

Greetings from Fr. Altier, President of Help the Helpless

Dear Benefactors,

This Holy Week we have a very unusual opportunity to unite ourselves with the suffering of Our Lord in a way most Catholics in the West have not known. We can experience firsthand the rejection and abandonment of our Lord as He endured His sufferings. Without the liturgical rites to help us focus, we now have to do what our Lord instructed us: go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. This time can become like a retreat if you have the ability to practice silence and set aside times for prayer. Of course, this also allows opportunities for families and couples to pray together. Doing the Mass readings, praying the Rosary, making a spiritual Communion, and other devotional practices will be of great help. Perhaps having Mass taken away will make us all more grateful for the gift our Lord has given us and cause us to long for what we have taken for granted for too long.

As we go through these days of desolation, we can also reflect on the children and families we are all helping in India and Ecuador. Their hardships give them a special participation in our Lord's Passion, but the help they receive through your generosity provides them with a new kind of participation on our Lord's resurrection. You are helping to lift the burden from the shoulders of the precious souls. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, I thank you for your goodness and pray the Lord will bless you with good health and an abundance of grace in these trying times. Unite yourself with Jesus in the depth of your prayers in this time; share with Him in His sufferings, and as we come through this, we will all experience a taste of the freedom and glory of the resurrection.

God bless you,

Fr. Robert J. Altier

Note from Fr. Raphael

Dear Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

As you well know, this year, 2020, with its many International problems, will probably lead us into profound economic crisis. At this present moment, there is a medical crisis on an International level, namely the pandemic of COVID-19, also known as coronavirus. It's normal that this has also affected Help the Helpless. I don't know if this factor is positive or negative in affecting your generosity, but it is true that for those who love God, everything is converted into good (Romans 8:28). You love God, and as Christians, you also love your brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. This is seen by the fact that thanks to your generosity in Guayaquil, we have been able to attend to the families who are sponsored. They, seeing themselves being supported by the Christian community, have drawn closer to God and to the sacraments. We have also been able to see with our own eyes the gratefulness of the families who have received financial help from Help the Helpless to rebuild their houses. In Chone, we have begun helping a large community formed mostly by Venezuelans. It's moving to see how these Venezuelan families who have lost everything receive the help with gratefulness and tears in their eyes.

We would also like to thank you for the scholarships for the schools and universities for the young people and children in Playa Prieta, Guayaquil, and the nearby towns, along with all the help you provide for the sponsored families and for the upkeep of the Sacred Family School. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Now, allow me, as the President of the Home of the Mother, to encourage you to continue practicing your charity, placing your hearts in Our Lord Jesus Christ, participating in what St. Catherine of Sienna talks to us about in her *Dialogues*: the love of benevolence. The love which is first exercised by God toward us, and as an imitation of this Love and as a gift of God, becomes our love exercised for those who have no reason by which they can demand us to love them, that is to love without interest, an absolute love. I encourage you to keep loving in that way, and for our part, thank you for your love towards us, and may that love be rewarded with Christ's peace and the participation in the promises of Christ: Where I am, there will my servant be, as well.

With my blessings and the assurance of my prayers, I remain at your disposal.

Fr. Rafael Alonso Reymundo



Easter, 2020

Special Needs

If you could help support any of these special, urgent needs, we would be so grateful.

***Hearing Aids and Speech Therapy Room: \$8,400**

This would fund the purchase of 50 more hearing aids and the construction of a speech therapy room, complete with necessary equipment for the deaf-mute students at St. Mary's School in India.

***5 Computers for Teachers in Ecuador: \$1,500**

None of the 23 teachers at Holy Family School in Playa Prieta, Ecuador, have computers. This would provide for those teachers most in need of one.

***Aid for Venezuelan Immigrants in Ecuador: \$3,500**

This money will provide aid and relief to the many immigrants who have been forced to flee Venezuela and who have nothing.

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*We just want to share with you a bit of
how we are carrying out the delivery of
the food baskets to the sponsored
families and to the other poor families*

*and elderly people, because during these hard times due to the
Coronavirus, they cannot come to our house to pick it up. Here in
Chone, Ecuador, two Sisters go out in a car with their masks and
antibacterial soap to very quickly deliver the food. They are
required by police to have masks and soap and must show it if
stopped. In Guayaquil, it is more difficult because the people are
scattered and live on the periphery. A priest buys the food, and
two volunteers deliver it. In each food basket, we are including a
rosary and a brochure on how to pray the rosary. Please pray for
all these families because if these restrictions and spreading of the
virus continue for a long time, we will have a difficult time
bringing the food to them. We know that for many of these
families, the only food they have at home is what we give them
each month. Yesterday, when we went to give the food to some of
the families, they were so grateful as they said, "Thank you,
thank you. We are rationing the rice and the bananas...it is the
only thing we have." The poor people here are day laborers, so
now without work, they will have even more difficulties. Once
again, thank you for making it possible to care for our poor
families!*

*The Immaculate Heart of Our Mother will Triumph! God bless
you! United in Prayers,*

Sr. Eyling

Update on Summer Mailing Special Needs

A special thank you to all those who donated to the special
needs projects from our Christmas newsletter. We received
over \$3,000 to help repair the home and build a bathroom for
the Ceden Piloso Family in Ecuador, to help take care of
Mrs. Rosa Pincay, an elderly woman who lives alone, and to
purchase playground equipment at St. Mary's School in India.
It is not too late to donate to these projects. Please visit:
www.helpthehelpless.com and click on the Give tab at the
top.

Update from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear friends from Help the Helpless:

We're drawing close to Easter and to our Lord's
Resurrection. We hope that you are able to live these days
with devotion. Thanks to you, we see this mystery of the
death and resurrection in those "little ones" so loved by our
Lord. We are constantly meeting families that live in
situations you could call truly deathly: their souls dead for
the lack of knowledge in the love of the Lord and for the
ways in which they have fallen and cannot escape. They
suffer mortal wounds in their human dignity, living as
animals in the midst of poverty, and even more so, in
misery, lacking everything that is necessary for their lives.
Thanks to the fact that we can reach them, we see with
great joy the mystery of the resurrection. We see how they
discover their dignity as persons, as Children of God.
Thanks to your help, we're able to elevate their health,
living conditions, and education so that they discover God
who is love and who with His Providence, meets them in
their needs, both spiritual and material. As their material
suffering is attended to, a spiritual desire is born within
them to thank and to love He who takes care of them.

We would like to share with you the story of the Medardo
family. They are elderly grandparents raising their 2
grandchildren, ages 14 and 12. They were living in a house
that was completely destroyed and on the verge of
collapsing. The 2 children were abandoned by their mother
who left them to live with another man. Their grandfather
is very sick with diabetes and other illnesses, and the
grandmother is very elderly. The children did not go to
school and the young girl did not even know how to read or
write. Thanks to your help, we were able to build them a
small house, very humble, but worthy. The boy and girl
each have their own room, as do the grandparents. We
were able to give them beds because before that, they had
been sleeping on the floor. Improving their living
conditions has given them dignity. The grandparents are
going to receive the sacraments and get married. The
children have started classes with a volunteer tutor who
will get them ready to go to school. The other day when we
visited, the boy started to cry because he wanted to go to
school. When we told him that he didn't need to worry and
that we would help him, his tears turned to joy.

Thank you, because you all make this mystery of "death
and resurrection" possible in these people who are suffering.

Thank you and happy Easter and Resurrection!

Greetings from India

Dear loving friends and benefactors! Warm greetings and
Easter wishes to all of you. Thank you for all your prayers
and support to St. Mary's. Things at St. Mary's are running
smoothly. The students are getting ready for their final
examinations. Grades 10-12 will complete their exams in
March.

This past year, we received adequate rain during the
monsoon season, which we are thankful for. The winter was
very cool, but now it is quite hot. However, all the children
are in good health. Doctors visit often to check on the
children, and there are no serious issues, for which we are
very thankful.

We are grateful for your support this past Christmas.
During the Christmas program and annual day of
celebration, the children received a lot of gifts, new outfits,
study materials, and new uniforms. This was made possible
due to your support.

We received a board member of Help the Helpless, Mr.
David Huizel, in February, 2020. He visited all the
institutions of St. Mary's, visited with the students, and
attended Mass with the children. Our students entertained
him with a program, as well. We also had meetings with him
in which we discussed the needs of St. Mary's. I speak for
myself and on behalf of all the children and staff in saying
that we are very grateful for this visit.

We are grateful to you for your help in providing smart
boards for our classrooms, ten hearing aids for our deaf-mute
students, and folding wheelchairs for our special needs
students. We now asking for your help in purchasing 50
more hearing aids for the remainder of the deaf-mute
students, as well as help with building a speech therapy unit
and furnishing it with the necessary equipment for St.
Mary's.

We are always grateful to Help the Helpless. We are praying
for all the benefactors. Please pray for all our children in the
success of their board examination.

I.Mariaselvam
Administrator of St. Mary's Schools

Skill Development Training Center

**We have a training center at St. Mary's which teaches
skills that students can use to get a job. In the Indian
culture, the majority of women are not allowed to
pursue higher education or a job once they are
married. However, with high unemployment rates and
other family and financial issues, more women are
looking for day labor. This is one of the main reasons
the Skill Development Training Center was created.
Once a student completes the training, St. Mary's will
make arrangements to either place the student in a job
or help him become self-employed.**

**Staff from St. Mary's go to nearby villages to seek out
those who could benefit from this program. It was at
one such village that they found Madulampet Aparna.
She was 18 years old and was deaf and mute. She had
completed the 10th grade, but her parents had then
taken her out of school due to her disability. The staff
convinced her parents of the great opportunity of
allowing her to enroll in the tailoring course. Her
parents were initially nervous to let her go, but she
now goes to and from St. Mary's each day,
understands what the teacher is saying, and is learning
to stitch, embroider, etc. Madulampet and her parents
are very grateful for the opportunity to learn such a
necessary skill and be assured of a job when she
graduates from the program. It is thanks to your
generosity that these types of programs exist.**



Madulampet Aparna learns to sew at the tailoring courses offered at
the Skill Development Training Center at St. Mary's School.