

Mission Connections: Special Educator's Edition

Kids CONNECTING with Kids

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A Year of Tremendous Growth



Greetings educators! The time has come again to begin another exciting year of watching the young people in our community grow — not only in size, but in knowledge and faith as well! It is my job to help in this growth in the area of global education and mission. As Coordinator of Mission Education at our Diocesan Mission Office, I work with a variety of mission education programs, primarily the Holy Childhood Association; I also work with our two Diocesan Global Solidarity Partnerships with Maracay, Venezuela and Homa Bay, Kenya. Our foreign missionaries from these partner dioceses, as well as many returned missionaries who have traveled to these and a variety of other locations, are ready and waiting to share their culture and experiences with you. From these wonderful speakers, to curriculum programs, great videos and websites, and creative service project ideas, there are almost as many great resources available for you to help introduce mission into your school in fun and real ways as there are places in our world to learn about! But because the great work that you do often leaves little time to seek out these resources, we have created this special “Mission Connections” bulletin for educators to make these resources and ideas more readily available to you. Included regularly will be updates from me, ideas, calendar reminders, facts or quotes, and stories from schools and parishes about ways that kids are serving the church and world. During his visit to the U.S. last spring Pope Benedict XVI said, "The need for global solidarity is as urgent as ever." We do not exist in isolation, but are part of a global family that is called to be in relationship with one another. It is so important for us to both grow in knowledge about our world, as well as to act in justice and solidarity upon that knowledge. By helping our young people grow in these ways, we are also helping them grow in faith! This is our task. Let us plant the seeds and begin making this a tremendous year of growth! I look forward to growing with you!



Give it a Try!

Welcome to the “Ideas Corner” of Mission Connections. From curriculum resources, to projects and activities, here are some ideas for you to think about using with your young people.



Mission Education Curriculum

One of the many mission curriculum programs available is the Maryknoll Magazine educational supplement. This program includes a copy of their monthly magazine for each student, along with a poster and lesson/study guide questions on a particular story in that month's edition for the teacher. In the past this was designed for upper grades, but NEW THIS FALL are materials for PRIMARY GRADES also, which includes a retelling of the article story at children's levels along with activities. Check it out right away this September, as this edition of Maryknoll Magazine has multiple articles and pictures from our very own diocese in mission—including students at St. Boniface School in Cold Spring—way to go St. Cloud Diocese! The Mission Office has copies of this issue. What better time to begin using this FREE program?!

Project / Service Activities

World Mission Rosary Day is coming up fast! Consider making your contribution to mission this day not only through prayer, but also through fun fundraising for mission. Try asking community members to “sponsor a bead or decade” and see if you can raise a dollar for each one prayed by students that day. Or have students bring in coins to raise money for rosaries for kids around the world. Or ask each grade to represent one of the five areas of the world mission rosary, and see which area you can raise the most money for. The Mission Office will be happy to work with you on these funds; funds may also be divided between your local needs or connections and global needs.



Something to think about: Less than half of the seniors in a Campus Ministry class in our diocese who were recently asked to name a country in Africa could do so—we have a *lot* to do yet to teach our young people about our wide world and global family, let alone about our responsibility to act out global solidarity within this world!

Don't Forget:

Calendar check time. Be sure you know these upcoming mission dates and deadlines.



Monday, Sept. 29th is Diocesan Ministry Day—visit our Mission Office table, or attend any of our mission oriented learning sessions.

Tuesday, Sept. 30th is the Humana Dignitas award ceremony and presentation by Kenyan woman and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, at 8:00pm in the Humphrey Theatre at St. John's University.

Friday, Oct. 3rd is Holy Childhood Day, and World Mission Rosary Day in our diocese. Do you have your prayer and mission celebration planned yet?

Monday, Oct. 20th is the sixth annual Fall Mission Ed. Forum will take place at 1:00pm at the Mission Office, with speaker John Katunga from CRS's Peace Building division in East Africa.

All of October is Mission Month

“A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.”

~Kahlil Gibran~

