

Grades
to
K2



It's OUR World

HCA Mission News  Focus: Nepal  Advent '09

Nepal's Special Children

“Your help, prayers and faith support our ministry to the children of Nepal,” said Sister Clementia. “We thank you for your special gifts for these precious children.”

Sister Clementia is one of many missionaries who care for children with special needs in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. With help from HCA, these missionaries educate the children and teach them how to care for themselves.

Each day begins with prayer and is followed by classes in reading, math and writing. Some of the children also receive physical therapy. These missionaries have even helped some young people participate in the “Special Olympics.”

Christmas is a very special time at the center. After Mass, the children exchange gifts with each other.

^ Children participate in physical therapy.

< These children are learning colors by sorting blocks.

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Did You Know?

The Sherpas of Nepal hang prayer flags to send happiness, long life, and fortune across the countryside. Sherpas are a group of people who live mainly in the country of Nepal, in the Himalaya mountains. Living in mountain villages as high as 14,000 feet, Sherpas hike everywhere and carry almost everything on their backs — even televisions and refrigerators! Some children even climb 1,500-foot slopes (that's about 150 stories), to get to school. Most Sherpas work as guides for mountain climbers.

Get the facts...

Nepal

Nepal is located in Asia, between China and India.

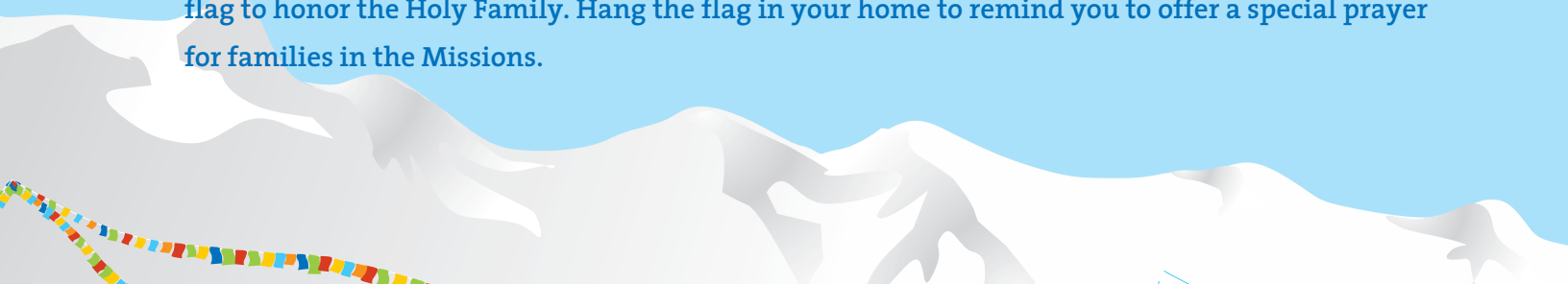
The country is about the size of the state of Arkansas.

The climate of Nepal varies from cool summers and severe winters in the north to subtropical summers and mild winters in the south.

The highest point in Nepal is Mount Everest. The mountain rises more than 29,000 feet above sea level.



The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas. It is dedicated to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and their life together as a family. In the space provided, design a prayer flag to honor the Holy Family. Hang the flag in your home to remind you to offer a special prayer for families in the Missions.



Christmas Artwork Contest

Announcing the 2009-2010 Holy Childhood Association (HCA) Christmas Artwork Contest! You could see your artwork appear as Christmas e-greetings on HCA's website for kids – www.hcakids.org – and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2010. Twenty-three drawings will be chosen as winners and their artwork will be reproduced as 2010 HCA Christmas e-greetings. One grand-prize winner will be selected and his / her artwork featured on the official Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. All winners receive a commemorative plaque. Contest winners will be notified in spring 2010 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2010. To enter, please complete the official entry form (available at www.hcakids.org), attach it to your artwork, and mail to: HCA Christmas Artwork Contest, 70 West 36th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Advent Mission Prayer

Dear Lord,

We pray for children in the Missions who have not yet heard the “Good News” of the birth of Your only Son, Jesus, and for the missionaries who invite families to learn more about the Catholic faith. May our prayers and the offerings we make to HCA in Your name help bring the love and peace of Jesus to children everywhere. Amen.

Dear Polly

“Enclosed is a check for \$500. This amount was raised by the students through various activities for HCA. We were very happy to see that students in kindergarten through grade five were so concerned for mission children. We pray they will continue to work hard for HCA next year.”

Sincerely in Christ,
Sister M. Enedina Tirres, CHS
Fifth Grade Teacher
Our Lady of the Valley School
El Paso, Texas

