

MISSIONARY CHILDREN, THE PRIDE OF SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH

This past 18th of October, 2015, World Sunday for Missions, Saint Wenceslaus Parish in the Archdiocese of Bogota, Colombia, in a special ceremony presided over by Father Libardo Valencia Hincapie, the fourth consecration of missionary children for the service of the church was carried out. After a year of formation 102 children received the insignias of missionary children (green scarf, code of arms and a shirt), 35 adolescents received the insignia of adolescent missionaries (blue scarf, code of arms and a shirt) and 15 young adults, who have been preparing as leaders, received insignias and special distinctions that credit (award) them as catechists of the INFANCIA MISIONERA DE LA PARROQUIA – Missionary Children of the Parish.

The history of the parish's participation in this program began in 2011 when under the direction of Father Libardo, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus, the missions of the parish were brought together, and this project of the Papal Missionary Work was put in place. Every Sunday the children and young adults receive spiritual formation instruction and then are sent out as missionaries to their own homes, to the streets and to their schools. During these four years approximately 400 children and young adults have been consecrated as missionaries.

Besides this, the adolescent missionaries are the collaborators of the actual evangelization of their age group, evangelizing through social networks resulting in some 40,000 friends throughout all the world. They are also the means of consulting and searching for spiritual advice among their peers.

HISTORY OF THE INFANCIA MISIONERA PROGRAM AND PLAN E

The Children Missionary Program is a Pontifical Mission Work which is present in the 5 continents and in more than 150 countries. It is a project where children help other children. It was founded in 1843 by *Monsignor Carlos Augusto de Forbin-Janson*, the Bishop of Nancy, France, who was motivated after seeing the difficulties the children of China were having during that time. For that reason he invited other children to help them with prayers and offerings (gifts). Thus was born the Holy Infancy, a work that has been spread throughout the planet.

In the world it has been in existence for 170 years and it arrived in Colombia in 1873. In the parish dedicated to the martyr Saint Wenceslaus, this mission began at the beginnings of 2011 as a project by our pastor with the papal calling to foster more mission work during that year. It has brought together many youngsters with soccer talents who formed "Saint Wenceslaus Soccer Club" and through that medium to bring them closer to God. They do their missionary work through soccer, the most popular sport in Latin America.

During all of that time there has been developing a pastoral work calling the children and the adolescents to conform with the Plan E, the Evangelizing Plan of the ARCHDIOCESE OF BOGOTA "SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD".

MISSION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PASTORAL GROUP

MISSION:

To advance the spirit and missionary formation of the children and the adolescents in evangelization through their prayers, sacrifices and gifts. They then can demonstrate their solidarity by helping with the most urgent needs of the children who suffer.

ACTIVITIES:

Academics – Formation of ethics and values

Methods – Games and role-playing

Spirituality – formation in Christian and moral doctrine

Social – Humanitarian help with purchases the families may need

Service to the parish to help plant seeds for vocations for the priesthood, religious and missionary life

Humbly submitted,

Walter Montoya,
Coordinator