


HCA Program Guide



Program Guide

Oceania and
Latin America
Fall 2010

Featuring activities for the *It's Our World* Newsletter

Not One, But Many

For more than 160 years, the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) has helped bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to children all over the world. Our aim is simple: to share the combined resources of Catholic children worldwide with the poorest dioceses of the Missions, as they serve the needs of young people. HCA members in the Developing World also contribute what they can to help spread the "Good News." In fact, recent contributions to HCA included some \$600 from children in the war-torn nation of Sierra Leone in Africa.

Throughout the year, we bring you stories from countries in the Developing World that receive support from HCA. This year, however, we're trying something a bit different. Rather than feature one particular country in each issue of the HCA membership newsletter, *It's Our World*, we are focusing instead on regions of the world where some children are actually

hearing the words of the Gospel and learning about God's great love for them for the very first time.

We hope that with this approach, you will come to better understand how HCA's "general fund of support," to which young people contribute, helps not just one child, but many all over the world.

This fall issue of *It's Our World* highlights news and information from Latin America and Oceania. In Advent, we will feature stories from Asia. The Lenten issue will focus on the African continent.

Let us know what you think! Drop us a note at hca@propfaith.org.

World Mission Sunday

Every year, on the next-to-last Sunday of October, the world unites.

World Mission Sunday – celebrated this year on October 24 – gathers the Catholics of the world at Mass in recommitment to our vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, to share our faith. Our prayers and sacrifices, offered to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (a Pontifical Mission Society like the Holy Childhood Association), help continue the mission of Jesus throughout the world. To learn more and download resources visit www.iamamissionary.org. For World Mission Sunday handouts visit www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca/hca-reproducibles.html

Activities

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

+ Grades 2-4

+ **Materials:** small, stuffed sheep (optional), Bible

+ **Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18**

Opening Activity (optional): Purchase or borrow a small, stuffed sheep. Hide it before the lesson and when you are ready to begin, tell the students that you have lost your favorite stuffed animal and that you need their help to find it.

Introduction: Psalm 23 was written by King David as a joyful acknowledgement of what the Lord God meant to him. David knew what it meant to be a “good shepherd.” A good shepherd must take care of the flock, by keeping them together, properly counted, making sure none would go astray or wander into harm. A good shepherd provides green pastures for his sheep and a place to drink water. David called God his Good Shepherd, because he knew God loved him and wanted to take good care of him.

When Jesus began his public ministry, He compared Himself with the image of a “Good Shepherd.” We are His sheep and He cares for us. In fact, Jesus loves us so much that He offered His life so that we could be saved.

Read: Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18

Discussion Questions:

- Who did Jesus say he was? (*The Good Shepherd*)
- Who did Jesus lay down his life for? (*His sheep – all people*)
- Jesus compares himself to a gate for the sheep. A gate to where? (*Heaven / eternal life with God*)
- How would you explain the story of

the Good Shepherd to children in the Missions?

- Why do you think the image of the Good Shepherd would be comforting to children in the Missions?

EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

+ Grades 6-8

Introduction: The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) calls upon young people to make a serious commitment to sharing their faith with others. Right now, this means offering their prayers, personal sacrifices, and financial offerings for the work of the Church in the Developing World. Most will continue to live their missionary vocation in this way. Others, however, may find they have a calling to the priesthood or Religious life. Some may even answer Christ’s call to be missionary by serving as lay missionaries in Africa or Asia, the Pacific Islands or Latin America. Ultimately, no matter what path they choose, HCA teaches that the work of evangelization and mission is the work of **all** Church members. In fact, the Church reminds us that “the faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his vocation, in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet and king” (Catechism 1546).

Ask students to read “Reflecting Hope” or “Missionary Spotlight: An Interview with Sister Merieti Riiki,” featured in the *It’s Our World* newsletter (grades 6 to 8). Then, consider the following questions for discussion:

Now that you have read about the experiences of these missionaries, what questions would you ask them about their

evangelizing activities? How are they making Jesus known?

What dreams do you have for sharing your own faith with the world? How can you prepare to help make those dreams come true?

What do you think the world would be like if all people embraced the message of Jesus?

Do you see yourself as a missionary? Explain.

COOPERATION RAINBOW

+ Grades K-4

+ **Materials:** construction paper (small), glue/tape scissors, pencils, Bible

+ **Romans 12:5 or Genesis 9:13**

Children learn by example. Challenge yourself and your colleagues to make a difference and “walk the talk” about being a missionary. Here are some ideas:

- Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary one day a week
- Decorate your bulletin board for Mission Month in October
- Decorate a jar in your classroom and label it “money for the Missions”
- Talk about current events focusing on a mission country at least once a month
- Incorporate the Holy Father’s monthly missionary prayer intentions into your daily prayers. Find these intentions at www.fides.org/english
- Make the craft described on page five to remind students that all Baptized Catholics can participate in the missionary work of the Church through their prayers, sacrifices and offerings made through HCA.

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A Letter to Parents from HCA

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Congratulations! Your child is enrolled as a member of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA), uniting them in faith with thousands of children throughout the world – including those who live in the Missions. As members of HCA, young people grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith while fulfilling their Baptismal responsibility to be missionaries.

HCA kids are encouraged to pray daily for their brothers and sisters in the Developing World who have not yet heard the “Good News” of Jesus. They are also invited to offer their personal sacrifices and financial help to support the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church among children in the Missions.

As an HCA member, your child receives three issues of the *It's Our World* newsletter, featuring stories about children helped through HCA. The Catholic Press Association this year awarded *It's Our World* general excellence honors in the category of special interest newsletters. In naming

It's Our World a winner, the judges noted: “In a nutshell, a well-constructed teaching tool. Writing, color, typography, photos and graphics work together to engage young minds.”

Also included with your child’s membership are a prayer card and a bookmark/membership card. Additional materials are provided to your child’s teacher as well.

Annually, HCA chooses a Scripture-based theme for the school year. For this year, that theme is: “Lord, I put my faith in you” (John 9:38).

As we thank you for your support of your child’s missionary efforts, we ask also that you pray with them for missionaries and for the Church in the Missions. To learn more about HCA and the Pontifical Mission Societies, visit www.onefamilyinmission.org or www.themissionreport.org.



HCA Kids in America Make Thailand City Bloom
 The city of Chiang Mai in Thailand is sometimes called the “Rose of the North” because it is so beautiful. The city is about 430 miles from the nation’s capital, Bangkok, and is surrounded by high mountain ranges. Thanks to your prayers and support, it is also a place where the Catholic faith continues to grow and blossom.

Some poor children surrounding Chiang Mai are learning about the Catholic faith thanks to help offered by you through the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). These children are also taught how to read and write and grow their own vegetables.

“May God bless you and all the members of the Holy Childhood Association,” said Father Pappas Makris, a missionary priest who is responsible for the religious education program in Chiang Mai. “I thank you in the name of all of our children.”



Membership Prayer Service and Commitment Ceremony

This service may be adapted to your particular parish/school needs. If everyone in the religious education program and school participates, you may choose to begin with a procession to enhance the service. Consider the following for this procession: two candle bearers and students bearing a globe precede the prayer service leader and other students carrying symbols related to the Missions, as well as baskets containing HCA membership cards or pictures of the student-members.

INTRODUCTION – LEADER

Today we gather for a special celebration. We remember Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we do. We celebrate our membership in HCA and our commitment to be instruments of peace and messengers of Jesus' love. Now we join our minds, hearts and voices in prayer.

OPENING PRAYER – LEADER

In remembrance of our Baptism, we begin our prayer as always, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, our Father, hear us as we ask for Your loving help for all those who have not heard the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, or experienced His love. Holy Spirit, touch our hearts so that we may have the courage to share our faith with children all over the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

READING JOHN 12:26

COMMITMENT CEREMONY – LEADER

As members of HCA, you, along with thousands of other students across this country and around the world, will

promise to help make a difference in the lives of children. You are asked to share the gift of faith you have received and to offer your prayers, sacrifices and love so that other children will come to know Jesus and His great love. You are asked to learn from the children you help and to allow those children to touch your hearts.

If you are prepared to give witness to the Gospel, to be an Ambassador for Jesus, and to share God's love with children in need in the Developing World, please stand.

Leader: Will you do your loving best to support HCA so that children in the Developing World may come to know the Good News of Jesus and experience His love and forgiveness?

All: I will.

Leader: Will you remember each day in prayer your sisters and brothers around the world who suffer from hunger, disease, homelessness, and the effects of war and violence?

All: I will.

Leader: Will you pray for those who do not know Jesus so that they may find hope in His love for each of us?

All: I will.

Leader: As HCA members — ambassadors for Jesus — let our first act be to join our hands in prayer.

All: Our Father....

Leader: Let us ask Mary's intercession to help us be missionaries for her Son by our actions and through our prayers and sacrifices.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with each of you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace as we go forth as HCA members, as ambassador for Jesus — as missionaries.



Activities

>> continued from page 2

Cooperation Rainbow Craft

+ All Grades

- Ask each student to lay one hand on the construction paper with fingers spread apart and trace the shape with the “free” hand.
- Ask students to write their names on their hands, and under their names, the title “missionary.”
- Distribute scissors and tell students to carefully cut out the outline of their hands.
- Repeat these first two steps so that there are at least 10 cutouts total for each color of the rainbow (you may want to have some pre-cut hand shapes to make an “even” rainbow), or ask some students to trace and cut out more than one hand shape.
- Make a space on the floor, and ask students to bring up their cutouts in ROYGBIV order. Overlap / connect the hands in an arched / rainbow shape.
- Glue or tape the cutouts together.
- Repeat the process of overlapping / taping the cutouts until the rainbow is complete / secure.
- When all the handprints have been assembled, you can either attach the entire project to large piece of poster board or hang it on a wall or bulletin board in your classroom.
- Complete the activity with a prayer for children in the Missions.

Words to Watch

These vocabulary words / terms are in the fall issues of *It's Our World*.

Grades K-2

atolls	customs	republic
cultures	elaborate	textiles
currency	lagoon	

Grades 3-5

atoll	Hansen's Disease	yucca
cacao	plantains	

Grades 6-8

contemporary	throng	vocational
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Find Us on Facebook!

Want to get the most up-to-date information on the work of the Church in the Missions and the Pontifical Mission Societies? Join our community on Facebook! Our page: [The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States](#).

HCA

Recommends!



The Biggest Soap by Carole Lexa Schaefer, Stacey Dressen-McQueen (Illustrator). Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Exploding with bright colors and patterns, this playful picture book celebrates the warmth of a close-knit island community and the independent spirit of its youngest member as he travels throughout this island home on an important errand for his mother.

Would you like to win a copy of **The Biggest Soap** for your classroom? Send us a picture of your class or school bulletin board decorated for Mission Month, World Mission Sunday, or the Holy Childhood Association / HCA Day. One class/school/religious education program will be selected as "grand prize" winner from all entries submitted and will receive a copy of **The Biggest Soap**. Two honorable mentions will be named, and each will receive a World Mission Rosary and coordinating World Mission Rosary poster for use in their classrooms. Send photographs to the attention of HCA / Big Soap, 70 West 36th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Please include a contact name, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and email address with each entry. **Deadline for entries:** Friday, December 17. Winning bulletin boards will be featured on our website at www.onefamilyinmission.org, at the HCA page.

Mark Your Calendars...

The deadline for submitting entries to HCA's Christmas Artwork contest is January 31, 2011.

Mission Monthly!

Did you know the Holy Childhood Association publishes a *Mission Education Calendar* featuring stories, activities, ideas and more for incorporating mission themes into your monthly plans? You can download the calendar at: www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca/whats-new-now.html.

Oceania Math Solution

It's Our World Grades 3 – 5

- 1) \$51
- 2) 5 books
- 3) 12 hours and 26 minutes
- 4) 14 people
- 5) 40 cents