

VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

The Blessed Mother Lesson Plan



Mary Loves All Children: Feeding Hope in Colombia

Theme:

Mary, our Mother, teaches us to love Jesus by caring for children who are hungry.

When we love and share, we help bring Jesus' care to others.

Objectives

Students will:

- Know Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our Mother
- Understand Fulton Sheen's teaching that Mary always leads us to Jesus
- Learn that some children in Colombia do not have enough food
- Understand that MCA helps children by praying and sharing

Background: Fulton Sheen, the Blessed Mother, and the Mission of Love

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was a 20th-century Catholic bishop, preacher, and teacher who helped millions of people understand the beauty of the Catholic faith through television, writing, and preaching. One of the central themes of his teaching was the Blessed Virgin Mary. For Sheen, Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but also the model of what it means to be fully open to God's will. He often described her as the perfect disciple, someone who listens deeply to God, trusts completely, and responds with total love. In Sheen's teaching, Mary always leads us to Jesus; she never draws attention to herself, but instead helps us grow closer to her Son. Because of this, Sheen saw devotion to Mary not as something separate from Christian life, but as something that shapes how we love others in the world. If Mary is truly our spiritual Mother, then she teaches us to see every person as a child of God, especially those who are suffering or in need. This is where mission begins.

For Sheen, love is never meant to stay private or abstract, it must become action. When we look at Mary holding the child Jesus, Sheen invites us to also see all children of the world as beloved by God. This Marian vision naturally leads to care for the poor, the hungry, and the forgotten. In this way, devotion to Mary becomes deeply connected to missionary work: prayer leads to compassion, and compassion leads to service. The **Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)** lives out this same spirit by inviting children to become missionaries to other children through prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. In the Apostolic Vicariate of Inírida in Colombia, where many families struggle with poverty and access to food, this missionary spirit becomes very concrete. Children supported through MCA receive meals at community canteens that operate throughout the year, offering nourishment and hope. In this way, the Marian vision of Fulton Sheen comes alive: Mary draws us to Jesus, Jesus sends us outward in love, and we become part of God's care for children across the world.



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Dear Lord,

We thank You for Jesus, Your Son, and for Mary, our Blessed Mother, who always leads us to Him. Help us to trust You and follow Your call as Mary did.

Bless Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who taught us that Mary shows us how to love God and care for others with courage and kindness. Help us to see every person as Your beloved child.

We pray for the children in Inírida, Colombia who do not always have enough food. Bless them, strengthen them, and give them hope. Thank You for the Missionary Childhood Association and all who help provide meals and care.

Jesus, make us missionaries of love through our prayers, sacrifices, and generosity.

Mary, Mother of all children, pray for us.
Amen.

Materials

Map of Colombia (optional but powerful for context)

Image of Mary with Jesus (any traditional icon or artwork)

Image or short biography slide of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

**Whiteboard or chart paper
Markers**

**Printed Photos from
Mission Project**

Key Points:

Fulton Sheen teaches that Mary is the perfect follower of Jesus because she:

- said “yes” to God
- kept Jesus at the center of her life
- always leads people to Jesus, not to herself

So Mary doesn't just help us love Jesus, she helps us learn how to belong to Him and live like Him.

Mary helps us see others differently

When we learn from Mary, our hearts change.

If Mary is Jesus' Mother, and we belong to Jesus, then:

- every person is important to God
- especially children who are poor or suffering

Mary helps us move from just praying about love to actually living love:

- caring about others
- noticing those in need
- feeling compassion

Mary leads us to mission (MCA)

If Mary helps us love Jesus, and Jesus is found in every person, especially the poor, then we are called to respond with action.

MCA helps children do this by:

- praying for others
- making small sacrifices
- sharing what they have

Love doesn't stay in our hearts, it becomes action that helps real children in places like Colombia.



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The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) supports vital projects like the nutrition program in the Apostolic Vicariate of Inírida in Colombia, where many families live across vast and remote Amazon regions and struggle with consistent access to food, especially for young children.



Through this initiative, 200 preschool-aged children receive regular meals through community canteens operating five days a week for eight months of the year. In a territory spanning 86,000 km², with limited infrastructure and few pastoral workers, these simple meals become a concrete expression of care, dignity, and the Church's presence among the most vulnerable.

INTERESTING FACT: The Apostolic Vicariate of Inírida sits in the Colombian Amazon near the borders of Venezuela and Brazil, in one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth. The nearby Guainía River is famous for a natural phenomenon called the "River of Five Colors" where algae and minerals can make parts of the water appear red, yellow, green, and blue at different times of the year.

When you support the Missionary Childhood Association, you are not simply giving to a project, you are participating in a global mission of the Church. You are helping ensure that children in places like Inírida are not forgotten, and that their basic needs are met while they grow in health, education, and hope.

This work is deeply connected to the spirit of Our Lady, who attentively cared for the needs of others and brought Christ into the world quietly, faithfully, and with love. In the same way, MCA encourages children and communities to imitate Mary's openness to God's mission by offering prayers and small sacrifices for children they may never meet, but who are truly their brothers and sisters in Christ.

It also reflects the vision of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who often reminded the faithful that love must become visible through action, that faith is not only believed, but lived in concrete service to others. Supporting MCA projects is one way that this "lived faith" becomes real in the world, especially for children who are suffering in silence.

Through prayer, awareness, and small sacrifices, we join a wider missionary family. In doing so, we help bring food, dignity, and hope to children in Inírida, and we learn that even the smallest offering, when united with love, can become part of something far greater.

