



HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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JUNIOR NEWSLETTER - LENT, 2023

Welcome to 2023 and our first Newsletter in what we hope is a post-Pandemic era. In most parts of Canada, COVID mandatory restrictions have disappeared outside of health institutions. It has become accepted that we will be living with the virus and that common sense health precautions will be the way to go. Hopefully, your school year up until Christmas has been back to normal and that it remains so.

As usual in this Newsletter, we anticipate the approach of Easter.

This year, Easter is on Sunday April 9: not as late as last year, but early enough not to get complacent after the Christmas season. Ash Wednesday is on February 22. Guess what? That's not far away!

It is important to remember that the needs of children in less fortunate countries are still great, even though COVID is not as bad. In this Newsletter, we will direct our attention to the largest missionary country by population in Africa:

N I G E R I A

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

It seems that each of our Newsletters features countries that are special in some way. The same is true of Nigeria. Just look at some of these facts:

1. Nigeria has a population of nearly 214 million people. (Compare this with Canada: your teacher can help). It is the most populous country in Africa and ranks 7th in the world! That's big!!
2. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups and over 500 languages are spoken. It is very multi-cultural. English is the national language.
3. Nigeria has LOTS of oil.
4. Nollywood – Nigeria's Movie Industry is the second largest producer of movies in the world after Bollywood (India's Movie Industry).
5. Nigeria was the first African country to win a gold medal for football in the Olympics.

Special, right??? The country's name "Nigeria" comes from the Niger River, which flows through the country. The capital City is Abuja, located in the middle.



(Kids-world-travel.com)



(ontheworldmap.com)

NIGERIAN FLAG

The two green stripes represent natural wealth, and the white represents peace and unity. Can you find out when the flag was designed?



(All flags world.com)

HISTORY

Nigeria's modern history begins with encounters and trade with Europeans in the south and Muslims in the north. The slave trade became a major reality in the 18th and 19th centuries and many were sent to the Americas and the Caribbean. This activity became illegal in the 19th century. Later, Britain was the colonial ruler of Nigeria until independence in 1960. Democratic elections were held in the country in 1999. Religious and cultural diversity continue to cause conflict even today, as groups like Boko Haram attack religious groups throughout particularly the north. In recent years, attacks against Christian Churches have occurred in increasing numbers.

CAPITAL INVESTIGATION

The capital city of Nigeria is Abuja. Normally, capital cities are the largest in the country and close to transportation infrastructure. If this were the case in Nigeria, the capital would be in Lagos, with a population of 22 million. Can you find out, with your teacher's help, why the capital is where it is? Why is it in the middle of nowhere?



Abuja (Kids-World-Travel-Guide)

CULTURE

With so many ethnic cultures in the country, there are many different customs. However, dance and singing are popular everywhere, as can be seen at the port Harcourt Festival every year.



GAME RESERVES

Africa! Bet you thought of animals. With such a large population, animals have not had much space to prosper. Traditional African wildlife is seen mostly in the Game Reserves.



Yankari Game Reserve (Medicolano, Hajishehu1 - CAA Share-Alike 4.0)

HCA PROJECTS IN NIGERIA

The HCA is presently contributing to two educational projects in the diocese of Newi in the Southeast. This is an area of Nigeria with a population made up mostly with an Igbo (Ibo) population. Given the history of the area, people are on the poor side.



Children having classes in an incomplete church

The first project is primarily providing money to families so that their children can be enrolled in a quality school. Too many children in the area do not go to school at all because families cannot afford the extra fees required. Those who do attend school are usually in schools of very low standard that lack facilities, so minimal learning occurs. Moral and Religious Education rarely occurs.

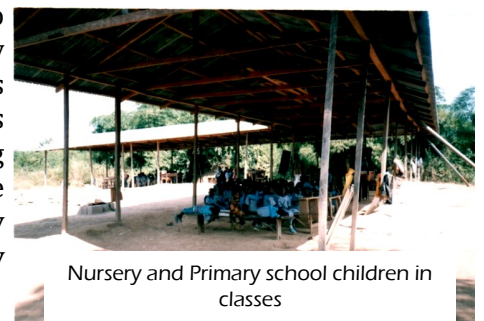


Some of the teaching and learning materials bought with the money given by HCA Canada. The Archbishop is presenting them to the priests of those schools concerned.



HCA Coordinator visits children and distribute snacks to them

The second project is at St Gabriel's outstation near Okija. There is no school in the area, so the only option for the few children who do attend is extensive and dangerous travel. The project is trying to raise money for the building of an early childhood and primary school.



Nursery and Primary school children in classes



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 22, with Easter Sunday following on April 9. As already mentioned, Lent is earlier this year. Once again, to get you into the mood, see how you go with this quiz. The answers are at the end, but don't peak!

LENTEN PRAYER **Invite Us Deeper**

*Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your
world, your people, your Lent.*

*May this time be one of
outward focus;
seeking you in those we
often ignore.*

*Help us live a Lent focused on
freedom, generosity,
and encounter.*

*Give us hearts hungry
to serve you and those who
need what we have to give.*

- Author Unknown

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

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



POPE FRANCIS' 2022 LENTEN MESSAGE: The Pope's 2023 message is not available at this time of writing. In 2022, he said:

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)

BEATIFICATION OF PAULINE MARIE JARICOT

MAY 22, 2022 - LYONS, FRANCE

As you know from our last Newsletter, the beatification of Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith of which the HCA is a member, took place on May 22, 2022. To highlight the significance of this event our HCA Director Fr Alex Osei (C. S. Sp) attended the event. He is pictured by her tomb.

Before a person is beatified or made a Saint, there must be a true story of a miracle attributed to that person.



On May 29, 2012, three-year-old Mayline Tran lost consciousness due to suffocation caused by food which caused multiple cardiorespiratory arrests and further complications that left her no hope of survival. Thanks to the intercession of Pauline Jaricot, doctors confirmed that the little girl had completely recovered in May 2014, after a complex and long period of rehabilitation.



National Director of HCA at the tomb of Blessed Pauline Marie

DON'T FORGET OUR DRAWING COMPETITION!!!

PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD: DRAWING COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The Holy Childhood Association is a Pontifical organisation, meaning it is under the sponsorship and blessing of the Pope. This gives the HCA and members elite status.

On the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, the International Secretariat has announced a **"COMPETITION"** for missionary children and adolescents. You are to respond to the question *"What does Missionary Childhood and Adolescence mean for me in terms of being a Society of the Pope?"* You are to answer with a picture that shows your missionary activity accompanied by a brief descriptive caption of your work and how you feel about being a Missionary connected to the Pope.

The contest closes on May 19, 2023. In order for entries from around the world to be collected and judged, your entry must be received in Toronto by February 28, 2023. Send your entry to:

**The National Director
Pontifical Mission Societies
2219 Kennedy Road
Toronto ON M1T 3G5**

The winning entrant will receive a special HCA Rosary. The picture will be sent by the Director to the International Secretariat and will be published along with winners from other countries. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

BE CREATIVE!! BE INSPIRING!! GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS!!