

# HCA NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

## *The Holy Childhood Association*

*A Pontifical Mission Society in the U.S.*

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## *From the desk of the Director...*

We in the Pontifical Mission Office would like to express a sincere sense of gratitude to all principals, parish religious education coordinators and mission moderators as you begin this new school year. The relationship between the Missions Office and our Catholic Schools and Parishes has always been a good one, and we hope to improve that as we look forward to visiting with you this year.

HCA's theme for 2009-2010 is "I am sending you" (John 20:21). Jesus spoke these words at that first Pentecost to the first disciples – ordinary people like you and me. And the Church was born. The Church is still alive and those words resonate to you and me and even to our children. They speak of mission. They remind us that the task is far from finished. Years of 'what has been' points to what must yet be, what lies ahead. "I am sending you" to tend to the wounds of the poor and downtrodden. These words help us to understand that we are part of a world much greater than ourselves - that we are connected to all our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world through the dignity we all share as sons and daughters of God.

Pentecost continues as a shared and collaborative ministry among all of us – people with "different gifts but the same Spirit." Thus, the mission of the Church continues because we are "one family in mission."

Dear principals, parish coordinators and mission moderators – you are being "sent" in a special way to teach and evangelize our children and in doing so you help to transform our world one generation at a time. May God continue to grace and bless you throughout this new school year.

*Deacon Edward T. Kelly*

## *HCA Around the World...*

*Your passport to the Missions... and the world!*

This popular geography-based mission education program has been updated, expanded and redesigned! Instead of a separate program guide for schools and RE/CCD's, the new "Program for Mission Awareness" better meets the needs of elementary schools, religious education programs and families.

*HCA Around the World* may be part of an individual lesson plan, incorporated into a school-year curriculum, or used at home. It covers various academic disciplines and, in addition, offers family-based activities including the HCA Tree of Life. It is designed to foster a sense of kinship with children of all nations, to increase awareness of geography / social studies, and most importantly, to teach responsibility for sharing their faith through prayer, personal sacrifice and financial help. The program includes a Program Guide featuring activities, ideas and prayer service, two full-color maps, and a globe coin bank. Countries represented on the flag decals for the HCA map are those that receive assistance from HCA to help children.

*We encourage your school or RE/CCD*

to participate in this program, which is ongoing throughout the year, as well as in the other HCA programs of Advent, Lent making HCA to the children, them the learn about the world's poorest they can be



Membership, and Extra Mile. By programs available you will be giving opportunity to great needs of the children. Then invited to pray and

to make an offering according to their means so that children in the Missions may know Christ and experience His love and care from the hearts of the children here in the Diocese of Scranton.

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## *How to Sign Up for HCA Programs*

### **1. Review the enclosed Resource Guide**

It explains all of the HCA materials offered including the following mission education programs:

- Membership/It's Our World in 3 grade levels
- Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus
- HCA Around the World/Map/Decals
- Advent Program
- Lent Program

### **2. Fill out the enclosed Update Form**

Return the completed form to the Mission Office at 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. We can then process your order so that you will receive the materials needed for the programs you select.

## *Priority for the Young*

HCA should never be considered a relief agency. Our reach goes far beyond. And yet the unique purpose that sets HCA apart and raised it to Pontifical status, the difference over a half, is at lost if Americans appreciate people different continents, what those people hold important or what energizes them to push forward in difficult circumstances. It will be lost if young Americans are not shown how all of this can enrich their lives and strengthen their faith.



it has made for century and a risk. It will be young are not taught to the diversity of living on

## *World Mission Sunday Set for October 18...*

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside in our Church to recommit ourselves to the Church's worldwide mission of prayer and sacrifice.

A televised Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 PM on October 18 at St. Peter's Cathedral.

**Certificates of Recognition** will be presented for each school and parish RE program that participated in Holy Childhood's mission education and activity programs for children in Grades K-8. Students, teachers, and catechists from all schools and parish RE programs are invited to attend. One student from each school should be selected to accept the Certificate.

There will be a luncheon in the former Holy Cross building after Mass. Further instructions and registration forms for World Mission Sunday will be sent later in September.

## *Where do mission contributions go after they reach our office?*

Find out by visiting the National Office website in (3) different ways:

[www.iamamissionary.org](http://www.iamamissionary.org) [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org)  
[www.onefamilyinmission.org](http://www.onefamilyinmission.org)

Also check out the Diocese of Scranton website for news about what's happening in our local Mission Office:

[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

## *Congratulations to Christmas Artwork Contest Winner...*

In June, our office received notice from the National Office in New York that we have an artwork contest winner in our diocese. **Cindy Vo, who was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Aloysius School in Wilkes-Barre this past year, was one of 24 winners from around the country.** Her artwork, along with the other winners, will appear as Christmas E-greetings and be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas this year. There will be an official press release in the Fall.

Twenty-four different illustrations are chosen each year along with one grand prize winner whose artwork is printed and distributed as the Pontifical Mission Societies National Office Christmas card. The deadline for entry this year is January 31, 2010. Entry forms are mailed to schools and parishes in late November.

## *For Grades 7-12: Mission Magazine/Discussion Guide...*

Published Society for Faith, this Association magazine is in grades 7



quarterly by the the Propagation of the Catholic Press award-winning available for students through 12 at

no charge. It features stories about the evangelizing work of the Church in the Missions. A discussion guide accompanies each issue.

Mission Magazine may be ordered on the enclosed HCA Update and Enrollment Form.