

# Membership Prayer Service and Commitment Ceremony

This service may be adapted to your particular parish/school needs. If everyone in the religious education program and school participates, you may choose to begin with a procession to enhance the service. Consider the following for this procession: two candle bearers and students bearing a globe precede the prayer service leader and other students carrying symbols related to the Missions, baskets containing HCA membership cards or pictures of the student-members.

## INTRODUCTION – LEADER

Today we gather for a special celebration. We remember Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we do. We celebrate our membership in HCA and our commitment to be instruments of peace and messengers of Jesus' love. Now we join our minds, hearts and voices in prayer.

## OPENING PRAYER – LEADER

In remembrance of our Baptism, we begin our prayer as always, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, our Father, hear us as we ask for Your loving help for all those who have not heard the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, or experienced His love. Holy Spirit, touch our hearts so that we may have the courage to share our faith with children all over the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

## READING JOHN 12:26

### COMMITMENT CEREMONY – LEADER

As members of HCA, you, along with thousands of other students across this country and around the world, will

promise to help make a difference in the lives of children. You are asked to share the gift of faith you have received and to offer your prayers, sacrifices and love so that other children will come to know Jesus and His great love. You are asked to learn from the children you help and to allow those children to touch your hearts. If you are prepared to give witness to the Gospel, to be an Ambassador for Jesus, and to share God's love with children in need in the Developing World, please stand.

### LEADER

Will you do your loving best to support HCA so that children in the Developing World may come to know the Good News of Jesus and experience His love and forgiveness?

**All: I will.**

### LEADER

Will you remember each day in prayer your sisters and brothers who suffer from hunger, disease, homelessness, and the effects of war and violence in our world?

**All: I will.**

### LEADER

Will you pray for those who do not know Jesus so that they may find hope in His love for each of us?

**All: I will.**

### LEADER

As HCA members — ambassadors for Jesus — let our first act be to join our hands in prayer.

**All: Our Father....**

### LEADER

Let us ask Mary's intercession to help us be missionaries for her Son by our actions and through our prayers and sacrifices.

**All: Hail Mary...**

### LEADER

The peace of the Lord be with each of you.

**All: And also with you.**

### LEADER

Let us offer each other a sign of peace as we go forth as HCA members, as ambassadors for Jesus — as missionaries..

