



Holy Childhood Association

2219 Kennedy Road, Toronto, ON, Canada M1T 3G5
www.missionsocieties.ca



Pontifical Mission
Societies

September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware, Pope Francis recently made a pastoral visit to Mexico. While he was there, he said that he was visiting the country as “a missionary of mercy and of peace.” The places that the Pope visited were not the ones that are on traditional tourist itineraries or offer displays of growing economic stability and progress. Rather, he deliberately concentrated on regional and rural areas where the populations are poor and life is basic. He said that “Mexico’s principal richness today has a young face. This makes it possible to contemplate and plan for a future, for a tomorrow, and offers hope and future prospects...A people with a **youthful population** is a people able to renew and transform itself; it is an invitation to look to the future with hope and, in turn, it challenges us in a positive way here and now.”

It is not unusual for the Pope to concentrate on the potential of young people. On such visits, he is not just addressing the young people of the host country. He is speaking to all young people around the world. By calling himself a missionary, he invites all children to join him in his mission of mercy and peace. Such an endeavour involves committed service to others, in local communities, throughout Canada and around the world. Participation in the Holy Childhood Association (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 the current project along with interesting facts about the country to put the project in context. The January 2016 issue focussed on **Namibia**. The autumn issue will feature **Peru**. 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.

Last year, children in schools and parishes throughout Canada raised \$321,787.13 to help children in **Ghana, Namibia, Jamaica, Thailand, Mauritius and Madagascar**. **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.

For further information, please visit our web site 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.