

## Construction of Two Chapels— \$3,400

Two of the indigenous Shuar communities in Playa Prieta, Ecuador, have expressed desires to build chapels after the Sisters preached to them of the Faith. Help the Helpless will raise funds to cover materials for the roof, columns, and foundations of these chapels.

## School Supplies for Children— \$2,447

Children of the poorest communities in Ecuador have no suitable supplies or materials for the new school year beginning in April. (Because of the rainy season, the school year in Ecuador runs from April to January). This project will fund the purchase of supplies for 100 children: notebooks, pencils, textbooks, and other assorted materials.

## Backpacks for School Children — \$3,000

This project will raise money to buy 100 backpacks for poor children in Guayaquil, Ecuador, beginning school this April.

## Monstrance for Adoration Chapel— \$1,400

This is a continuation of a project we have helped raise funds for previously: the construction of a new adoration chapel in Rio Chico, Ecuador. This chapel has now been completed, with your help! The next step is to purchase a monstrance so Our Lord can be properly adored. Help the Helpless has undertaken the task of raising money for this, as access to adoration is so important for this community.

## MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT!

There are several ways to give beyond traditional donations. You can double your contribution through 401(k) employer matching programs, include Help the Helpless in your will to leave a lasting legacy, or make a tax-efficient gift through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. Each of these options helps extend your support to vulnerable children and families in need—now and for generations to come.

Use the camera app on your smartphone to scan this QR code and make a tax deductible donation towards any of our projects today! Or, visit [HelpTheHelpless.org/projects](http://HelpTheHelpless.org/projects)

# Help the Helpless



Easter Newsletter

April 2026



## A Message from Fr. Robert Altier



Dear Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! The Lord is truly risen! This is the response made by the eleven Apostles who were gathered in the Upper Room on Easter night when the two disciples who had encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem to proclaim what they had experienced. The truth and the joy of the resurrection changed everything in the lives of the Apostles.

Just think: the two men who went to Emmaus had already heard from the holy women about what the angel at the tomb had told them, but they decided their business venture was too important, and they left Jerusalem. Suddenly, after encountering the risen Christ, their important business was unimportant. What was important was walking back to Jerusalem (in the darkness of night) to see the Apostles.

On the Cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins to be forgiven and for our souls to be saved. In the resurrection from the dead, Jesus has destroyed the power of death and has shown us that our bodies will rise from the dead, be reunited with our souls, and live forever. This truth of the resurrection, our Lord's and our own, should change our lives, as it changed those of the Apostles. We should be living in this world with our hearts focused on the life of Heaven. You are doing exactly that: through your generosity, you are storing up treasure in Heaven, where God will reward you more than a hundredfold for what you did for the least of His brethren.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, thank you for your kindness, your charity, and your generosity! This mission of mercy could not exist without your goodness. I pray that the graces and blessings of the Resurrection will be poured out upon you and your family in abundance.

God bless you,

Fr. Robert J. Altier  
President, Help the Helpless

## News from Guayaquil, Ecuador



Children in the School Support Program



Dear Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother community in Guayaquil wish you a very happy Easter. May the Lord rise in your hearts.

We would like to share with you the activities that have taken place during this first quarter of the year here in these warm lands. After the end of the school year in February, we began our summer activities, mainly our School Support Program. Here, we have activities and tutoring for children who need learning assistance. It is a good way for children to spend time during the summer, as it keeps them out of trouble and away from bad influences. They always greatly enjoy these activities, especially on the days when they can take a refreshing dip in the swimming pools we were able to purchase a couple of years ago, thanks to your generosity. It doesn't take much to make a child happy!

During the days before Ash Wednesday, we organized a session of silent spiritual exercises for girls and women. This is always a special opportunity for a deeper union with the Lord, and it gives them the strength to continue their spiritual journey throughout the rest of the year. As we do every year, we organized our traditional summer camps. Two sessions were held; the first was for girls and young women, ages 13 and up, and the second for the younger girls, ages 8 to 12. This time of preparation for Lent and for Our Lord's Resurrection was so important and so fruitful.

These latest months are bringing to light a new project—A Life Brought to the Stage. This is a musical we are writing about the life of the late Sister Clare, who passed away in the catastrophic earthquake here in Ecuador in 2016. This musical, God willing, will premiere in the coming days on April 16, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the passing of our beloved sister. This has been a joint effort among the four communities of Sisters we have in Ecuador. We have brought together girls from all four of our areas, and it has been a beautiful opportunity for them to work together with the same purpose—to evangelize and educate the communities on the life and sacrifice of Sr. Clare. The musical will premiere in Playa Prieta, the place where Sister Clare passed away, and then will continue, first in Chone and then in Guayaquil.

We entrust ourselves to your prayers for this project, which has helped us to evangelize so many already. Please pray that it may inspire many more young people, especially those who struggle to find meaning in their lives due to the very difficult circumstances they face every day.

Once again, we offer you our heartfelt Easter greetings. May the Risen Lord fill you with blessings and abundantly reward all that you do for those most in need.

We pray for each and every one of you.

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

*Pictured Left: Children in the Guayaquil community*



## News from St. Mary's School, India

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings and cheerful Easter wishes to all!

We are sincerely grateful for your unwavering support, prayers, and generosity. With God Almighty's guidance and the late Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier's blessings, the children are thriving.

On December 3, we celebrated the Feast of St. Xavier alongside World Disabled Day. The event featured notable guests, including Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, S.J., Secretary of St. Joseph's College in Tiruchirappalli, and Mr. S. Arul Prakasam, District Differently Abled Welfare Officer in Thanjavur. Both guests praised the talents of the children at St. Mary's in academics and sports, inspiring everyone to strive for excellence. In memory of Rev. Fr. A. Antony Xavier, we provided every child at St. Mary's with two sets of uniforms. The day included a grand mass led by Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, as well as the recognition of children who excelled in a district-level sports competition with certificates and prizes, celebrating their dedication and hard work.

We celebrated Christmas with two special events: one for staff, with games and surprise gifts, and another for the children, with lively performances, gift-giving, and cultural programs. Every child received a beautifully wrapped Christmas gift from the Administrator, making the celebrations truly joyful.



I want to share an uplifting story about a student from St. Mary's named Thiyagarajan Abinash, who is currently in the 9th grade. Abinash has faced challenges due to a physical disability which he developed after having meningitis when he was younger. At first, he struggled to connect with his teachers and classmates, which led to frequent complaints about his behavior from our staff. Because of these difficulties, we decided to try a different approach. We encouraged Abinash to participate in co-curricular activities, such as sports and music. This change made a big difference. He began to thrive, discovering his talent for singing and achieving success in running competitions at both district and state levels. More importantly, we noticed a positive shift in how he acted. He became more focused on his studies, improved his grades, and started interacting with others in a friendlier and more mature way. It's truly inspiring to see how, with the right support and opportunities, Abinash has changed his life for the better. He could not have done this without your prayers and support!

We cherish each joyful moment and are deeply grateful to all of you, kind benefactors, for your generous support of St. Mary's. We are running the St. Mary's institutions smoothly, with the help of God's Grace and all your prayers and blessings. You are always in our thoughts and prayers, as are your families. Your contributions mean so much to us all.

Thanking you in Jesus,

I. Mariaselvam

Administrator, St. Mary's Orphanage and School



*Pictures (from top to bottom):*

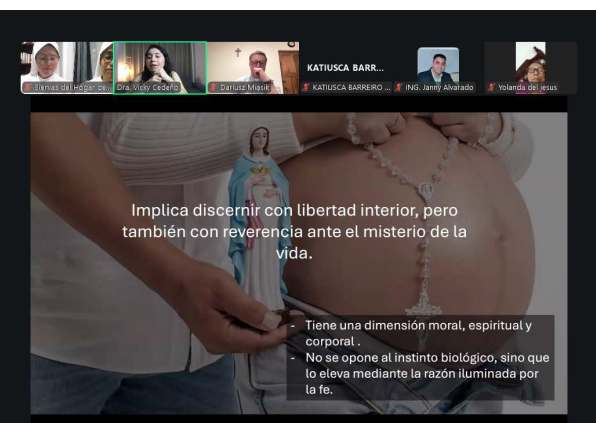
*World Disabled Day  
Christmas Celebrations  
Thiyagarajan Abinash  
School Mass*

## News from Portoviejo, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless Benefactors:

We are delighted to write to you at this time of year to give thanks together to the Lord for what He does in all our lives. We pray to the Risen Christ for all your needs and those of your families, so that He and Mary Most Holy may fill you with the joy of the Resurrection and strengthen you in your service.

Here in Ecuador, the school break is from January to April. This means February and March offer us a chance to host catechetical activities for the children. We invited the teenagers in the community to participate in classes at the Cathedral and at the Home of the Mother. We had about 10 teenagers that came to our events consistently during these months. We have also maintained our work with the Pro-Life Pastoral Ministry. On February 6, the Sisters Servants of the Home of the Mother, as well as members of the Pro-Life Pastoral Commission of the Archdiocese of Portoviejo, organized a virtual training session for parents, educators, and pastoral agents (pictured left).



The training was given by Dr. Vicky Cedeño, LHM, and the title of the talk was "Human Love in the Divine Plan." Vicky, drawing on her medical knowledge, her faith as a devout Catholic, and her experience as a wife and mother of two, was able to share a very comprehensive vision of conjugal love in God's plan. She focused especially on that fundamental element of Christian marriage which is often not addressed enough: openness to life within marriage. Approximately 140 people participated. We appreciate your continued prayers for this beautiful mission to save the lives of our babies.

Our Sisters carried out a mission on February 7th and 8th that we would like to share with you. Since the beginning of the New Year, we have been working with a priest from the Diocese of Manabí, with whom we have collaborated on some pastoral work and school sponsorships to assist him in his new parish. When he arrived in July of last year, he recognized that the residents did not attend church regularly and that there was no pastoral or catechetical activity in the area. He reached out to us for help. And so we organized a weekend mission to visit every house, to introduce them to the parish, speak about the Lord, and encourage them to establish a catechesis program and a small chapel there. A group of twenty lay people and young adults from the Home of the Mother in Portoviejo, as well as twenty-five catechists and pastoral agents participated with us.

We divided into groups of three or four people, carrying posters of the Pope, holy cards of Mary Help of Christians, rosaries, and stickers of the Virgin Mary to leave on people's doorsteps. We then set out to visit every house. We introduced ourselves, shared information about the parish, and expressed our intention to work in the neighborhood. We inquired about the families' situations, the children, and whether they had received the sacraments. Finally, we invited the children and young people to participate in activities, games, and catechesis. We concluded by celebrating Mass with all the families in the sports field (pictured right). We know it is important to be able to connect with these people, and we hope we were able to reach some new hearts this month. Your prayers for the success of our mission are always appreciated.



Thank you again so much for all the help you give us. Words cannot express how wonderful it is to share all the experiences we have here on these missions, and how we can continue to move forward together with all of you. God bless you. You always have our prayers!

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother  
Portoviejo, Ecuador

## News from **Playa Prieta**, Ecuador

Dear Benefactors,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thank you for all the help we have received from you to support these projects. The Lord has entrusted us to win souls for him by way of these missions, which we could not carry out without your help.

With the joy that the Resurrection of Our Lord brings us, we want to share with you the great gift of our recent mission to El Puyo, a city in the Amazon region of Ecuador and the capital of the province of Pastaza. It is considered the gateway to the Ecuadorian Amazon, and it is undoubtedly mission territory. That is why we wanted to go there with the university students as an end-of-year trip. For this purpose, we prepared all kinds of material for evangelization (thanks to your aid): rosaries, prayer books, posters of the Virgin Mary, printed T-shirts, Bible coloring books, etc.

It was a busy week, as we visited 12 of the 75 indigenous Shuar communities that Father David is responsible for. The Lord allowed us to be witnesses of his grace, for we celebrated 36 baptisms and one marriage! Some of the university girls with us were able to be godmothers to these newly baptized children.

One of the Shuar girls we met was named Serafina. She was from the Don Bosco community. We had visited there before, and she had at that time expressed a desire to be baptized, but she was distraught because her father would not let her. At the beginning of March, we returned with the priest to celebrate others' baptisms, and we discovered that Serafina's mother had helped change her father's mind. And so Father David was able to baptize her! This is just one of many children we met who received the grace of becoming children of God.



**Baptisms in the Indigenous Communities**



May the Lord and Our Mother bless you abundantly. Thank you for making this mission possible. We pray that you and your loved ones have a blessed Easter! Know that we will pray for you, your loved ones and your intentions.

United in the joy of the Risen Christ,

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother  
Playa Prieta, Ecuador

*Pictured Right: Children in the Playa Prieta community*

## News from **Chone**, Ecuador



*"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" - Luke 14:5*

Dear Friends and Benefactors of HTH:

May the joy of the Lord's Resurrection renew your hearts!

We want to share with you the joy of bringing the love of the Risen Christ to the little souls in this mission land, where you are present with your prayers and material contributions. Since last year, we have begun to teach catechesis in two poor and troubled areas of Chone. We started by carrying out a mission to invite parents to enroll their children in catechesis. Some were encouraged and have persevered throughout this year.

*Continued on page 5*

## News from Chone, Ecuador (continued)

*Continued from page five:* In one of our catechesis classes, we met John Ney, a 12-year-old boy who was abandoned by his mother when he was still a baby. She did not sign any birth documents, so he was never registered as a citizen. He was also not baptized. Even so, John's stepmother felt an urge to enroll him in catechism classes, and this year he has persevered week after week, attending with great joy and enthusiasm. When he discovered what baptism meant and what he would receive, John Ney was filled with even more joy. Finally, he had completed his classes and was able to be baptized, along with 60 other children between the ages of 5 and 12. These were all children from our classes.

Although John does not know his mother and is not a citizen of this world, by his baptism he became a child of God and a citizen of Heaven. Through God's providence and mercy, he has been given the greatest gift of all. John Ney's life has changed, and we can see that the grace of God is clearly at work in him. This is just a small example of what the Risen Christ does in souls, and how we are able to carry out His work because of your support and generosity.

May the Risen Jesus repay you a hundredfold, for it is thanks to your generosity we can bring the joy and life we receive from Him. God bless you for all your help.

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother  
Chone, Ecuador



*A Family enrolled in Catechisis*

## Parting Message from Fr. Rafael

Dear Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

I would like to offer a reflection to help you appreciate how wonderful it is to be able to help others who need it most. As we get older, we realize that time slips through our fingers, whether we like it or not, which is why it's so important to make the most of it. And by making the most of it, I don't mean spending our time by wasting it in a vain, superficial, illusory way, but rather by recognizing that eternal life is real, and that to enjoy it, we must walk through this life knowing how to manage wisely with the talents we have received from God.

We all have our talents, our abilities, our unique characteristics; we are all different, but it doesn't matter if some have more or fewer qualities. The most important thing is to recognize that what we have is a gift, and, if we complained less about what we wish we had and focused on thanking God for what we do have, we would be happier.

I would like to share a true story with you. A few years ago, I heard the story of a priest who was in a car accident and became a quadriplegic. He never lost his smile or his zest for life, his desire to continue praying and loving, or his passion for talking with the young people who came to him for guidance. He used to say, "What is this illness compared to all that God has given me in life? I'm like a millionaire who has lost just one penny."

That's really true. Even if we lose our abilities with age, even if things don't go as we'd like, even if we don't seem great in the eyes of the world, none of this matters if we are truly doing good with our lives. And you, dear benefactors, are doing good through supporting Help the Helpless. You are on the right track because you are making the most of life!

If there's one thing we'll never regret, it's doing good. I would like to encourage you to continue doing so; don't grow weary, even though the task can sometimes be tiring. If only you could experience the joy you bring to so many families in Ecuador, so many children, so many young people, so many elderly people to whom the Sisters bring their daily bread, both physical and spiritual. I only have words of gratitude for you for continuing to support the many projects that are still operating today in the Missionary Groups of the Home of the Mother.

May God richly reward your generosity. For my part, I wholeheartedly bless you and your families.

Fr. Rafael Alonso  
President, Home of the Mother