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July 28, 2023

Dear Religious Educator,

In preparing for this next school year, I encourage your school or parish school of religion to participate in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA).

This year marks 180 years since the founding of the MCA!

This is 180 years of children praying and sacrificing for their peers around the world, particularly for those in mission dioceses. When Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson founded this society in 1843, children prayed one Hail Mary daily and sacrificed one small coin monthly for the children in the missions in China. Now, this has grown to children's prayers and sacrifices supporting more than 1,100 mission dioceses, with over \$15.5 million being distributed around the world.

The heart of the MCA is involving children in the Church's missionary work, and educators like you play a vital role in assisting children in this ministry.

The Mission Office is present to support you in carrying out the work of the MCA. Free classroom supplies and presentations are available, as well as supplementary materials made available each month to help foster this missionary mindset with your students. Please see the information in the newsletter to access these materials.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the Mission Office at missions@archstl.org or 314-792-7655.

Thank you for your prayers and support of the Church's missionary activity through the MCA.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski

Archbishop of St. Louis