

# WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Students will learn about the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, and understand how it connects to their baptismal promises and their call to be missionaries. They will also learn about the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) and its work in supporting children around the world.

## Objectives

*By the end of this lesson, students will be able to understand:*

- The Purpose and Meaning of the World Mission Rosary
- Their Role as Missionary Disciples
- The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)
- How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

**For Grades 5–8**

**Theme: Called to Mission through Prayer and Baptism**

**Length: 45–60 minutes**

## Materials

- A World Mission Rosary
- Handout with color meanings (page 5)
- Globe or world map
- List of Baptismal Promises
- MCA Mission Project Handouts (to receive these worksheets please email: [aholden@pontificalmissions.org](mailto:aholden@pontificalmissions.org))



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## Opening Prayer

Begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the needs of others. "Lord, help us to see the world through Your eyes and to pray with love for children everywhere."

## Baptismal Promises & Missionary Identity

Discuss:

- At baptism, we became part of God's family and were called to be missionary disciples. This means that every baptized person is invited to share the love, truth, and message of Jesus with others—just like the first disciples did.
- At baptism, we become members of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are given a share in Jesus' mission: to bring the Good News to the whole world. This doesn't always mean traveling to faraway countries. It means living like Jesus wherever we are—by being kind, forgiving, praying for others, helping those in need, and telling others about God's love.
- In short, baptism gives us a purpose: to help build God's Kingdom by being lights in the world, showing love in action. That is the heart of being a missionary.
- Read aloud the baptismal promises, discuss ways in which we can live them out each and every day and encourage others to do the same.
- When we pray for others and help those in need, we are living out those promises.

## What is the Missionary Childhood Association

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies. MCA serves to remind young people of their baptismal calling to be missionaries for Christ.

Teach:

- Founded to help children around the world through the prayers, sacrifices, and offerings of other children.
- Motto: "Children helping children."
- Each day, MCA members promise to say one Hail Mary for the missions and offer a small sacrifice (even a penny!) to help children in need.
- MCA Members all over the world, pray a special rosary called the World Mission Rosary.



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## Introduction to the World Mission Rosary

The World Mission Rosary is a simple way to live out our baptismal call to be missionaries—by praying, loving, and thinking of others all over the world.

- Archbishop Fulton Sheen, former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, created the World Mission Rosary in 1951. He wanted to encourage Catholics—especially children—to pray for the whole world and become aware of the Church’s missionary work in every corner of the globe.
- He believed that prayer is powerful, and that when we pray the rosary, we can spiritually reach out to people everywhere, even those we’ve never met. He said: “When the Rosary is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in prayer.”
- Each decade is a different color, representing a part of the world where missionaries and the Missionary Childhood Association help children:
  - Green – Africa
  - Red – The Americas
  - White – Europe
  - Blue – Oceania
  - Yellow – Asia

Show the rosary or a diagram and briefly describe the needs of children in each region. When praying the World Mission Rosary, it calls to mind these needs, and asks God to support the Missionaries who are living amongst the people in these areas, sharing the word of God to those who may be hearing it for the first time.



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## How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

*The World Mission Rosary is prayed like a regular rosary, but with special intentions for the children and missionaries in each region of the world, represented by the five colored decades. It combines traditional rosary prayers with a global missionary focus.*

### 1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

### 2. On the Crucifix:

Pray the Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty..."

### 3. On the First Large Bead:

Pray one Our Father

(Intention: for the Pope and the worldwide mission of the Church)

### 4. On the Three Small Beads:

Pray three Hail Marys

(For an increase in faith, hope, and charity around the world)

### 5. On the Next Large Bead:

Pray one Glory Be

(Intention: to glorify God for all the good done by missionaries and children helping children)

### The Five Decades (One per Region):

Each decade is a different color, representing a region supported by the Missionary Childhood Association. Before each decade, announce the region and offer a special intention.

#### Green Beads – Africa

Pray: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: *Green symbolizes the rich forests and natural resources of Africa. We pray for the children and families in Africa, many of whom face poverty, disease, and lack of access to education and clean water.*

#### Red Beads – The Americas

Pray: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: *Red represents the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas. It also reminds us of the courage of those who share the Gospel throughout this vast region, including in places where it's still difficult to be openly Christian.*

#### White Beads – Europe

Pray: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: *White stands for the seat of the Church in Rome and the Christian heritage of Europe. It is a reminder to pray for the Church's continued witness in a part of the world where faith is sometimes forgotten or taken for granted.*

#### Blue Beads – Oceania

Pray: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: *Blue represents the waters that surround the many islands of Oceania. We pray for the people living on these islands, especially where missionary priests, sisters, and laypeople bring the love of Jesus to remote communities.*

#### Yellow Beads – Asia

Pray: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be

Intention: *Yellow stands for the bright light of the East and the sunrise, symbolizing Asia—home to many ancient cultures and religions. We pray for those who face challenges living their faith, and for all who seek to know the love of Christ.*





Red shows the fire of faith that brought the first missionaries to the Americas.

Blue is for the ocean surrounding the islands of the Pacific.

Green represents the forests and grasslands of Africa.

White is for Europe, home of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world.

Yellow is for the morning of the East.

Pray

# THE WORLD MISSION ROSARY

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