

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

October 19, 2025

World Mission Sunday (WMS) is a special day celebrated by the Catholic Church around the world to recognize and support the Church's missionary work. Each year, the Pope chooses a theme for World Mission Sunday. For 2025, the theme is: "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples" This theme calls all Catholics — young and old — to be messengers of hope, just as missionaries bring Christ's love to people around the world.

The **Missionary Childhood Association** (MCA) celebrates WMS throughout the month of October by joining other children around the world to offer their prayers and their sacrifices in order to bring hope, healing, and the love of Jesus to mission places. Included in this resource is a WMS lesson plan rooted in the Gospel story of Jesus healing the ten lepers (Luke 17:11–19), as well as activities and an inspiring MCA story. Use this to ignite a missionary zeal in your students leading up to this world-wide celebration of our Mission church.

MISSIONARIES OF HOPE *among the Peoples*

This image is featured on the 2025 World Mission Sunday Poster. Pictured here is Monsignor Roger J. Landry, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, ministering to a Leper colony in Kon Tum Vietnam. In the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers, Jesus didn't just heal — He restored dignity, brought joy, and gave people hope.

**That's what missionaries do today
—they bring hope, healing, and
love in Jesus' name.**



MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AMONG THE PEOPLES

Objectives:

- Understand the meaning of World Mission Sunday and this year's theme.
- Reflect on how Jesus brought hope to the sick and outcast.
- Identify ways they can be missionaries of hope through the Missionary Childhood Association.
- Commit to one concrete action to support children in mission countries.

Grade Level: 5-8

Time: 45-60 minutes

Focus Scripture: Luke 17:11-19
— Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Welcome & Theme Introduction

Begin by writing the theme on the board: "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples"

Ask:

- What do you think it means to be a missionary of hope?
- Who are "the peoples"? (Guide them to see this as all people—especially the poor, the sick, the forgotten.)

Briefly explain that World Mission Sunday is a special day when Catholics around the world focus on praying for and helping others in mission lands — people who are far from home, struggling, or in need of the Gospel.

Introduce or remind your students about the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA):

MCA's motto is "children helping children". Kids around the world join together to bring hope, healing, and the love of Jesus to mission places. Through prayers and sacrifices for the missions, we can be missionaries in our own homes.

Gospel Reflection

Read: Luke 17:11-19 – Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Invite students to follow along as you read the Gospel aloud.

Ask reflection questions:

- What do you notice about the lepers?
- Why were they outcasts?
- How did Jesus give them hope?
- Only one came back to thank Jesus—what does that teach us?

Emphasize: Jesus didn't just heal — He restored dignity, brought joy, and gave people hope. That's what missionaries do today—they bring hope, healing, and love in Jesus' name.



Discussion & Mission Connection

Being Missionaries of Hope Today

Ask:

- Where in the world today are people still suffering, like the lepers? (Lead them to mention war zones, refugee camps, children without schools or clean water.)
- How can we, as young Catholics, be like Jesus and bring hope?

Introduce real examples from MCA (you can choose one or more):

- The St. Terese of the Child Jesus Orphanage in Burkino-Faso
- The children in the Apostolic Vicariate of Requena in Peru
- Parishes in the Diocese of Wabag in Papua New Guinea

Hands on Activity

“Hands of Hope” Project

Materials: Colored paper, scissors, markers

1. Each student traces their hand on a piece of paper and cuts it out.
2. On the palm, they write one way they can be a missionary of hope this week (e.g., pray for a country, give up a treat to donate, write a card to someone who feels alone).
3. Around the fingers, they write five words that describe what hope feels like (e.g., peace, love, healing, welcome, joy).
4. Decorate with the colors of the World Mission Rosary!
5. Create a classroom display titled “Hands of Hope Among the Peoples” with the students’ handprints.
6. When the display is complete, finish with the following prayer:



**Loving Jesus,
Just as You healed the lepers and brought them hope,
Help us to bring hope to children around the world.
Bless all the missionaries, especially those serving in places of
suffering.
May we be “missionaries of hope among the peoples”
Through our prayers, our gifts, and our love.
Amen.**





HOA HUNG PARISH IN SAIGON



Hoa Hung Parish is located in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. It's a busy, urban place filled with motorbikes, tall buildings, street markets—and faith! This Catholic parish is a bright light in the middle of the city, welcoming families and especially children who want to learn about Jesus.



At Hoa Hung Parish, hundreds of children attend catechesis classes (religious education). Many of them live in small apartments or crowded neighborhoods. Even though their lives can be busy and sometimes challenging, they come faithfully to learn the Gospel, prepare for the sacraments, and grow closer to God. The Missionary Childhood, is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) that support the Pope's Missions. The World Mission Sunday collection, helps to support diocese all over the world, even as far as Ho Chi Minh City, where this school in Saigon is located. During Mission Month and as members of MCA, we are asked to pray for one another, even though we live on opposite sides of the world! Prayer is powerful! Keep children in Vietnam in your intentions when you go to Mass, say the Rosary, or during morning prayer. MCA also encourages to ask questions about children in other countries. What do they eat? What games do they play? How do they celebrate Mass?



Mission Inspiration



HOA HUNG PARISH IN SAIGON

Lastly, MCA members are asked to consider making a small sacrifice—maybe donating to mission programs that support parishes like Hoa Hung through the Missionary Childhood Association. Just \$1 week during the month of October can make a huge difference in the lives of children living in the Missions.



Pray for the children at the Hoa Hung Parish

Loving Jesus,

We thank You for our brothers and sisters at
Hoa Hung Parish in Vietnam.

We pray for the children who come to learn
about You—

that their hearts may grow full of faith,
their minds may be filled with Your truth,
and their lives may be blessed with Your peace.

Help us to remember them in our prayers,
to learn from their faithfulness,
and to share what we have with joy and love.

Unite us as one family in Your name.

Amen.

**“Let the children
come to me; do
not prevent them,
for the kingdom of
God belongs to
such as these.” –
Mark 10:14**



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