



Holy Childhood Association

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PRIMARY GUIDE for TEACHERS/CATECHISTS (Lent 2022)

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.

At this time of writing, it is difficult to know how things will be in your province when you actually get this publication. Of most concern to us, of course, are the school and parish situations around the country at this time. We want to assure you that 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. The only change from the past in the office and production area in Toronto is that materials can be delivered either through the post or online.

Hard copies of all our materials can be ordered, using the order form, and are available free of charge through the post. In addition, Newsletters, Teachers’ Guides, general educational documents, and specific Lenten/Advent support materials are available online through the HCA section of our website missionsocieties.ca. Naturally, some items that are not normal document size, such as mission banks, stickers, prayer cards, membership cards and the poster can only be sent in the mail.

Our mission of “children helping children” is as relevant as ever. Mission countries continue to be negatively affected by COVID 19. Child poverty still exists in many parts of the world. Availability of education and facilities are still lacking for students in many areas. Children in some areas are exploited for their financial or military value. As members of the HCA, we need to continue our efforts to help these children around the world. Your role in guiding the young people under your care in this mission is significant.

Last year, October 24th was World Mission Sunday. The theme of this day was: ***We cannot stop speaking about Christ’s words and deeds*** (Acts 4:20)! These words and deeds should be evident in everything we do in our schools and parishes. Find the World Mission Sunday Youth Guide in the Educational Materials section of the HCA section on the Pontifical Missions website. This is a useful resource to share with your students.

Once again, the Season of Lent approaches. In 2022, **Ash Wednesday is on March 2**, with **Easter following on April 17**. This is almost two weeks later than last year, which gives everyone more of a chance to catch their breath after the return from the Christmas season.

Holy Childhood Mission Focus

In this issue, the missionary country of focus is India. This is a very interesting country to study for many reasons: its large geographical area, a huge population, the diversity of culture, religious complexity and conflict, extreme poverty, and the many stereotypes that Canadians have about the country. Also, there are many Indians in Canada today: citizens, migrants and students. You have very likely had children from this

background in your schools, and certainly many parishes across the country have parishioners of Indian descent.

Many people emigrated from India to escape the widespread poverty that exists in the country. Many have come seeking educational opportunities available to foreign students, this often being the ticket for permanent residency and employment. Also, some people have come to Canada to experience a very different social climate from their homeland.

Today, India is the largest democratic country in the world. It has developed industrially and technologically. It has become a popular tourist destination for Canadians. However, even though India is developing, its sheer size means that there are still issues of poverty and a lack of resources for children. Many of these children are Christians, among them many millions of Catholics. Because of the huge population in the country, this sometimes get overlooked. This month, our Newsletter features some work being done for some of these groups.

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 India 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, the internet or all three, find India. Observe its unique geography, especially its shape as a peninsula and its size. Locate its immediate neighbours: China, Pakistan. Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh. Also find its near neighbours Sri Lanka and the Maldives, separated from India by ocean. Find the stretch of mountains known as the Himalayas and the most famous peak, Mt Everest, in Nepal. Find Canada and how far away we are. Read together the information provided in the Newsletter and discuss it with them. Allow children to colour where appropriate.
3. Look at the Lent section of the Newsletter. Discuss the Lenten symbols. They may need your help! See how many they know on their own.
4. Refer to the current projects in India. Use the internet to look up the area and find out as much as possible about the people. Use the project information to stimulate the raising of funds for these projects.
5. Look up and watch various You Tube references to India. There are several.
6. If you live near or among an Indian/Canadian community, or have Indian/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 India. Invite some of them to come to your group to speak with your children.
7. 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, March 2. 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 2022 given the possibility of unique conditions/restrictions due to COVID 19.
6. Read and discuss the Pope's Lenten message with your children.
7. Download the Lenten Word Searches, Crossword and resources from the web site. Use what is age appropriate.
8. Download the Lenten Calendar, found in the Educational Resources section of the website, <http://www.missionsocieties.ca/holy-childhood-association-hca/education-materials>. Follow the calendar daily, or weekly, as appropriate.
9. As Lent is a time for reconciliation, review what students know about the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Most may be too young to have received the sacrament, but the theme can be explored in a manner appropriate to their level.
10. 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 ACTIVITIES (repeated from past issues)

LENTEN SIGNS

Objective: To allow students to understand the meaning of "giving up".

Lesson Outcome: The children will have a good understanding of what it means to "give something up".

Materials:

- Poster paper
- colours

Directions

- Students discuss what it means to give something up
- Students choose positive ways of “giving up” (being helpful, friendly, generous, etc.)
- Students label their poster: I AM GIVING UP I AM BEING (Wording can vary)
- Students draw a relevant picture from their everyday experience.

Follow-Up

- Students display their poster to the class and talk about their message.
- Display the posters in the classroom, school halls, gymnasium, meeting room or church during the season of Lent.

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.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

These days, there are many Lenten ideas suitable for young children on various sites on the internet. Spend some time exploring the possibilities. Some of them require purchases, but there are many that are available free of charge.

Additional Activities

Lent offers a good opportunity for raising funds and people's awareness of the HCA. Organize food drives for poor and neglected children. Raise some money for the HCA by having events such as a bake sale.

India offers opportunities for research activities for Primary students:

- The flora and fauna of Vietnam, while similar to other countries in the area, have unique features. Students can research birds, animals and marine life in the country.
- Pick a tourist holiday area and do some research on why people would want to go there for a holiday.