



Holy Childhood Association

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INTERMEDIATE GUIDE for TEACHERS/CATECHISTS (Lent 2021)

Dear Teachers/Catechists

Welcome to a new calendar year of mission activity with the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). Special greetings to return educators and a warm welcome to newcomers. It is hoped that you find our information about “*Children Helping Children*” rewarding and useful.

The HCA is still as active as ever, in terms of the educational work that we produce for use by Catholic Schools and Parish groups throughout Canada. This is in spite of the restrictions and safeguards placed on all of us due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. The change from the office and production area in Toronto is the method of delivery of materials to groups.

For our recent Advent period, hard copies of all of materials could not be through the post. This was because of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. At this time, we will once again be accepting orders for hard copies of Newsletters, Teachers’ Guides, general educational documents and specific Lenten/Advent support materials that are online in the HCA section of our website www.missionsocieties.ca. You can use our order form and materials will be sent to you free of charge.

As has been explained in the current Newsletters, our mission of “children helping children” is even more important today. Mission countries have also been negatively affected by COVID 19, more so as their levels of poverty were already lower than ours. Generally, child poverty still exists in many parts of the world. Availability of education and the necessary facilities are still lacking for students in many areas. Children are exploited for their financial or military value. As members of the HCA, we need to continue and perhaps increase our efforts to help these children around the world. Your role in guiding the children under your care in this mission is vital.

Last year, October 18th was World Mission Sunday. The theme of this day was ***HERE I AM, SEND ME*** (Isaiah 6:8)! This theme focused on your children, as well as adult Catholics. It is all about where every individual is and who he/she is, – not in the future, but now. This theme is emphasized on the back page of the current Newsletters.

Find the World Mission Sunday Youth Kit on the Pontifical Missions website. This is still an excellent resource to share with your students.

Once again, the Season of Lent approaches. In 2021, **Ash Wednesday is on February 17**, a week earlier than last year, with **Easter following on April 4**. It again means less recovery time for children from the Christmas season. Last year, our Lenten and Easter celebrations were seriously curtailed due to the Pandemic. We pray for a better environment this year.

Holy Childhood Mission Focus

In this issue, the missionary country of focus is Vietnam. This is a very interesting country to study, not just because it does not always get classified as a typical mission area in many people’s minds. There are many Vietnamese Canadians in Canada today, and not only in the big cities. You have very likely had children from this background in your schools, and certainly many parishes across the country have parishioners of Vietnamese descent. Many of these people are likely refugees who came to Canada under very difficult circumstances in the 1970s and 80s after the Vietnam War, or their relatives and descendants.

Whilst Canada was not involved in the war, Canadians who grew up in the 60s and 70s have memories of it. This is because of the significant American participation and the revolutionary television exposure of the event that was available. The arrival of “boat people”, as refugees were called, after the war ended in 1975 was a significant immigration and humanitarian issue for our country.

Today, Vietnam is ruled by a communist government. It has developed peacefully and economically since the years of war. It has become a popular tourist destination for Canadians. Through immigration, its culture has been shared in Canada, one example being the many fine Vietnamese restaurants and grocery outlets across our country.

Even though Vietnam is developing, there are still issues of poverty and a lack of resources for children. Reconstruction from the years of war has taken time, and children still need our help. Vietnam has many small groups of ethnic minorities who did not emerge from the years of war as well off as other larger groups. Although conditions are improving, these people are still in need. One such group is the Chau Mau, featured in our current Newsletter.

For further information on mission activities, we recommend www.missionsocieties.ca where you can find World Mission TV for inspirational mission stories and lesson plans featuring projects we support around the world. We also suggest that you visit our partners in Australia at www.catholicmission.org.au. In addition, you can find videos and information on The Philippines by searching You Tube and Google. There are many excellent resources available that are suitable to use with your students.

Suggestions for using the Newsletter

1. Always begin your lesson with the HCA prayer. Each student should have their own prayer card. (Additional cards are available from the National Office.) They can recite the prayer as a group, or have a student lead the prayer. Remind students of why they are members of the HCA.
2. Using a globe, atlas or the internet, find Vietnam. Observe its unique geography, especially its shape, length and width. Locate its immediate neighbours: China, Laos, Cambodia. Find where the division between North and South Vietnam was until unification in 1975. Find Canada and how far away we are. Read together the information provided in the Newsletter and discuss. Resist just giving it to them to read on their own time.
3. Look at the Lent section of the Newsletter. Because of the Pandemic, celebrations of Lent and Easter were seriously affected last year. Discuss how it may be this year.
4. Refer to the current project location in Vietnam. Use the internet to look up the area and find out as much as possible about the people.
5. Look up and watch various You Tube references to Vietnam. There are several.
6. As mentioned previously, use the Newsletter as stimulus for research projects, as outlined later in this Guide. There are many possibilities.
7. If you live near or among a Vietnamese/Canadian community, or have Vietnamese/Canadian students in your group, find opportunities to mingle with them and get to know them. They may share information with you about life in Vietnam. Invite some of them to come to your group to speak with your children.
8. Be inspired by the work of the HCA organisations during Mission Month last October. Take photos and send us feedback on activities from your group.

Religious Education Applications

1. Throughout Lent, say the Mission Prayer daily. Add it to the prayers already said each day within your classroom, school or community. Make use of your prayer table, which usually consists of a candle, a children's version of the Bible, a Rosary and appropriate pictures, photos or other relevant books. Use the colour purple on your table. Purple is a symbol of penance. The Scriptures tell us that a purple garment was placed on Jesus during his passion as an act of mockery.
2. Say the ***Lenten Prayer*** with your students.
3. Ask the students for their understanding of "giving up" things for Lent. What is relevant for them to "give up?" Discuss the positive way of "giving up". What positive things can they do throughout Lent in preparation for Easter?
4. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Encourage participation in the distribution of Ashes either at school or in your parish. Discuss why ashes are used on this day.
5. Discuss how the celebration of Lent and Easter can occur in 2021 given present conditions/restrictions due to COVID 19.
6. Read and discuss the Pope's Lenten message with your children.
7. Download the Lenten Word Searches and Crossword from the web site.
8. Download the Lenten Calendar. Follow the calendar daily, or weekly, as appropriate.
9. Download, from our website <http://www.missionsocieties.ca/holy-childhood-association-hca/education-materials> *Lenten Prayers and Reflections for Children*. Read and pray these daily sections as part of your group prayer together. This season, the reflections and prayers are linked with the Lenten calendar.
10. As Lent is a time for reconciliation, review what students know about the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Encourage students to participate in this sacrament either within the Parish Community or within the school, if it is offered. (Depending on your location and Parish customs, children may or may not have received First Reconciliation. If some have not, your parish priest may be willing to conduct a non-sacramental rite for those individuals).
11. Be sure that your students are familiar with the special days and events of **Holy Week**. Prepare them as appropriate to their age before this special time arrives. Go over the readings and discuss the events that culminate with the Resurrection. Students need to be aware of these in order to attend and participate actively at these unique celebrations.

LENTEN ACTIVITY (repeated from past issues)

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Scripture Search

- During the season of Lent, we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus.
- This is a good time to introduce/review the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary – “scenes” that help us to meditate (reflect) on the Passion of Jesus.
- For directions on how to pray the Rosary, download *The Missionary Rosary* brochure from HCA Educational Materials on our website.
- Describe the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and list them on the board:

1. The Agony in the Garden

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he dies.

2. The Scouring at the Pillar

Jesus is lashed with whips.

3. The Crowning With Thorns

Jesus is mocked and crowned with thorns.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus carries the cross that will be used to crucify him.

5. The Crucifixion

Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.

- Next, provide the young people with Bibles and arrange them into 4 groups: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- Have each group search through specific chapters of their Gospel to locate the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

| Sorrowful Mystery | Matthew 26-27 | Mark 14-15 | Luke 22-23 | John 18-19 |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|--|------------|
| The Agony in the Garden | Mt 26:36 | Mk: 14:32 | Lk 22:39 | Jn 18:1 |
| The Scouring at the Pillar | Mt 27:26 | Mk 15:15 | Lk 23:16 | Jn 19:1 |
| The Crowning with Thorns | Mt 27:29 | Mk 15:17 | Lk 23:11 (a crown of thorns is not specifically mentioned) | Jn 19:1 |
| The Carrying of the Cross | Mt 27:31 | Mk 15:20 | Lk 23:26 | Jn 19:17 |
| The Crucifixion | Mt 27:33 | Mk 15:22 | Lk 23:33 | Jn 19:18 |

(Answers provided for teacher/catechist use)

- Allow sufficient time for them to locate the Scripture passages and then have each group report to the large group, reading their passages aloud.

PALM CROSSES

Children can make Palm Crosses from palms collected on Palm Sunday. There are many instructions on YouTube as to how to make them, so have a quick look.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vietnam offers many opportunities for research projects for Intermediate students:

- The most significant event in Vietnam’s history is arguably the Vietnam War which ended in 1975. This event is still within living memory for many. Intermediate students are capable of doing research projects about the war: timelines, participants, causes, significant events, evolution of television coverage, today’s legacy, wartime politics in Canada. There are countless opportunities here.
- It could be very possible to invite Vietnamese Canadians into your group to talk about Vietnamese culture and past events. Of course, this would have to be done in conjunction with Pandemic protocols.
- Students could research economic development since unification in 1975.
- Attend a Vietnamese restaurant, if allowed under current conditions.
- Students can do a project on Vietnam’s unique geography, flora and fauna.
- Be a tourist agent and present a unique holiday tour!