



HCA NEWSLETTER

The Holy Childhood Association
A Pontifical Mission Society in the United States

Diocese of Scranton
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From the desk of the Director...

The theme for HCA's 2011-2012 school year is:

"We Must Love Each Other" (1 John 4:7)

Jesus didn't come into the world just to be a miracle worker. If He had, He wouldn't have needed any of us, His followers, His missionaries. No, Jesus came into the world to preach and live a message of love—love of God and love of neighbor. That was His mission and He hands off that mission to all of us.

To follow Jesus is an action mandate. It all has to do with compassionate kind deeds. Feelings are omitted. Jesus does not say, I was hungry and you felt sorry for me. I was naked, and you were embarrassed for me. I was sick, and you had sympathy for me. These might be nice feelings, but Jesus did not even mention feelings. The only thing that counted with Him was the hungry who were fed, the naked who were clothed, and the sick who were taken care of. We must love each other.

Love is something we *do*. Follow me! Contained in those two words is the lure of a higher purpose; a mission about how and why we live. That higher purpose, that mission, always has something to do with bringing the love of Jesus to others, especially to those in most need of that love.

Dear principals, mission moderators, teachers, parish coordinators, and catechists—you have been entrusted, in a special way, with this great missionary responsibility to not only live out your baptismal call to be missionaries but through the HCA programs to help and guide our young people to exercise their missionary call awakened at their baptism.

The Pontifical Mission Societies thank you for continuing to advance the mission of Jesus Christ through HCA. Let us now all focus on this year's theme: "We must love each other" and pray that the fruits of that love will ripple across the street and across the land and across the oceans. May God bless you in this new school year.

Deacon Edward T. Kelly

HCA's education programs put

"Mission" in the moment... The call to share our faith, first heard at Baptism, is truly a part of every moment. The Holy Childhood Association offers young Catholics opportunities to do just that through its variety of resources. There are two steps involved in signing up for HCA's programs:

1. **Review the enclosed Resource Guide.** It explains all of the materials offered including Membership, Extra Mile, HCA Around the World/map/decals, the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter programs.
2. **Fill out the enclosed Update Form** and return it to the Missions office at the above address – or by Emailing it to: miriam-heverline@dioceseofscranton.org.

All materials for the education programs are free except for Membership as noted below.

Give students an opportunity to connect with other kids in the Developing World...

Through HCA's Membership program, young Catholics are invited to make a special commitment as missionaries – a wonderful way to start the new school year!

For \$1.25 each, students pledge to become special "ambassadors for Christ" and receive an HCA bookmark, prayer card, membership card, and subscription to the award-winning newsletter, "It's Our World."



Published as Fall, Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, this colorful newsletter features mission news, stories, activities, and prayer for children in three grade levels: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. This year, *It's Our World* focuses on the following areas of the world: **Vietnam/Thailand (Fall), Kenya (Advent/Christmas, and Ecuador (Lent/Easter).**

See other side...



HCA Around the World

Program... This popular Holy Childhood

Association geography-based mission education program has been around for several years. Updated, expanded and redesigned to better meet the needs of elementary schools, religious education/faith formation programs, and families.



It includes a Program Guide with activities, ideas and prayer service, two full-color maps, a globe coin bank, and a series of flag decals representing countries in which the Church receives assistance from HCA to help children. To



further enhance this program, HCA offers Polly Parrot Passports and Polly stickers - a great way to keep "mission in the moment" throughout the school year.

A Note About Coin Holders and Mission Collections...

A \$5.00 shipping fee is added to each Advent and Lent order for coin folders and boxes. HCA coin holders coordinate with the "What Happens to Your Dollar?" web module at www.hcakids.org.

While we appreciate that there may be a number of programs and projects supported by your school or parish religious education program, please do not use HCA coin holders to collect contributions for these purposes as it may confuse children and contradict HCA's message that offerings are made in support of the evangelizing mission of the Church. Therefore, all moneys collected with HCA coin holders must be sent to HCA to use for the Church's work among children in the Missions.



Mission Magazine... Available for students in Grades 7 and 8 free of charge. This magazine features stories about the evangelizing work of the Church in the Missions. A discussion guide is available online at www.onefamilyinmission.org/society-propfaith/.

World Mission Sunday Pontifical Mass, October 23...

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside in our Church each year to recommit ourselves to the Church's worldwide mission of prayer and sacrifice. Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the main celebrant Cathedral Mass which will take place at 12:15 p.m. that day. Concelebrants will include missionaries and priests. Diocesan



Schools, parish religious education/faith formation programs and home school families will receive Mission Spirit Certificates they earned for the 2010-2011 school year. A Luncheon will be served at the former Holy Cross building across from the Cathedral.



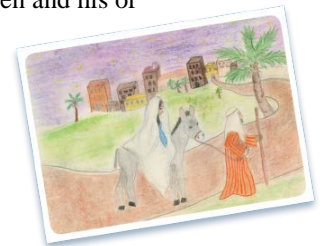
Watch the mail for instructions and registration forms for this Pontifical celebration which will be sent later in September to all Catholic schools, parish religious education programs and home school families.

Christmas Artwork Contest...

Your students could see their artwork appear as Christmas E-Greetings and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2012. The Diocese of Scranton has had two winners in past years.

Twenty-four different illustrations are chosen as winners, and this artwork is featured on the National Office website for use as E-Greetings.

One Grand Prize winner is chosen and his or her artwork is printed and distributed as the 2012 Pontifical Mission Societies National Office Christmas card. Pictured here is the winning entry for 2009.



Visit www.hcakids.org for entry forms. **The deadline is January 31, 2012.**