

HCA

Holy Childhood Association
Asociación de la Santa Infancia



RESOURCE

GUIDE

*“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”
Luke 11:1*

2006-2007

Welcome

The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) offers young Catholics an opportunity to grow in faith through mission education, sacrifice and service for others.

A Pontifical Mission Society, HCA focuses entirely on “children helping children” throughout the world. HCA’s young members have participated in our apostolic mission for more than 160 years!



For the 2006-2007 school year, HCA’s educational materials will focus on the theme, “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” (Luke 11:1).

Additional information, resources and reproducibles are available on the web at: www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org (select “HCA for adults” from this page).

Children may also visit this site by selecting “HCA for children” from the home page to learn more about the Holy Childhood Association and read stories about the children they help.

Why HCA?

The Holy Childhood Association makes a difference in the lives of children throughout the world by bringing them Jesus’ message of hope, love and peace.

Just three years after its founding by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson in 1843,

HCA was established in the United States, inviting young people here to be “missionaries,” recognizing their potential in carrying out the mission of the Church.

HCA’s primary objective is to animate a missionary spirit among young people by encouraging them to offer their prayers, personal sacrifices and financial help for the local churches of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

Promoting mission awareness is essential to the development of young Catholics, whether they attend Catholic school, parish religious education programs or home-schools.

By fostering a relationship among children of different countries and cultures, HCA helps prepare future

generations to understand the true meaning of a universal Church and the responsibility that all baptized Catholics share for their

brothers and sisters in the Developing World.

HCA programs and materials are designed to show students how they can fulfill their baptismal commitment to be missionaries.



As a teacher, catechist or parent you have a tremendous impact on the young people with whom you work. In the seeds you plant in the hearts of young Catholics lies the hope of a better world. We offer you our thanks and our prayerful support for your work with the young and for your continuing commitment to HCA. May our united efforts inspire young people to go forth proclaiming the Gospel *to the ends of the earth!*

Membership

By our Baptism we are missionaries, called to share our faith in Jesus Christ with our family and friends, our neighbors — indeed, the whole world. Through HCA's membership program, young Catholics are invited to make a special commitment as missionaries.

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 *It's Our World* newsletter. One *Membership Program Guide* (with activities, lessons, prayer service and liturgy) and one membership poster (featuring the illustration on the cover of this guide) accompanies every 25 student membership orders.

Published as Membership (fall), Advent and Lent issues, *It's Our World* features mission news for children in grades pre-K through 8. This year, *It's Our World* focuses on the following countries: **Uganda (Membership), Brazil (Advent), Indonesia (Lent).**

The newsletter connects U.S. children

to children in the Missions and teaches them about the realities of the Developing World through stories, activities and prayer services. The *It's Our World* mascot, **Polly Parrot**, shares fun facts about the Missions. The newsletter also highlights missionaries who devote themselves to spreading the Gospel. A *Teacher's Guide* accompanies each issue.

Advent

HCA's Advent program helps children prepare for Christmas by teaching them how to make the season more meaningful by offering prayers and sacrifices for children in the Developing World who await the "Good News" of Jesus. Materials include coin boxes or folders, a classroom poster and teaching supplements.

Lent

Children prepare for Easter and learn about the Way of the Cross through HCA's Lent Program. Coin folders or boxes, a classroom poster, and teaching supplements are included.



A Note About Coin Holders

HCA redesigned its coin holders to coordinate with its new, "**What Happens to Your Dollar?**" interactive web module on the HCA kids' site at:
www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.

Select HCA and follow Polly Parrot from this home page to "Polly's Place."

Note: Please be good stewards of these coin holders. Order only the quantity you need, recycle when possible and consider returning unused boxes to your local HCA office. Doing so saves money for the Missions.

While we appreciate that there may be a number of programs and projects supported by your school / religious education program, please do not use HCA coin holders for these purposes as it may confuse children and dilute HCA's message that offerings be made in a spirit of prayerful sacrifice 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.

Christmas Artwork Contest

Your students could see their artwork appear as **Christmas Cards** and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2006. **Twenty-four** different illustrations will be chosen as "grand prize" winners and this artwork will be reproduced as **2006 HCA Christmas Cards**. Ten children will receive honorable mention. Winning artwork will also be featured on our web site at www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org to be sent as **e-greetings**.

Each time your school or parish sells a box of HCA Christmas Cards, you support missionaries as they spread the love of Jesus and His message of "peace on earth" to children in the Missions.

Use the order form in this guide to place your order for Christmas Cards. Please be sure to order only the number of boxes you believe you can sell; unfortunately, we cannot accept returns.

To find out more about HCA Christmas Seals and explore their history, visit www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org. Just follow Polly Parrot, the HCA Mascot! HCA Christmas Cards are available for \$10 a box.

Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus

Through this HCA program, young Catholics are invited to join together to raise money through sponsor-style events. Participants have an opportunity to work toward a common goal of sharing what they have with those in need around the world. *Extra Mile* is a wonderful program for October, *World Mission Month*, but can be done any time throughout the year. All program materials are available at www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org at the HCA home page for adults. Just look for the “jogging Polly”!



National Prayer Week

In prayer, we appeal to God's goodness for the things we need, acknowledging our faith and trust in Him. HCA's **National Prayer Week, March 17-25, 2007**, is a time for young Catholics to unite in prayer for those in

need throughout the world. Materials are FREE, easy to use and can be reproduced for mass participation. **Prayer Week materials are shipped automatically to schools / parishes that order any HCA program.** Thousands of young Catholics pray with HCA each year! Kids can also pray on-line at the HCA kids' site at www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.

HCA Around the World

This Holy Childhood Association geography-based mission education program is designed as a resource for elementary school teachers, religious education programs, and families to help young people learn more about the world around them within the context of mission and their responsibility for that mission. **HCA Around the World** may be part of an individual lesson plan, incorporated into a school-year curriculum, or be used at home. It covers various academic disciplines and, in addition, offers *family-based activities* including the **HCA Tree of Life**. These may be used as presented or expanded to help further animate the missionary spirit within a school or at home.



The **HCA Around the World** program includes a **Program Guide**, **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. **If you are**

already participating in this program, you may use the enclosed order form to order decals. To further enhance this program, *Polly Parrot Passports* and *Polly stickers* are also available.

MISSION Magazine & Teaching Supplement

MISSION Magazine, published quarterly by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is now available for students in junior high school and high school at no charge. This Catholic Press Association award-winning magazine features stories about the evangelizing work of the Church in the Missions. A discussion guide — for teachers, group leaders, etc. — is also available for each issue.

Mission Education Brochure Series

These pamphlets (available in English and Spanish) explore the mission and role of HCA.

Titles in the series are:

- *Why Bother with Mission?*
- *Bringing God into Focus for the Young*
- *Teaching the Young to be Cheerful Takers*
- *Will the Young Live up to Their Names?*

Other Resources / Gift Items

Stewardship Pamphlet

This brochure explains how to teach young people to think about their God-given gifts in the light of others' needs.

World Mission Rosary

Archbishop Fulton

J. Sheen (national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1950 to 1966)

developed the World

Mission Rosary. Each of the five decades is a different color to represent each of the five areas of the world where the Church continues her evangelizing mission. The HCA World Mission Rosary comes with a booklet featuring age-appropriate reflections for the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries and an explanation of the significance of its colors.



About HCA

This brochure features a brief look at the history of HCA as well as useful information about how funds are collected and distributed to the Missions.

Pontifical Mission Societies:

“One Family in Mission”

This brochure provides an overview of all four Pontifical Mission Societies including HCA.

HCA Prayer Cards

Three prayer cards are available — *The Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*, the *HCA prayer for children of the world* and a prayer to *St. Thérèse of Lisieux*.

Polly Parrot Lapel Pins!

Show your commitment to HCA by wearing a Polly Parrot pin! One-inch cloisonné lapel pins feature a standing Polly with the letters, “HCA.”

Polly Parrot Mouse Pads

A great way to highlight *the* mission web site for kids!

Ordering Information and Deadlines

Place orders by fax, or mail your HCA order form to your diocesan mission office or the HCA national office.

PLEASE NOTE: Use only street addresses for UPS delivery (NO P.O. BOXES). Fill out form completely, including both a contact name and signature. *We're sorry we cannot accept telephone / e-mail orders.* HCA offers **FREE** shipping for all materials with the exception of rush orders.

MEMBERSHIP — please order as soon as possible upon receipt of this guide.

Place orders for **ADVENT** materials and **CHRISTMAS CARDS** by **October 9, 2006**. *Please note, HCA will not accept returns of unused Christmas cards.* Place orders for **LENT** materials by **December 31, 2006**.

Get HCA On-Line!

Be sure to visit the HCA web site for adults and check out the link for educators / catechists. Here you will find the latest news from HCA. You can also download materials for use in the classroom such as prayer services and mission activity sheets. If you have any questions regarding your order, please call your diocesan mission office or the national office at 1-(800) 431-2222.

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