



September 2019

Missionary Childhood Association



## Pope Francis Calls Us to 'Grow Toward Other Horizons!'

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe or globe to represent the missions, and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

**Leader:** In a recent meeting with children, Pope Francis asked them if they could see behind walls. When they responded that they could not, he asked them to break down the walls and “Grow towards other horizons.” As we begin this school year, we pray that we may look, with the eyes of faith, past the walls of our classrooms to the horizons of our world.

**Reader 1:** Here is what Pope Francis said about meeting new challenges and moving forward in life—just like we are about to do as we start a new school year!

Look at the wall: what is behind the wall? What, you can't see what is behind the wall? You don't know ... It's the same when someone does not want to open up: there is a wall placed in front of that person, he or she has no idea what is behind it. But if you go outside what would you see? Where there are no walls, what would you see? Everything. You see the horizons. We have to learn how to look at life by looking at the horizons, always more, always moving forward. And this is what it means to meet new people, to meet new situations. Behind the wall you cannot see anything; with your horizons, you will keep advancing, the more horizons you face, the more you will advance: there will always be more horizons! And we have to grow toward other horizons.

**Pause for silent reflection.**

**Reader 2:** As we look towards other horizons, we are mindful of our brothers and sisters who live beyond it in a world we cannot see. Jesus, help us to break down the walls between us and grow towards them in faith. Our response is:

**Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Reader 1:** Lord Jesus, help us to recognize You in our brothers and sisters in **Ethiopia** who may go hungry today. Remind us to share our bounty.

**All: Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Reader 2:** Lord Jesus, You were homeless on the night of Your birth. Help us to remember children born into the same situation this day in the Amazon region of **Ecuador**. Remind us to be grateful for the blessing of our homes.

**All: Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Reader 1:** Lord Jesus, You were stripped of Your robes before Your crucifixion. Like You, many children have no clothes to wear in **Papua new Guinea**. Remind us to be grateful for all we have.

**All: Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Reader 2:** Lord Jesus, You were imprisoned unjustly on the night of Holy Thursday. Many children in **India** live in unjust circumstances and are not allowed to go to school because of who they are. Remind us to be grateful for the gift of education.

**All: Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Reader 1:** Lord Jesus, many children in **Albania** become ill and are far from doctors and medicine. Remind us to visit them spiritually in prayer as we are grateful for the gift of health care.

**All: Lord Jesus, Help us to grow towards other horizons in faith.**

**Leader:** As we begin our new school year, we ask God to help us to keep our eyes on new horizons, knowing that as we grow in faith and knowledge, we can use our new talents to help others in the missions.

**All: Amen**

**Closing Song: Whatsoever You Do (Jabusch)**

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