

MISSION ACTIVITY IDEAS

Here are some great activity ideas that teach children about the missions in fun and creative ways – use them at school or at home!

CRAFTS/ARTWORK

- **Bookmarks** – Decorate paper bookmarks and laminate to protect. Punch a hole at the top of the bookmark and attach a ribbon.
- **Bulletin Board** – Create a class or school bulletin board dedicated to the missions.
- **Collage** – Have students create a collage about the missions, with drawings, words, and cutout photos or text from magazines or newspapers.
- **Mission Book** – Create a small booklet about the missions, a particular mission country, or one of the Patron Saints of the Missions (St. Francis Xavier or St. Therese of Lisieux).
- **Mission Chain** – Connect colored strips of construction paper to form a chain. Have each student write a special prayer for the missions on their strip of paper.
- **Mission Quilt** – Cut out squares of white paper and have each student design their own paper “quilt square” for the missions. Connect all squares together to form a Mission Quilt.
- **Mission Scrapbook** – Create a class or school scrapbook over the course of the year highlighting mission activities, prayers, and photos from the past school year.
- **Mission Yearbook** – Create a school Mission Yearbook at the end of the school year. Have each class design a page representing their mission activities that they participated in throughout the past school year.
- **Mobile** – Create paper mobiles. You may do a mission country mobile (each piece represents a different aspect of that country’s culture, such as their flag, food, or clothing) or a mobile whose pieces represent things that children in the missions need (have your students draw things that they would like to give to children in the missions, such as toys, food, or clothes).
- **Mural** – Paint a mission mural. Perhaps your church, school, gymnasium, or playground has a blank wall or wooden fence that could use some brightening up!
- **Paper Cranes For Peace** – Create paper cranes, which represent peace. Design a template of a paper crane on white paper and cut it out. Leave it blank, or have each student write a special prayer for the missions on their own

individual paper cranes. Hang in the classroom or by a window.

- **Paper Dolls** – Photocopy paper templates of a child. Have students decorate their paper dolls with clothes from a particular mission country.
- **Prayer Ball** – Give each student a different colored strand of yarn. Go around the class and have each student say a prayer for the missions and then tie his or her strand onto the previous strand. When all prayers have been said and all strands have been tied together, form a ball of yarn. This represents all of the prayers said for the missions! If the entire school wishes to make a prayer ball, follow the above for each class, but skip the last step of forming a ball of yarn – instead, connect all the classes’ yarn strands and form one big prayer ball.
- **Prayer Cards** – Have each student write a short prayer for the missions on a small piece of paper and decorate with drawings or stickers. Laminate to protect.
- **Puppet Show** – Put on a puppet show to learn about the missions. Create puppets out of socks or paper bags and decorate a “theater set” for the puppets to entertain in.
- **Puzzle** – Buy small blank white cardboard puzzles (available at craft stores) and decorate with drawings about the missions. Store puzzle pieces in a decorated envelope.
- **Recycled Toys** - Have students make their own toys/games out of recyclable or everyday materials like children in the missions do. Cardboard paper towel rolls, napkins, popsicle sticks, rubber bands, or paperclips are a few items that may be used. “A Toy Is What You Make It” (available for loan through the Mission Video Library) may be viewed along with the activity.
- **T-Shirts** – Create mission T-shirts for your class, or hold a school-wide contest to design a mission T-shirt for your school.
- **Windsock** – Create small paper windsocks with drawings about the missions and hang in the classroom or by a window.
- **Word Search** - Create a word search activity about the missions, a specific mission country, or one of the Patron Saints of the Missions (St. Francis Xavier and St. Therese of Lisieux).
- **World Mission Rosary Chain** – Connect colored strips of construction paper to form a chain. Use the 5 colors of the World Mission Rosary (GREEN for the forests and grasslands of AFRICA; BLUE for the ocean surrounding the ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC; WHITE symbolizing EUROPE, the seat of

the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; RED calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the AMERICAS; and YELLOW, the morning light of the East, for ASIA). Explain to your students the meaning of the Rosary while making the paper chain.

ALL DAY EVENTS

- **Global Village** – Use the classroom or the gymnasium to set up different stations. Each station may represent a different mission country. Incorporate food, clothing, music, dance, and prayer at each station.
- **Mission Activity Center** - Include photos, maps, and artifacts from a particular mission country. Provide materials for writing activities, cultural awareness, and related arts and crafts.
- **Mission Carnival** – Many schools hold Mission Carnivals. Set up your gymnasium with booths for each class with games, activities, face painting, food, drinks, and prizes. Donate the money raised to HCA.
- **Mission Garden** – Plant a flowerbed, a bush, or a small garden on your school grounds or church grounds. Say a prayer for the missions over the garden once it is planted. Your students will learn first-hand about “planting seeds of hope.”
- **Mission Mass** – Offer a Mass for children in the missions, with special readings, intentions, and presentation of the gifts. One student from each class may represent a mission country, dressing in the country’s clothes and reading a short paragraph about the country during Mass. The whole school and congregation will learn about the missions!

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

(DONATE MONEY TO HCA!)

- **“Give a Little Bit”** – Students give a penny, dime, nickel, quarter, or dollar for everyday items that they own. Donate a penny for every crayon, a dime for every book, a nickel for every stuffed animal, a quarter for every board game, a dollar for every video game, and so on.
- **Giving Tree** - Set up a giving tree with paper ornaments to buy. Create ornaments that represent items that children in the missions need, and sell for a specific price. For example, a “sock” ornament may cost a dime, a “bread” ornament may cost a quarter, and a “book” ornament may cost \$1.
- **“Go the Extra Mile”** – Challenge your class or school to raise a mile of pennies (or nickels, or dimes!).

- **HCA Booth** – Have a booth at your Mission Carnival or School Picnic especially for HCA. Hand out flyers, play games, and award small prizes.
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- **Mission Farm** – Photocopy small paper templates of animals. Children can buy animals to add to their class “Mission Farm.” For example, a “chicken” may cost a dime, a “pig” may cost a quarter, and a “cow” may cost \$1. Display your farm of animals on a class bulletin board.
- **“THON” events** – Participate in sponsor-style events such as dance-a-thons, hop-a-thons, walk-a-thons, swim-a-thons, bowl-a-thons, math-a-thons, or any other “thons” you can think of!
- **Other Fundraising Activities** – Hold auctions, raffles, talent shows, bake sales, lemonade stands, car washes, yard sales, movie nights, and game nights. Do chores like raking leaves, mowing lawns, and shoveling snow.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Band-Aid Globe/Map** – Have students put a band-aid on an area of the world that is hurting and needs love. Say a prayer for the children in that country.
- **Rice in a Bag** – Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ cup dry rice into Baggies and seal. Hand out the Baggies of rice to your students to take home and have them ask their families to cook the rice for them. This activity shows how much some children in the missions get to eat each day.
- **Spelling Bee** – Hold a class spelling bee. Use words related to the missions, such as country names and foods.
- **Trivia Game** – Hold a class trivia game, with questions related to the missions or to the Patron Saints of the missions (St. Francis Xavier and St. Therese of Lisieux).