

Children Helping Children:

by: *Denis C. Grasska, Assistant Editor, The Southern Cross*
P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138-1869, (858) 490-8267



SAN DIEGO – For the second consecutive year, the diocesan Office for the Missions has recognized local children for their support of the Church’s missionary efforts.

The Missions Office held a special Mass March 24 at St. Catherine Laboure Parish.

At the Mass, awards were given to representatives of more than 10 parochial schools and religious education programs for supporting the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) in calendar year 2008.

Following the Mass, some 160 people, including students, teachers and principals, gathered in the parish hall for lunch.

The HCA, which is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies, provides kindergarteners through eighth-graders with the opportunity to help their counterparts in mission lands, both with their prayers and monetary donations.

Father Joe Miller, SVD, director of the Missions Office, said the Mass, award ceremony and reception were intended “to show our appreciation for all their prayers, sacrifices and hard work they do in order to raise money for the Holy Childhood Association.”



“I hope the children feel proud of themselves, knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of other children who are less fortunate and who struggle with poverty,” said Sister Eva Rodriguez, SJS, associate director of the Missions Office and HCA director for the Diocese of San Diego. “I hope they are able to recognize in themselves the call to be missionaries, a call which is instilled in every baptized Catholic.”

Father Miller said he hopes those who attended this year’s Mass will share their experience with their friends, so that even more children can participate next year.

Pictured, Father Miller presents an HCA award to a local child dressed in cultural attire.

For more information, visit www.holychildhoodusa.org or contact the Missions Office at (858) 490-8250.