

Prayer Guide for Extraordinary Mission Month: Baptized and Sent

Specific Ways to Introduce Children to Extraordinary Mission Month Prayer

These prayers are meant to be used to get children praying in a spontaneous way for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world, as lifting our hearts and minds to the Lord is part of the tradition of the Catholic Church (CCC 2652-2662), and every Christian should pray for Missionaries around the world. This great missionary impetus comes from the knowledge that Jesus himself asked his disciples and all of us to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,” (Mt. 28:19-20a).

The following is therefore a week by week guide to the Extraordinary Mission Month announced by Pope Francis preceded with an introduction that would likely come during the First Week of October. These prayers can be used during religion classes, homeroom, or any other context. They can be used any day of the week of the four weeks during the month. The steps outlined below are to help you along if you do not know where to start, and can be changed based on your needs.

Children Kindergarten to Grade Six

Teachers could explain in these words or similar: “The Pope has asked everyone to have one month to realize that everyone who loves Jesus is called to be a Missionary themselves and to pray and help others who are doing the same thing. To be a missionary means to tell others about Jesus and to do everything as if we are doing it for God. God sends us on this ‘mission’, so we are all ‘missionaries’”

Teachers could then show one or more of the following videos:

1. A teacher could introduce the month by saying in these words or similar: “Philip was an early follower of Jesus, and he wanted everyone to know about him. Philip followed Jesus by being a Deacon, which means a ‘servant’. He helped everyone, including this man who did not hear of Jesus yet. Like Philip we are called to be missionaries, which means to tell everyone about Jesus and how we should love him, and act towards everyone the way God wants us to act”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGEqn7_teFo&list=PL5aPdmniG3y_n7hXEKTV4qQnleCe-p6Ws&index=17&t=0s

2. A teacher could introduce the month by saying these words or similar: "Samuel was called by God to tell everyone about God. In the same way God calls us to be missionaries and to pray for people who are missionaries. Missionaries are Watch this story to see how God called Samuel:"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P13ulsFW7OA&list=PL5aPdmniG3y_n7hXEKTV4qQnleCe-p6Ws&index=29&t=0s

3. (Grades 3-5) 2. A teacher could introduce the month by saying these words or similar: "Esther was chosen by God to save her people. In the same way, God called you to be a missionary and protect people that need it. Jesus also called everyone to tell people about him, because this helps us serve God:"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-TplgzBd9g>

Children Grade Seven to Twelve

Teachers could explain in these words or similar: "The Pope has asked everyone to have one month to realize that everyone who loves Jesus is called to be a Missionary themselves and to pray and help others who are doing the same thing. To be a missionary means to tell others about Jesus and all that he taught and to do everything as if we are doing it for God."

You could then show them one of the following video or use the resources in an assignment:

1. Bishop Barron has produced the following video calling all Christians to be Missionaries:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ModboSR97IU>

2. The Vatican has produced a video that describes what Jesus's mission for Christians is, and how the Church is using Extraordinary Missionary Month to spread Christ's message through word and deed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdK8vEsNi9I&feature=youtu.be>

3. Teachers who are looking to deepen their faith, or to have material for higher grades, can read the anniversary document from Pope Benedict the 15th which is celebrated during this month, [*MAXIMUM ILLUD*](#) and/or one of the latest documents on Mission in the Church, namely from Saint John Paul II, [*The Mission of Redemption*](#).

Week One of Extraordinary Mission Month Prayer: Catholic Camps and Lay Missionaries

1. Show the video of the Missionary group, and explain in these or similar words “This is the story of two camp councillors and how they started to know Jesus more, and then how they started to work as Missionaries for Jesus and the Church he established”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBzgvZoQtDo>

2. Start by explaining what spontaneous prayer is if you classroom has not done it before. Catholicism and Christianity teaches that God wants to hear what we really want. He also wants us to pray for others. Explain that it's OK if we don't know what to say In front of others, since the Church already gives us a guide. We can ask God things in three primary ways:
 - a. we can either ask God for something,
 - b. thank God for something
 - c. praise God for who he is
3. Stand in a circle or another appropriate form, and tell the children that we will move to the person to the right and they can pray for the Catholic camps and the missionaries there. Encourage the children by saying that prayers can be long or very short. Don't be discouraged if students do not choose to pray. If they are discouraged, they can move to the next person along the line that is more comfortable. Start the prayer with these or similar words: “There are many lay people working to spread the message and love of Jesus. Every year many children who do not know Jesus go to these camps. You can pray by starting with something like ‘Dear God, please help these camps to have enough money’ or ‘that the they will find enough missionaries to tell the kids about Jesus’, you can also pray for more Catholic camps to ‘Dear God, help these camps not to be afraid to...’ etc. --- you can also thank God with words like ‘Dear God, thank you for setting up these camps, or ‘thank you for providing them with food’”.

For smaller children you can just say to start with the word, “bless the camp... the children there... the leaders etc.” or “thank you for the leaders... the food at camps... for Jesus who loves the campers”. Smaller children can be given cue cards where there is a simple picture of the thing they are to pray for.

If praying is hard for older students you could also assign students areas of prayer such as: financial sustenance, openness of others to hear missionaries, good and humble missionaries that love Jesus.

4. Begin the prayer by having a student or yourself starting “In the Name of the Father..” and by starting the first prayer which should be around 30 sec. at least. Work your way around the circle going from person to person and ending with the person who started. There is no need to hold hands, but this may be easier for younger children to prevent distraction. You may choose

to end the prayer with a student or yourself saying the prayer of Pope Francis for Extraordinary Missionary Month or a “Our Father” or “Glory be”:

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he sent his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations”.

You remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and bold in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and new ways of telling that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to know the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

Week Two of Extraordinary Mission Month Prayer: University Missionaries

1. Show the video of the Missionary group and introduce them by using these or similar words that these are: “young people who have to raise their own money and then spend their time telling people about Jesus and praying for them. They are called Catholic Christian Outreach, and we have a lot in Calgary”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO4YrnfzZho>
2. See Week 1, point 2, if you have not explained to children and teenagers spontaneous prayer
3. See Week 1, point 3, if you have not prayed. Topics of prayer for this topic could be:
 - a. More missionaries
 - b. That universities would be more open to missionaries
 - c. For money for missionaries to live
 - d. For churches to help missionaries
 - e. For people to be open to hearing missionaries
 - f. For missionaries to not feel loneliness or other burdens
 - g. For missionaries to be like Christ
4. See Week 1, point 4

Week Three of Extraordinary Mission Month

Prayer: The Order of Preachers (Dominicans)

1. Show the video of the Missionary group and introduce them by using these or similar words that: “this is group of priests who try to preach or tell people about Jesus all day long. They also pray for people. This is a video sped up of what a Dominican priest would do on a normal day in being a missionary”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Z5nl3x9_8
2. See Week 1, point 2, if you have not explained to children and teenagers spontaneous prayer
3. See Week 1, point 3, if you have not prayed. Topics of prayer for this topic could be:
 - a. More men to become priests
 - b. That people would listen to preaching better
 - c. That the priests would trust and follow Jesus
 - d. For other men working for the Order of Preachers (brothers)
 - e. For missionaries to not feel loneliness or other burdens

Week Four of Extraordinary Mission Month Prayer:

Sisters of Life

1. See Week 1, point 4
2. Show the video of the Missionary group and introduce them by using these or similar words that: “this is a group of ladies who don’t get married or have children. They are nuns. They are married to Jesus. They help little babies and people who are fighting in their marriages. They wear special clothes with the colour of the Virgin Mary, which is blue. They are missionaries that spread the message of Jesus loving everyone. This video is about them”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvdOb1xoOAY>
3. See Week 1, point 2, if you have not explained to children and teenagers spontaneous prayer

4. See Week 1, point 3, if you have not prayed. Topics of prayer for this topic could be:
 - a. For everyone to respect life in the womb and until death
 - b. That people would have good marriages
 - c. That God would help the sisters in their fight for life
 - d. That God would give them enough money to help their cause
 - e. That the sisters would follow Jesus more closely
5. See Week 1, point 4