



Have a Humble Heart for the Missions

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. Cut out paper hearts, ask students to write prayer intentions on them, and scatter them on your altar.

Leader: This month, we'll talk a lot about hearts—especially being someone's Valentine. Today, we pause to think about a very special heart, the heart of Jesus. In His great love, Jesus invites us to keep our hearts as His was—open to loving all with humility and kindness.

Reader 1: As we listen to God's word today, let us be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, "How can I keep my heart open to others?"

Reader 2: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew
(**Matthew 12: 28-29**)

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Take a moment to close your eyes and picture the image Jesus paints with His words. His arms are open as he welcomes you into His loving embrace where you will find rest. Hear His humble, loving heart beating for every child in the world.

(Pause for reflection)

Our support of Missionary Childhood helps missionaries reveal the love and humility of Jesus to children everywhere—inviting them to find shelter from the burdens they bear in life. Please respond to the readers:

Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.

Reader 1:

In Chad, a country in central **Africa**, the children's choir at the Parish of Sacred Heart in the Diocese of Moundou needed music books so that they could learn to raise their voices to God in praise. MCA helps them serve their own parish through music!

All: *Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.*

Reader 2: In southeast **Asia**, orphans are being cared for at the Don Bosco Home for Boys in the Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka. MCA provides the children with a safe place to live and learn their faith.

All: *Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.*

Reader 1: In Papua New Guinea, children in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga are affected by HIV/AIDS. MCA steps in across **Oceania**, a term used to refer to all the small island countries in the Pacific Ocean, to give relief to these youngsters in need.

All: *Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.*

Reader 2: In the **Americas**, on the island of Castries in the Antilles, special needs children were without a classroom at Saint Aloysius Primary School. MCA built the facility so that these students could learn about the humble heart of Jesus.

All: *Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.*

Reader 1: In Albania, a country in southeastern **Europe**, students at Saint Nicholas School went without enough daily school supplies. MCA assisted the children in meeting this basic need.

All: *Give me a humble heart, Jesus. Help me to serve.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have given us many gifts, asking only that we open our hearts and share them with those who have less than we do. Help us to remember that it is Your will that every child comes to know and love you as we do. Give us humble hearts, Lord. We are ready to serve.

Closing song: ***We Are Called*** (Haas)