

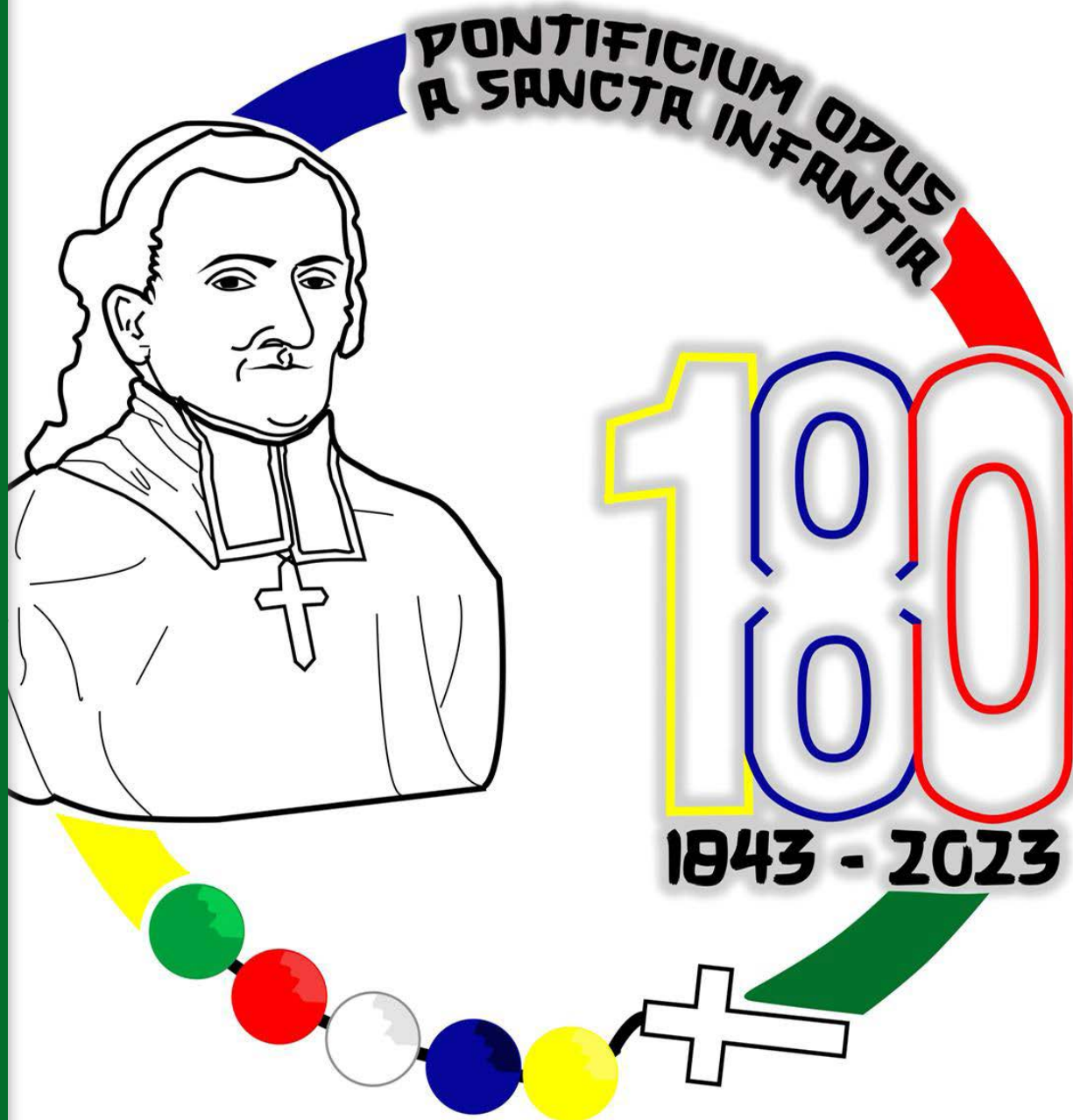


JUNE 2023 - N. 13

BULLE IN



PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS



ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION
HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE
THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN



MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER N.14 - JUNE 2023

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Archdiocese of Luanda, Angola

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...and 180!

Happy anniversary to the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood and to all its members who celebrated the 180th anniversary of its foundation on May 1843.

Let us thank the Lord together for these first 180 years of the foundation of the Association of the Holy Childhood and for what each National Direction has put in place to celebrate this anniversary. Every celebration is an opportunity to thank the Lord and put in place evangelization actions.

One hundred eighty years have not been enough for all baptized children, families, and educators to be animated by this missionary spirit with a universal outlook based on the Gospel, but we trust in the support of the Holy Spirit and continue our service with joy and perseverance.

Bishop de Forbin-Janson understood well - in the theological coordinates of his time - the need to put the salvation of man in the foreground and to conceive the mission with an integral character. In this sense, the Missionary Childhood still offers after 180 years, a fundamental contribution to mission and missionary spirituality, a stimulus to revive the evangelizing perspective in our Church today.

In the first regulation of the Society (May 1843) we read that *"all baptized children can be members of the Association from an early age"*. Msgr. Charles de Forbin-Janson was aware that missionary commitment stems from baptism and does not only concern adults.

And from the very beginning he wanted to emphasize that it was not a matter of charity work but to make baptism and the commitment involved, concrete. Furthermore, regarding the practices required of members according to the first regulation, we read: *"Every member of the association will recite every day, or if he is still too young, will be asked to recite for him: 1° a Hail Mary; 2° the following invocation: Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the poor little infidels"*. This meant that the Catholic parents who asked for their child to be baptized and to whom it was proposed to become an associate of the Society of the Holy Childhood, were personally committed to pray every day, and then also to

give a monthly donation, and they did it *"for him – instead of their child who was still too young"*. It was therefore a matter of involving the family in this missionary responsibility and of educating the family in the universality of the Catholic Church. This is what it means when we affirm the unique and irreplaceable role of the family in the transmission of the faith. As the little member of the Society grew, he/she received the charisma of the Holy Childhood from his/her parents. And so in turn he/she evangelized others, continuing to be a missionary even within his/her own family. Indeed, the proposal of the Society of the Holy Childhood has inspired Christian families since its foundation. A family that prays strengthens its union and testimony and supports the Catholic identity of each member.

Msgr. Charles de Forbin Janson grew up in a family environment shaped by faith in God and fidelity to the Pope and the Church. When he was a seminarian, he devoted himself to catechism for the children of his parish in his spare time and taught them to pray. He considered himself lucky to have received a good Catholic education from his parents. He continually thought of those poor children who cannot grow in the beauty of faith, who have no one to teach them who God is.

During the Angelus of June 18, speaking of the proclamation of the Kingdom by Jesus and his sending of the twelve to do the same, Pope Francis affirmed

"Proclaiming that God is close is an invitation to think of oneself as a child, who walks hand in hand with his father: everything seems different... If we want to be good apostles, we have to be like children".



SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI

Secretary General Pontifical Society Missionary Childhood



JOHN PAUL II

(1978 -2005)

1979

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II TO ARCHBISHOP
SIMON D. LOURDUSAMY, PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL
SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD

*To Mons. Simon Lourdusamy
President of the Pontifical Society
of Missionary Childhood*

In this International Year of the Child, it seemed to me very opportune to meet the desire of many of those responsible for the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood by addressing to them some words of encouragement, also intended for children of all countries who are members of this Church movement, and for all those who are educating them to the missionary spirit. You will be happy, as President of a work very dear to the Pope's heart and precious for his ministry of truth and charity, to inform them of this message.

The blossoming of new movements of apostolate, under the well-known impulse of Pope Pius XI, may have led to forgetfulness of the older associations, often more geared to compassion and corresponding well to an age and its needs. As regards the Society of the "Holy Childhood", due to the intuition and zeal of Mons. de Forbin-Janson over one hundred and thirty years ago, and now called the "Society of Missionary Childhood", one cannot but admire the realism and even modernity that marked it right from the beginning. What did it desire, but to promote, through children themselves, the spiritual and physical health of children born in countries in which evangelization had made little headway and which were hardly touched by the technical development from which they are beginning to benefit today?

Yes, the concern to baptize children in danger of death, the protection and sometimes the ransom of children capable of surviving, the adoption of these same children by Christian families, the care taken for their instruction, constituted a real network of human and spiritual solidarities between the children of the old and the new continents. Now—and this is the paradox of our age—material needs, and even more, moral and religious needs, keep increasing. Missionary Childhood and its very young apostolic workers, of whom we find a certain prototype, in a sense, in the Gospel, always have their place in the proclamation of the Good News (cf. Evangelii Nuntiandi, 72).

The founder of this Pontifical Society did not fail to meditate on what might be called "the apostolate of Jesus", which comprised a certain apostolate of childhood. Christ wants people to let the little children come to him. He admires their simplicity and their trust, their transparency and their generosity. The evangelist Matthew narrates to us that Jesus calls one of them and puts him in the midst of his apostles, who were discussing questions of merits and precedence, to present him to them as a model for those who wish to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Even more!





The Lord identifies himself with the world of young children: “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mt 18:5). And he dares to curse those who scandalize them! Jesus does not condition children, he does not use children. He calls them, and brings them into his plan for the salvation of the world. How wonderful!

It was certainly what the Apostle John noticed when he reports the words of Andrew, Peter’s brother, before the multiplication of the loaves: “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?” (Jn 6:9). Jesus accepted this humble gift and, through his divine power, he gave it dimensions that the little donor could not foresee.

Today still, very young Christians, formed to knowledge and evangelical love of children of their age deprived of the goods necessary for their complete development, are capable of cooperating in this work of justice, solidarity, peace and advance of the Kingdom of God. And doing so, not only does their baptismal and human life develop and become personalized, but such children question and evangelize the world of adults, who are sometimes hardened and sceptical about the necessity and the efficacy of solidarity and the gift of oneself.

To this glance at the topicality of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood and at its evangelical sources, I would like to add finally my encouragement to take all means to cause it to progress. I count a great deal on the well-known zeal, prudent and persevering, of national, regional and diocesan leaders. In harmony with other movements of the apostolate of childhood, let them take care to improve constantly their methods of action, which are doubtless different from one country to another but certainly convergent!

Without being exhaustive, stress can be laid first of all on the privileged place of the child’s prayer in a missionary perspective. To that must be added permanent concern with informing and forming young children by means of solid and well-adapted catechetical methods, sessions of study for the educators of the young to the missionary spirit, carefully studied renewal of missionary educative activities, ranging from sketching and dramatic expression to the twinning of groups of children, and the organization of collections intelligently presented and carried out, in particular for the needs of the young Churches on the plane of their catechetical means, often so limited.

Nor should it be forgotten to teach the children to look at and appreciate the cultural and religious riches of those whom they wish to help, in a climate of mutual and really brotherly exchange. But, above all, I would like the World Day of Missionary Childhood, very happily placed in the period of Christmas and Epiphany, to be both for the children and for their educators, among whom I hope to see many older adolescents, and even for their families, the annual revival of a human and Christian solidarity, which is more and more thoughtful, effective and reciprocal.

In this firm hope, I invoke on the Missionary Childhood the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and I address my affectionate Apostolic Blessing to its President, the national leaders and their collaborators, and all the children in the world who bring of their best to this ecclesial society.

From the Vatican, 10 April 1979

John Paul II



**Pope John Paul II with Cardinal Lourdasamy
and then cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**



HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE

2003

MESSAGE OF JOHN PAUL II TO THE HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dear Missionary Children,

In the first half of the 19th century, Europe experienced a great missionary expansion and the Church, realizing the missionary potential of children, began to ask children to take an active part in proclaiming the Gospel to their peers.

On 9 May 1843, Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson of Nancy, keen to support the activities of Catholics in China, suggested to the children of Paris that they help their contemporaries by reciting a Hail Mary every day and offering a coin every month. It was not long before this missionary initiative that provided material and spiritual support crossed the frontiers of France and spread to other countries.

On 30 September 1919 my venerable Predecessor Benedict XV wrote: "We warmly recommend to all the faithful the Society of the Holy Childhood which has the objective of guaranteeing baptism to non-Christian children. We recommend that all Christian children join this society, so that through it they may learn to help with the evangelization of their neighbour and, already at their age, understand the great value of the faith" (Maximum illud).

This year the Feast of the Epiphany has a special importance because the Society of the Holy Childhood, present in 110 countries, observes the 160th year of its existence. It offers children in all the dioceses of the world a programme that consists of prayer, sacrifice and concrete acts of solidarity: in this way they can become evangelizers of their peers.

Dear young missionaries, I know with what great care and generosity you live this apostolic activity. In so many ways you try to share the lot of the children who are forced to work as children and you help relieve the distress of the children who are in need. You show solidarity for the troubles and tragedies of children involved in the wars of adults and who are often victims of the violence of adults. Pray every day that the gift of faith which you have received may be granted to the millions of your small friends who do not yet know Jesus.

You rightly believe that whoever meets Jesus and accepts his Gospel receives a rich store of spiritual gifts: the divine life of grace, the love which makes brothers and sisters, dedication to others, forgiveness given and received, willingness to welcome and to be welcomed, the hope that lifts our hearts to eternal life, peace as a gift and a duty.

In this Christmas season, in many local Churches, the children of the Holy Childhood Society, go from house to house dressed as Magi or shepherds to proclaim the glad tidings of Christmas. This is the delightful custom of the "Star Singers" which the Society began in German-speaking countries and that later spread to many other countries: boys and girls knock at the door, sing Christmas carols, recite their prayers and explain to families the projects of solidarity to be funded. In this way little ones evangelize even grown-ups.

This work of evangelization and solidarity - as you well know - is not limited to just a few weeks of the Christmas season, but continues throughout life. This is why I encourage you to respond generously to the many requests for help that come from poor countries.

How many children in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Oceania pray and work for the same ideal! A global solidarity fund has been created and is growing thanks to the gifts from everywhere in the world. It finances small and big projects that help young children.



There are lovely stories of children who by their long-distance adoption of small friends, became sellers of stars or stamp-collectors. They have given a toy or an expensive game to free their peers who are forced to be in the army. They have pledged themselves to save in many ways in order to fund catechetical textbooks or to build schools in mission areas. There are many other examples. Missionary children with their contributions fund more than 3,000 projects. Is this not a true miracle of the vast and silent love of God that makes a mark on the world?

Dear missionary children, you must all take part in this miracle! And those who possess nothing can make the gift of their prayer and the suffering of their poverty.

Dear boys and girls, missionary activity helps you to grow in faith and makes you joyful disciples of Jesus. Showing solidarity to those who are less fortunate opens your heart to humanity's great needs. You can recognize the face of Jesus in poor and needy children. This is what such missionaries as Francis Xavier, Matteo Ricci, Charles de Foucauld, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta and others did in every part of the world.

I warmly hope that your pastors, your bishops and priests, and your catechists, spiritual guides, your parents and teachers will take to heart the Society of the Missionary Childhood. From the very beginning, it has borne heroic missionary fruit and has written beautiful pages in the history of the Church. The first Chinese children, saved by the "missionary children" became teachers, catechists, doctors and priests. The gift of Baptism was transformed into light for them and for their families.

Among the children helped by the offerings and prayers of other children are the martyr Paul Tchen and the first Archbishop of Peking, Cardinal Tien Kenhsin. Subsequently, with the passage of time, the vocation to total consecration to evangelization grew in the hearts of many girls and boys.

How can we forget little Thérèse of Lisieux who, at the age of seven, on 12 May 1882 enrolled in the Society of the Holy Childhood and at the age of 14 had already decided to give herself to Jesus for the salvation of the world? Today this spiritual fruitfulness continues in the Church. Let us pray that a greater number of children put at the service of the Gospel not just one period of their lives, but their whole existence. Likewise, we ask God to multiply everywhere the charitable activity of the Missionary Childhood.

The needs of children the world over are so many and complex that no box for saving coins, no gesture of solidarity however great, would ever be enough to relieve them. God's help is needed. Dear missionary children, by enrolling in the Society of the Holy Childhood, you take as your first pledge the promise to say a daily Hail Mary. Indeed, you know that the success of the mission depends, above all, on prayer, and for this reason you turn to Our Lady, Star of Evangelization.

For 160 years, you have been calling on her in the name of children around the world. I urge you to persevere in this loving practice with greater faithfulness in the "Year of the Rosary". Once in a while the older ones among you should recite a whole decade or even five decades of the Rosary.

The Missionary Rosary links us with the missions: the white is for Europe, so that it can regain the evangelizing fervour that give rise to so many Churches; the yellow decade is for Asia, which is exploding with life and youth; the green decade is for Africa, tried by suffering but ready for the proclamation; the red decade is for America, the promise of new missionary forces; the blue decade is for the continent of Oceania, which awaits a more grass-roots spread of the Gospel.

Dear missionary children, may Our Lady accompany you in your generosity! To her I entrust you with your relatives and the Christian communities you belong to. I bless you all with affection..

From the Vatican, 6 January 2003, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

John Paul II



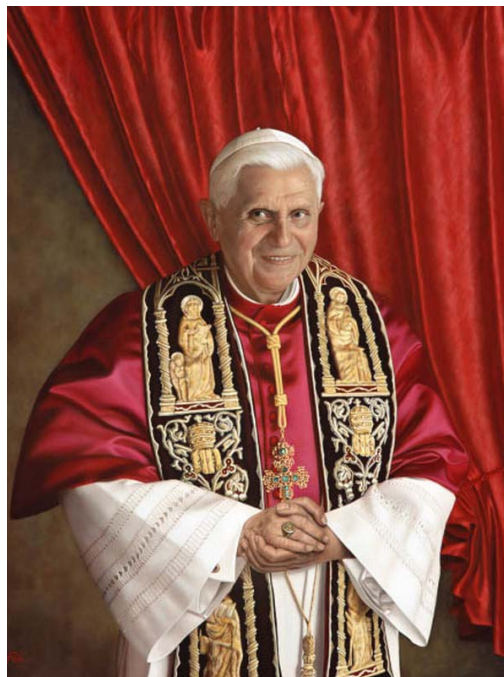
BENEDICT XVI

(2005 -2013)

2007

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ANGELUS PRAYER ON THE "STEPHANSPLATZ" IN VIENNA, THE HOLY FATHER ADDRESSED THE CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INITIATIVES OF THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD AND, THANKING THEM FOR THE LETTERS THEY HAD ADDRESSED TO HIM, HE GAVE THEM A LETTER IN RESPONSE

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the letters and drawings that you wanted to give me as signs of your affection and closeness to my mission," the Pope wrote. "They express those sentiments of faith and love for which Jesus loved the little ones so much and welcomed them with open arms, pointing them out as an example for his disciples". Then Benedict XVI continued: "I would like to tell you that I greatly appreciate your commitment to Missionary Childhood. I see in you little collaborators at the service that the Pope provides to the Church and to the world: you support me with your prayers and also with your commitment to spreading the Gospel". Benedict XVI then recalled that many children still do not know Jesus, and unfortunately many others do not have what is necessary to live: food, healthcare, education; many lack peace and serenity. "The Church pays special attention to them, above all through the missionaries; and you too feel called to offer your contribution, both personally and as a group", the Pope's letter continued, "friendship with Jesus is such a beautiful gift that one cannot keep to oneself! Whoever receives this gift feels the need to pass it on to others; and thus the gift, shared, does not diminish but multiplies. Keep going! You are growing up and soon you will become adolescents and young people: do not lose your missionary spirit! Always maintain a clear and authentic faith, like that of Saint Peter."



from Fides Agency

2009

DIALOGUE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD

Dear Pope Benedict, my name is Alessandro. I wanted to ask you: you are the principal missionary; how can we children help you to proclaim the Gospel?

I would say that the first way is this: to collaborate with the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood. That way you are part of a large family, which takes the Gospel to the world. That way you belong to a large network. In it we see how the family of diverse peoples is represented. You are all in this



big family: each one has his part and together you are missionaries, bearers of the missionary work of the Church. You have a beautiful plan, laid out by your spokesperson: to listen, pray, understand, share, sympathize. These are the essential elements that combined are truly a way to be missionaries, to encourage the growth of the Church into the future and the presence of the Gospel in the world. I would like to emphasize some of these points.

First of all, pray. Prayer is a reality: God listens to us and, when we pray, God enters into our lives, he becomes present among us, works among us. Praying is a very important thing that can change the world, because it makes the power of God present. And it is important to help each other by praying: to pray together in the liturgy, to pray together in the family. And here I would say that it is important to begin the day with a small prayer and also to end the day with a small prayer: to remember our parents in prayer. Pray before lunch, before dinner and during Sunday's shared Celebration. A Sunday without Mass, the great communal prayer of the Church, is not truly a Sunday: it lacks the very heart of Sunday and so also the light for the week. And you can also help others especially those who do not pray at home or do not know about prayer by teaching others to pray: praying with them and in this way introducing others to communion with God.

Next, listen that is, learn what Jesus really says. In addition, get to know the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible. In the story of Jesus we learn as the Cardinal said the Face of God, we learn what God is like. It is important to know Jesus deeply, personally. That way he enters into our life and, through our life, enters into the world.

Also, share, do not want things only for yourselves, but rather for everyone; divide things with others. And if we see that another is perhaps in need, that he or she is less gifted, we must help that person and so make God's love present without too many words, in our own personal world, which is part of the bigger world. And in this way we become a family together, in which each one has respect for the other: tolerating the other's differences, accepting also those who are disagreeable, not allowing anyone to be marginalized, but instead helping others to integrate into the community. All of this simply means living in this big family of the Church, in this big missionary family. To live out essential points such as sharing, knowledge of Jesus, prayer, reciprocal listening and solidarity is missionary work, because it helps to make the Gospel a reality in our world.

Paul VI Hall
Saturday, 30 May 2009

Benedict XVI



ETHIOPIA

NATIONAL OFFICE

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH

ADDIS ABABA



TEENAGERS DAY CAMP

(28 November 2022)

We began the daycamp with Holy Mass early in the morning with a group of twenty two teenagers. We divided them into four groups with different names to give service during breakfast, cleaning used items, serving lunch and setting up the picnic area, and they picked the names for their groups. Afterwards, we gathered outdoor on the

court for breakfast and started our simple peanut butter and marmalade breakfast with prayer. The outdoor activities continued with spiritual games such as reciting prayers and hymns sung during the Mass by heart, regular charades games (and also done in reverse of word guessing where we guess actions), etc. During lunch in the Church



hall, we prayed and sat in circles of five to eat, and had our indoor games there as well. Later, we played football outside. We also played 'Treasure Hunt' where we went around the parish looking for hidden chocolate and candy. Lastly, we set up the garden for our picnic and everyone sat and chatted, enjoyed their fruits and biscuits, sang hymns and ended the day with a closing prayer. It was a great day.

PROGRAM

Breakfast
Outdoor activities
Lunch
Indoor games
Football
Treasure hunt
Picnic



BANGLADESH

NATIONAL OFFICE



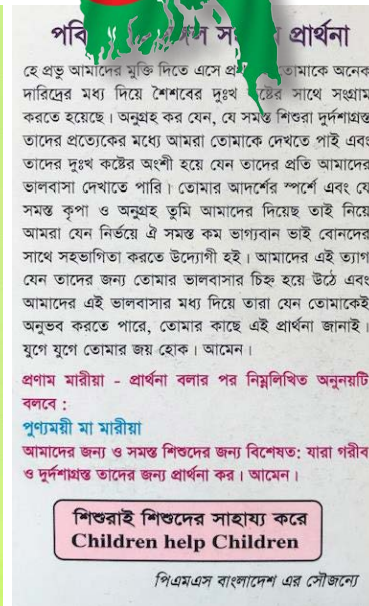
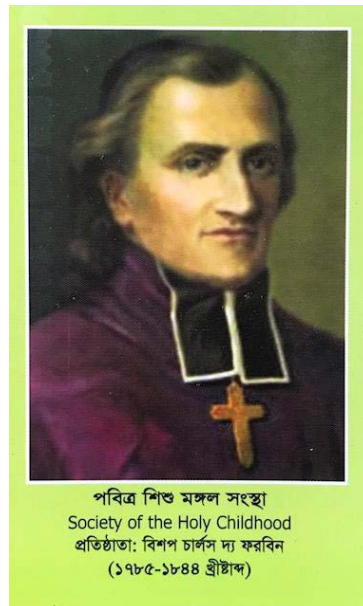
We have one single National Office of PMS that looks after the activities of the four societies, there are no separate offices or secretariats. The Catholic Church in Bangladesh is a minority and the Government, with a fundamental view, imposes many restrictions regarding our mission activities and evangelization.

There is constant correspondence and mutual support between national and diocesan level concerning programs on Missionary Childhood. The national office often provides financial and material support to the dioceses to undertake mission animation and formation programs both for children and animators. When possible, the national office involves itself actively through physical presence and support to the diocesan programs. On the other hand, the diocesan directors also help in national programs, send reports and photos of Missionary Childhood activities to the national office.



Formation and Animation activities were carried out at national and diocesan level, in particular we would like to mention for the Missionary Childhood activities in national level:

- 9 June 2022: Animators' Program at Mymensingh Pastoral Center with the theme *"Holy Childhood Animators for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission"*.
- 22 June 2022: Holy Childhood Program at Khagrachori Parish, Chattagram, with the theme *"The Children for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission"*.



Prayer card for children with Founder's Image and Prayer for Missionary Childhood

Publications by the National Office:

- Magazine *Shantira Barta*: The Messenger of Peace on occasion of the Holy Childhood Sunday, January 30, 2022 ; but also Quizzes on the Holy Bible and Catechism via correspondence through it. Thousands of children eagerly participate in the quizzes.
- Bilingual Posters published on the occasion of Holy Childhood Sunday. The themes were based on the Holy Father's appeal for a Synodal Church and on the perspective of Church in Bangladesh..
- 100.000 envelops for the purpose of special collections on occasion of Holy Childhood Sunday

The animation programs help our children and animators of Missionary Childhood to grow in deeper faith which is but action oriented. They recognize that they belong to the Church and their participation is really important. The children become more and more aware that as child-missionaries they have an essential role to play within the Church so that she may

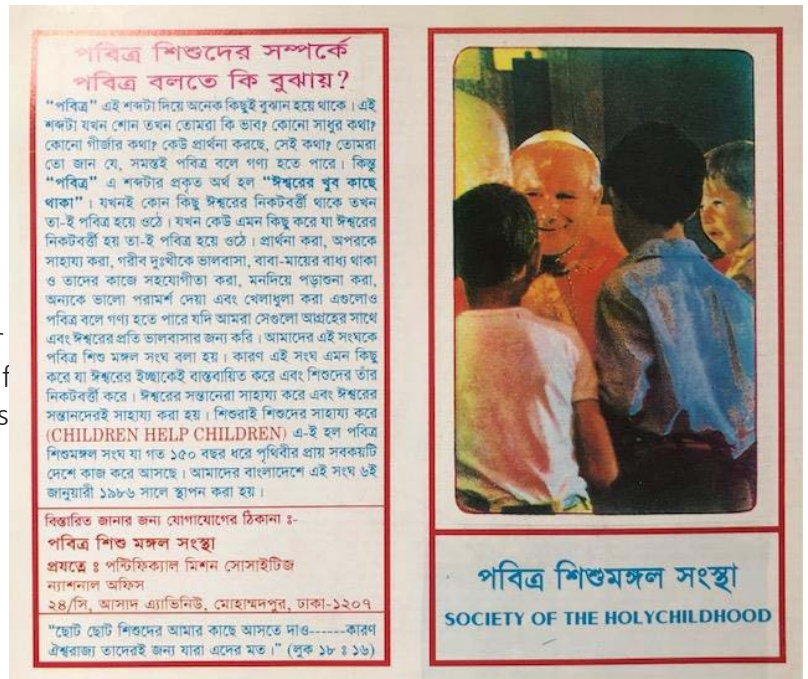


Introducing the Society of Missionary Childhood (poster). How a little missionary of Holy Childhood can witness his/her faith to others

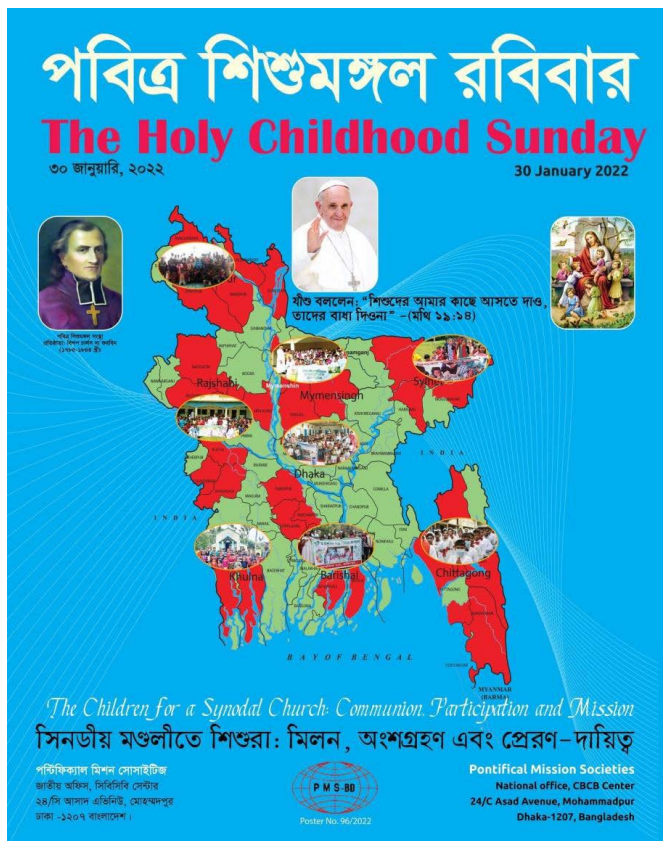
flourish to the ends of the world. They are well benefitted to form a moral life ideal to the Christians. The missionary children encourage other children for formation of good characters and attending schools for education. Even though stricken by poverty and calamities, the children sacrifice sometimes and sincerely donates whatever little they have during the celebration of the Holy Childhood Day. Such Collection is united with the Universal Solidarity Fund for the support of other poor and deprived children.

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD

In all the parishes, sub-parishes and institutions where Sunday Mass is held, there was the celebration of the Missionary Childhood Sunday on 29 January 2023. Posters and envelopes were sent ahead of time for the propaganda and collection of the faithful respectively. On this occasion, we also brought out the magazine Shantir Barta in which articles related to Missionary Childhood were published along with the Message and appeal from the National Director. Since Sunday is not a holiday in Bangladesh, therefore, besides this common celebration, there was a special celebration of Missionary Childhood day almost in every parish of all the dioceses in Bangladesh under the supervision of the Diocesan Directors.



Membership Card with Prayer for and Introduction on Missionary Childhood



Holy Childhood Day Celebration poster for propaganda



*Rally Caps and
Badges for Holy
Childhood Children
and Animators*



KENYA

DIOCESE OF KAKAMEGA

Diocese of Kakamega (DoK) is one of the 26 dioceses of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB). It has established 280 Early Childhood learning Institutions across the diocese, 280 Primary Schools, 165 Secondary School 18 learning Tertiary Institutions, Teacher training, Medical institutions, Special Institutions for physically and mentally challenged children. It has 46 Parishes with live Pontifical Missionary Holy Childhood programmes, Missionary Youth Movement (MYM), Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) and the YCA (Young Christian Movement.)



MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

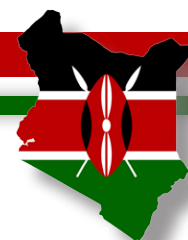
PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The Missionary Holy Childhood programme was started in the late 80's. It has gradually grown and in 2000 February, His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Bishop Philip Sulumeti appointed Sr. Clemens Muhabi as full time Diocesan Coordinator.

- a) To sensitize children on the Universal Mission of the Church on its work of Evangelization and Human Education and its active concern for the well-being-Spiritual and material needs of children everywhere.
- b) To stimulate children's prayer life, generosity and morality in order to understand true meaning of Universal Church and to realize that Christians have a responsibility to help the whole Human Family.
- c) To enhance the Child protection desk, to carefully find justice for victims (children) in case of Child abuse. To guide and console victims and take care of the spiritual needs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. All parishes given awareness seminars on the Missionary Holy Childhood Programme.
2. Enrolment and commissioning of over 10 000 missionary children.
3. Separation of child protection desk from Holy childhood desk to enhance the autonomy of the child protection desk.
4. 198 Primary Schools received Awareness Seminars the need to reach 100 more our schools.
5. 3 events of inter-parish child camping conducted yearly.
6. 5 animators (volunteers) from every parish identified and recruited, trained and commissioned: there is need to recruit more.
7. 300 parish promoters (volunteers) identified and recruited as shown in photos.
8. National and Local collaboration and networking is forthcoming.



MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE OF CHILDREN

- *Prayer life:* this is seen in their active and full participation in liturgical celebrations and during their weekly prayer meetings.
- *Charitable works/works of mercy:* this is one of the areas that children cherish. They find a lot of joy in serving and helping the elderly, fellow needy children and physically challenged people. Parents support children in this area than any other programme.
- *Generosity:* our children and parents gradually understand the charism of the society and the need to support the church. This witnessed in the way they contribute toward universal common pull during holy childhood Sunday, vocation Sunday and mission Sunday. They are also generous in supporting the local church within their reach.
- *Growing of missionary zeal:* - this year we have enrolled over 10.000 children under the age of fourteen to missionary childhood. At the same time the diocese has established a missionary youth movement (MYM) between the age of 15 and 18, as a transitory group towards senior youth of age 19 to 25 years and later young adulthood between age 25 to 40 years. This young missionary youth will continue with animation, formation and missionary work of childhood at their level.
- *Talent development:* The holy childhood has helped many children discover and nurture their talents. It provides forum in which children explore their talents such as singing, playing musical instruments, sports, narration skills, comedy among others.
- Most children have been trained on how to defend themselves and protect their fellow children on any child abuse. Our child protection desk has received several cases where children rescued their fellow children from some abuses. Some children have become responsible to call our office to report such cases.





CHILD PROTECTION DESK

The Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Kakamega Rt. Rev. Joseph Obanyi Sagwe in line with the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops(KCCB) has put in place the child Protection desk). He has appointment a team on this desk which will spear head the sensitization of matters concerning the protection of children. The desk consists of experts in law to forge for justice in any case of abuse, consolors to journey with the victims and priests and religious to give the spiritual nourishment. This desk alongside the programmes of PMC/ PMS will sensitize animators on how to handle cases of children.

HOLY CHILDHOOD MISSION DAY

The diocese of Kakamega supports the Holy Childhood Mission day by raising funds on 6th January (Epiphany feast day) and forwards the same to the diocesan office to assist the works of the children.

Animators organise fund drives using the Tin collection. The Bishop celebrates masses for children in all the 5 deanaries, raises funds and food stuffs which are shared to our special school. He also celebrates one mass annually for animators and all lay groups towards mission works.

FORMATION OF ANIMATORS

We have trained about 300 trained animators who are much far below bar in taking care of children's activities, church programmes. We therefore intend to continue training more and carry out refresher workshops in matters of child protection policy, and all guidelines in matters of protecting children.

*Rt. Rev. Joseph Obanyi Sagwe
Bishop of Kakamega*

*Rev. Fr. Godfrey Sechero - PMS Director
Sr. Mary Risper Morah - PMS Coordinator*



TESTIMONIES

THAILAND

DIOCESE OF CHANTHABURI



The Diocese of Chanthaburi was created on Dec. 18, 1965. It is located in eastern central Thailand near to the Cambodian border. The diocese is a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Bangkok and stretches over an area of 34,000 square kilometres. In the distant parts of Chanthaburi there are plenty of very poor families especially the villages near Thai-Cambodia and even in Chanthaburi itself.

The diocese supports and encourages children in the spirit to being an apostol to proclaim the Good News to the poor and to our brothers and sisters of other faiths, especially with children of Holy Childhood group who can raise the voice of God to their friends.

The Church committee and all catholic movements of the Church to continue all programs to maintain and promote the missionary's spirit among the children in Chanthaburi Diocese. Currently there are about 135 catholic and non- Catholic children.

The Diocesan objectives to be achieved through Missionary Childhood are:

- Implementing the Knowledge of Missionary Spirit among the clergy, pastoral councils and Catholic organization and lay people. They have to realize that Christians must be missionary in being the witness of Good News in love of God.
- Collaborating with Catholic schools in diocese to be the field of the proclamation of the Good News to teachers, students, parents and communities.
- Encouraging the inter-religious dialogue with the understanding of friendship, respective by using liturgy and other

activities passed through family, ecclesial community and schools.

Through activities:

- Proclaiming the Good News for Non-Christians
- Missionary Childhood Camp
- Diocesan Commission for mission and evangelization





My name is Maria Pharaphat Koprakon, 10 years old, study at SatriMandaphitak School, Chanthaburi. Aunt Somboon has taught me at Wat Phai Lom School. Before I came to study at SatriMandaphitak School Chanthaburi, aunt Somboon invited me to join the worship ceremony. After the Mass I participated in the Youth Dharma mission, it made me very happy. I also begin to know Jesus better and have more friends. I also helped the church, namely, to be angels offering flowers in the church on feast day, I went to visit the sick and the elderly, I also pray together with fellow student, and distribute necessary supplies and snacks to those in need.

Maria Pharaphat Koprakon



My name is Thanaphat Koprakon, 10 years old, I study at SatriMandaphitak School, Chanthaburi. I'm a twin with a girl, Pharaphat Koprakon. We study together and go to church together. I join the missionary activities with my sister. We are very happy and have fun. Some weeks after the worship service Sister took us to play in the river. We also visit the elderly and learn how to open the bible. I also go to help the church work, and also serve the Mass.

Thanaphat Koprakon

My name is Pakorn Suksamran, 10 years old. I study at Wat Phai Lom School. My house is near the church. In the evening, I come to play in front of the church with my friends. My father is a catholic Mother is a Buddhist. I have not yet been baptized but my aunt Somboon invites me to become. I join in youth activities and have fun. I want to come to the church. I learn to know Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saint. At the beginning of the semester, I will come to study catechism and receive baptism.

Pakorn Suksamran



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHANTHABURI

May 13, 2022

*In Remembrance of His Majesty
King Bhumibol Adulyadej*

Holy Childhood Group join the walk for remembrance of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. There are 11 persons attended the walk.



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHANTHABURI

May 21, 2022

*Sharing happiness against
Covid-19*

Holy Childhood Group with the Pastoral Council Giving away gifts and visiting communities in Trat province. There are 5 Holy Childhood of Chanthaburi attended.



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHANTHABURI

June 5, 2022

On the Solemnity of the Holy Spirit, Holy Childhood Group of Chanthaburi join the parade with various organizations of the church. There are 10 Holy Childhood attended.





SAINT PHILIP AND JAMES CHURCH (HUA PHAI)

Saint Philip and James Church has a meeting with Holy Childhood Group after the Mass on Sunday of the Month. After meeting we go out to visit the elderly. A total of 20 children participated.



SAINT PHILIP AND JAMES CHURCH (HUA PHAI)

February 6, 2022

Ten people ten Things

This activity let the Holy Childhood Group take a photo with Certificate of Sacrament of baptism and explain when I got sacrament of baptism, what I got and what is my role.



SAINT PHILIP AND JAMES CHURCH (HUA PHAI)

Febraury 18, 2022

Walk together with Jesus

This activity allows the Holy Childhood Group to do concrete practice in according to 3 diocesan objectives by taking picture to see according to the actual event.

AUSTRALIA



TESTIMONIES FROM USERS OF SOCKTOBER* 2022

Teachers incorporated the information and the fantastic resources received from the National Office into their Religious Education Program. It helped the students to gain a sense of who they are helping, why they are helping and the importance of helping others...our fellow brothers and sisters. It was great to have Mark Clarke visit us! The students were very engaged! Our students were inspired to reach out and make a difference. They were so invested in the fund raising initiative! God bless and thank you!



Connie S., Religious Education Coordinator

* The Socktober Challenge invites children to engage with developing world issues through the language they understand best - play! Children are challenged to "Sock it to Poverty". It is part of Catholic Mission's schools engagement program

BENIN



I am in secondary school and 13 years old. I have belonged to the MADEB group (Benin Children's Apostolate Movement) for at least 8 years. I am very happy to be part of this group, to share the love of Christ during meetings, sessions and pilgrimages with other children. This makes me feel good, it allows me to follow Christ. I come from Ste. Marie Reine des Familles parish in Ba-Mora, in the Archdiocese of Parakou.

During our pilgrimages, our outings, I feel happy to share the love of Christ with my companions of Missionary Childhood, in the neighbourhood, at school, in the parish, in my group, also to bring the mission of Christ to children and those around me.

Vianney Goudianou





MADAGASCAR

I am a 14-year-old boy. I am baptized, I am a messenger of Christ and I do my best to help the poor children in my neighbourhood. One day I went to visit a friend who was struggling on the day his mother died. He suffered greatly. I kept him company for a long time to console him, I prayed for him and his family, that they would have courage. At the end



of my visit, he told me that I had not gone there of my own will but because the Lord had sent me.

He was happy and told me that, with my presence, he had discovered God's love and tenderness.

Ifaliana



TOGO



Our Catholic Action of Missionary Childhood and Youth is a real workshop for the formation of the men and women of tomorrow according to the evangelical spirit; a spirit of solidarity, communion and sharing. Here is the testimony of a child belonging to the Ministries Movement: "Serving in the St. Samuel Ministries group, the learning, training and service sessions at the altar clarified the meaning of the collective and community offering of all forms of the Church's liturgy. And, since I feel the vocation to become a priest, it is already a good preparation for me to live communion in the Church".



COLOMBIA



My name is Junior Santiago Daza Rodríguez, a missionary teenager from St Michael the Archangel Parish in La Jagua de Ibirico, Diocese of Valledupar. I would like to share my experience at the VIII Missionary Childhood and Adolescence Congress in Palmira, which was a lot of fun, not only because of the journey, but also because I met new people and discovered the culture of the Cauca Valley and its surroundings. The charisma of the people and the kindness with which I was treated made me feel at home, besides the fact that the accommodation was excellent. At the end of the Congress I was in a very good mood, because I had had a lot of fun and a good experience, so much so that I made new friends and got out of the routine thanks to such a trip. It was an amazing experience and I would love to do it again. What I enjoyed most was when we got together in groups and exchanged ideas, what we had to do to attend the congress and many other things. I liked everything about the Childhood and Adolescence Missionary Congress and I never felt demotivated, on the contrary, I was encouraged a lot during my stay. I really liked the lady who welcomed me into her home and took care of us, even though she had to leave for medical and health reasons, entrusting us to her daughter, who was also very kind. This family was very helpful and humble and I made sure, before leaving, to thank them for such a warm welcome. In short, I would gladly participate in a Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence again, because it was one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever had. I strengthened my spirituality- the opportunity to live with other people, the religious acts were of great importance and helped me to strengthen my faith. I shared a lot with Father Luis Alfredo Frago, the Diocesan Director of the PMS of our Diocese, with Rafael, our permanent deacon and with our animators. The parish of Saint Laura Montoya, which welcomed our delegation, is the most populous in the country. Its community cooperates a lot in the service of the Church. This experience was of great formation for me and, through the conferences organized during the Congress meetings, as well as those of the Saint Laura parish, helped me to reflect and improve my attitude towards service to others. In conclusion, I can say that the joy we felt in knowing that our Diocese of Valledupar will host the IX Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence was immense. I was very happy to go home and also to go to my parish to announce that we will welcome the next congress. I thank God for everything I have experienced and I hope that the IX Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence will be as beautiful as the one in Palmyre.



*Junior Santiago Daza Rodríguez
Missionary Adolescence, San Michele Arcangelo Parish La
Jagua de Ibirico – Cesar*



SERVING IN MCA WITH LOVE AND JOY



My name is Evelin Herrera and I am an animator at Missionary Childhood and Adolescence. I am proud to say that this apostolate has taught me to give precedence to the Lord, to serve in the Church with love and joy, as I have had the opportunity to work with children and adolescents from peripheral and vulnerable neighborhoods. I worked with the parishes of Santa Lucia and now I am in that of the Immaculate Heart of Marie parish of the Archdiocese of Villavicencio, where I accompanied some children, victims of violence from different regions of the country, who were moved here for this reason. I carried out this accompaniment in the family, with my husband and my daughters, experiencing each development, each mission entrusted to me. I experienced various moments of missionary formation, especially in the School for Animators of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence (ESAIM), which helped me to reawaken charity

and solidarity towards the whole world. I also had the great joy of reliving the experience of the Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence, which encouraged me to live the gifts and charisms that the Holy Spirit gave me in prayer, sacrifice and offering. Thus, I encourage all animators to live this beautiful experience with the children and adolescents they accompany, in which Jesus is present in each child and adolescent who smiles. I also take this opportunity to encourage children and adolescents from different parishes to live this beautiful experience by joining this Pontifical Society.

*Evelin Herrera
Animator of the MCA
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish*



MALI



I am 14 years old, I give thanks to God
I thank our benefactors who helped us

to make this festival* happen. Despite the difficulties, we made some good journeys and the meeting were beautiful. All the meals were good. The lectures on the story of the two brothers, Cain and Abel, allowed us to discover what we avoided in order to have peace. We were also able to get an overview of the whole Bible. The lecturer, Abbot Pakoné Dieudonné Dakouo, introduced



us to the reading of biblical texts, clarifying the link between the Old and New Testaments.

The games on fraternity were very interesting and the sports activities were also fun. I would like to highlight the visit to some important people in the village of Goualala. The recreational evenings on sketches and choreographies stimulated us a lot to be peacemakers. These are all things that I really enjoyed during our festival! But one thing disappointed me: the transport problem. Our trip coincided with the crises, especially the fuel crises, and so there were not enough seats in the cars. May the Lord abundantly bless the Society of the Holy Childhood!

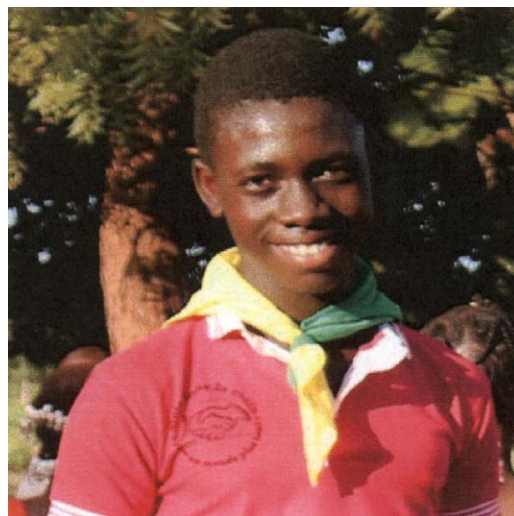


Noëlle DJIBO
Candidate for DEF (2023)

* Arts, culture and sports festival held every two years involving the children and the adolescents of the movement "Friends of Kizito".

Regarding the Friends of Kizito 2022 festival in Goualala, I would first of all like to emphasise the large participation of us children, around 400. Then, the different presentations were appreciated, and the children from each parish wanted to come first in the competitions on choreography, theatrical staging, poetry, folk dances...Finally, the conferences on peace and education edified me a lot. After this festival, I will do everything I can to read the stories of the biblical figures. What I loved least was the lack of time to do some activities

Jean Firmin COULIBALY,
14 years old, junior school





NICARAGUA

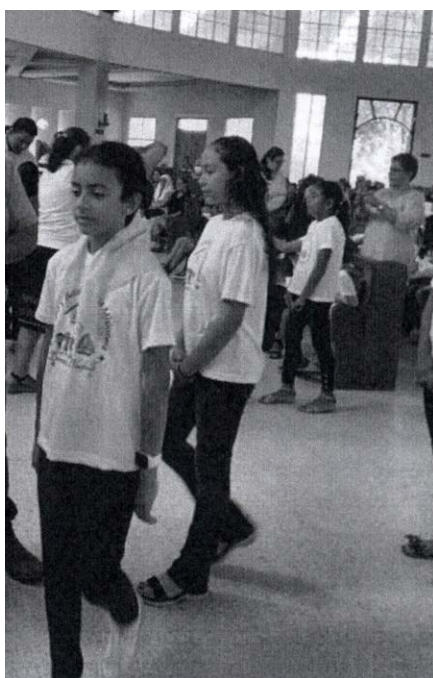
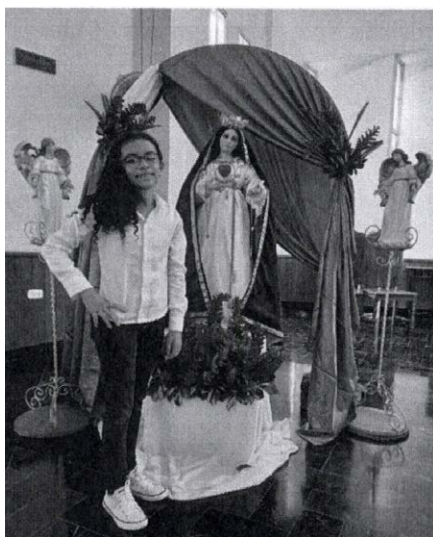


My name is Junimar Giovenni Díaz Centeno, I am 11 years old, my parents name is Júnior Geovanni Díaz y Dalimar Centeno. I study at St John Baptist de la Salle Catholic School, and I am in the sixth grade. Since childhood I have always liked to participate in the life of the Church, because I wanted to grow up and be part of the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence. At the age of 5, I joined the 'green wheat' group with joy and enthusiasm, and I was always encouraged and very active, participating in the parish missionary groups

in the city. At 7 years of age I was appointed group leader, I participated in the parish Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence, during which I was in charge of the animation of the songs, the activities and I read the word of God for the first time during the 'Sunday Eucharist. I had two consecrations, one of Green Wheat and the other of Ripe Wheat. The fact of consecrating myself to Missionary Childhood makes me feel full of missionary spirit and

I also love helping children, as the motto of Monsignor Charles Auguste teaches: Children help children. I love sharing with children. I love participating in the shows, dances and activities planned by the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence. At the moment, I am a member of the Missionary Childhood and Adolescent Choir – Jesus the Good Shepherd – and I proclaim the Word in my parish. I would like many children to participate in these activities and for their parents to support them as my parents supported me and taught me the journey of Jesus and Mary our mother.

Junimar Geovanni Díaz Centeno



BURKINA FASO



My name is Sylvie SANGARE, from the parish of Wakara, in the Diocese of Dédougou. I am in fifth grade. I was very happy to be able to participate in the Missionary Childhood Week. We prayed, sang and even played. We also ate well. I am proud to be part of the CV-AV movement. Thanks to our chaplain and our 'councillor nun' for the support. I hope that all the children will join the movement to learn about Christ and be missionaries.

Sylvie SANGARE

I am a young Muslim girl displaced in Koudougou because of insecurity. I was particularly touched by what our Christian brothers and sisters organized in December. What they call the Christmas party for the benefit of children in need and the children of internally displaced persons. This day was very nice for me because I was welcomed together with my friends. I want to thank all those who came up with this idea, which gives a smile back to us children who suffer in the streets or are in very difficult situations. May God give them the strength to continue this work.





POLAND



We are part of the POSI missionary group in Domanice Kolonia. This year we also participated in the action of Star Singers. Preparations began at the beginning of December. This year our missionary family consisted of 54 people. We were divided into eight groups. Together with our parents, we prepared costumes, stars and piggy banks. Traditionally, on 26 December, we gathered for Holy Mass at 10am. At the end of the Eucharist we were solemnly sent by our parish priest Fr Tomasz Czarnocki to bring the Good News to the faithful of our parish.

"Missionary singing" gives us great joy. We know that our actions bring good to the life of the mission world, which we hasten to help. This year we sang for Papua New Guinea. But we do even more good in the families we visit. This is evidenced by the words of gratitude we hear, singing Christmas carols with us or ... tears, secretly wiped away by family members during our visit. We hear of loneliness, of the loss of loved ones. And at least for a moment we contribute to an atmosphere of joy and festive warmth. So we really feel that we are creating a community.

Julka Koć, Paulina Kaczorek, Wiktoria Wróbel

We started our preparations at the end of November. At that time, we were looking for volunteers to take part in the upcoming "Star Singers" campaign. We managed to gather as many as nine groups. In December, we created our outfits and attributes. The period before Christmas was a time of intense rehearsals. December 26 during the Holy Mass at 11.00 we were officially presented as mission singers for Father Łukasz, our parish priest. He introduced the parishioners to the idea of the Singers. At the end of this Holy Mass, we were solemnly sent out. On December 28th, we gathered for Mass at 9.00 a.m. and then went out into the streets to tell people about the birth of Jesus and the children in Papua- New Guinea. Some people were very moved. I am delighted to be able to help my peers in Oceania in this way"

Agata



BOLIVIA



On Missionary Childhood and Adolescence Day, I learnt a lot thanks to the



many children we met during the visit to families. This year our motto was “Little, yet great witnesses of the Resurrected Christ” and it taught us that, although we are young, we can speak of God to the whole world; in Africa, in Oceania, in all the countries where God is spoken of and where there is a need for us to do so too. Thus, we must listen to the message, so that the whole world speaks of God and lives as He wants. I experienced this day with much enthusiasm and joy – I feel like a little witness of the Resurrection of Jesus. For this reason, I must go out and proclaim it.

*Santiago Cristóbal
Vera Pérez Saint Peter and Saint Paul Parish
Diocese of Coroico*

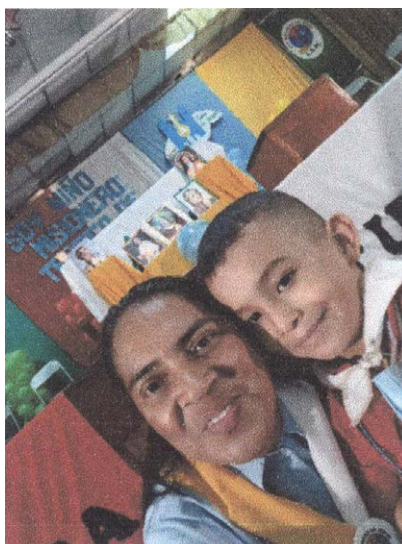
World Mission Day is an annual day during which the Catholic Church promotes the missionary spirit and Christian values. It is celebrated all over the world on the penultimate Sunday of October with the aim of supporting missionaries in their work of evangelization among the poorest. The purpose of this Day is to remind us of the responsibility of all Christians in the area of evangelization. Even if we are small, we must encourage people to share what we have with our missionary brothers and sisters around the world, because there are many places where the love of God and the joy of living as brothers and sisters are still not known.



*Cielo G. Rocha García
10 years old
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
Diocese of Oruro*



HONDURAS



My name is Yafet, I am 6 years old and I have always been

part of Missionary Childhood because my mother has been an animator since she was young and, therefore, she allowed me to participate. Ever since she was pregnant, she has never stopped being an animator and, even when I was a baby, she took me with her. Now I go to school and I was lucky to have been called by God.

I always accompany my mother to Missionary Childhood activities, along with my grandmother or aunt, and I participated in a lot of meetings. They look after me, encourage me and watch over me. At school I share a lot with my classmates and tell them about the Word of God. I am very happy with the grace I have received and feel very close to my little classmates in the MCA. We are friends, one family, we go on mission

together and share a lot during the meetings. I invite all children not to be afraid, Jesus is waiting for them.

Yafet

My name is Rubenia Ayala, animator of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence. When I received this vocation many years ago, I felt very loved by the Lord Jesus, who entrusted me with this mission of educating children and adolescents in the faith. I had the opportunity to follow different groups. The children have grown up, some are professionals today, others are very committed to the Church, as animators, others participate in the choir, in the readings and in the coordination of some pastoral activities, and I am very proud to see them serve and to see their commitment to mission. I started my mission again a year ago. In fact, I had to stop because I had to deal with a very difficult situation that affected my family, and for two years I took care of my relatives. Nevertheless, we saw God's hand touch our lives. Today I again animate the different groups of the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence. In the parish we have welcomed many animators, experienced and new: my grandchildren are part of this missionary action. The oldest is 15 years old and helps me a lot; she is the one who takes care of all the technical stuff, making videos, postcards, invitations, and at meetings, she is the one who helps me with the films or videos, by projecting them. It is a wonderful group and I consider them as my children and they have all been a great source of joy for me.

Rubenia Ayala



BURUNDI



My name is Thierry NKURUNZIZA and I am in my fifth year. I have belonged to the Missionary Childhood group for two years. During a long illness in hospital, I met a group of children who came to visit the sick in the hospital, especially the children. They introduced themselves as children of the Missionary Childhood of the parish. Their motto is to help other children who are in need. They brought us biscuits, soap, sugar and other kinds of food. I noticed the joy, spirit of love and compassion in them. Therefore, I decided that when I fully recovered, I would join group. When I returned from the hospital, I asked one of the children, part of Missionary Childhood, how I could join this group. He replied that they met once a month, that is, on the second Sunday of the month, and that every baptized child between the ages of 7 and 14 was eligible to join the group. Once I finally left the hospital some time later, I joined the group. What I liked about Missionary Childhood is the joy, love and solidarity that is shown towards other children, especially those in need. I also learned how to say prayers, how to behave decently in church, how to be polite...In addition, they teach us games, poems and we can show our talents through dances, songs and missionary riddles. I am also happy about the procession of the star singers. We visit every family that makes up our basic church community. We have organized the children's vigil in our basic church community every Saturday at 2 p.m. Many missionary children and others also attend this vigil in large numbers to pray the missionary rosary and share the Word of God. Many parents testify that their children have transformed their bad habits thanks to this children's vigil.



Thierry NKURUNZIZA



CANADA

(English sector)



THE PILGRIMAGE WALK WITH CHRIST, JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

As part of the annual Catholic Education Week celebration, April 30 to May 5, 2023, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board organized their 2023 Pilgrimage walk that took place on April 30, 2023, with the theme: "WALK WITH CHRIST, JUSTICE FOR THE POOR."

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board in Ontario, Canada, has a custom of organizing a pilgrimage walk every year to raise funds for the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood to support mission countries. A team from the national office of the HCA had the privilege to join over 1,600 students and their teachers in this important exercise of Faith and Mission.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist that preceded the walk took place in the Auditorium of Cathedral high school, and His Excellency Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton Diocese presided. In his homily, Bishop Douglas said to the young people that in life there are difficulties, and one can even feel very lonely sometimes, but even during the most challenging times, Jesus the Good Shepherd is always walking with us, and young people should never lose hope in Him. Before the concluding rite, his Excellency blessed the 2023 Catholic Education Week Plaque painted by a student.

The Director of Education, Mr. David Hansen thanked all who were present to support the pilgrimage walk, including the students, parents, and teachers. In his address to the young people, he reflected on the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, "Christus Vivit" saying "Do not leave until tomorrow to contribute your energy, your audacity." He told them to take bold steps and use their talents and creativity to transform the world.

After the final blessing, the Vice-Principal of Cathedral High School, Ms. Andrea McCabe directed the students to go out in batches to begin the pilgrimage walk with Christ, Justice for the Poor. This was to avoid congestion at the doors of the auditorium, as the number of participants was great. The 8-Kilometer walk ended at St. Anthony Daniel Catholic Elementary School.



*Sr. Juliana Tanya, FMM
National Secretary
Pontifical Association of
the Holy Childhood*

THE DIOCESE OF NALGONDA, A BIRTHPLACE FOR VOCATIONS

INDIA

The Diocese of Nalgonda was named after the town, Nalgonda which is the District capital as well as the diocesan head-quarters. There are 71 parishes, 425 Mission stations, 48 schools and 16 boarding homes. The Diocese of Nalgonda is one of the poorest regions of Telengana State in India. It comprises of the Diocese of Nalgonda with seven civil districts. Most of people are marginalized farmers and landless laborers.

The Diocese of Nalgonda was erected in 1976 and in the last 31 years there is a steady progress in the life of the people. The catholic population has grown from 40,000 to 72,000.

There is a drastic growth in vocations so much that the diocese of Nalgonda is birthplace for vocations. As the number of vocations is steadily on the rise, as many candidates are joining priestly and religious life, there is a good supply of personnel from this diocese to many dioceses and religious congregations.

SITUATION OF THE CHILDREN

There are about 15,500 children below 14 years of age and their growth in faith and as good citizens is a priority for the diocese. Due to the continued drought conditions, the economy of the people has grown insufficiently and due to this the parents and the children suffer with various problems such as malnutrition, poverty and shortage of basic needs. Many send their children to work to add a few rupees to the family income. Many drop out from schools due to problems at home and lack of proper food and other basic needs.

MISSIONARY SERVICE

Christian faith is inculcated in these children in the basic Christian communities, parishes and



Sr. Maddalena Hoang Ngoc

schools. Some of them are put in boarding homes to keep away from harmful situations. They teach children prayers, prepare them for reception of sacraments and teach them the basics of the Bible and salvation history, conduct catechism classes, organize story writing, dance, drama, song, music competitions to make their faith element active. Missionary Animation is given through various programmes. Children distribute leaflets on Christ, the saints to other children and to people of other faiths in the locality.

In February, they conducted the Holy Childhood day in all the parishes and institutions. It was also seen as the world day of children. They gave special emphasis on basis faith that every Christian should inculcated and make a path for the better future with gospel values.



was received into the association of the Holy Childhood

Association of the Holy Childhood.

Object.

To gather Christian children around the Infant Jesus, to direct their attention to this most amiable Model, and to offer them an easy means to become, like Him, from their very childhood, the saviours of the most abandoned children.

Means.

To procure the salvation of the outcast children of China the association endeavours 1. to secure Baptism for children in danger of death; 2. to buy those that are for sale; 3. to bring these children up in already existing orphanages; 4. to found new homes for them.

Members.

Every child may be a member from the time of its Baptism.

Duties.

1. To recite daily one Hail Mary with the invocation "Holy Virgin Mary pray for us and for the poor little heathen children". 2. To pay one cent a month or twelve cents a year.

Spiritual Graces.

1. Two Masses will be said every month on an altar dedicated to the Infant Jesus or to the B. Virgin for the intentions of the members, especially for those who have not made their First Communion. 2. The Mass of the Holy Childhood between Christmas and the Purification will be said for the living members. 3. A Mass between the second Sunday after Easter and the first of June for the deceased Associates. 4. Numerous indulgences, both plenary and partial, may be gained by the Associates, Collectors, and Promoters of the Work. All these indulgences are applicable to the Holy Souls and may be gained by children who have not yet made their first Holy Communion.



PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS