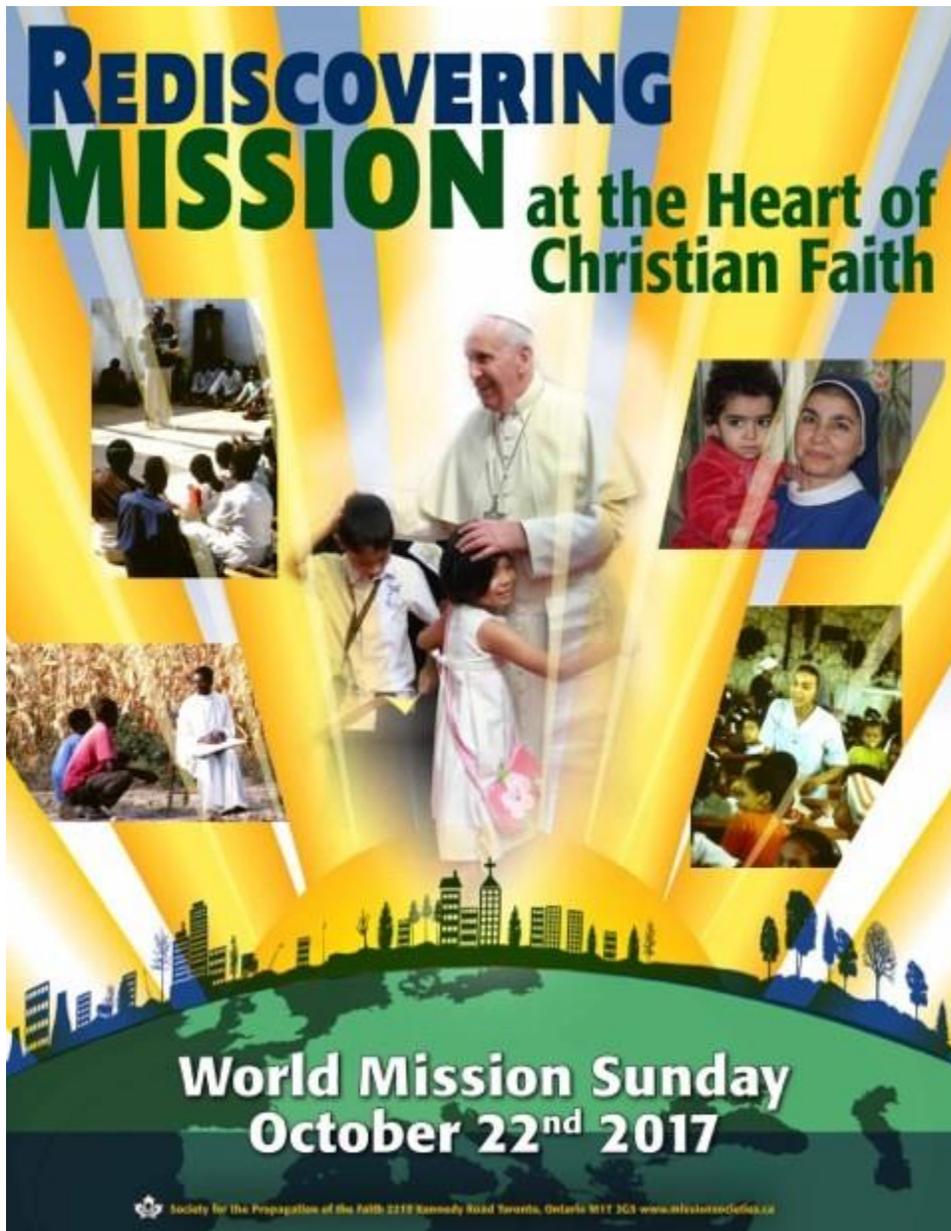


## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: 2017

Spiritual Animation for YOUNG PEOPLE



### MISSION SUNDAY THEME

*Rediscovering Mission at the Heart of Christian Faith*

Read the theme out loud with the children. Points to consider and discuss:

- Mission - meaning? (assignment, duty, responsibility, vocation, calling, goal, quest, function, purpose)

- Rediscovering - implies something previously known, perhaps forgotten or lapsed, taken for granted
- Heart - centrality, importance, vital, life giving, love, charity, generosity, sharing
- Christian Faith - the essence of what we believe and are in Jesus Christ

Examine the poster. Discuss the design, meaning, relevance to the theme, etc.

- Picture of Pope Francis, who identifies as a missionary.
- Pictures showing learning, praying, giving.
- image of the globe, or world. We all go from our world to where other children live.
- the sun, the source of so much life. The rays extending from the sun upwards to all.

Read the following Gospel passage: (Mark 12:13 - 17)

*They sent some Pharisees and some Herodians to catch Jesus out in what he said. These came and said to him, "Master, we know you are an honest man, that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you, and that you teach the way of God in all honesty. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay, yes or no? Seeing through their hypocrisy he said to them, "Why do you set this trap for me? Hand me a denarius and let me see it." They handed him one and he said, "Whose head is this? Whose name?" "Caesar's," they told him. Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." This reply took them completely by surprise.*

**Discussion/Reflection:** how is this passage relevant to our Mission Sunday Theme?

- Discuss some ancient political background with the children: (i.e.: taxes, empire, Roman Empire, emperor, colonies, authority, etc.) Compare these with modern day politics (i.e.: country, provinces, government, taxes, etc)
- Discuss the idea of civic duty and responsibility. Discuss the idea of Christian duty and responsibility to God. Jesus didn't just say to give Caesar what was his, but to give to God what is his.
- Human institutions, even governments, ultimately come from God. We need to comply with our responsibilities as citizens as ultimately, we are complying with God's wishes. However, we also need to give back to God his generosity, love and mercy. The issue is RESPONSIBILITY.
- What does this have to do with Mission Sunday? Jesus said to us, "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations ..." (Matt 28:19) As Christians, we have a missionary responsibility toward children in disadvantaged countries. Our responsibility is to LEARN, PRAY and SHARE with them. It is the Heart of our Christian mission
- Membership in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is an ideal and practical way to exercise this responsibility.

What is *responsibility*?

- being responsible
- taking responsibility
- acting responsibly
- having responsibilities
- doing what we are supposed to do
- acting in a mature way
- doing one's duty
- doing what you are expected to do
- act the way you are expected to act

Can you think of responsibilities in your daily life that are always present and important? These may relate to your home or school life. Discuss this question with a friend and share them with your group.

Would you consider the following activities responsibilities? (Y/N)

1. Feed the dog each morning \_\_\_\_\_
2. Being home on time from a social occasion \_\_\_\_\_
3. Watching a favourite video \_\_\_\_\_
4. Doing homework \_\_\_\_\_
5. Playing hockey at recess \_\_\_\_\_
6. Observing internet safety protocols \_\_\_\_\_

What are your responsibilities as Christians? What can you do to give back to God what is his? Discuss with your peers and teacher/catechist.

What are your responsibilities as young missionaries? Discuss with your peers and teacher/catechist.

### **HOLY CHILDHOOD CANADIAN PROJECT**

One project that has been supported by the Holy Childhood Association this year is at Mpakangwi, Holy Spirit Parish, Kondo, Tanzania. The area is in the interior of the country, and the project is to obtain an economical solar water pump.

- The children in this area depend upon a deep water well for their water. They attend a kindergarten and a Primary School, consisting of nearly 600 students plus staff.
- The present pump uses electricity, which is very expensive. The electrical supply is unreliable and the schools are too often without any water supply.

- A reliable water supply would assist with health needs, as there is the danger of the presence of diseases such as dysentery and bilharzia.
- The project application was sponsored by the local diocese, and the community has participated in their own fund raising projects.



Children of Holy Spirit Parish

**HOLY CHILDHOOD SMALL MISSIONARY IN THE MAKING!** (a dialogue/play between a teacher/catechist and a child)

"Widen your gaze, look around and see all there is that you can do. Would you like to be a missionary?"

"Me? A Missionary?"

"Yes, you."

"How? I cannot go to another country. I am a child."

"You can do many things without going far. Do you know about St Therese? She was a missionary by prayer. She would have liked to go to other countries, but her health did not allow her. She prayed for poor people. Do you belong to the Holy Childhood Association? It would be a great missionary activity for you to do with your family and school mates."

"But apart from praying, what can I do to be a missionary?"

"Look at the poster of the Holy Childhood. Do you see those children? This year we will help the children of Tanzania. We would like to contribute to the purchase of an efficient solar pump for their water supply. It will provide drinking water to more than 500 children in a school and prevent disease. You can try to put some money aside to help them get it. You can even talk to your friends and organize a collection. You can be creative."

"But I do not know these children."

"Do you want to get to know them?"

"How?"

"The Holy Childhood has a website: [www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca). When you go to it, you will discover a lot about them. You will see how they live, what they eat, what kind of schools they attend, how they sing, how they pray and how they enjoy themselves. Everything is different when you live on another continent. You'll even find videos about them. It's as if you were there."

"That makes me curious. I think I will look at the site."

"Throughout the year, especially in Advent and Lent, there is special information that you can share. The further you look, the more you will have new friends. You are never too small to be a missionary!"

"I would love to belong to the Holy Childhood Association!"

"Throughout the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary, I invite you to make this prayer:

### **Small Missionary in the Making**

*Lord Jesus, open my heart to the world.*

*I am just a child; I have a lot to learn.*

*My heart is also very young; it needs to be trained.*

*Help me to love other children, those who are different from me.*

*Accompany me when I approach them.  
Put your light in my eyes when I look at them.  
Put your peace in my hand when I hand them mine.  
Put your sweetness in my words when I speak to them.  
Put on your love when I pray for them.  
And above all, put your strength in my actions when I act before others to defend them.  
I am only a child Jesus, forgive me if I do not always succeed.  
Put all your love in my intentions.  
I will try to do better every time.  
Me,  
A small missionary in the making.*