

H C A M I S S I O N M O D E R A T O R

The Mission Moderator (M.M.) works with the faculty, pastors and students to promote Mission awareness so that young people may be educated in this essential aspect of the Church's life. The **Holy Childhood Association (HCA)** is a Pontifical Mission Society that assists educators in their mission efforts in teaching children about their responsibility to others. HCA serves the Church worldwide and focuses entirely on children. The three goals of HCA are: 1) **Educating** to appreciate and learn about other cultures and the universal Church (global solidarity); 2) **Providing** necessities in developing countries to promote God's Kingdom and bring hope to the poor and 3) **Strengthening** one's relationship with God through sacrifice. For students in grades 9-12, young adults and adults, the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)** is the Pontifical Mission Society through which these goals are achieved.

The greatest gift that can be shared is the gift of faith. Jesus Christ, the first missionary, taught this virtue by His daily actions and in His many sermons. When He founded His Church, He gave it a **MISSION**, - to go share and teach all nations about the Good News of Salvation. This Mission is carried out by missionaries abroad working in areas in which the Church is non-existent and by local missionaries praying daily, making personal sacrifices, and offering financial support for people in the mission lands.

A M.M. can be a principal, teacher, DRE, volunteer parent, RCIA director, etc. The M.M. encourages and assists educators in teaching Missiology in the curriculum and their role in supporting Mission efforts. The school M.M. and the Parish School of Religion (PSR) M.M. can work together when possible to share ideas, promotional and educational materials and program information. The M.M. provides ways for students or individuals to respond to the Missions personally and as a group, encouraging them to share their spiritual and material resources with people less fortunate. The M.M. should try to stay informed about Missions by reviewing Mission publications (Maryknoll, Columban, Salesians, Comboni Missions, etc.), maintaining a relationship with the local Missions Office, and through the media. Be sure to contact the Missions Office to designate your M.M.

THE M. M. WILL STRIVE TO . . .

- Inspire in teachers an enthusiasm and desire to promote mission awareness among the students/individuals.
- Encourage teachers to develop in the students/individuals the habit of frequently praying and sacrificing for the poor in developing countries.
- Assist teachers in making mission education an integral part of the total educational curriculum by infusing mission topics, ideas and news into the classroom curriculum when possible.

- Encourage and initiate mission programs and activities in the school or PSR, such as special liturgies, prayer services, assemblies, fund-raising, etc. – so as to foster greater mission participation among teachers and students.
- Keep teachers and students informed of news, mission materials, and activities originated by the National or Diocesan Office by distributing materials, duplicating newsletters and articles, making announcements, etc. Almost everything sent to the M.M. is to be shared with students and/or teachers.
- Encourage teachers and students/individuals to participate in all HCA/SPOF mission programs.
- Order HCA/SPOF materials as needed.
- Remit collections/donations to the Diocesan Missions Office.
- Maintain communication with the Diocesan Mission Office in order to be updated on new HCA/SPOF programs.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Participate in the Mission Prayer Partners Program. (Frequent prayers for missionaries from our Diocese and the poor they serve.)
- Share mission stories and facts with your students/individuals. Show videos borrowed from the Missions Office, share articles from a Mission magazine or stories in the news. (You will be provided with a selection of available videos in the M. M. mailing at the beginning of the school year or anytime upon request.)
- Invite a missionary/ host a mission speaker/presentation FREE!
- Plan a fund-raiser. For example, have a Toy Sale where students donate used toys for other children to purchase. Left over toys can be donated to J.O.I.N. or any local organization who in turn distributes them to area children in less fortunate circumstances.
- Plan a Prayer Service for missionaries and the missions.
- Help students plan a **Mission Day**, or monthly mission day – raffles, collecting stamps, dress up/dress down days, hunger banquet, etc.
- Regularly post mission pictures and activities on a prominent bulletin board.
- Encourage participation in HCA's artwork contest.
- October is Missions Month – hold a special activity or event. Each year, the first Friday in October is HCA Day.
- Plan an observance of World Mission Sunday for your classroom/school.
- Assign a report/scrap-booking project on a mission land.
- Assign an analysis of **“To the Ends of the Earth”** (a Pastoral Statement on World Mission by the Catholic Bishops of the U.S.) then challenge the students to develop a plan of action. Contact the Missions Office for a copy of the statement.
- If you have a Campus Ministry program, make Missions a focus area.

You are not limited to these possibilities. Use your creativity to plan a unique event or program for your school!