

August, 2009

Dear Principals and DREs:

My simple heart is full of love and gratitude to all of you, your teachers, students and their families for the love of oneness in the family of the Blessed Trinity and the Holy Family. Truly speaking, this first year passed by like a lightning flash that illuminated the atmosphere.

I am using this opportunity to express to you all how grateful I am when you invite me to give a presentation to your students. The warm welcome and help you give me makes it a joy for me to talk to the students who are always so eager to listen and to learn more about their faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that “Becoming a disciple of Jesus means accepting the invitation to belong to God’s family, to live in conformity with his way of life” (No. 2233). Mission education teaches our children about global realities that help them understand that people everywhere are part of God’s family. This provides concrete examples of how missionaries everywhere walk in the footsteps of Jesus from cradle to grave.

Mission work is for all who are baptized. The U.S. bishops tell us in their 2005 letter “Teaching the Spirit of Mission *Ad Gentes*”:

All Catholics, because of their reception into the Church at baptism, should fully participate and cooperate in Christ’s ongoing mission “to the nation.”

Every Catholic who has had a personal encounter with Christ has the heart of a missionary. Whether missionaries are priest, religious, or lay people, it is Christ in the Eucharist, and their unity in the Holy Spirit, that sustains and inspires them.

In a spirit of respectful communion, Catholics must bring the promise of God’s gifts before all peoples around the world.

Based on trust built through love, all Catholics reach out as missionaries and confidently announce the Good News of Christ with words and deeds.

Catholics relive today this grace of Pentecost and say “Yes!” to mission.

This calls for global solidarity, which recognizes the interconnectedness of all of life. The concepts of God’s family take on new meaning when we see the faces of our brothers and sisters suffering from wars, floods and other natural disasters—in a nutshell, poverty. Children suffer the most.

If we truly believe that we are members of God’s family, then these are our children. We are one family of God and we see Christ’s face in the face of each of these children. Their sufferings become our sufferings, their joys our joys, their hopes our hopes and their dreams our dreams.

The primary goal of mission education is to foster a missionary spirit in the lives of our students. The essence of my presentation helps to broaden their worldview of poverty, suffering and the lack of basic amenities of life that so many people must endure throughout the world. It is important that our children grow to understand how all of humanity is connected by the face of Jesus.

Mark 12:38–44 and Luke 3:10–18 are Holy Bible verses that are good to reflect on because they offer important insights into what it means to be a missionary and a steward. These scriptural passages teach us about the need for respect, love, compassion and can help us teach children to share their gifts and talents with their brethren everywhere.

You all have helped in various ways by sending checks in the name of the “HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION” that go to care, feed and help provide clean drinking water, medication, school supplies, shelter, and clothes for so many children on this planet. This very act of compassion from every one of you portrays that maternal and paternal instinct that every child is so dear to your hearts. Like the wise African proverb says: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

My prayer for you all is that God, who is never out done in generosity, endow you all with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and provide you with the choicest blessings now and in the future. Thank you for all of your support!

I hope you consider inviting me to give a presentation to your students in the fall.

Sincerely in Christ,

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