

CHILDREN IN
ARLINGTON DIOCESE
HELP CHILDREN IN
HAITI

Holy Childhood
Association

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HCA NEWS

MARCH 2010

National Prayer Week March 14-21

HCA has prepared a special prayer for your students based on its 2009-2010 school year theme: "I am sending you" (John 20:21). Your prayers and those of your students are urgently needed for missionaries who have answered the call to spread the Gospel message "to the ends of the earth," for those hearing about Jesus and for those who may be discerning their own missionary vocations.

While HCA depends greatly on the financial sacrifices of students in this country, prayer is of greatest importance. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI said that he too counts on the prayers and missionary commitment of children. "In my ministry, I also count on children's prayers and their active participation in the mission

of the Church," our Holy Father said. During this National Prayer Week, HCA invites you to remember children in the Missions—especially those who are waiting



to hear the "Good News" proclaimed—as we pray together as a mission family here at home.

Please have your students pray the mission prayer (found inside this newsletter) every day during National Prayer Week. Tally up the number of prayers which

came from your school that week and email the total to sandybertini@yahoo.com. Include teachers and staff as well who prayed along with the children. I will combine all the numbers and send the total number of prayers said in our diocesan schools to the National Office.

I know we will be outstanding in our efforts to pray for our brothers and sisters in the missions, and for those who serve them. If you have an event planned for that week involving the HCA prayer, or a display, please let me know and I will come by to do a story on your students. I have prayer posters if you need them. Just send an email to me and I will send them out to you.

Globe Bank Collection to Continue

During the Lenten season, schools collecting through Operation Rice Bowl should not use the globe banks for donations. Once Lent is over, however, the banks may be used again to help students continue their missionary efforts by collecting for the mission children around the

world. At the end of the school year, please remember to send one check made payable to:

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

And mail to:

905 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA, 22046. Attn: Sandy Bertini

On the memo line, please write "HCA collection." Last year, when the collecting was finally completed, our diocese sent \$15,000 to the national office for distribution among the missions of the world. If you hold a special fund raiser or event for the missions, let me know!

Prayer For the Missions



Children in Banica look to us for help in meeting their needs.



Through our prayers, children in Banica learn the Good News of Jesus Christ



Dear God,

Through our Baptism, we are called to share Your love and Your peace everywhere. We are Your ambassadors, sent to bring the “Good News” of Jesus to all, beginning in our own communities and reaching “to the ends of the earth.”

Fill our hearts with the love and peace of Jesus, especially as we meet Him in the Sacraments. Help us to be examples of Your compassion and a source of Your hope to all, especially those who are poor, lonely, suffering and sick.

Give us strength to show others what it means to follow Jesus. Help us to answer the call to be his witnesses, His missionaries.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who is Lord forever.

Amen

Going the Extra Mile for Jesus

Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus is a sponsor-style fundraising event through which children throughout the United States raise awareness of the great needs of children in the Missions.

Schools, parishes and dioceses participate in the Extra Mile Program at many different levels. Some have large walk-a-thons, involve an entire parish community and solicit donations and sponsorship

from local businesses. Others host smaller events like bake sales, community car washes or reading marathons. Whatever the event, the goal is the same — to help young people understand that through their prayers and actions they are missionaries, making a faith-filled difference in the lives of children in the Developing World.

If your students have “Gone the Extra Mile for Jesus” this year, or will be doing so in the next

few months, please contact sandybertini@yahoo.com. I enjoy submitting articles to the Herald which bring to light the fine missionary spirit of our diocesan schools.

Be sure to check out the National Website at www.hcakids.org for more information on this and other programs which afford children the opportunity to do even more to help out with the work being done in the missions today.

Pray for Bishop Loverde and Fathers O’Hare and Murphy in this year of the priest.

Holy Father’s Angelus Message

“As long as we are in this world, Charity is the distinctive mark of Christians. It is the synthesis of all their lives, of what they believe and what they do.”

January 31, 2010



Fr. Murphy baptizes children in a small chapel in the mountains around Pedro Santana. He travels by motorcycle or burro for five hours to arrive at these villages.



Children in Arlington Diocese Help Children In Haiti

When the call for help was issued in the diocese of Arlington, our school children were among the first to respond. Less than a week after the devastating earthquake hit Haiti, students began prayer services, held Masses, prayed the red beads of the mission rosary every day, and held various fund raisers. Students at St. Joseph School in Herndon, for example, held a dress down day and raised \$7,135 for the relief of victims. Now as our students face yet another tragedy in Chile, may we once again unite in prayer with our mission rosaries in hand.



Students at Linton Hall School filled suitcases with emergency items for Medical Missionaries to take to Haiti.

HCA Speakers Kick- Off Catholic Schools Week

“God wants you to be a missionary, right now, right here, through your prayers and sacrifices, words and witness.” With these words, Sandy Bertini called upon the students at St. Mary’s School in Alexandria, and at St. John’s School in Warrenton to fulfill their baptismal mandate to become missionaries every day, in every way. As a kick-off to Catholic Schools Week and the Globe bank collections, Father Posey, Diocesan HCA Director, spoke about the need for students to turn their eyes off of themselves and

onto the world around themselves, to seek out the lonely in their families and schools, and to pray every day for those children in the missions and for those who serve them. Sandy challenged the students by stating, “God placed you in the world right now, right here, for a reason. He gave you the special gifts you have for a reason. Spend your time finding out what you can do with what God gave you to relieve the suffering around you and in the world, to bring the word of God to all His people, and to let others see

God by seeing you.” The students then viewed a video clip of Tim Tebow explaining that he uses his amazing football talent to draw people to God. Email

sandybertini@yahoo.com

if you would like a speaker to come to your school. Speakers are available to speak on their mission experiences in other countries; Father Posey will share his experiences in the Dominican Republic, and Sandy Bertini will speak on the ways God uses us to bring His word and witness to others.