



Ronita's Story (Philippines)

Primary (F-2)
Case Study and
Learning Activities

TEACHER INFORMATION

The learning tasks follow the 'See, Judge, Act' learning inquiry cycle used in Caritas Australia's education resources. This reflection–action process was first used by a Belgian Catholic priest, Joseph Cardijn (who later became a Cardinal) with Young Christian Workers prior to the first World War. This approach was also recommended in the 1961 encyclical letter written by Pope John XXIII called Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher).

See: A story with comprehension questions, activities and a country study

Judge: A Catholic worldview, reflecting on what they have learnt in light of the Catholic faith.

Act: Faith in action, including prayer.



Case Study



See



Judge



Act

Learning Intentions

Students will be able to:

- explain Ronita's story
- explain how Caritas Australia and Faithful Companions of Jesus have been able to support Ronita and her family
- describe the personal impacts of the program on Ronita and her family
- Know where the Philippines is in the world.

Success Criteria

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding by:

- completing comprehension tasks
- connecting Ronita's story to Catholic Social Teachings (CST)
- organising and/or reflecting ways to support people like Ronita and/or the work of Caritas Australia.

RONITA'S STORY (PHILIPPINES)

SEE



Read Ronita's Story (see page 6– 30 of this document) and watch the ['Day in the Life'](#) film.

TASK 1: CLASS DISCUSSION

- What challenges did Ronita face?
- How did Caritas Australia help?
- What is special about the Alternative Learning System program that helped Ronita continue her education?
- What are three other activities that Faithful Companions of Jesus run for the community?
- What is Ronita's hope for the future?

Curriculum links: English, HASS

TASK 2: PHOTO STUDY

As a class, view the photos in Ronita's Photo Storybook.

Ask students:

- What do the photos show you about Ronita's life?
- Which photo do you like the best? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask Ronita?
- What do you want to learn more about?

Curriculum links: English, HASS

Ronita (22) smiles as she holds her sons, Egzy Grey (3) and Clark (5), in their small home in Quezon City, Philippines. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

TASK 3: COUNTRY STUDY

Can you find the Philippines on a world map? Using the world map provided on [page 30](#) and either Google maps or an old-fashioned atlas, locate the Philippines. Colour this country in and label it.

Extension Activity: Which region of the world is the Philippines in: Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America? What direction is the Philippines from where you live? What time is it in the Philippines?

Curriculum link: Geography



TASK 4: 10 SQUARE METRES

Ronita and her husband rent a very small brick room (measuring around 10 square metres). Mark out 10 square metres on your classroom floor. How does 10 square metres compare to the size of your classroom? How does it compare to the size of your students' bedrooms? Students gather around the area and think about what they would find hardest about living in such a small area.

Watch Ronita's ['Day in the Life' film](#), asking students to record all the ways Ronita uses the small space she has.

Conclude by focusing on how resilient and flexible Ronita is. Despite having a very small home, Ronita works really hard to use the one room for all purposes such as cooking, washing, ironing, playing with her children and studying.

Curriculum link: Mathematics



RONITA'S STORY

PHILIPPINES

PRIMARY (F TO 2)
PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photos: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia





Do you like going to school? Going to school can make a big difference to someone's life, but in the Philippines not everyone gets the chance to finish school.



This is Ronita's story.



Ronita is 22 years old and lives with her husband and two children in Quezon City in the Philippines.



Quezon City is a very large city, home to over 3 million people!



Ronita and her family live in a very small home that has only one room.



“When you come to our house, when you open the door, that's it. When you open it, the kitchen, the living room, the room, it's already in one place.”

Ronita





Ronita uses this one small room for many things such as playing with her children,



cooking,



washing and ironing clothes,



and sleeping.



Ronita left school early to start her family. But without finishing high school, it would be hard for Ronita to earn money to have a better life.



Thankfully, Ronita heard about a program run by Caritas Australia's partner, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).



The program is called the Alternative Learning System (ALS). Ronita was able to bring her children with her to classes and keep learning in a safe space.



It wasn't easy. Ronita wouldn't get enough sleep after caring for her children and then studying late at night.



With a lot of hard work, Ronita completed her ALS classes!



She was then able to go back to school to earn her Senior High School Diploma and get a job.



Now she can help her mum and buy the things she needs for her two children.



Ronita hopes to continue her studies to become a teacher.



“I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself. I feel hopeful for the future. Thank you.”

Ronita





FCJ runs lots of other activities to help families like Ronita's.



There is a group for young mothers helping them to support each other while also learning how to stay healthy and manage their money.



There is also a weekly health clinic where a doctor and nurse provide medical care to the community.



FCJ also teaches reading and writing, cooking, how to grow food in the city and other activities that can help people earn money.



Money raised through Project Compassion helps Caritas Australia to support families all around the world.

WORLD MAP





TASK 5: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING LINK – SOLIDARITY

Solidarity

- We all need each other.
- We are one big human family.
- It's about working together and supporting one another.

A. How is solidarity demonstrated in Ronita's story?

B. How is supporting Caritas Australia an act of solidarity?

For more teaching resources on solidarity refer to our [CST Toolkit](#)

Curriculum link: Religious Education

TASK 6: RE LINK

Read the 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:25-37)

Discuss with the class how Jesus concludes the story of the Good Samaritan by telling us that the individual acting as a neighbour to the injured man "was the one who treated him with mercy" and emphasises that an act of mercy demonstrates love. We are then told to 'go and do likewise'.

Caritas Australia works to love our neighbours all around the world- because we are part of God's big family and because God's love is shown when we love and serve others.

Discuss:

- Who is our neighbour?
- How can we demonstrate our commitment to loving our neighbor?

Class display

In _____ (class) we love our neighbour by ...

Students add examples of things they can, or have done, to show love of their neighbour. Encourage students to notice and acknowledge when they have seen others show love for others too.

Curriculum link: Religious Education

RONITA'S STORY – LEARNING ACTIVITIES

ACT



TASK 7: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) – 8 March

8 March is International Women's Day (IWD). This Caritas Australia story demonstrates how women across the world are working with Caritas Australia to build better lives for their families and their communities now.

Make a display for IWD in your classroom or the reception area of your school. Use Ronita's and other Caritas Australia women's stories and pictures from the photo galleries to highlight their stories. Students add photos of women they know who work hard to support their families and communities, such as teachers!

Curriculum link: HASS, Health and Physical Education



TASK 8: PRAYER

Write a prayer for Ronita. See worksheet on [page 34](#).

Here are some ideas to assist you in writing your prayer:

- Prayer of Thanksgiving: I am thankful that Ronita and/or Ronita's community in Philippines ...
- Prayer of Petition: I ask that Ronita and/or Ronita's community in Philippines ...
- Prayer of Intercession: I pray that Ronita and/or Ronita's community in Philippines and/or people like Ronita is able to ...

Curriculum Link: Religious Education



Name: _____

My Prayer for Ronita



Handwriting practice area with ten horizontal lines. Each line consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



THANK YOU



PHOTO CREDITS

Ronita's Story (Philippines) – Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit:

caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

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GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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