

# HCA Program Guide

## Lent / Easter Program Guide

Africa | 2011



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

## Teen Dream

Long before it might have been trendy to be a teen activist, a young girl in France started a movement that would forever change the way Catholics helped to share their faith.

Inspired by letters about the Missions from her brother Phileas, Pauline-Marie Jaricot (Jericoe), gathered small groups of people – mostly workers in her father's silk factory – and asked that they pray daily and offer a sacrifice of a *sous* (the equivalent of a penny at that time) for the Church's worldwide missionary work. Jaricot insisted that her efforts be directed to all the Church's missions – that it be *universal*. From Pauline's vision came the first of four Pontifical Mission Societies – The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Born in Lyons, France, on July 21, 1799, Jaricot, at about age 16, felt called to a life of spirituality and sacrifice. Biographers often write of a specific dream that propelled her into action. In her dream she saw two oil lamps – one, empty; the other, full. The full lamp was filling up the empty one, making it fit once again for use. Jaricot saw the full lamp as the Missions of her day – *our own* country included. She had been hearing a lot about those young churches from her brother, Phileas, as he prepared for the priesthood. She believed that the great faith of these growing churches would “fill up” the lack of faith she was finding in her own

native France, and help renew her Church at home. That is when Jaricot began to organize the silk workers in her father's factory. (Later, history would prove Jaricot right. In fact, many missionary Religious Communities came out of France in the latter part of the 19th century, and three of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, including the Holy Childhood Association, were founded in that European country during those years.)

Throughout her life, Jaricot gave large sums of money to charity. She measured money's value in terms of what good it could do. Jaricot worked tirelessly in her efforts to help the missionary Church by encouraging the faithful in their prayerful and financial support. As one biographer wrote of her, “Pauline had the world in her heart, teaching us to love without end, and to speak our faith to the ends of the earth.”

Jaricot died in January 1862. In February of 1963, Pope John XXIII signed the decree which proclaimed the heroic virtues of Pauline-Marie Jaricot. By this she was declared “venerable,” a step on the road to sainthood.

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the United States

# Activities

## FISH FOR A MISSIONARY

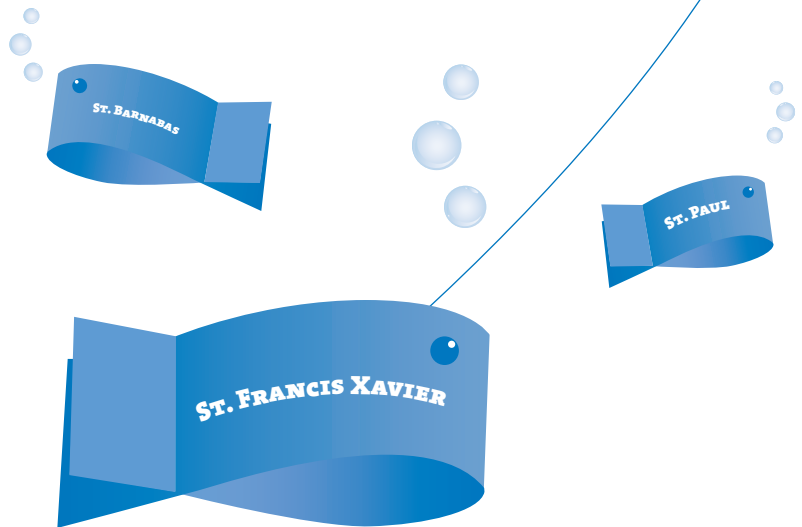
Use this fun game to teach students about missionary “role models” and to remind them that they too are missionaries.

+ •Grades K-4

+ **Materials:** A fish bowl or similar bowl, enough for “fishing poles” (sticks about two-inches in length) for each student, string cut up into one-inch pieces, magnets, paper fish shapes that you have cut out ahead of time from construction paper or thin cardboard (one for each student), paper clips, pencils, scissors, a Bible, and reference materials with information about the lives of Catholic saints.

**Prepare:** On some of the fish shapes that you have created, write the name of a missionary saint – St. Francis Xavier, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (co-patrons of the worldwide missionary work of the Church), St. Barnabas, St. Paul, as examples. Be sure to include also the names of students in your class. Glue one paper clip on the “head” of each fish. Create a fishing pole by tying one end of string to a magnet and the other end to the stick. Repeat until you have enough fishing poles for each student. (If this is too time consuming, create one or two sticks that students may share.)

**Do:** Tell students that they will be “fishing for missionaries”; let each child take a turn “fishing.” As they catch a fish, ask them to read the name on the fish aloud, and tell how that particular person was a missionary. If they pull their own name or the name of a classmate, explain that they are missionaries because they are baptized; then start a discussion about how they can be missionaries TODAY and EVERY DAY through their prayers, financial gifts, and personal sacrifices.



Here, a young girl from one of the smaller parishes receives the Sacrament of Confirmation; her godparent's hands rest on her shoulders.

## The Dream Continues

Today, the universal fund of solidarity first envisioned by Pauline Jaricot continues to give life to the Church in the Developing World. In the Diocese of Livingstone in southern Zambia, for example, the population of Catholics has more than doubled in 50 years. Some 15 diocesan priests serve the poor in this area, in parishes and mission stations.

With help offered through the Holy Childhood Association, children orphaned as a result of HIV / AIDS receive care – and come to know of the great love Jesus has for each one of us.

# A Letter to Parents from HCA

Dear Parent / Guardian,

To be a missionary. That's the invitation offered by the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) this Lent / Easter. By participating in HCA's Lent / Easter program, children first learn about their brothers and sisters in the Developing World – children just like them. And then they discover that their own prayers, personal sacrifices and financial help make a faith-filled difference for their mission family – and make them missionaries *today!*

While HCA provides for the basic needs of children in the Missions, including education, more importantly, HCA ensures that these young people also come to experience the abundant love our Lord has for each one of us through the service of local priests, Religious and lay catechists.

We are excited that our students will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in the Missions by participating in this HCA program. Your child has received *It's Our World*, the HCA newsletter, and /or a coin holder to collect offerings for children in the Missions.



The offerings of your child this Lent and throughout the Easter Season help young people such as those who live in Solwezi in Zambia. Here, young people are excited to learn about the great love of our Lord and prepare for the Sacraments. Shown in this photo are just a few of the hundreds of young people who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Solwezi.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the worldwide mission of the Church and for encouraging a missionary heart in your own child!





## A Witness of Love

Not unlike Pauline Jaricot, St. Josephine Bakhita longed to share the Lord with others – even before she knew Him.

“Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself, ‘Who could be the Master of these beautiful things?’” she said. “And I felt a great desire to see Him, to know Him and to pay Him homage.”

Her early life’s journey would be filled with great suffering. Born in the Darfur region of southern Sudan in 1869, she was kidnapped at the age of seven, sold and resold into slavery, and frequently abused. Because of the pain, it is said that she forgot her birth name. A slave trader gave her the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. Eventually, she found peace, when she was sold to an Italian family, serving as their nanny.

Living in Italy, she was treated with respect by her new “family,” and from them, she learned of the Lord she had wondered about ever since she was a child. Baptized and confirmed in 1890, at the age of 21, she took the name Josephine. Eventually, Josephine remained with the Religious Sisters who had taught her about the faith, and became a Sister herself. For 50 years, until her death in 1947, she was a true witness of the love of God, serving in the community and at schools run by the Sisters, and always comforting and encouraging the poor and suffering.

In 2000, she was canonized a saint of the Church. “The best thing for us is not what we consider best,” she said, “but what the Lord wants of us!”

## Easter Mission Prayer

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions who are recently baptized. We ask that You help Your newest disciples spread the “Good News” of Your Son, Jesus, just as we have been called to do. Let them all feel the happiness that we do, Lord, when, strengthened by our faith in You, we share Your love with the children in the Missions. We pray that we continue to make a difference in the lives of children all over the world, and that more young people will come to know about You, Lord. Amen.

Grades  
**6-8**

## Puzzle Solution Unscrambling Africa

1. Nigeria
2. Equatorial Guinea
3. The Gambia
4. Botswana
5. Burundi
6. Cape Verde
7. Seychelles
8. Mauritius
9. Sao Tome and Principe
10. Libya
11. Togo
12. South Africa
13. Swaziland
14. Zambia
15. Comoros
16. Egypt
17. Nigher
18. Senegal
19. Liberia
20. Gabon

# Activities

Grades  
**6-8**

## A 'FAN' FOR JESUS!

As spring draws near, some students' thoughts turn to baseball. Use that opportunity to help remind students of the need to be a "fan" for Jesus – as they tell others about His "Good News" all year long. The reminder – a pennant, complete with Bible verse.

+ All Grades

+ Materials (for each student): Bible or list of Bible verses you have prepared ahead of time (see samples below), A piece of ribbon 3/4-inch to one-inch wide by 12 3/4 - inches long, one piece of white felt 12 3/4 -inches wide by 31- inches long, multicolored markers

Prepare: Before class, cut a piece of felt into a pennant shape, 12 3/4-inches wide by 31-inches long for each child in class.\* Glue or staple the ribbon onto the felt at the wide end.

Do: Ask the children to select their favorite missionary verse from the Bible and write it on the pennant. (Sample verses are below, to start the discussion as needed.)

Encourage children to customize their pennant by using favorite team colors, the colors of their rooms at home, even the colors from the World Mission Rosary ([www.WorldMissionRosary.org](http://www.WorldMissionRosary.org)) which remind them of the areas of the world where missionaries tell the poor the "Good News" of Jesus.

\*Older students can cut and create their own pennants.

### Sample Bible Verses

Isaiah 6:8

Mark 16:15

John 20:21

Matthew 28:19

Luke 10:2

Acts 1:8

Mark 1:38-39

Luke 24:47-48

Romans 10:15



## REFLECT AND WRITE

+ Grades 6-8

Tell: In the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us as the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35). By sharing this meal that Jesus gave us, we

show that we are part of a community of believers. Even though we look different and have different languages and customs, we are one in our Catholic faith. Children around the world celebrate the Eucharist and pray that others will someday know about Jesus, the "Bread of Life"!

Prepare: Ask students to bring in bread representative of their family's heritage (i.e., Italian bread, pita, tortillas, Irish soda bread, etc.)

## REFLECT AND WRITE

+ Grades 6-8

+ Materials: Bible, pens, loose-leaf paper

+ Scripture references: Matthew 10:38 and Mark 9:23

Tell: Jesus said, "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38). We all know that following in Jesus' footsteps is no easy task. However, if we rely on God's help, we can accomplish what Jesus wants for us. As Jesus told us, "Everything is possible to one who has faith" (Mark 9: 23).

Do: For this activity, ask students to write an essay answering the questions: "What crosses do you bear in life?" and "How does your faith in Jesus help you?" Select some of the essays to share anonymously with the class. As a class, prepare a prayer asking for God's help in bearing these "crosses" – these challenges and difficulties in life.

Do: Break bread into pieces and divide among the class. As a class, offer a prayer for the children in Africa who do not have enough to eat. Then, ask the class to taste the different breads. Lead a class discussion about the similarities and differences among the breads and the cultures they represent. Then, discuss how the Eucharist – the Bread of Life – unites all Catholics.

# Reading Comprehension

1. B 2. D 3. D 5. C 6. A

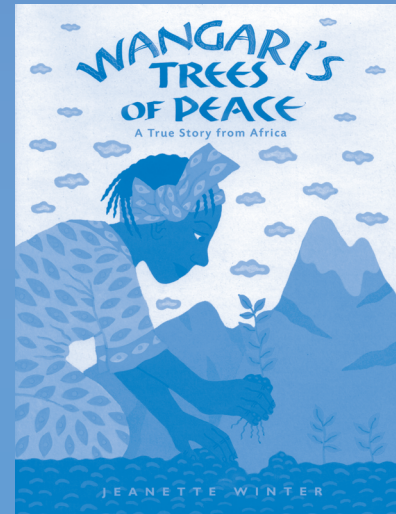
Grades  
3 to 5

## For Discussion....

Encourage students to read the article, “Hockey Jerseys in the Land of Hot” featured in the *It’s Our World* newsletter for grades 6-8. Initiate a discussion with students about the second-hand clothing industry in Africa. Encourage them to learn more and to think about things they could do that would have a positive impact on the situation. *Some questions to consider:*

- What is the typical “life-span” of your clothing? Do you always have to have the latest fashion or, do you hold on to things until you’ve outgrown them?
- When you make an offering to HCA or another charity do you think about what you are doing or are you just doing it because someone told you to?
- What impact do you think the used clothing business has on families and children in Africa?
- The Beatitudes tell us that when we feed the clothe the poor we are “blessed.” What does this mean to you? In what ways do you carry out these acts of Christian charity?
- Sometimes we focus so much on giving “things” to help others we lose site of the most important gift we can share – our faith. In what ways do you share your faith with others? Be specific?
- Discuss the hope-filled solutions – like the one from Zambia – that the Catholic Church and her missionaries are doing on the African continent to address this issue.

## HCA Recommends



*Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa* by Jeanette Winter.

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.  
Appropriate for ages 3-7.

*From the School Library Journal:* “This delightful picture-book biography of the environmentalist has engaging illustrations and accessible, succinct prose. When Wangari Maathai was growing up in Kenya, the land was covered with trees. But on returning to her homeland from America, where she was educated on scholarship, she discovered a hot, dry, barren land, stripped of the trees she loved as a child. Starting in her own backyard, Maathai planted trees and encouraged other women to do the same. More than 30 million trees have since been planted by the members of her Green Belt Movement. Maathai was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2004 in recognition of her work.”