



April 2019

Missionary Childhood Association



Practicing Mercy in Lent

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: Saint John Paul II said, “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called to ‘practice mercy’ towards others. ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (MT 5:7). (We) see in these words a call to action...to practice mercy... in the spirit of love towards our neighbor.”

Let us pause for a moment and think about how our daily Lenten prayers, sacrifices, and acts of loving kindness help us to draw others closer to the merciful love of Christ.

Reader 1: *A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.*

Do to others as you would have them do to you...love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause for silent reflection.

Reader 2: Our faith comes with responsibilities towards our neighbors, not just those near to us, but also those around the world who we may never meet. We are asked to be merciful in many ways.

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

All: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

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 **Brazil**. Remind us to be grateful for the blessing of our homes.

All: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

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

All: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, You were imprisoned unjustly on the night of Holy Thursday. Many children in **Pakistan** 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: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

Reader 1: Lord Jesus, many children in the **Ukraine** 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: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, every day children worldwide die from lack of food, clean water, or medicine – things to which we have access. We pray that they are received into Your Kingdom of peace and love.

All: Merciful Lord, help me to support Your missionaries as they care for other children.

Leader: God of mercy, as we journey through Lent, help us to reach out in your merciful name to those around us as well as those who live a world away. Let us remember that we are called to act with love and mercy towards others no matter who they are. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Closing Song: Whatsoever You Do (Jabusch)

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