.org



Share the Journey
#sharejourney

- ◆ Consider going Fair Trade this Halloween. Contact the Mission Office for more information, or visit Catholic Relief Service's ethical trade website to order your trick-or-treat goodies: www.serrv.org

