



Universal Children's Day – 20 November



Setting: Photos of Children

Rule of Life

“Following Liberating Wisdom, we commit ourselves to protect and promote the rights of women and children. We take concrete steps in their regard in order to restore their dignity and notify appropriate authorities when necessary. We are touched by the tragedies of their lives and hold them in our prayer.”
(R L: M2)

Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or UNCRC “has 41 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to.”

These include that every child has the right to life, to have a name and a nationality, to have a caring family, to have education, food, shelter and good health, the right to be given opportunities for play and leisure. It involves justice and protection from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and inadequate or abusive treatment for all children and youth, including refugee children who must be given appropriate protection and assistance.

Our Inspiration

Montfort and Marie Louise continue to inspire us today to share their heritage by giving preference to the neglected and rejected of the society.

One of our programs is the development of the children’s growth in its intellectual, psychological, social and spiritual aspects.

Our schools are privileged spaces to develop the potentials and giftedness of each child called to become the “artisan” of her/his life in the future.

Situation in the Philippines

“One in every 10 Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years is an out-of-school child and youth. The country has 3.8 million out-of-school children and youth or approximately 10 percent of the 39 million Filipinos with age range of six to 24 years old.”

Who are our children?

John Lenard lives with his grandmother and relatives. His mother left him when he was a baby and she never returned. His father works as a laborer and visits John Lenard once in a while. He is now 10 years old and in fourth grade. Despite the family situation, he was honored as one of the brightest students in his class. John Lenard is one of the 100 poor students we are helping through a sponsorship program that gives them hope to dream, to finish college and to have a brighter future.

Angelica Enriquez diagnosed with Down Syndrome was a former student in La Sagesse Center. She lived with her aunt after her parents separated. The mother is working hard to support the family while the father is busy with his new family. Angelica struggled a lot with her special condition and yet had the courage to take the risk to apply for a job. With the help of her teachers and her Job Coach she was hired as a sales clerk in South Star Drugstore last February 2, 2017. Her life experience helped her to count her blessings and to discover her unique mission: to inspire other children with special needs to do their best in order to be integrated in society.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:4-5

Whoever humbles himself, like this child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

Let us carry in our hearts all the children in the world and those we serve and minister to and ask Montfort and Marie Louise to bless them and to intercede for them.

Let us pray...

- For all children who are deprived of basic human rights
- For all children with special needs whose rights are violated
- For all children who are separated from loved ones
- For all children who are sick and suffering
- For all children who are victims of abuse and human trafficking
- For all children who cannot not go to school because of poverty
- For all children who are discriminated against because of family background, colour, race
- For all children who are victims of war, conflicts and imprisonment
- For all children who are orphaned and long for family and home
- For all refugee children and their family, that host countries may welcome them and provide care and appropriate assistance

Our Father

Blessing (with hands outstretched)

Psalm 128:5- 6

May the Lord bless you from Zion, all the days of your life. That you may share Jerusalem's joy and live to see your children's children. Peace upon Israel!

Commitment: Whatever our commitment or the condition of our life, we make the passion of Montfort our own today: "I will love God hidden in my neighbour". RL 6

Closing Song: Because We Love God (by Kathy Sherman, CSJ)

Why do you feed the hungry?

Why are you calm in storm?

Why do you comfort those in sorrow?

What is the source of your passion, your joy?

Why do you hunger for justice?

Why do you give your heart away
to the weary, the poor, the unloved, the unfree?

**Because we love God; because we love God
and all that belongs to God.
Because we love God we are who we are and
we do what we do because we love God**

Refrain:

Why do you do what you do? **(Refrain)**

Why do you forgive those who hurt you?
Why do you call the stranger friend?
What is the hope that you cling to at night?
Why is you dreaming so bold?

Why do you bless the children?
Why are you concerned about the future?
Why do you protect Earth and all her creatures?
Why is your vision so wide?

Why are you friends with the outcast?
Why does your table welcome all?
Yes and why does your fire never burn out?
Why do you do what you do? **(Refrain)**

Why do you love without boundaries?
Why is your song a song for all?
And why do you dare to believe that all are one?
Why do you do what you do? **(Refrain)**

Our Lady of Seat of Wisdom: Pray for us

St. Louis Marie de Montfort: Pray for us

Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus: Intercede for us

Acknowledgment Sources: UNCRC

sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news