

THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

WHAT

The **Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)** is an organization within the Catholic Church that promotes responsibility for missions and supports new and growing Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world that need our help. MCA aims to foster a missionary spirit in individuals, families, parishes, and educational institutions. With the motto of "children helping children" it offers an opportunity for young people to fulfil our baptismal calling to be Missionaries. Through **MCA**, students and teenagers are encouraged to embrace a Missionary mindset and actively participate in Missionary Work. The association helps the missions through prayer, sacrifice, and financial aid and material support. **MCA** is one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, along with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Society of Saint Peter the Apostle, and the Missionary Union.

WHY

MCA is the Holy Father's official mission aid society for children. Whether they live in a country that is mission sending or mission receiving, Catholic children world - wide are taught, as part of their faith formation, to heed the words of Jesus when he said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (MT 28:19-20) MCA members are asked to walk in faithful solidarity with children in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote areas of Latin and South America. They do this as our original members did: with prayer and sacrifice.

HOW

Missionary Childhood members are asked to pray one Hail Mary every day for their brothers and sisters around the world who cannot count on the things we take for granted: healthy food, medicine in times of illness, a proper education, and the knowledge that God loves them.

Each MCA member is also asked to spend some time each year financially sacrificing to help support the work of missionaries around the world. They are given a Mite Box to fill, named for the widow who sacrificed the little she had for the good of others in Jesus' parable of the Widow's Mite.

The Mite Box is a practical way to collect your child's donations while acting as a visual reminder for them to work on their project. Mite Boxes and other MCA materials can be ordered through [this website](#), and donations can be sent to your [local diocesan mission office](#) or through the QR code located on the box.



www.pontificalmissions.org

