



Pontifical Mission Society of

THE HOLY CHILDHOOD

June 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Pope Francis's 2024 Lenten message, in addition to emphasizing prayer, almsgiving and fasting, was: ***"Through the desert, God leads us to freedom"***. It was inspired by: ***"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."*** (Ex 20:1-17). Pope Francis wants us to travel to where God leads, out of slavery to sin into the land of conversion. With these thoughts in mind, how can we encourage our children to travel this road as young missionaries?

I suggest that involvement in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is an effective way to keep them active. Mission activity is a visible sign of doing good and recognizing Jesus. Participation in the HCA provides children with the opportunity to learn and grow actively in their Faith and put it in action through practical acts of service. Throughout the world, children participate in similar mission clubs with the objective to pray, learn and share with needy children in mission countries around the globe.

Membership in the HCA allows children to become directly involved in projects in developing countries aimed at improving the lives of needy children. They receive, free of charge, two Newsletters each year. These Newsletters provide some information on a current project along with interesting facts about the country to put the aid in context. The Spring/Lent 2024 issue focused on Kenya. There are many other support materials such as mission animation activities, prayer cards and posters that your school/parish can access from the HCA National Office or on our web site. The materials can be used across the curriculum and are designed to complement the Religious Education program in schools and parishes.

In the past 2 years, children in schools and parishes throughout Canada raised nearly \$500,000 to help children in Burundi, Madagascar, Ghana, Gambia, Namibia, Swaziland (Eswatini), Haiti, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, St Vincent & Grenadines and Papua New Guinea. All donations (100%) from children in Canada go exclusively to help children in the developing world. Development projects can include catechetical programs, literacy, nutrition, health care, meal programs, the provision of new schools and libraries, caring for children with AIDS and orphan care. Funds for educational resources come from our generous adult donors.

Now that the era of the Pandemic has largely passed, how can we help children in less fortunate countries and encourage the missionary spirit in our children? The Holy Childhood Association could be your answer! For further information, please visit our website at www.missionsocieties.ca, telephone the HCA office at **1-800-897-8865** or send an email to hca@missionsocieties.ca.

Thank you for your support.

Fr. Alex Osei
CSSp. National Director