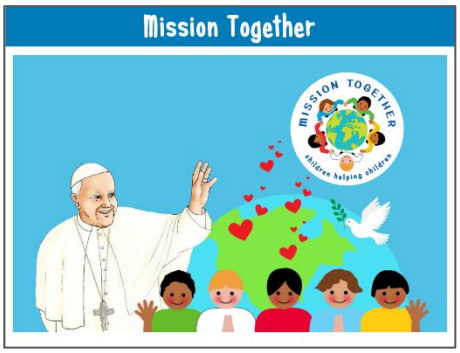
Mission Together

Together in Cameroon (incorporating CST).

SLIDE ONE



Today we are going to hear about a charity called Mission Together. It is a special charity because it asks children around the world to fulfil the mission Jesus gave us.

Ask the children what the word 'mission' means.

A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission given to us by Jesus: the mission to share God's love with everyone, everywhere.

The man in the picture knows how important this mission is. In fact, he helps people around the world to follow Jesus' mission more closely. He also encourages children who go to Catholic churches or Catholic schools like yours to support Mission Together.

Ask if anyone can identify the man in the picture.

The man on screen is Pope Francis. He is the leader of the Catholic Church and Mission Together is the Pope's charity for children. Every year Mission Together helps thousands of children whose lives are difficult because they live in places where there is poverty, unfairness, or conflict.

The charity's logo shows us the special way through which this help happens.

SLIDE TWO

Ask the children to describe the logo. Invite suggestions and guide answers to the following.

The logo shows children holding hands around the world, as a sign of their friendship and their care for creation. They are looking up to God, their loving Father, who unites us as one global family. They are wearing different coloured shirts to show they are from different continents.

SLIDE THREE

Can you guess which shirt represents which continent?

Green, Africa. White, Europe. Red, Americas. Blue, Oceania. Yellow, Asia.

Mission Together helps us to see that we all belong to God's global family, and that through friendship, sharing, and prayer, children can care for their global family as they care for their families at home.

SLIDE FOUR

Through our prayers and donations, Mission Together provides children who live in poverty with some of the things they need to live well.

Ask pupils what they think children need to live well?

Suggested responses: food/water, shelter, healthcare, education, love, family, friendship/community.

As well as helping to provide all these things, Mission Together also helps children to grow in faith. Faith helps us to live well, too. Knowing that God loves and forgives us, and following the example of Jesus, helps us to become more loving, fair, merciful, and joyful.

The images on screen are taken from projects supported by Missio/Mission Together; from top left going clockwise: Feeding programme, Peru. School for Refugees, Jordan. Youth Choir, Cameroon. Pastoral Care project, Kenya. Health Clinic, Peru. Educational support, Myanmar.

SLIDE THREE

As you've probably realised, it would be very difficult for children in Europe to head over to Africa or Oceania to help the children there. But thankfully the help we can give is delivered by missionaries like Fr Leon.

As we heard just now, Jesus asks all of us to share God's love with everyone, everywhere. This makes us all *missionaries*.

But there are some people, like Fr Leon, who answer God's call in a special way. We call them overseas missionaries.

Overseas missionaries leave their family and friends and homes to travel to share God's love in parts of the world where there is poverty, trouble, and war.

We're going to watch a short film now to find out how Fr Leon has been helping children in a country in Africa called Cameroon. Has anyone heard of Cameroon?

Circled on the map of Africa, to the west of the continent.

Cameroon needs lots of prayers and support. There is a bitter war between some of its people and many live in poverty.

SLIDE FOUR

The film is also going to help us learn more about a special type of teaching. We know that teaching helps us to grow in knowledge and understanding, which means that we can judge situations wisely and make good decisions. The Church has a special type of teaching called Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching helps us to build the kind of world God wants for all his children. It helps us live and work with others to make this world a fair, safe, and peaceful place for everyone.

When you watch the film, I'd like you to notice where you can see examples of Catholic Social Teaching in action. For example, where can you see good examples of children working together to build community (Community and Participation), or children being treated with love and respect (Human Dignity), or children caring for creation and each other (stewardship).

Watch 'Together in Cameroon, CST in action' film (3.50 mins). A Youtube hyperlink is on the slide.

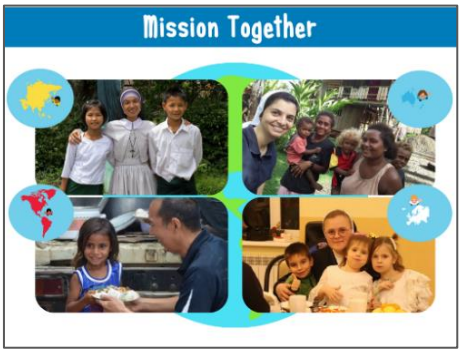
SLIDE FIVE

Don't feel you need to go through the entire list below. Depending on the CST knowledge of pupils, it may be better to ask for one or two examples, then provide examples of the remaining principles. These examples can be found at the end of the assembly.

Can anyone tell us where they saw examples of:

- Human dignity – how?
- Solidarity – how?
- Stewardship – how?
- Community and Participation – how?
- Option for the poor – how?
- Rights and Responsibilities – how?
- Dignity of work – how?

SLIDE SIX



Fr Leon and other overseas missionaries, like those on screen, are able to do so much because they work together with Mission Together and all of you. Together we act as one family – God's family.

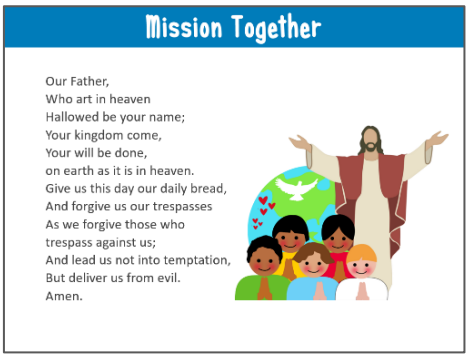
There are two very special ways in which Mission Together asks children like you to help other children. I wonder if you can guess what these two ways might be?

SLIDE SEVEN

Firstly – and most importantly – Mission Together asks children to pray for each other, and especially for those children who need help. Through our prayers it's as if we are reaching out to hold hands; it reminds the world that we are all sisters and brothers.

Mission Together also asks children to help others by sharing. You can see that the children on the screen are holding Mission Together's red box. The money collected in these boxes allows us to provide children with the things they need to live well.

SLIDE EIGHT



How wonderful that on every continent, through Mission Together, children are showing the world that we are all part of God's family, a family that Jesus tells us we should love and care for.

And today we have seen how Catholic Social Teaching helps us to fulfil this important mission, too. Maybe you have been inspired by Fr Leon and his community to find different ways of living out Catholic Social Teaching with your school family.

One simple way we love and care for each other and for our brothers and sisters around the world is through prayer. Let's do that now as we close our assembly with our global family prayer - the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father,
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Suggested responses following *Together in Cameroon; CST in action* film.

After watching the film, ask pupils to raise their hands to explain where they saw examples of each of the above principles in action. Below are some possible answers.

Human Dignity: Fr Leon arranging instruments and new uniforms for the choir. * Fr Leon creating opportunities (choir, school, rally, farming project) to keep young people safe and allow them to flourish.

Option for the Poor: Fr Leon facilitating planning and construction of the new school. * Fr Leon supporting the community (parents and teachers) to find ways for their youth to flourish.

Solidarity: Fr Leon, his local community, and Missio/Mission Together, working together to build the school. In spite of huge distances and having never met each other, God unites us as one family. As God's children we work in union with one another, and in union with God the Father to make positive change.

Community and Participation: The choir encourages participation and buildd community. Members of the community, of whatever age, come together to listen to the choir. * The youth rally also encouraged participation; it inspired and strengthened the community.

Stewardship: The farming project teaches young people to look after creation, and to look after members of the community, by distributing crops to those in need.

Rights and Responsibilities: The community felt their responsibility to make sure the children's right to education was fulfilled. The community worked together to raise funds, create materials (individuals produced mud bricks, cut timber), and provide labour. Missio supporters also recognised our responsibility to ensure Fr Leon's community accessed their right to education.

Dignity of Work: Members of the local community were employed to work on the new school. This enabled the labourers to support themselves and their loved ones financially. Working on the school also bestowed a sense of dignity and pride. We experience the same when we put effort into a piece of work and are proud of the results. Also, when we can see that our efforts and contributions are appreciated and make a difference.

Fundraising Ideas

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'. Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below is one ideas, but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/

Idea for Spring term
Lent through a Lens: challenge pupils to capture images of springtime. Charge for entry and provide a prize for the winner(s). You could introduce different categories e.g. wildlife, nature, people. You could even have a category for grown up competitors! For details see missiontogether.org.uk/lent/