

World Mission Rosary Activity Packet



Give the world a great big hug!

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ABOUT THE MCA

"Children Helping Children"

The **Missionary Childhood Association** is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies, with the mandate of educating children about their part in the Church's missionary work. Through this Society, the Holy Father elicits the zeal, love, and generosity of students to share their faith with young people in more than 1,110 mission dioceses throughout the world.

MCA focuses on the spread of the Gospel and the importance of prayer (including praying the World Mission Rosary), and helps to instill a desire to spread the healing message of Jesus to those who need it most in missionary lands.

Children learn about their brothers and sisters in mission countries—children just like them. And they also discover that their own prayers, personal sacrifices, and financial help make a faith-filled difference for their mission family—and make them missionaries today.

A MISSION ACROSTIC

An **acrostic** is a poem or series of lines in which certain letters—usually the first in each line—form a name, motto, or message when read in sequence. This acrostic is a poem-prayer for the Missions.

May all the children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever.
 Amen



Missionary Childhood Association Prayer

Dear Lord,
 together we pray for
 the children of the world.


May they live without fear of violence
 and war,
 without hunger or thirst,
 without sickness and poverty.

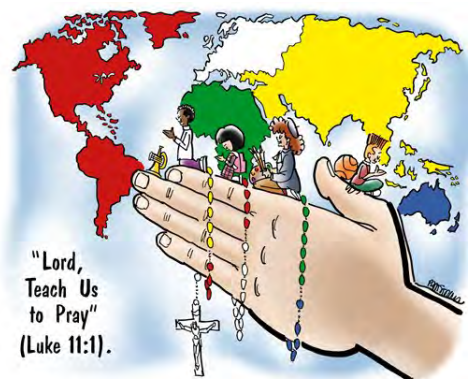
May they experience the joy of faith,
 the hope of the "Good News" of Jesus
 and the love that comes from knowing
 the Lord's great love for each one of us.

May they grow in faith so that we all
 walk together as Your children,
 in peace and love.

Help us to be better missionaries
 through our prayers and the help we offer
 to the Missionary Childhood Association.

Send us Your Holy Spirit to inspire us
 to work together for a different world,
 a better world for all.

Amen. 



MORE ABOUT THE WORLD MISSION ROSARY

How are we Missionaries?

By our Baptism, we become members of a family—the family of the Church. Family members have responsibilities, and our responsibility is to share our faith.

Some people fulfill this responsibility by actually going to mission countries to bring the Good News of Jesus to our brothers and sisters who are in need. Most of us are missionaries by prayer and sacrifice.

How is the World Mission Rosary different from other rosaries?

The World Mission rosary is prayed just like a traditional rosary, with two differences: the different-colored beads represent different missions areas in the world; and the mysteries also call to mind the needs and challenges of missionaries worldwide.

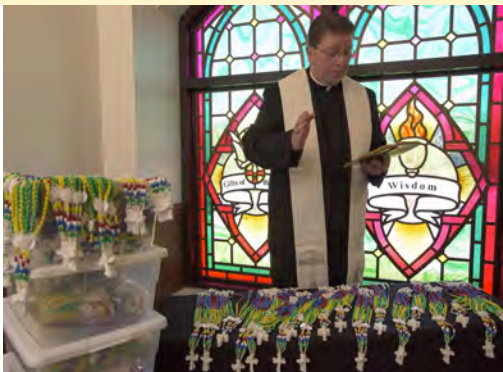
Why do different World Mission rosaries have a different order of colors?

World Mission rosaries made by different rosary makers may have a different order of colors than the ones you see on your rosary, but *all* world mission rosaries use the same five colors.



Why are rosaries blessed by a priest?

The Church has a tradition of blessing religious objects like pictures and rosaries. These blessings ask God to set aside and dedicate the rosary to the service of God. The rosary then draws us closer to God and is now dedicated to God's service. We treat blessed objects with greater reverence because they assist us in raising our hearts and minds to the Lord.



Reverend Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director of the Office of Pontifical Missions, Diocese of Harrisburg, blessed World Mission Rosaries before sending them out to diocesan schools and parishes.



What are the Mysteries of the Rosary?

The rosary is a special set of prayers to God that help us to remember the most important events in the lives of Mary and Jesus. These events are called the Mysteries. There are 20 Mysteries in total, prayed on different days of the week. When you pray the World Mission Rosary, you also think about how we are all called to spread the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Why is October a special month for the World Mission Rosary?

October is both the Holy Rosary month and World Mission Month. October 7 is the feast of the Holy Rosary. World Mission Sunday is celebrated the world over on the next-to-last Sunday in October.

What is the Holy Rosary month?

October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The entire month of October is dedicated to encouraging the praying of the Rosary and reflecting on the mysteries of the Christian faith.

What is World Mission Sunday?

The month of October is also considered World Mission Month. This is because World Mission Sunday is celebrated on the next-to-last Sunday in October, by all the Catholic Churches in the world. World Mission Sunday is our chance to share our prayers, love, and support with those who share our faith with our mission family all around the globe.

We are asked to think about, pray for, and support people who are missionaries. Even people in mission countries do this.

On World Mission Sunday, a special collection is taken up as well. Through our donations, we support missionaries throughout the world.

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

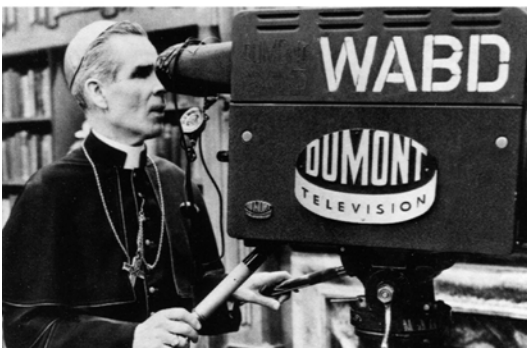
"If you believe the incredible, you will end up doing the impossible!"

Fulton J. Sheen was born on May 8, 1895 in El Paso, Illinois. He was the oldest of four sons. He was baptized Peter John, but throughout his life he was known by his mother's maiden name, Fulton. At his Baptism, his mother dedicated him to the Blessed Mother, a dedication he renewed at his First Holy Communion.

In 1919 he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois. At that time, he made a promise to pray in front of Jesus in the Eucharist for one hour each day. He kept this promise his whole life.

In 1930, Father Sheen started a national radio program, "The Catholic Hour." This program continued for 22 years, reaching an estimated four million listeners!

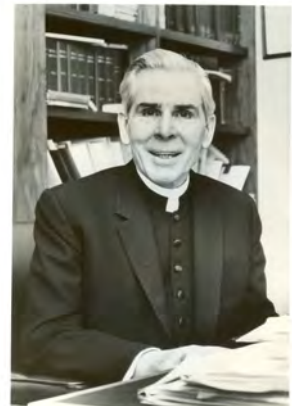
In 1950, he became the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society like the Missionary Childhood Association. A year later, he was named a Bishop. **That same year (1951), Fulton Sheen established the World Mission Rosary** and began his famous television series, "Life is Worth Living." The show had about 30 million viewers each week...more than any of the top-watched TV shows. He won an Emmy Award for "Most Outstanding Television Personality" in 1952, beating Milton Berle, a famous comedian.



Praying the Rosary, Archbishop Sheen said, would "aid the Holy Father and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith by supplying him with practical support, as well as prayers, for the poor mission territories of the world."

On October 3, 1979, then Archbishop Sheen experienced one of the greatest moments of his life when he met Pope John Paul II at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The Pope said to him: "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church!" The Archbishop died later that year on December 9.

Sheen was declared Venerable Servant of God, which is the first step toward sainthood, by Pope Benedict XVI on July 28, 2012. On July 6, 2019, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had approved a miracle attributed to Sheen's intercession, clearing the way for his beatification.



THE PATRON SAINTS OF THE MISSIONS

Pope Pius XI declared 2 patron saints for the Missions, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

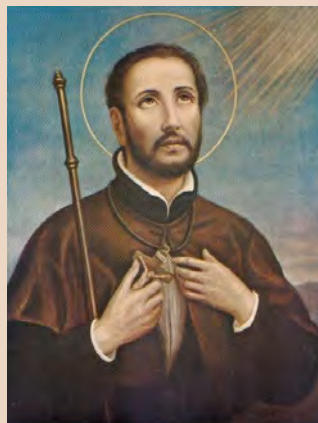
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

In a missionary journey that lasted eleven years, Saint Francis Xavier traveled throughout the Asia, on foot, and by ship, brought the Gospel to over fifty kingdoms and baptized more than one million people.

Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1506 in Spain. At the age of 19, he went to study at the University of Paris—and made a friend who would change his life, Ignatius Loyola. Both would become priests, Francis Xavier in 1537. Together, they would establish a religious community of men, the Society of Jesus—also known as the Jesuits.

The only thing Father Francis took with him on all his journeys was his book of daily prayers, called a breviary, and a book of meditations. With little experience but with a heart on fire to tell the world about Jesus, Father Francis sailed in 1541 from Portugal to that country's colony of Goa on the southern tip of India, where he introduced many people to the Catholic faith. A trip to the East Indies—to Malacca and the Moluccas—came before a journey to Japan, in 1549, making him the first missionary to preach the Gospel there.

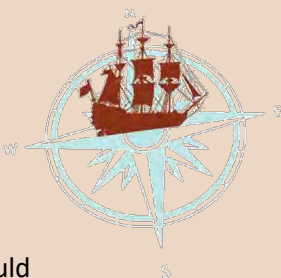
Father Francis' greatest desire was to proclaim the Gospel in China, at that time closed to outsiders. Some stories even claim that he bribed a ship's captain to smuggle him into the country. Once there, he became very ill and died on December 3,



1552. His body was brought back to Goa and buried in the first stop of his missionary journeys.

Father Francis was canonized together with his friend, Ignatius of Loyola, on March 12, 1622.

His Feast Day is December 3.



SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Born *Marie Françoise Thérèse Martin* in Alençon, France, on January 2, 1873, Thérèse was the youngest of nine children. At the age of 15, she entered the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, becoming a religious Sister two years later.

Thérèse wanted very much to leave her convent in France and be sent on mission, specifically to Vietnam. Her poor health prevented her from making that journey, but not from being a missionary.

Determined not only to love God herself, but also to lead others to know and love Him, Thérèse offered her prayers and her own sufferings for missionaries around the world.

Thérèse did “go” to the Missions—at least through the mail. She wrote to missionary priests serving in Asia and Africa during her lifetime. In those letters, she



told of her great love for Jesus, and of feeling a part of the missionary work of those priests, especially through her prayers.

She wrote in her book, *Story of a Soul*, about a childhood incident:

“Papa rewarded me by giving me a pretty little coin. I placed it in a box, and it was from this box that I drew my offerings on the big feasts when there were special collections for the Propagation of the Faith.”

Thérèse died tragically young on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24 from tuberculosis. She was canonized a saint of the Catholic Church in 1925. Her Feast Day is October 1.

The example of Saint Thérèse shows us that all Christians, not just those who travel to distant lands, are called to do the work of missionaries through prayer and sacrifice.



Acrostic– Have students work out an acrostic using the words, WORLD MISSION ROSARY. Each letter might stand for a particular prayer intention of a missionary (e.g., M for motorcycles to missionaries can travel to bring the Good News of Jesus to others) or a country where missionaries are working to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Make a collage representing the Body of Christ around the globe. Use pictures from mission magazines or other multi-cultural resources. (Contact Missions Office for pictures cut out of missions magazines.)

Host a “Mission Week.” Each day, focus on the awareness of a different continent. Tie in the use of the World Mission Rosary. Ask various groups of students or classes to research food, music, religion, and customs of a continent, and prepare a display.

Learn about patron saints of several mission countries, one for each of the five areas of the world as represented on the World Mission Rosary. Tell or act out for younger students the stories of the lives of these saints. Be sure to include examples of the way the saints witnessed to their faith in their words and actions.

Celebrate a “living” World Mission Rosary with children wearing the color of the area their decade represents. Focus on one mission area or mission country each week, and pray the decade of the World Mission Rosary associated with that area / country. Prior to beginning the Rosary, have students locate the continent / country on a globe or map. Mark that area with a paper cross. Pray specifically for people living in poverty or in need of the Lord’s love and healing in one of those countries.



Create a class or school bulletin board dedicated to the World Mission Rosary. Include pictures from the missions represented by the World Mission Rosary colors. Make a flag for the countries. Hang a large World Mission Rosary either drawn on paper and colored, or made of colored construction paper links.

Create paper mobiles. You can do a mission country mobile with each piece representing a different aspect of that country’s culture –flag, food, clothing, cultural items, etc. – or the needs of the children in that country – clean water, the love of Jesus, schoolbooks, etc.

Find out the cost of basic needs in mission countries– groceries, school supplies, etc. Then find out the average wages (average income) a person in that country makes. Compare that with the wages in our country.

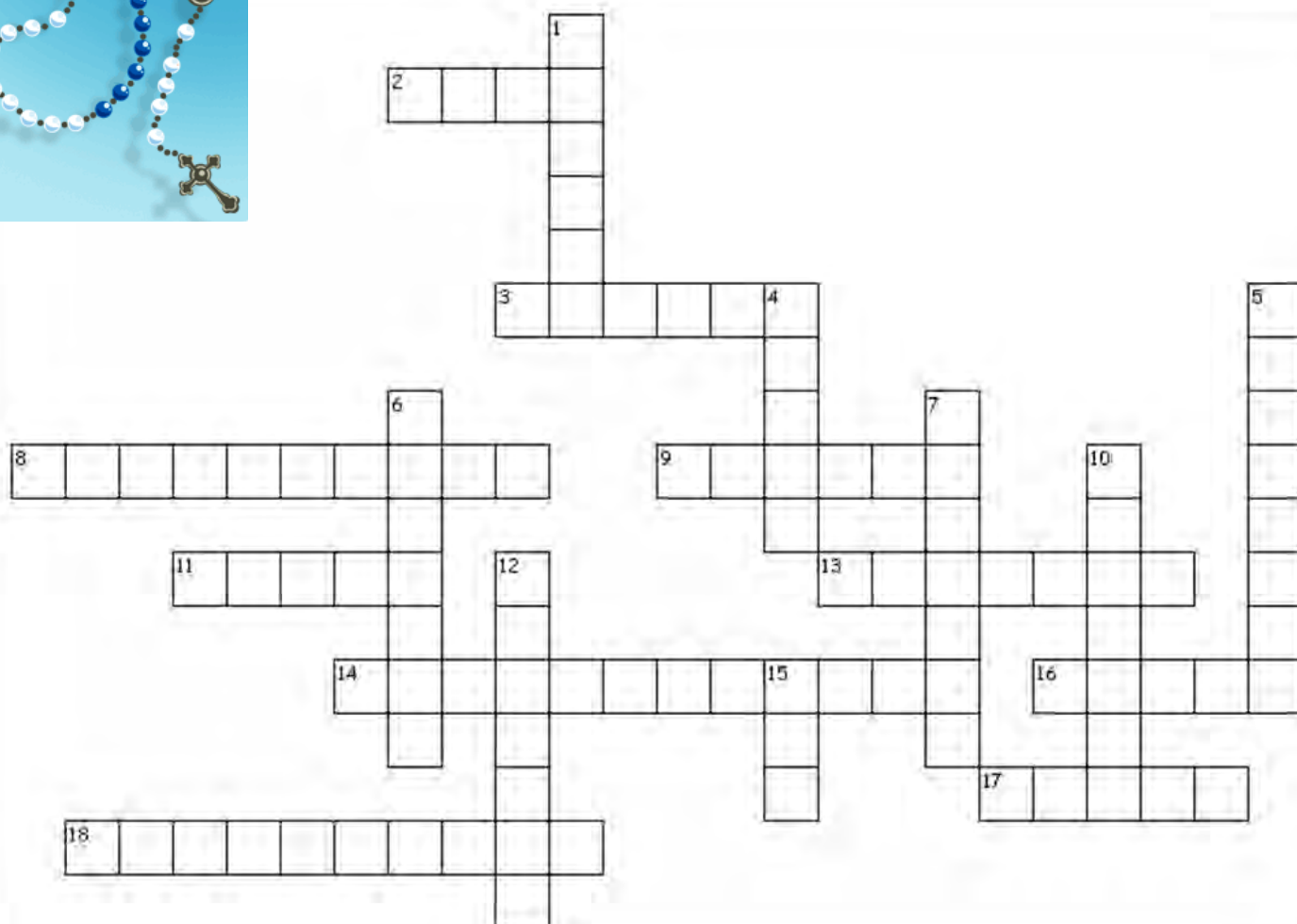
World Mission Rosary quilt: Cut out squares of paper and have each student design their own quilt square for the Missions. Join the squares to make a quilt. Talk about how the quilt illustrates mission as “covering the world” with God’s love.

Global Village: Use the classroom or the gymnasium to set up different stations, each representing a mission country. Have students research and display clothing, music, dance, prayer and other cultural elements of that country. Native foods or dishes could be served.

Liturgy centered on the Missions: Have students process in with a globe, flags of the world, and large crosses in the colors of the World Mission Rosary. Write your prayer intentions for the missions on the crosses. Lay them at the foot of the altar. Ask your pastor to use the Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples at the Liturgy. Pray as a community that all people come to know Jesus. Assign each grade a color of the World Mission Rosary in which to dress. During the Intercessory Prayers, pray for each continent represented and have the students stand as “their” area is prayed for.



World Mission Rosary Puzzle

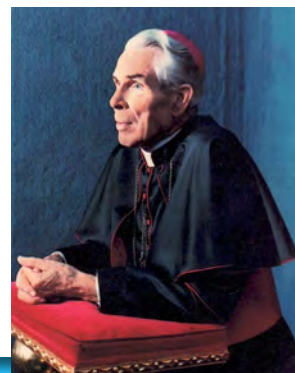


Across

Down

2. World Mission rosary color for Oceania, for the ocean surrounding the islands in the Pacific
3. World Mission rosary color for Asia, for the morning light of the East
8. How many Hail Marys are said in a complete rosary
9. _____ Prayer, given by the Blessed Mother to recite at the end of each decade of the rosary
11. Created the World Mission Rosary in 1951
13. Month in which we observe the Holy Rosary and World Mission Sunday
14. Priests, religious, or lay people who may travel to other countries to spread the Good News
16. There are 59 of these in an ordinary rosary; they help us to keep count of the prayers
17. World Mission rosary color for Africa, for its forests and grasslands
18. What you become by giving to the missions through prayer and sacrifice

1. Group of ten beads
4. World Mission rosary color for Europe, for the home of the Pope, shepherd of the world
5. Territories across the world where God's people are suffering and need the comfort of Jesus and His Gospel
6. _____ Xavier, saint who is co-patron of the Missions
7. Where we first hear the call to share our faith
10. _____ of Lisieux, saint who is co-patroness of the Missions, even though she never went to the missions
12. Meditation on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary while praying the rosary
15. World Mission rosary color for the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas



World Mission Rosary Puzzle (younger grades)

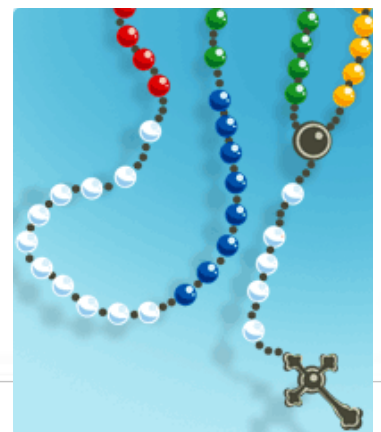
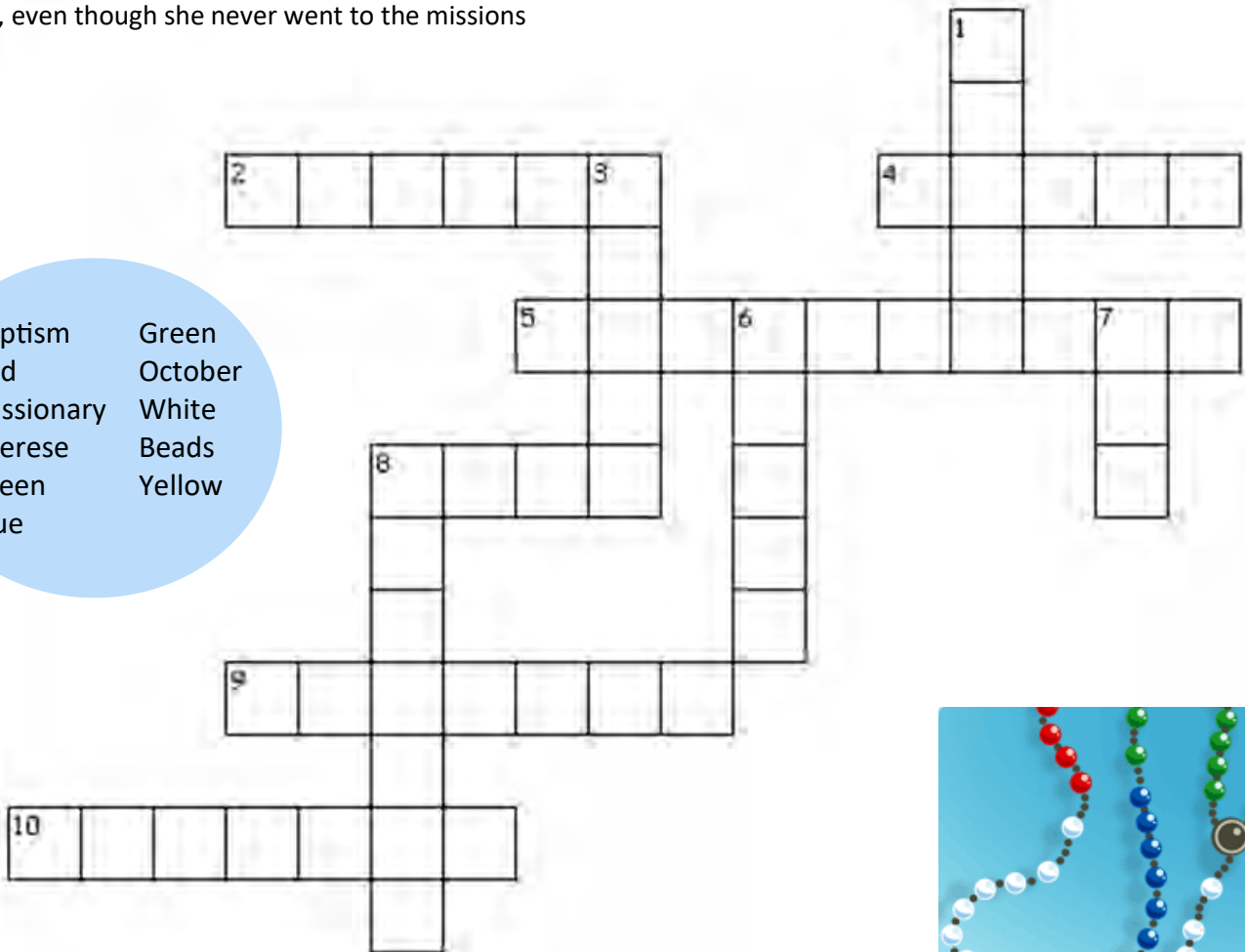
Across

2. Color for Asia, for the morning light of the East
4. There are 59 of these in an ordinary rosary; they help us to keep count of the prayers
5. What you become by giving to the missions through prayer and sacrifice
8. Color for Oceania, for the ocean surrounding the islands in the Pacific
9. Month in which we observe the Holy Rosary and World Mission Sunday
10. _____ of Lisieux, saint who is co-patron of the Missions, even though she never went to the missions

Down

1. Color for Africa, for its forests and grasslands
3. Color for Europe, for the home of the Pope, shepherd of the world
6. Created the World Mission Rosary in 1951
7. Color for the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas
8. Where we first hear the call to share our faith

Baptism Green
Red October
Missionary White
Therese Beads
Sheen Yellow
Blue



World Mission Rosary Word Search

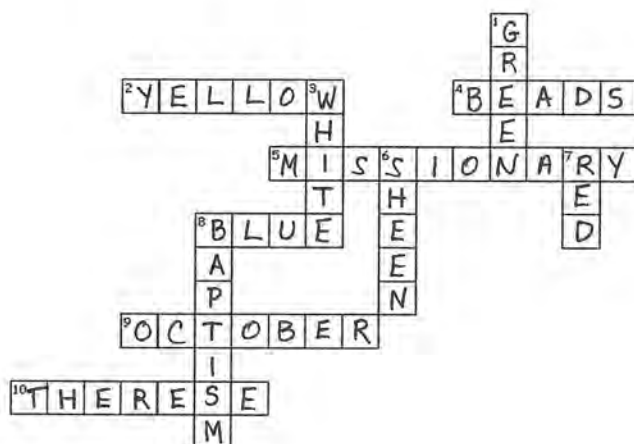
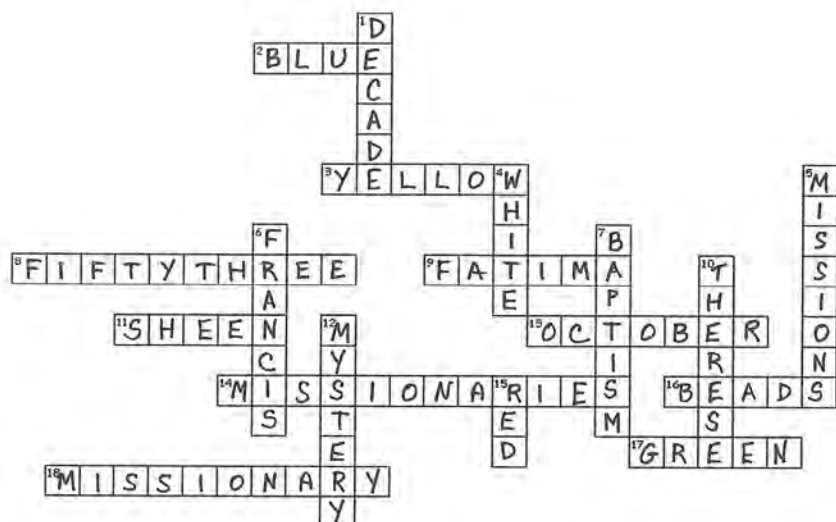
R C Y U B Y P H F R C Y M D W
M H H Q R L Z K S E K R S C J
M N W O L L E Y N R P A I R H
W A E Y K W W T W O Y N T E C
G C T E L I E N H S K O P B H
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Q Z C S P R H L R A H D P K K
L N J O D H X Q U X T O Q N X
E Z E D A C E D Z D Y O T Q F

BAPTISM
BEADS
BLUE
CENTERPIECE
CRUCIFIX
DECADE
GREEN
MISSIONARY

OCTOBER
PRAYER
RED
ROSARY
SHEEN
THÉRÈSE
WHITE
YELLOW



ANSWER KEYS FOR WORLD MISSION ROSARY PUZZLES, WORD SEARCH



(Over,Down,Direction)

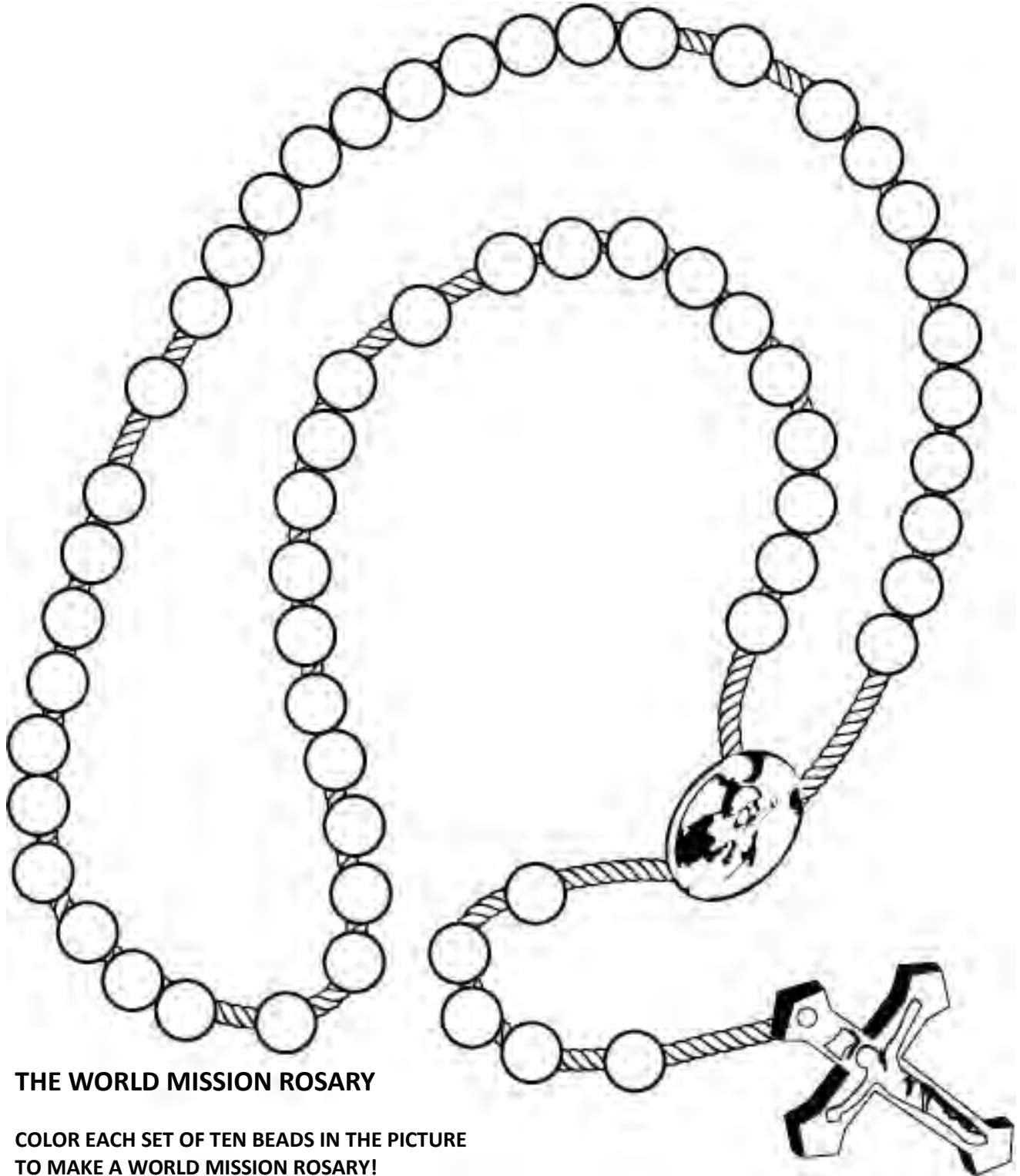
- BAPTISM(13,7,N)
- BEADS(1,6,SE)
- BLUE(15,9,SW)
- CENTERPIECE(11,1,SW)
- CRUCIFIX(2,5,SE)
- DECADE(8,15,W)
- GREEN(6,7,NW)
- MISSIONARY(12,10,N)
- OCTOBER(14,9,N)
- PRAYER(2,11,E)
- RED(8,10,N)
- ROSARY(10,3,S)
- SHEEN(1,12,E)
- THERESE(11,14,N)
- WHITE(9,4,S)
- YELLOW(8,3,W)

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+ N W O L L E Y N R + A I R +
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B + R + R R + + I A + I A O +
+ E + U P G + + T R + S B T +
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+ + E D + I + E + + S I + O B
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MARY, OUR MOTHER IN FAITH—FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!

Whether we live in New York or Nigeria, Indianapolis or India, we share a “Mother”—our Blessed Mother, Mary, who loves us and watches over us. The Rosary is our special prayer to Mary. We can pray the World Mission Rosary and ask Mary to watch over children all over the world!



THE WORLD MISSION ROSARY

**COLOR EACH SET OF TEN BEADS IN THE PICTURE
TO MAKE A WORLD MISSION ROSARY!**

YELLOW—and think about Asia, where the sun rises first each day

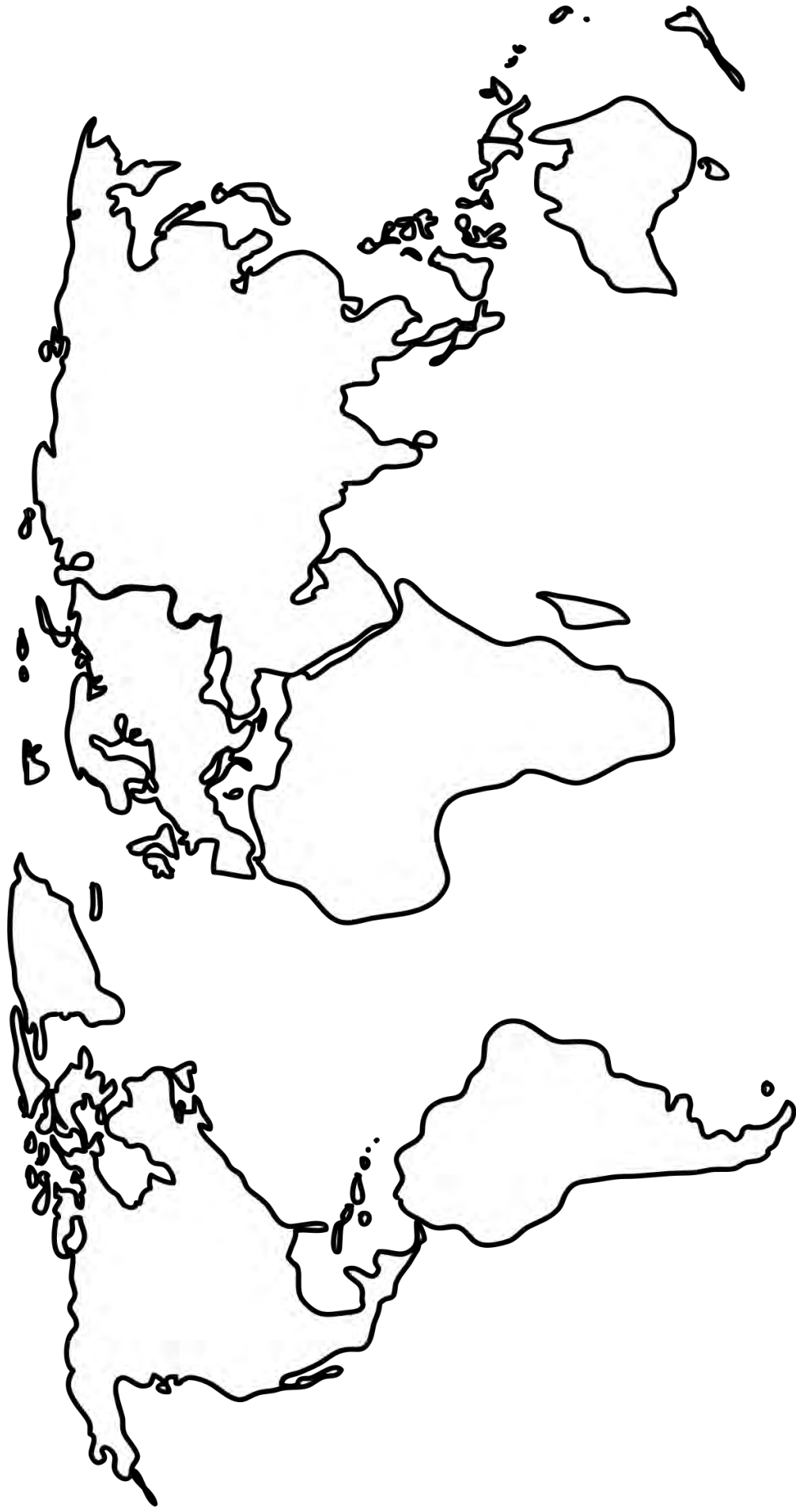
RED—for the Americas, where missionaries came on fire with great faith

WHITE—for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who wears white

BLUE—for the Pacific Islands, which are surrounded by the ocean waters

GREEN—and think about Africa, with lots of trees and grass.

Color the map in the World Mission colors. What area does each color stand for?



Children Helping Children



mca

missionary
childhood
association

My Mission Prayer

