



First Wednesday in May
HCA Mission Day



**DIOCESAN HCA DIRECTORS
TEACHERS
CATECHISTS**

*Holy Childhood Association Canada-wide
Mission Day is the first Wednesday in May*

Here are some suggestions for motivating your children to celebrate HCA Mission Day

1. THE IDEAL CELEBRATION IS "THE EUCHARIST" —
in your local church, or in the school gym.

- The students should be involved in the preparation of the Prayers of the Faithful:
"That all children in (names of countries featured in Newsletters) realize a better tomorrow, with justice for all".
Response: Lord, hear the prayers of your children.
Students compose other petitions...
- The students could prepare banners to be carried in procession into the Church before Mass begins.
- The students contribute to a collection for the HCA Universal Fund of Solidarity (or, they could bring their Mission Boxes and these could become part of the Offertory Procession).
- Have the students renew their HCA pledge (see end of attached Mass).
- A papal flag, representing the HCA, could be carried in the Entrance Procession.
- Ask the priest to give a Mission related Homily or invite a missionary to give the Homily.
- If your local Catholic High School is involved in a mission outreach program, arrange for some of the students involved to come and speak with your children. Hearing from older kids is always a great way to motivate the younger ones and it provides a rewarding experience for the high-schoolers too!
- Have students choose other suitable hymns for this Cele-

bration. Here are suggestions:

- People of Peace
- Part of a Circle- available in Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
- Celebrate God - available in The Young People's Glory and Praise
- Let's Share the Peace - available in We Belong to God
- Reach Out - available in The Young People's Glory and Praise
- Love that is Kept Inside - available in The Young People's Glory and Praise

- Be sure to invite families and friends to join in the celebration.

If the celebration of the Eucharist is not possible — perhaps a Para-liturgy with suitable readings: i.e. Matthew 4:18-22 or Mark 3:13-19 or Luke 5:1-11. Prayers of the Faithful, hymns, posters/banners, etc. could be used in much the same way as suggested for the Eucharistic Celebration. In the days leading up to the celebration perhaps the HCA prayer could be read during morning announcements.

HCA is always interested in hearing about your Mission Day preparations. We would love to receive an account and photographs of your special day.

2. SCHOOL MISSION ASSEMBLY (Allocate one-half day for this)

Select one of the focus videos available on our website at www.missionsocieties.ca (find the link to World Mission Television)

- What surprised you about the children's lives in that country?
- List the ways your life is so different from theirs.
- Describe the signs of hope shown in the film.
- In what ways was Jesus the first missionary?

3. RELATED ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF HCA MISSION DAY:

Select a missionary saint and research his/her life. How did this person affect others?

- What motivated this person to become, and remain a missionary?
- What special qualities and skills did your missionary saint have?

- Would these same qualities and skills be useful to missionaries today? Why?

Here are some suggestions of missionary saints to help you get started:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • St. Antoine Daniel | • St. Noël Chabanel |
| • St. Jean de Brébeuf | • St. Damien of Molokai |
| • St. Charles Garnier | • St. Charles Lwanga |
| • St. Isaac Jogues | • St. Anna Pak Agi |
| • St. Jean de Lalande | • St. André Bessette |
| • St. Gabriel Lalement | • St. John Bosco |
| • St. René Goupil | • St. Joseph Marelló |

NOTE:

Not all of the saints listed above went abroad as missionaries, but each one of them served God in a missionary way. Challenge your students to come up with reasons for their inclusion on this short list.

- As a follow up to HCA Mission Day, plan a — bake sale, candy sale, hot dog sale, penny drive, etc. — with the proceeds going to the HCA.
- Be sure the school Bulletin Board has a “Mission Theme”
 - Use the Newsletters, Mission Today Magazine (available from our office) a World Map, etc.
 - Suggested Themes: *We Make A World of Difference* or *Your Change can Change the world.*

4. HAVE A MISSION POSTER OR A MISSION SHORT STORY (*Why I am a Missionary*) contest. Use the Intermediate students to judge the entries and choose a winner. Send the winning entry to the National Office. It will be published in a future Newsletter and/or edition of Missions Today.

5. HOLD A SKIP-A-THON, A WALK-A-THON, etc with the students securing sponsors to raise money for the Holy Childhood Association.

SHARE THEM WITH US!

Please be sure to photograph various events and activities and send them to the HCA office for publication. **Imagine:** your students and school or parish could be featured in an upcoming newsletter or edition of Missions Today Magazine! Be sure to include the school name and the event, its date, etc. Stories written by students are helpful too! Digital photos are great! Send them to our email address at hca@missionsocieties.ca. Thank you most sincerely for all that you do to help promote the HCA. Please feel free to telephone at 1-800-897-8865 or e-mail us at hca@missionsocieties.ca

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

first Wednesday in May

Holy Childhood Association, Mission Day Mass

INTRODUCTION: (To be read by a student)

Welcome to our celebration of the Mass. As members of the Holy Childhood Association, we remember that we are all missionaries who are working to help children and youth all over the world. We are the 'stay at home' missionaries and our work is to be generous of spirit, listening to Jesus as He asks us to open our hearts to those in need.

We also remember the many Canadian missionaries who leave their homes and travel to other places to work with the people. These men and women often stay in the missions for many years and sometimes they spend their whole lives there.

Gathered together today, we pray to God

- To free those who are held captive like child soldiers and sweat-shop children
- To feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty
- To help those who are ill have good medical care, and
- To learn about children and youth, to pray for them and to give generously to help them.

GATHERING SONG:

“Children Helping Children”
(or any appropriate hymn)

FIRST READING:

(Reading of the day or any other appropriate reading)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

(Psalm of the day or any other appropriate psalm)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

(Acclamation of the day)

GOSPEL:

(Gospel of the day)

HOMILY:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Our response is: Lord, hear the prayers of we, your children.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:

Children are invited to join in the Procession and place in the ‘collection basket’ at the altar a gift that represents the mission activities of the school or group.

SONG:

- All That We Have
- Whatsoever You Do
- Here I Am

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Holy, Holy: sung
- Memorial Acclamation: sung
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Lamb of God: sung

COMMUNION:

Possible songs:

- Prayer of St. Francis
- Eat This Bread
- Seeds, Scattered and Sown
- Gentle Woman
- Companions on the Journey

CONCLUDING RITE

FINAL Blessing:

Celebrant:

Dear children, God calls each one of you by name. You are called to be grateful for your blessings. Many needy children do not have the advantages that you have. God calls you to help children in need. One way of reaching out and bringing help is by joining the work of the Holy Childhood Association. Do you want to help?

Children:

We do. (*Children join in reciting Mission Pledge below.*)

Lord Jesus, you love all children. We want to show our love for you by doing all we can to help our brothers and sisters around the world to come to know and love you.

As a child – member of the Holy Childhood Association, I pledge to pray, learn more, and raise funds so all children receive food, shelter, clothing, education and medicine.

RECESSIONAL SONG:

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

HCA PRAYER

Jesus, you came into our world to teach
us a better way to live.

You challenge us to care for others as
we care for ourselves.

But, to follow you is not easy.

To love you means to love those around
us, both friend and foe.

Give us the strength to walk with you
by serving through prayer and action
those in need.

Teach us to appreciate all that we have
been given but also,

Help us to understand that we, who
have so much, must give to those with
so little.

Let us never forget our fellow children
in faraway lands who need our support.

Through our prayers, help them to
come to know you as we do.

May our actions help improve their
day-to-day lives.

Amen.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Very bright & rhythmic
but not too fast.

Music By
Sr. Duchesne Lavin
Lyrics By
Sr. J. Baker



1. Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____ all the world a -
2. Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____ all the world a -



round, _____ Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____ shout the happ - y
round, _____ Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____ shout the happ - y



sound, _____ Spread the news a - cross the o - cean, give all near and
sound, _____ What's this help we - bring to you? It's Je - sus' love in



far the no - tion; Chil - dren love to help each oth - er:
all we do, _____ Tears and sorr - ows we are shar - ing.



ev - ery - one's our sis - ter, bro - ther. Ne - ver mind your
You and I His cross are bear - ing. Joy and laugh - ter



co - lour, creed, _____ We look on - ly at your need, _____
come our way, _____ We'll give you a share to - day; _____



Let's all help by word and deed, _____ Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____
That's our mean - ing when we say: _____ Chil - dren help - ing chil - dren, _____

Please celebrate with us!



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