

KOREA NATIONAL OFFICE



The Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood in Korea was established in 1965 and initiated its activities in 1987 by recruiting members and publishing bulletins for children. Since then, by conducting education and distributing materials for mission, the national office has contributed in formation of catechists and pastors, who will accompany children in their journey towards a more mature missionary consciousness. To help children in North Korea, where still there is a division, nationwide tour was held. Also, a group named 'Pilgrimage of Missionary Children' was founded to carry out activities such as Three Kings events, pilgrimages on foot, volunteer works and programs for missionary experiences.



P. THOMAS SHIN WOO SICK
*National Director PMS
Korea*

Every year the national office organizes a summer camp and invites children from all over the country to encourage them to discover and promote missionary awareness, communion, and spirit of fraternal sharing. Children participating in the camp experience the missionary spirit of apostles who were sent to all over the world, and this brings their attention to Gospel and mission. On

the last day of camp, paper coupons called 'talent' collected by children through programs are exchanged to real money to help children in mission territories. While drawing interests to the needs of children who are materially poor, children practice to carry out inter-exchange of charity and missionary dynamism by opening themselves to one another.



COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Holy Childhood in Korea by reducing many opportunities of face-to-face meetings for members such as Sunday Schools and camps. However, the national office is seeking ways to renew the Holy Childhood and missionary animation suitable for 'Untact' era (a combination of the prefix 'un' and the word 'contact', 'Untact' is a way of doing things without direct contact with others) by developing digital contents and preparing working methods for constant dialogues with members.

HAYANG-E OFFICIAL CHARACTER FOR THE HOLY CHILDHOOD IN KOREA



Celebrating 100 years of the elevation to Pontifical of the Society of Holy Childhood, the national office made its own character to promote children's awareness of the society and to increase their interests in missionary work. 'HAYANG-E' by its pronunciation, has meaning of 'pure and innocent lamb loved by God'. The crown on top of the head symbolizes shape of 'children helping children' from the logo of the national office. The logo of the Vatican was also inserted into the chest to give the meaning of the Holy Children, acting at the service of the Pope.

On World Mission Sunday, national director and crew of the national office met children in Guseong parish in diocese of Suwon. A chance for a lively conversation enriched communion by introducing the Holy Childhood to children and sharing stickers of 'HAYANG-E'. Children who were attracted to the charism of the society joined the Holy Childhood,



and promised to participate in prayers and sacrifices for the poor children around the world as missionary children.

By using and placing character in bulletins and media, it is expected that children will actively communicate with the Holy Childhood in Korea with more interest and joy.

ECO-FRIENDLY BAGS FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARTFELT LETTERS

Although it was not able to hold camp in 2021 due to the prolonged COVID-19, presents with eco-bag and letter from the national office were sent to every member of the Holy Childhood in Korea, so that they could feel the bond with the society and speak about the spirit of the society to their own friends in daily lives.

In the letter, we wrote how much we miss them and that we are looking forward to seeing each other soon. The eco-bag was printed with the logo of the Holy Childhood in Korea to promote solidarity among members.

LITTLE MISSIONARIES IN...

Also it was noted that we hope them to love and take care of our Common Home while using this eco-bag.

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE WITNESSES

Making efforts to cultivate missionary consciousness in children from their early days to realize the importance of love and universal solidarity, the Holy Childhood in Korea is playing essential roles through many activities.

The bulletin named “Gyohwangcheong Cumnamoo (Pope’s children)” is published and distributed to all members of the Holy Childhood and also to Sunday Schools in each parish of Korea. It carries



stories of saints and news of children in mission territories, which makes children in Korea to imitate saints who witness of faith in their lives and build spiritual communion with children in need all over



the world.

Moreover, children send notes to the national office to share their stories with other friends about encountering and experiencing Jesus in their daily lives. They become ‘witnesses’ and true believers who let the universal missionary spirit grow in their hearts.



We would like to share stories of two friends; who pledged daily prayers and sacrifices to witness Jesus, and whose missionary zeal has been awakened by performing activities in the Holy Childhood of love and service.



It was World Mission Day and I was an altar server. Father Thomas, national director of the Holy Childhood in Korea gave us a homily after the reading. At the beginning of his talk he showed us a video. On the video, a girl was praying in church saying “I hope children living in poor countries have enough food, go to school, and live happily”. And she asked Jesus, “Why do children living in poor countries have to earn a living without being able to eat or go to school every day? Why isn’t God fair?” In return, Jesus told her, “Since we know that there are many friends living such a hard time, why don’t we start with the small things we can do in our daily lives and help them?”

When I heard this message, I promised myself to pray for friends in need and not to throw away foods. Starting with these small things, I will find out other things I can do to help children in need. I wish the day comes when every child in poor countries are happy as soon as possible.

Esther OH Si Young

11 years

Guseong parish, Diocese of Suwon



The Holy Childhood, my first extracurricular activity that I joined out of curiosity, has given me unforgettable memories of my childhood. I have learned and grew up a lot by joining this association.

One of the best memories is when we visited the Latin America Cultural Center. We teamed up with other school students and learned about Latin America's history and culture, and even tasted their traditional food. I was glad to be able to enjoy such an opportunity to enjoy the cultures of distant countries up close.

Also, I was able to have a deeper faith. Thanks to the Holy Childhood's exclusive praying method using the five fingers, I developed good praying habits which are still helping to pray today.

On top of all, I learned how to lead a group as a leader, share thoughts and perspectives with my friends, think about different perspectives, listen to and respect different opinions.

Eventually, the days I took part in the Holy Childhood will always remain on me as a warm, interesting and special memory of my life, and I thank all sisters and friends who made me these precious moments.

*Juliana Park Seo Yoon
16 years
Lycée International Xavier in Seoul*

