Lent is a season of penance and reflection that leads us to our celebration of Easter. Let the students know that as we begin this Lenten season, they are going to put into practice two of the pillars of Lent. Almsgiving (Sacrificial Giving) and Praying. Sacrificial giving is a practice that teaches us that making sacrifices for others is part of living out our faith, to help care for our brothers and sisters in Christ so they may live in dignity. Helping includes providing them food, shelter, jobs, and education. Praying helps us speak to God, keeping Him and those we pray for in our minds and hearts every time we pray.

Throughout this Lent, we are going to dress up a bare tree trunk with leaves representing our prayers and almsgiving to other children. Each leaf will represent a donation made by each classroom to the Missionary Childhood Association. As missionary disciples we can have a powerful impact on the lives of children living in other parts of the world. Each classroom can work together to help raise enough money to help a whole family or a student go to school. Our goal is to put as many leaves as possible on the tree to have it bloom on the weekend of Easter. As we rejoice in the triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ we will also rejoice in having contributed to helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. Making an extra effort to donate to the missions as a classroom can also help show what we can accomplish when we work together in community.

Make an outline of a bare tree trunk and branches in a prominent place in the school or parish. Make cut out of leaves in different shades of green for each grade level. Each leaf can be worth $5. Ask each classroom to exchange their sacrificial giving’s for leaves to be placed on the bare tree trunk. At the end of Lent the tree should be full with leaves and ready to flourish with the coming of Easter. Add flowers of different colors for students to see it after Easter.
Each year, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) reaches and helps more than 3.5 million children and their families in some of the poorest parts of the globe, thanks to the love, prayers, and support of Catholics throughout the world. This includes projects for the “protection of life,” loving care for abandoned children, children with HIV/AIDS, compassionate assistance for children with disabilities, courageous advocacy for street children and victims of child labor, human trafficking and child soldiering. Some 600,000 children were helped in these areas. With your help, children receive an education from pre-kindergarten through elementary school, learn of God’s great love for them. Embracing the “Good News” proclaimed by Jesus Christ!

**You can make a difference!**

- $.25 can buy a pair of socks in Haiti
- $.50 can buy one nutritious meal in Kenya
- $.75 can buy 3 sets of undergarments in Chile
- $1.00 can keep 20 children safe from tuberculosis in Guatemala
- $1.25 can buy powdered milk for a family in Bolivia
- $1.50 can buy 2 woolen blankets in Asia
- $2.00 can buy 75 pencils for a school in Thailand
- $4.00 can buy bread for a week for a family in Uruguay
- $10 provides religious education for a child in Nepal
- $10 feeds one family for a day in Ethiopia
- $10 helps to buy school supplies for one child in Thailand
- $10 buys 400 loaves of white bread in South Sudan
- $10 provides educational materials for three girls for one year in India
- $10 buys a bible in Egypt
- $20 sends a child to school in Kenya
- $20 buys 20 cartons of milk in South Sudan
- $50 helps by materials for a water well in Malawi
- $50 buys 8 sheets of weldmesh to build a water well in Burma
- $100 will feed a village in South Sudan
- $100 helps provide lunch for the students while at school in Thailand
- $100 buys staple foods to distribute in Ethiopia
- $100 provides educational material to 30 girls for one year in India
- $100 can purchase a walker or wheelchair or several sets of custom made crutches for children in Uganda

Please send your offerings to your local MCA office:
**Missionary Childhood Association**
3424 Wilshire Blvd. 3rd. Floor Los Angeles, CA 90010

www.missionsla.org/mca