



## ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Dear Religious Educator,

While we prepare for this upcoming academic year, I invite your school or parish school of religion to participate in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.

Celebrating its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization, the MCA continues to encourage youth to respond to their calling to be missionary disciples.

When I attended my parish elementary school, I recall the beautiful witnesses of missionaries and their generous, selfless service to the Church and the world. The powerful stories shared by missionaries touched my heart and blessed me in my discernment to a priestly vocation, as well as an excitement to live the mission of Jesus in my daily life. I am confident also that Jesus will touch the hearts of your school communities with a greater awareness and enthusiasm to love with Christ's love our call to live and foster his mission in the world.

Our Mission Office is ready to assist you in the formation of your students and is available to meet with you to develop an individualized plan for your school or to speak to your students.

I extend my thanks to those Principals, DREs, CREs, elementary schools, and parish schools of religion that already actively participate in the MCA. It is uplifting to see so many of our students living their baptismal identity.

Ever grateful for your efforts to form your students in the Catholic faith, and ask God's blessings on you and your faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, D.D., J.C.L.  
Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis