



HCA NEWS

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Catholic Schools Week Mission Activities Creative and Fun

Area Schools contribute time, talent and tithes to missions

The students at St. Theresa's in Ashburn had a special reason to get excited about mission collection time this year. Their very own custodian, a native of Peru, recently became a United States Citizen. To celebrate this wonderful event, a school-wide assembly was held to honor him, and to present him with a check for the Holy Childhood missions in Peru donated in his name. The students centered on Peru as they collected money by selling popcorn and trinkets, dressing out in the colors of the Peruvian flag, and filling their globe banks. When the final tally was in, they had raised \$1,000!!!

Holy Family School in Dale City has always emphasized local outreach, but this year the globe bank collection program gave the students a chance to become aware of the mission needs all over the world. Kimberly Trapp, the school librarian, created a beautiful world mission rosary bulletin board which encouraged the children to pray for and contribute to the mission children.

Among other activities, St. Timothy's school donated a piece of jewelry to the "gold auction" being held at the church, and gave the money it garnered to the HCA!

At St. James School in Falls Church, the students held a carnival in February to raise funds for the missions. For a \$2.00 admission charge, the students enjoyed various games and activities with all proceeds going to the HCA. The children raised \$500 for the HCA!



Good job, Arlington Diocesan Schools!

HCA National Week of Prayer a Huge Success

Students offer thousands of prayers for the missions

One activity seemed to prevail in the Arlington Diocese during the third week in March: Prayer for the missions. Principals received a copy of the prayer used across the nation, and were asked to have their students pray it every day. At St. James Parish in Falls Church, the prayer request was also incorporated into the CCD program. Sr. Joyce Bell, DRE, sent the prayer home with the students and asked every family to pray every day, while the students prayed in class that week, resulting in over 600 mission prayers!

"This lent we are emphasizing the Holy Childhood Association," Sister Joyce explained. "Each week during lent the catechists share a mission story with their students. The children are encouraged to pray and sacrifice for these children. The National Week of Prayer was a perfect way to bring the families into our program as well."

Sister Louise Eder, principal of Holy Cross Academy in Fredericksburg, reported that all the students in every classroom prayed the prayer every day, resulting in 2500 prayers for the missions. At St. Mary's in Alexandria, mission coordinators Lorene Ward and Theresa Dyer had the prayer recited during the morning announcements. Students prayed together each morning, and God heard 2,812 prayers for the missions from St. Mary's School!



To all the students, parents, faculty members, and administrators of our diocesan schools and CCD programs, thank you for your care and concern for the children of the missions.

Meet the Mission Commission

A "first ever" club is born at St. Timothy's School

Students at St. Timothy's in Chantilly were clamoring for a new way to support the missions. They had prayed 1500 rosaries last year, collected \$2000 the year before, and wanted a new program to increase mission awareness. Mission coordinator Linda Gott hit on the perfect answer. Advertising to students in grades 5-8, Linda invited them to meet after school and devote time to support and pray for the missions. The response was overwhelming. More than 35 students, including 5 homeschoolers, showed up, and the Mission Commission was born. Sandy Bertini, HCA coordinator for the diocese, attended the second meeting and presented each student with a mission packet of prayer cards, tithing boxes, wrist bands and mission information. Students planned their future activities, which include counting the globe- bank money for the school, sponsoring medical supplies collection drives, and coming up with creative ways to get the mission message out to their friends and families.

Now in its second month, the students have special Mission Commission tee shirts, have led the school in the Holy Childhood Stations of the Cross, heard a speaker from the Medical Missionaries, are busy making rosaries for the missions in India, watched a powerful movie on Mother Teresa and plan to visit her Sisters in Washington D.C. Linda is so pleased with the results of the Mission Commission. "The kids are great - I'm really amazed at their enthusiasm. And the PARENTS! They are SO supportive - they are willing to drive us anywhere we want to go."

What a wonderful witness to us all! Did I mention that these students willingly meet from 3:00 until 5:00 after school? Now that is mission dedication!

If you would like to start a Mission Commission of your very own, please contact Sandy Bertini at sandybertini@yahoo.com.

ST. James' Girls Club Holds Mission Awareness Meeting

Young women pledge to support the missions

In February, the girls' club of St. James Parish held a mission awareness meeting. Over 50 young women in grades 5-8 from St. James School, CCD and homeschoolers turned out to hear Sandy Bertini speak about the mission children of the world. Centering on the tenants of prayer, sacrifice, word and witness, the young women discussed their role as missionaries in the world today. Beth White, Youth Director for St. James, shared a video of her mission trip to Honduras, and the girls were invited to share their thoughts and questions on the missions. Most young women present were amazed at how happy the children of the missions can be while having so little material goods. High School volunteers then led a crafts portion of the meeting where the girls chose a photo of a mission child, made a frame for the picture, and agreed to carry the photo with them as a reminder to pray and sacrifice for the children of the missions.

Wanting to do still more, the girls decided to take home donation boxes and encourage their families to contribute to the missions. Some wanted to perform extra chores, hold car washes and bake sales, pray the mission rosary and witness to friends and family members about the stories they heard at this meeting as a way to raise mission awareness. All agreed to meet in one month, return their boxes and share their mission awareness experiences with each other.

"It was so beautiful," Beth explained a few weeks later. "One young girl went home and told her mother she wanted to do everything she could to help the children in the missions. She has involved the whole family in her goal."

Young women on fire for the missions: surely the Holy Spirit is working in St. James Parish!

Services Available

The Holy Childhood Association is available to serve you in a variety of ways in your efforts to create a spirit of mission awareness in your school. Feel free to call our office at 703-532-8815 or email sandybertini@yahoo.com.

