



"Children helping Children"

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A Call for **SOLIDARITY** from the Church in East Africa.



"The poverty in this region is great—70% of our people live on less than \$1 a day."

Father Ambrose Muli Kilonzo,
Secretary of Education

The Holy Childhood Association

One Family in Mission

Diocese of San Diego

Quarterly Newsletter

September 2011

MISSIONS— A PART OF EVERY MOMENT

I would like to **welcome** everyone to a new and exciting school year! I hope that your summer has been filled with resting and fun family activities.

The Holy Childhood Association is ready to motivate you and your students to follow their call to be missionaries and make mission a part of every moment.

During his farewell message at Barajas Airport on August 21, 2011; Pope Benedict XVI declared, "*Now those young people are returning home as missionaries of the Gospel, rooted and built up in Christ, and firm in the faith.*" That is exactly what our young Catholics at your school or Faith formation are doing every time they pray, make a sacrifice and donate to the missions.

Children are natural givers and helpers but do they actually know that donating to the

missions, bringing food to the poor, caring for the earth, or helping others is not just a project or something good to do...it is a cornerstone in our faith? To grow into adult Christians who have a real sense of mission, our children should grow up having a relationship with God and understanding their "**mission**" as being sent to spread the good news of Jesus.



They also need to understand that helping those in need comes from loving God and God's family to which we all belong. Our call to mission is meant to be a way of life not only a project to be completed.

This school year, I invite you to help your students recognize their call and keep the idea of mission alive in their hearts. Perhaps it will mean setting aside a time to pray for those in need each day or praying a decade of the mission rosary as a class once a week or even singing a favorite church mission song while doing an art project in class. Children "**on mission**" can be a marvelous sight to see! But it is up to us to help them see "mission" with new eyes. Make it real! Keep it alive! Take your mission to heart and help your children live their mission as part of every moment.

Remember to save the date for our annual **HCA Mass on March 13, 2012.**

Have a blessed year!

Sr. Eva Rodriguez, SJS

From the desk of the Director...

This summer, our office was privileged to welcome nearly 60 missionaries from around the world. Priests, Religious Men & Women, and Lay Missionaries arrived from different countries around the globe including Vietnam, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Philippines, Ecuador, Mexico, Haiti, and India. Each has come to share their story and seek support for their particular mission. We assume our responsibility in assisting them as they grow through their own formative stages as local churches. You may have welcomed one of these missionaries in your parish.

During this 2011-2012 academic year, make a special room for our Missionaries in your heart by remembering them in your prayers and offering small sacrifices. You are a source of blessing in their ministry and upon those they are serving. Happy new beginnings!

Peace always,
Fr. Joseph Miller, SVD

The Holy Father's Missionary Prayer Intention



SEPTEMBER 2011

That the Christian communities spread throughout the Asian continent may proclaim the Gospel with fervor, bearing witness to beauty with the joy of the faith.

OCTOBER 2011

That the celebration of World Mission Sunday may increase in the People of God the passion for evangelization and the support of missionary activity through prayer and economic aid for the poorest Churches.

What is HCA?

For 167 years the Holy Childhood Association has strengthened the faith of children, helping them understand their mission to share their faith with children throughout the world. They are encouraged to pray daily for children in missions knowing that the children in mission countries are praying for them too. HCA resources and materials continue to help children learn about, and sacrifice for, those in need because it is what Jesus called us to do.

HCA is often mistakenly regarded as just another collection that schools and religious education programs are asked to take up for the poor. HCA is much more than a yearly donation. It is an opportunity to make connections among young people, strengthening their faith as they share it with others. HCA members are found in 120 countries throughout the world...countries of great size, power and resources as well as small countries with little political influence and where poverty

abounds. The focus in all countries, however, is based on children helping children...through prayer, sacrifice and growing in their knowledge of how we are all one family, one family in mission. For resources and to learn more visit: www.hcakids.org



2011-2012 Theme

We are called to be "on mission" every day! Join HCA!

"Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!" ~ Pope John Paul II



Holy Childhood Association Song Writing Contest



Announcing the **2011-2012 Holy Childhood Association Song Writing Contest!** We are looking for our HCA Theme song that expresses our children's missionary call to reach out to hundreds of children living in mission lands. Through prayer and sacrifice our young missionaries keep alive the vision of **Bishop Forbin-Janson**, a missionary who helped the children of the missions of our country and China. Through the Holy Childhood Association, our young people today make possible his dream of "**Children Helping Children.**" They bring hope, faith and smiles to hundreds of children in the world because we are one Family in Mission.

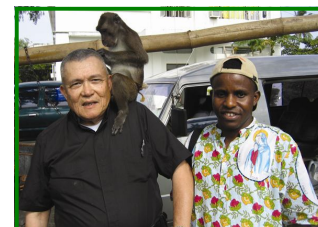
First three final winners will have the opportunity to visit a music studio and have their song recorded on a CD plus receive a beautiful i-pod. Our First place or grand prize winner song will be featured on our Missions National website and recognized and played during our annual **HCA Mass on March 13, 2012.**

The contest is open to all Catholic School students and CCD/RE program and home school students currently enrolled in grades K-8. You may participate as a group or individually. All entries must be postmarked and/or received by the Office for the Missions no later than **January 30, 2012.**

Motivate your students to participate in this song writing contest and keep the missions alive at your School or Parish. [Contest Guidelines and Application Form](#) are on the way!

Hear From Our Visiting Missionaries

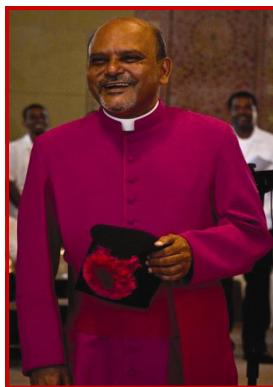
Southern India, Foundation for Children in Need, Tom and Geetha Chitta: "We are extremely grateful to you, the diocese of San Diego, the missions office and people of St. Michael Parish for your love, kindness and support to our children, people and elderly. Thanks a million and God bless you and your smiles! The weekend was great... Father Manny and Father Elmer were very good to us. We were given very good hospitality. I spoke at eight masses on Sunday...It was a very rich experience to see the faith of the people at St. Michaels."



Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. (Chinese Proverb)
Fr. Dennis Flynn, SVD
Mindoro, Philippines



Sr. Cindy Sullivan, Working Boys' Center. The Working Boys' Center serves over 400 families of working children annually at three locations in Quito, Ecuador. As a result of its program, over 30,000 individuals have left poverty behind forever.



When we look carefully at the path which led to a personal success, we often realize that it began with a modest step forward, that, in time reaped a much greater harvest than we anticipated. Today, let us THANK God for giving us the ability to do all things through Him. Very Reverend Monsignor Gregory and the Mustard Seed Communities Family



"Kupia Kumilaka" - May your heart be one with God and with all Gods' people. (How the Miskito language translates "Peace.")

St. Therese of Lisieux — A Missionary Saint



Therese was born to a working-class family and lived in France in the 1800's. At the age of fifteen she entered the Carmelite community and became a nun. She felt she would never accomplish great deeds and practiced what she called the "little way". Therese went out of her way to do simple acts of kindness within her community. She did things others didn't want to do. She made a point of talking to, and working with people no one else liked. She quickly took jobs that others thought were "beneath them". At her superior's request and against her own personal desires, she wrote her autobiography entitled *The Story of a Soul*. Therese worked charitably with people outside of her community. She made a point of praying for prisoners in jail who were facing death. She prayed for missionaries and wanted to become a missionary herself. She also wrote many of her thoughts that were special ways of loving God and prayed for priests as a special way of helping them in their work. Therese died at the age of 24. She showed others that there is holiness in ordinary life and that people can change through **simple everyday acts of love** if those acts are grounded by faith. Even though Therese never traveled to faraway lands, she showed others how to share the "mission" of Jesus in one's everyday actions.

St. Therese of Lisieux is the Patroness of Missions. The Church celebrates her feast Day on October 1st.

Appeal For East Africa

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in the United States have established a special appeal for East Africa, responding to a call from the Church there to support its increased service in the face of the growing crisis in this part of the mission world. Since early summer, family farms in the [Diocese of Malindi](#) have experienced devastating losses of crops and livestock. According to the Kenyan govern-

ment, the drought has caused many families to abandon their farms in search of water. In fact, most Malindi families are walking an average of three miles a day in search of clean water. From **Holy Childhood Association** Coordinator Father Constantine Kimondo of the Malindi Diocese: "The situation here is most worrisome. During the school year, the government offers feeding

programs. Now that children are on holiday, they must survive by eating wild fruits and mangoes. We are doing our best to provide food for all the children who are suffering."

As the crisis in East Africa continues and the immediate needs increase more help is needed.

Visit www.givetothemissions.org to help TODAY.



"We are grateful for your timely assistance."

Father Celestino Bundi National Director
Pontifical Missions Societies Kenya.

Share Your Missionary Bulletin Board



Would you like to let other people see your artistic way to promote missions awareness? Send us a picture of your school/Religious education program or class **bulletin board decorated** for Mission Month, World Mission Sunday, or the Holy Childhood Association/HCA Day. Send photographs to The Holy Childhood Association P.O. Box 82386, San Diego, Ca. 92138 or to erodriguez@diocese-sdiego.org Bulletin Board pictures will be featured on our HCA Newsletter.



Live simply so that others may Simply live.

Lord, open our eyes,
That we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears,
That we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts,
That we may love each other as you have loved us.

Renew in us your spirit
Lord, free us and make us one. **Mother Teresa**

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Missionary Prayer Intentions

- ◆ For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, first missionary of the Church, and for all missionaries who give their lives to tell the glory of the Lord among the nations, that they may be loving, wise and holy witnesses of Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- ◆ For the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples and dedicated to building a world at peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- ◆ For those who are ill or who live in spiritual loneliness, that they may unite their sufferings with the Crucified Christ for the redemption of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- ◆ For an increase in our own missionary spirit, so that, nourished by the Eucharist, we may help the message and love of our Lord be made known to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Websites to Remember

www.helpthemissions.org

www.hcakids.org

www.onefamilyinmission.org

www.youtube.com/pmsusa

www.MissionVoices.org