



# HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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## PRIMARY NEWSLETTER - LENT, 2023

Hello everybody and welcome to 2023 and our first Newsletter of the year. A special greeting to our new viewers in 2023! We hope that you don't have to worry about Pandemic things too much and that your school year up until Christmas has been mostly back to normal.

Guess what? Easter is coming! This year, it is on Sunday April 9: not as late as last year. Ash Wednesday is on February 22. And know what else? That's not far away!

In this Newsletter, we will direct our attention to the largest missionary country by population in Africa:

# NIGERIA

## 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 at 38 million). It is 7th in the world! **That's big!!**
2. Nigeria, like Canada, is multi-cultural with 250 ethnic groups and over 500 spoken languages. English is the national language. I wonder why?
3. Nigeria has LOTS of oil. Why is this good for the people?
4. Nollywood - Nigeria's Movie Industry is the second largest producer of movies in the world after Bollywood (India's Movie Industry). **No: not Hollywood!**
5. Nigeria was the first African country to win a gold medal for football in the Olympics. Who usually wins the medals?



(Kids-world-travel.com)

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.



(ontheworldmap.com)

## NIGERIAN FLAG

The two green stripes represent natural wealth, and the white represents peace and unity. Can you colour yours creatively?



(All flags world.com)

## NIGERIA



## 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.



Port Harcourt Festival (Kids-World-Travel Guide)

## SPORT - OLYMPIC GLORY



1996 Olympic gold medal (public domain)

Nigerians are very athletic, especially in soccer, boxing and track & field. In 1996, Nigeria defeated Argentina to win the football gold medal in Atlanta, the first African team to do so.

## 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)

## ZUMA ROCK

Located near the capital city of Abuja is Zuma Rock, one of several large monoliths within the country. It has a circumference of 3.1 km and is featured on one of the bank notes.



Zuma Rock (Kids-World-Travel-Guide)



(thecolor.com) Colour your dancer

Colour your game park!



(getcoloringpages.com)



# HCA PROJECTS IN NIGERIA

The HCA is presently contributing to two educational projects in the diocese of Nnewi 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.

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.



HCA Coordinator visits children and distribute snacks to them



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.



Children having classes in an incomplete church

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.



As was mentioned at the beginning of this Newsletter, Easter is around the corner. Did you know that the season of Lent leads us to Easter? Do you know what we celebrate on Easter? Do you know why Easter is the most important day in the Church year? Ask your teacher to talk about these questions with you.

There is a good chance that some of you already know a good deal about Lent and Easter. Here are a few words. See if you can talk about them before getting help from your teacher.

**Ashes**  
**Giving things up**  
**Good Friday**  
**Palm leaves**

How did you go? I'll bet you knew more than you thought!



## 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)

## 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 Unknow*

# 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.



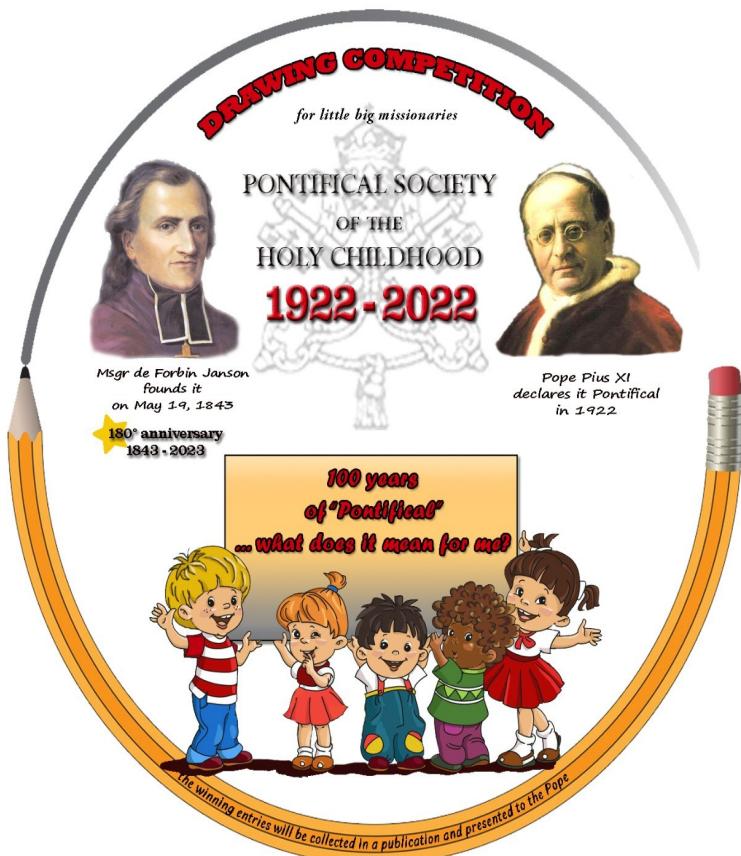
On May 29, 2012, three-year-old Mayline Tran lost consciousness due to suffocation caused by food which caused multiple cardiorespiratory arrests and further complications that left her no hope of survival. Thanks to the intercession of Pauline Jaricot, doctors confirmed that the little girl had completely 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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!!**