



Holy Childhood Association



September 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware, **2016** was declared by Pope Francis as a special **Year of Mercy**. Your children were involved throughout the year in various activities in schools and parishes that made this event quite visible. Now that we are well into **2017**, does this mean that mercy has "taken a back seat"? Do we forget about what we learned about mercy because it is not highlighted as prominently? Recently, the Pope said: *"To live a Christian life, we can't run away or hide from God's will. Rather, we must continuously show up – speaking to God in prayer and striving to do his will."* In other words, we shouldn't stop performing acts of mercy simply because the Year of Mercy is over! He invites us to ask ourselves: *"Do I hide like Adam in the Garden of Eden, not responding? Do I run away like Jonah, or look the other way like the Levite and the priest when they saw the man wounded and beaten by strangers?"*

How can we encourage our children to be continually engaged?

I suggest that involvement in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is an effective way to keep them active. Mission activity involves concrete acts of mercy. 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 the current project along with interesting facts about the country to put the project in context. The Spring/Lent 2017 issue focused on Bangladesh. The autumn/Advent issue will feature South Africa. 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 (16 Jul 2016 – 15 Jul 2017), children in schools and parishes throughout Canada raised \$282,101.72 to help children in LIBERIA, NIGERIA, UGANDA, HAITI, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA. **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.

How do we keep the **Year of Mercy** alive? The Holy Childhood Association could be your answer!

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.