



Mission is at the Heart of Christian Faith

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

Leader: As we begin a new school year, we come together to thank God for the restful time of vacation and ask Him to walk with us as we greet new teachers and classmates. We also gather today to remember our brothers and sisters around the world who need our help—both our prayers and our support.

Reader 1: As we listen to God’s word today, let us be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, “How can everything I do be in the name of the Lord Jesus?”

Reader 2: A Reading from a Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians

(COL 3: 12-17)

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks Be to God.

Pause for silent reflection

Reader 1: If we are to live as St. Paul teaches us, we must remember that his instructions are for every day. The way we treat each other in our classrooms

and our homes should reflect what is in our hearts—Jesus. If we are to fully live our Christian faith, we must also think about how all children are treated—not just the ones around us. Today we pray that we keep the children of the missions in our hearts all year long.

Reader 2: Our response is:

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Reader 1: We pray for the children of **Venezuela**, who struggle to get enough to eat every day and we remember:

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Reader 2: We pray for the children of **Democratic Republic of Congo**, who live in fear because of the war being fought around them and we remember:

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Reader 1: We pray for the children of **India**, some of whom are forced to live on the street and beg because they have been abandoned by their families and we remember:

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Reader 2: We pray for the children of **Fiji** some of whom lost their schools in a recent typhoon and we remember:

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Leader: Lord Jesus, help us to remember that as God’s chosen missionaries we must live with compassion and humility towards all of Your children. We ask for Your guidance as we strive to live our Christian faith throughout this school year not only in our classrooms but also in our homes and our neighborhoods. Help us also to bring You to the children of the world through our prayerful and generous support of the missions.

All: Amen