

ENROLLMENT

In The Holy Childhood Association



HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
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HCA prayer for children

*Dear Jesus,
We thank you for all the
good things in our lives.*

*You love all children
very much and we want
to be like you.*

*Help us to learn more
about them so that we
can help them.*

*Help us to share what
we have with children in
need.*

*Listen to our prayers for
children in faraway
lands.*

*We want them to know
you and love you as we
do.*

Amen.

Dear Catechists/Teachers,

This is a commissioning service to assist children and youth to understand that as members of the Holy Childhood Association they are making a commitment (or, promise) to:

- Pray for
- Learn about and
- Contribute financially to children in developing countries.

Preparation:

1. Spend one or two religion periods talking about and discussing the word (and the concept of) mission. Lead the children to understand that by our Baptism we are all missionaries. The whole Church is missionary.
2. Show a video about children in developing countries. The HCA has its video catalogue online. Visit www.missionsocieties.ca and follow the links to the Holy Childhood Association.
3. Invite the students to write their own prayers for the children of the world.
4. The National Office has Holy Childhood Association prayer cards available for each student free of charge. Once your class is enrolled, this could be recited as a morning or afternoon prayer. Other materials, such as a Rosary brochure and Stations of the Cross for Children, are available on our web site.
5. Distribute the Newsletters (if you haven't already) to each student and discuss the ideas presented. See the Catechist/Teacher Guide for additional suggestions.
6. Contact the National Office and order whatever number of mission boxes that are needed for your class (or school).

Immediate Preparation

- Set up the room or gym (depending on the number of students to be enrolled)
- Try to have a large world map or globe with the focus country of the HCA Newsletter clearly highlighted.
- Set up a prayer table with candles, flowers, a bible and, if possible, pictures of children around the world.
- Place the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) poster in a visible place.
- On a small side table, have the HCA enrollment (membership) cards ready.
- Choose readers for the liturgy. (This may be a Mass or a prayer celebration)

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION PRAYER and ENROLLMENT SERVICE

Leader: Millions of needy children all over the world have had a better chance to live in dignity as God intended, because young people like you have cared for them for over 170 years. God certainly loves and blesses children who love and help other children.

Song: (Tune: “Frère Jacques”)

Girls: We are sisters

Boys: We are brothers

All: We belong, we belong!

Girls: Everywhere that you can see

Boys: Members of God’s family

All: Sing this song. Sing this song!

First Reading: 1 John 3:11,18

Leader: A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:

From the beginning you were told that we must love each other. Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it. The word of the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor;
Blessed be the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord,
who will hear the cry of the poor.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor;
Blessed be the Lord.

Let the lowly hear and be glad:
the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near,
who will hear the cry of the poor.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor;
Blessed be the Lord.

(Free Online Prayer)

Second Reading: Matthew 25: 34-36

Leader:

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me.

The word of the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

PETITIONS

Leader: Jesus loves us all, and calls us to love each other as He loves us. He wants us not only to speak of love, but also to help build God's Kingdom by loving actions and attitudes. Let us praise the gifts of God's Kingdom and ask for blessings on the work of our hands.

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

For all the children of the world who are the great work of God's creation, we pray:

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

For all the children here today who have made sacrifices to help other children to know and love the God who created them, we pray:

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

For all the missionaries who see the beauty and dignity of each child in their care, we pray:

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

For the children of the world who are poor and hungry because some of God's gifts of creation are not available to them, we pray:

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

For the children of the world who are suffering due to war, violence, hunger and homelessness and especially for refugees who do not know what the future holds for them.

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

All: God, bless the work of your hands and ours.

Enrollment and Commitment to the Holy Childhood Association

Catechist/Teacher:

Today, you, along with thousands of other students across Canada and around the world, will promise to help create a better world. As a member of the Holy Childhood Association you are being asked to become healers, to pray, to learn, to sacrifice and to love so that other children will know that they have friends who care about them.

Do you promise to pray each day for your sisters and brothers who suffer from hunger, abuse, disease and war?

All: We do. We promise to pray daily for them.

Do you promise to learn about children living in other countries and to let their stories influence your lives?

All: We do. We promise to learn about and grow to respect other cultures.

Do you promise to make sacrifices of your time and money so that children in need have better lives?

All: We do. We promise to sacrifice so that children in need have better lives.

Let us join our minds and hearts in prayer by reciting the prayer that Jesus taught us: All: Our Father ...

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O, Lord, Jesus, bless each of us now as we receive our Holy Childhood Association membership cards. May they remind us of our commitment to: **PRAY FOR, LEARN ABOUT, and SHARE** with children and youth in other countries. Help us, Jesus, to become more like you.

Leader: The peace of the Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Please join in the closing singing hymn:
City of God (or another suitable hymn).

Distribute membership cards.

City of God

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain:

Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into day!

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be,
a light for all people to set their hearts free

Refrain:



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