

JAN-JUNE 2021

Primary: Gr. 1 - 3

Vol. 30.2

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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What do you like most about Spring? New leaves and flowers? Birds? Butterflies? Warmer weather? Easter? Even though officially spring is a few weeks away, most of us can't wait!

Winter was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected all areas of our lives: faith, school, entertainment, social life, sports, travel and family life, to name a few. It is our prayerful wish that you and your families have all remained safe during this time.

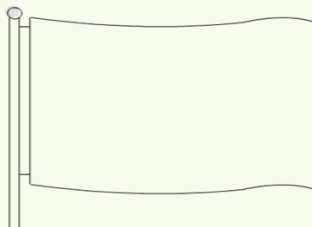
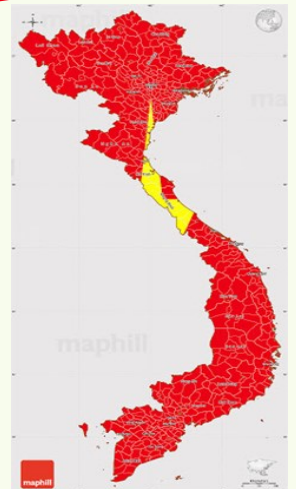
Mission countries have also been affected by the pandemic. In many ways, it has been worse for them because of their lack of basic necessities which we often take for granted. We are still lay missionaries in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA), and children need our help more than ever.

In this issue, we focus on the Southeast Asian country of

VIETNAM

SPOTLIGHT ON VIETNAM

Look at the map of Viet Nam. What does the country look like? Can you see that it looks like the letter "S"? What about its shape? Yes, it is very long and skinny. Its narrowest point is only 48 km, but it is over 1650 km long! Compare that to Canada!



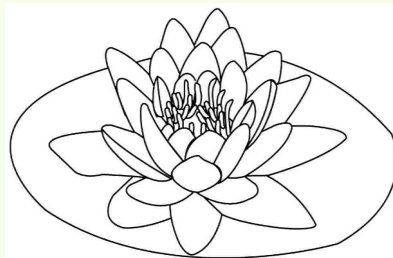
FLAG OF VIETNAM

Vietnam's flag is quite simple You can easily reproduce your own!



Lotus blossom (CCA 2.0)

NATIONAL FLOWER OF VIETNAM - THE LOTUS



coloringhome.com

The Lotus flower is known as the flower of the dawn and is the symbol of purity, optimism and commitment. Make yours beautiful.



pinterest.com



wp.wvu.edu

HISTORY

The most recent memorable event in Vietnam's history was the Vietnam War which ended in 1975. Your grandparents probably have memories of it from television. After the war, many Vietnamese refugees made their way to Canada. You may have friends who are descendants of these refugees. If you are curious, ask your teacher or family members.

ATTRACTIONS IN VIETNAM TODAY

Tourism

Today, Vietnam is a thriving country and a popular tourist destination. Many Canadians have travelled to Vietnam in recent years. It has wonderful tropical climate, extensive beaches, exotic rainforest areas and large, bustling cities.



Ha Long Bay (National

Food

Vietnam is famous for its food which is a blend of Chinese and Thai styles and uses seafood and local fruits and vegetables. You can find many Vietnamese restaurants in Canada.



Popular food (CCA)

Exotic animals

There are unusual animals, such as Indochinese tigers and the extremely rare saola antelope, in the tropical forests. See what you can find out about them.



Rare Saola antelope (kiddle.ca)



(C Burnett – CCA-Share Alike 3.0 Unported)



(kiddle.ca)

DID YOU KNOW?

As in many areas of Southeast Asia, motorcycles are very popular. There are about 45 million of them in Vietnam!

BE CAREFUL!!

Don't cross your fingers for luck in Vietnam. It is considered rude!



pinterest.com

HCA PROJECTS IN VIET NAM

The HCA is currently supporting a group of Chau Ma families, members of an ethnic minority in Bon-go village. The area in which they have lived since reunification in 1975 is developing, but the people are still very poor. HCA assistance helps the Our Lady of the Missions group with providing educational needs: tuition fees, pens, pencils, books, uniforms. The children also receive food assistance to improve overall health concerns. The sisters also organise annual excursions to broaden the horizons of the children. This year, all educational programmes have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the mission has continued and worked effectively under the conditions.



Chau Ma children (HCA files)



Covid_19 Pandemic relief for poor families

LENT 2021 - back to basics



This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21, with Easter Sunday following on April 4. Last year, because of the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate Lent and Easter as usual. This year, who knows?

In 2021 let's get back to basics. Remember these things about preparing for Jesus' Resurrection:

Prayer – pray everyday at home, at school, even silently while playing.

Fasting – give up some things that you really like. Make it hard!

Almsgiving – give to the poor as you can, support the HCA and other charities.

POPE FRANCIS' 2020 LENTEN MESSAGE

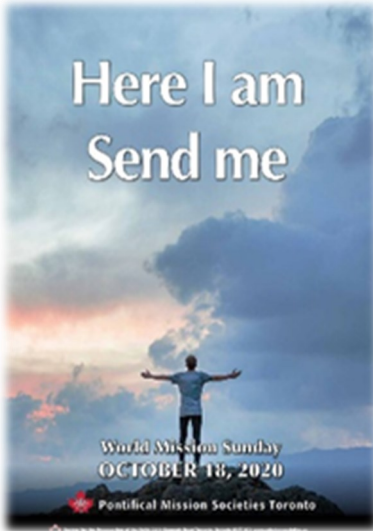
(written before the pandemic. His 2021 message is not available at this time of writing).

I pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him.

LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, during this time when the effects of the pandemic are still with us, help us to approach this Season of Lent with an increased awareness of our place in your great plan.

WORLD MISSIONARY SUNDAY



World Mission Sunday 2020 was on October 18. It was held during the “second wave” of the COVID-19 Pandemic. People, including you children, have been affected medically, socially, educationally, financially, emotionally and religiously. Your school life has altered.

Because of the hardships normally faced every day, the Corona Virus has made life even harder for children in mission countries. Mission Sunday was an opportunity for young people to reinforce the three responsibilities of members of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA): **prayer, knowledge and sharing.**



The theme of World Mission Sunday was **HERE I AM. SEND ME** (Isaiah 6:8)! This theme focuses on **YOU**. It is all about where you are, who you are and what you can do – not in the future, but now.



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pinterest.com



aletela.org

Find the **World Mission Sunday Youth Kit** on the Pontifical Missions website (missionsocieties.ca). Start your missionary career now!