

Catholic Schools Week Missions Project

For this month's mission project, during Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Jan 29th – Feb 3rd, we will be supporting the new Glenmary Missions Catholic Communities in upper East Tennessee.

Glenmary Home Missioners is a Catholic society of priests and brothers who, along with coworkers, are dedicated to establishing a Catholic presence in rural areas and small towns of the United States where the Catholic Church is not yet effectively present. Over 100 mission communities — and countless outreach ministries — have been established by Glenmary missionaries in the past 70 years. Today, they continue to reach out to serve the spiritual and material needs of those living in some of the most impoverished counties in the South and Appalachia. There are currently 3 new Glenmary communities in East Tennessee: Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Mission in Maynardville, Blessed John Paul II Catholic Mission in Rutledge and the Catholic Community of Unicoi County.

Many Catholics in this part of East Tennessee were previously unable to attend church because there was no church near them - or they drove all the way to Morristown to attend church. Imagine if you had to drive over an hour each way on curvy mountain roads just to get to church each Sunday.....

For our missions project, we will be supporting these new Catholic communities by challenging each class to raise money to purchase folding chairs for these churches. Each \$10 raised will purchase one folding chair - or each \$16 will purchase one padded folding chair. Blessed Teresa currently has 45 people at mass each Sunday and 60 parishioners overall and it also hosts faith formation classes from Kindergarten to Adults each week. And their numbers are growing! ☺

At the CSW pep rally, we will encourage classes and families to get creative in their fundraising – and we will announce competitions between the middle school and lower school and the prizes to be awarded to classes raising the most money. Fr. Steve Pawelk of Blessed Teresa will also give a short presentation about the Glenmary Missions.

Join us on Monday, January 30th for the Catholic Schools Week kickoff at 9:00 am in the gym to learn more about Glenmary Missions and our CSW missions project. Or go to <http://www.glenmary.org/> for more info.