



HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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JUNIOR NEWSLETTER – LENT, 2022

JAN. - JUN. 2022

GRADES 4 - 6

VOL. 31.2

Welcome to 2022 and our first Newsletter of the year. The pandemic situation in various parts of the country remains unpredictable, so we just pray and hope that you are safe and that your family and school lives are somewhat back to normal. As usual in this edition, we anticipate the approach of the Easter season. As Easter is late this Year (April 17), there should be more of a springtime atmosphere in which to celebrate.

It is important to remember that our missionary responsibilities do not cease or become less important due to changing conditions around the world. The needs of children in less fortunate countries are still great, and we remain in a position to significantly help them. In this Newsletter, we will direct out attention to a very large, complicated and diverse country: **INDIA**.



(mapsofindia.com)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

There are two facts about the country of India which overshadow everything. First, it is the fifth largest country in area. This accounts for its diversity in terms of geography, flora and fauna and influence of other countries with whom they are neighbours. Second, it has the second largest population in the world next to China. This determines its cultural diversity and economic realities.

Although very large, India is geographically isolated on three sides, as it is a very large peninsula, as you can see on the map. The countries with which it shares borders are in the north: Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh. However, there is also isolation in the north because of the great mountain range, the Himalayas.

- **Population:** 1.38 billion people live in India (2021)
- **Capital city:** New Delhi with about 30 million inhabitants
- **Languages:** 22 official languages, Hindi and English the most widespread
- **Religion:** mainly Hindus (80.5%), but also Muslims (13.4%), Christians (2.3%) and there are several other faiths.
- **Weather:** Mainly tropical. Mostly high temperatures and dry winters, tropical monsoon season from June to September.

FLAG OF INDIA

The blue wheel in the centre of the flag has a diameter approximately the width of the white band and is called Ashoka's Dharma Chakra, with 24 spokes (after Ashoka, the Great, emperor 268 – 232 BCE). Each spoke depicts one hour of the day, portraying righteousness in time.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS : The three National Symbols of India are:



Bengal tiger (Charles Sharp: CCA - Share Alike 4.0)

The Peacock.



Peacock (Montasim Jawar: CCA - Share Alike 4.0 International)

The Lotus Flower



Lotus flower (Jasmine Calypso: CCA - Share Alike 4.0 International)

HISTORY



Mahatma Gandhi (Elliott & Fry)

India has had a long, ancient and complicated history. Modern India emerged after independence from Britain in 1947, largely through the efforts of Mahatma Gandhi. It still has border disputes with China and Pakistan, and has its share of racial and religious problems.

TAJ MAHAL

If you visit India, you will almost certainly at some point visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, about 220 km from New Delhi. It was built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife in 1643. It is a World Heritage Site.



Taj Mahal (Yann: CCA – Share Alike 4.0 International)

CRICKET

India excels in the sport of Field Hockey and has been successful over the years at the International level. However, the most popular sport in terms of participation and spectators is cricket, where India has been one of the top teams for several years. There are very strong domestic tournaments and India is very competitive at World Cup competitions and International Test series. Top players, such as Sachin Tendulkar, become very wealthy and gain high popularity throughout the country.



Sachin Tendulkar batting against Australia (PulkitSinha – CCA - Share Alike 2.0 Generic)

EXOTIC ANIMALS IN INDIA

There are many famous animals in India, some of which you might not want to disturb. Here are a few:

ASIAN ELEPHANT

Asian elephants are generally smaller than those in Africa, have a lighter colour and have smaller ears.



Indian elephant (Keshavmau: CCA - Share Alike 3.0)

INDIAN LEOPARD

The Indian leopard is threatened by poaching and loss of environment, similar to the Bengal tiger.



Indian leopard (Genie Prints: CCA – Share Alike 4.0 International)



Indian Cobra (Dr Raju Kasambe: CCA - Share Alike 4.0)

INDIAN COBRA

The Indian cobra is a member of the “big four” of snake species that inflict the most snake bites on humans in India. It is often seen with charmers and is now protected in India.

HCA PROJECTS IN INDIA

The HCA currently has several projects that are being sponsored in India, two of which are described here.

The first is in the Diocese of Palghat in southwest India. The initiative undertaken by the parish was primarily an educational one, whereby children learned more about their faith, got to know what missionary spirit and work were and to develop leadership skills that could be put to missionary use. Parents were instructed in family matters with respect to the value of life and having children. Funds were raised to purchase equipment for orphanages. Prayer meetings were arranged for children and retreats for young people were organised. Seminars were held that focused on Mary as a model for family life,



(Children's retreat, Palghat diocese)



Students with disabilities, Rajkot diocese

The second project is in the Diocese of Rajkot in the west of India near the Pakistani border. There are several components to the work that is occurring. A major portion is providing accommodation and schooling for mentally impaired children and children with physical disabilities. The goal is to support the education of these young people so that they can be integrated into mainstream society.



Working with impaired students, Rajkot diocese

Lent 2022

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 2, with Easter Sunday following on April 17. This is almost two weeks later than last year, which gives us all a chance to experience more springlike conditions during this time (perhaps!).



(calendarztpubmt.blogspot.com)

To get you into the mood, see how you go with this quiz:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) How many days are there in Lent? | 11) What Irish saint's feast day takes place during Lent? |
| 2) What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"? | 12) On what Sunday during Lent does the priest bless palms? |
| 3) What is the first day of Lent called? | 13) What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us? |
| 4) What do we call the day before Lent begins? | 14) On what day during Lent does the Bishop bless holy oils for the year? |
| 5) What colour vestments does the priest wear during Lent? | 15) How many Stations of the Cross are there? |
| 6) What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent? | 16) How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations? |
| 7) What word is never said or sung during Lent? | 17) Who helped Jesus carry his Cross? |
| 8) On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent? | 18) When does Lent officially end? |
| 9) What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt? | 19) What is the Triduum? |
| 10) What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins? | |

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. 40 | 9. Pretzels | 18. At sundown on Holy Thursday before the beginning of the Mass of the Last Supper |
| 2. "Spring" | 10. Hot Cross Buns | 19. "Triduum" comes from the Latin word for three, and it includes from sundown on Holy Thursday, through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, to sundown on Easter Sunday. |
| 3. Ash Wednesday | 11. St. Patrick | |
| 4. Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras | 12. Palm Sunday | |
| 5. Purple | 13. The entrance into Jerusalem | |
| 6. The Gloria | 14. Tuesday of Holy Week | |
| 7. Alleluia | 15. 14 | |
| 8. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday | 16. 3 | |
| | 17. Simon of Cyrene | |

POPE FRANCIS' 2021 LENTEN MESSAGE



The Pope's 2022 message is not available at this time of writing. In 2021, he said: ***"During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the 'living water' of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ."*** The key message for us is to practice the three virtues of faith, hope and love.

LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Amen.

PAULINE MARIE JARICOT – AWAITING BEATIFICATION

Did you know that the Holy Childhood Association is only one group in the Pontifical Mission Societies?

In 1822 in Lyon, France, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was established by Pauline Marie Jaricot. Pauline was a very devout young woman who had special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary. She began by organising young women into prayer groups, became very interested in the foreign missions, and organised for “penny” donations as fund raisers. Her organisation expanded and grew internationally. The Holy Childhood was established in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson on the advice of Pauline Jaricot. They were declared *pontifical* (under the special direction of the Pope) in 1922 by pope Pius XI. Pauline was also the founder of the Living Rosary Association in 1826.



Maison de Lorette, house of Pauline Jaricot
(CCA - Share Alike 3.0 Unported)

In 1963, Pope John XXIII declared Pauline **Venerable**. This is the first step in being officially made a Saint of the Church. The second step is **Beatification**. This step requires the Church to recognise a miracle to have been performed through her intercession. This occurred on May 26, 2020. It is anticipated that she will be beatified by Pope Francis in May 2022 in Lyon.



Street in Lyon (Public Domain)



Anticipation!!! (dowr.org)



Plaque on Pauline's chapel (Public domain)

BLESSED PAULINE MARIE JARICOT - Pray for us