


HCA Program Guide



Fall 2011
Program Guide
Vietnam | Thailand

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

Getting to Know...

Vietnam

The conquest of Vietnam by France began in 1858 and was completed by 1884. It became part of French Indochina in 1887. Declaring its independence after World War II, Vietnam continued under French rule, however, until Communist forces under Ho Chi Minh prevailed in 1954. At that time, Vietnam was divided into the Communist North and anti-Communist South. In 1975, North Vietnamese forces overran the South, reuniting the country under Communist rule.

While the government has improved its ability to provide education and healthcare to its citizens in recent years, there remain restrictions on people's freedoms, including the freedom of religion. Most Vietnamese – about 80 percent – follow no formal religion. Only six percent of the nation's population is Catholic.

Thailand

Immortalized in the classic film, *The King and I*, the Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century and known as Siam until 1939. Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country to have never been taken over by a European power.

The majority of Thais (95 percent) are Buddhists. Muslims are the second largest religious group; Christians, mainly Catholics, represent a small portion of the population. There is also a small Jewish community in Thailand, dating back to the 17th century.

Despite years of rapid development, many groups in Thailand have been left behind, particularly ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and the very poor making them vulnerable to human trafficking and health epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the United States



See What Love Can Do!

With support from the Holy Childhood Association, a group of local Sisters in Thailand are able to provide support for children whose parents are migrant workers, as well as for those children whose parents are living with HIV/AIDS. The Daughters of Charity offer the love and hope of Jesus to some 400 children in their care, while at the same time providing them with an education and nutritious food. For some children, lunch with the Sisters is the only meal they receive each day.

“The happy faces of our children are a source of joy for us,” says Sister Josefina. “Many of the children come to us unhealthy and hungry. We offer them milk and a balanced lunch every day. Of course, we give them a lot of love! We thank God for His blessings and for allowing us to be of service to the poor.”

Activities

THE GREAT COMMISSION

+ All Grades

+ Bible (Matthew 28:18-20)

Discuss: Ask children to share their opinions about the Gospel reading. Encourage them to think about what they would like to “teach” others about Jesus. Ask them to be specific and to reference Scripture. (Refer children in grades K-2 to the Great Commission activity in their *It’s Our World* newsletters.)

Expand your discussion by asking the following questions (judge which questions are appropriate for your group / age of students):

- What holds you back from sharing your faith with friends?
- Do you think that most Catholics take the Great Commission seriously?
- Why do you think every Catholic is called to be a witness?
- Can you be a witness without using any words? Explain.

For further discussion: Jesus wants us to do more than just live good lives – He asks us to be disciples and to teach others about His “Good News.” How can we do this? First, and most importantly, we can pray! We can pray for those who have not yet heard Jesus’ message of love and forgiveness and for those who travel to the ends of the earth proclaiming the “Good News.” We can also be missionaries through our actions. We can volunteer to help others in our community, and at our school / parish. We can talk about our faith to others. We can support those who travel far from home to tell others about Jesus while they help them in their lives.

Do: Encourage students to go on an “online” mission trip for one week. Have them brainstorm ways to “bring up God,” and share the Gospel message with friends on Facebook, YouTube, or MySpace, or through text messaging and IM. At the end of the week, ask students to share their experiences in class. Conclude the exercise by asking them to write an Acrostic poem using the word GOSPEL, associating words that mirrored their actions as missionaries. Close the class with a prayer for the Missions and for missionaries around the world.



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 Church’s outreach to children in the Missions.

Every HCA member receives three issues of the *It’s Our World* newsletter, featuring stories about children they help through HCA. HCA members are also given a prayer card, as well as a bookmark / membership card. Supplementary materials are provided to your child’s teacher. And our special website for children – www.HCAKids.org – provides more information about children in mission countries and fun activities.

Each year, HCA chooses a Scripture-based theme for the school year. For this year, that theme is: “We must love each other” (1 John 4:7).

As we thank you for your own support of your child’s missionary endeavors, we ask also that you pray with them for missionaries and for the Church in the Missions. You can learn more about HCA and the Pontifical Mission Societies by visiting www.OneFamilyInMission.org. You can also “Like” us on Facebook!





Membership Prayer Service and Commitment Ceremony

This service may be adapted to your particular parish / school needs. If everyone in the religious education program / school participates, you may choose to begin with a procession to enhance the service. Included in the procession, following the candle bearers, could be a student carrying a globe, other students with symbols related to the Missions, and additional young people with baskets of HCA membership cards, perhaps one basket for each grade level.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Today we gather for a special celebration. We remember Jesus' asking us to be His missionaries, and His promise of the Holy Spirit to help us do that effectively. We celebrate our membership in HCA and our commitment to be instruments of peace and messengers of Jesus' love and "Good News" here at home and throughout the world. Now we join our minds, hearts and voices in prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Remembering 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 blessing on all those who have not heard the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, or experienced His love. Holy Spirit, fill 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

Leader: Jesus loves all people, and He calls each one of us to love one another just as He loves us. He wants us not only to speak of His love, but also to act and think in a loving way. Let us give thanks for God's gifts to us, and ask God to bless the work of our hands and hearts.

COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Leader: As members of HCA, you, along with thousands of other students across this country and around the world, promise to help make a faith-filled difference in the lives of children. You are asked to share the gift of faith you have received, as you offer your prayers and sacrifices 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 as you share God's love with children in need in mission countries – please stand.

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

All: I will.

Leader: Will you remember each day in prayer your sisters and brothers 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 knowing that He loves each one 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 our Blessed Mother'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 Ambassadors for Jesus — as missionaries.

Activities

BULLETIN BOARD IDEA!

Create a bulletin board to remind students that they can pray for the Missions wherever they are: at home, in school, at church – and even on vacation!

+ Materials:

- Background of light yellow construction paper
- Border of green construction paper
- Blue and green construction paper for letters
- Black construction paper for picture matting
- Pictures, either drawn by young people or from magazines, brochures, etc.

Directions: On the top of the bulletin board, post construction paper letters that read: "I can pray for the Missions." Beneath this, post pictures of children in different settings, such as, eating dinner at home, sitting on a bench at a baseball game, or in a pew at church, hanging out with friends in a playground, flying on a plane or traveling on a bus, etc. Caption the photos to describe the settings. Have fun with the places and activities, reminding young people of the great gift prayer for every moment of our lives.

Grades to 3-5

Old McDonald's Farm Has Nothing on Vietnam Test Your Memory

1. Southeast Asia
2. Red, Ma or Mekong Rivers
3. 250 gallons of water to produce one pound of rice
4. Asian Water Buffalos help plow the land.

Grades K-2

The Great Commission Word Search Puzzle Solution

I	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	H
D	S	I	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	P
I	J	E	S	U	S	E	A	L	T	O
S	B	I	D	O	P	S	H	C	T	C
C	E	C	B	N	E	H	C	E	T	D
I	A	L	N	S	Z	A	A	B	L	V
P	I	B	U	A	I	R	E	Z	R	T
L	J	E	E	N	T	E	T	I	T	A
S	V	C	O	L	P	U	E	T	E	N
S	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	P	C	E
T	S	I	I	P	B	A	A	A	C	E
T	S	E	V	O	L	O	H	B	T	D
E	P	S	E	N	C	E	S	R	S	A

BAPTIZE LOVE SHARE
 DISCIPLES NATIONS TEACH
 JESUS

Word Scramble Puzzle Solution

1. Read Scripture
2. Prayer Journal
3. Spin a Globe
4. Learn
5. Missionaries

Activities

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Create an activity sheet that allows students to unscramble words to complete sentences that describe ways they can care for others (see example below). Once the activity sheets are complete, ask students to drop them into a “care package” that you have created ahead of time.

+ Materials

Prepare: Before class, decorate an ordinary shoebox or other small box to resemble a “care package.” Put a slot in the top. Make and copy enough activity sheets for each student.

Do: Instruct students to unscramble the words on the worksheet you have made. While they are working, discuss with them different ways we are called to show the love of Jesus to others – and how God shows His love for us. When they are finished, ask them to fold the sheets and drop them into the “care box.”

As a class project, suggest that students find one person or group in the school, parish or neighborhood that they would like to help by *doing* one of the items on the list.

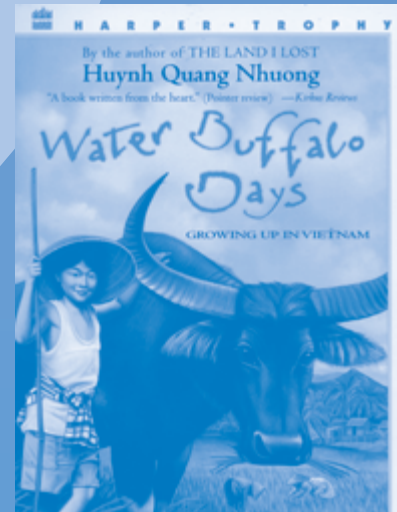
CHOOSE FROM THESE WORDS

kindness, water, bread, clothing, share, hungry, serving, thirsty, friend, Gospel, pray

CARE PACKAGE ACTIVITY SHEET

1. When someone is cold, I can give them warm _____. (clothing)
t h l o c i g n
2. When someone is _____ I can give them _____. (hungry / bread)
g r h n u y r a b e d
3. I can show _____ to someone who is sad. (kindness)
s e n d s n i k
4. When someone has a special need, I can _____ for them. (pray)
a y r p
5. If someone does not know Jesus, I can _____ the _____ (share / Gospel) with them.
h s r a e l e g s o p
6. I can bring _____ to someone who is _____. (water / thirsty)
e r t a w i t r h y s t
7. I can show I love God by _____ others. (serving)
i g s v n e r
8. When someone is lonely, I can be their _____. (friend)
n f e i d r

HCA Recommends



Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam by Quang Nhuong Huynh. Harper Collins Publishers, 1999.

From the School Library Journal: “The author remembers fondly his childhood days spent in the central highlands of Vietnam. He describes the people and animals of his village, focusing on his family’s two water buffaloes – his favorite playmates! Readers learn fascinating information about the importance of these animals in this culture.”

Recommended for grades 3-5. (This book complements the story, “Old McDonald’s Farm Has Nothing on Vietnam” featured in the *It’s OUR WORLD* newsletter for grades 3-5.)

Mark Your Calendars!

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated this year on October 23. To learn more, visit www.IAmAMissionary.org.