

Greetings from Fr. Altier, President of Help the Helpless

Dear Benefactors,

Christ is Risen. Alleluia! The greatest event to ever happen in human history is the resurrection of our Lord from the dead. Being baptized into Jesus, we were baptized into His death and resurrection. Each of us will have to enter into the grips of death, but it will not be able to hold us because we already share in the resurrection and glorification of Christ. It is precisely this assurance that allows us to look beyond this world and place our hopes on the eternal life promised to us in baptism.

As members of Jesus Christ, we are to continue living the life of Christ in this world. To live that life is to live the truth in charity. The people who have donated to Help the Helpless have embraced this way of life in a most generous and beautiful way. Great strides are being made in Ecuador where the Sisters are providing for food, shelter, education and medicine for the people. The poverty is extreme, but the overwhelming kindness of our benefactors is giving these people comfort in their sufferings and hope for the future. This is wonderful for the adults, but their greatest hope and gratitude is in seeing their children being given an opportunity they have never known.

In India, the building projects have all been completed, but the children continue to be housed, fed, clothed, educated, and cared for. St. Mary's is providing an excellent education for kids who would otherwise have received no education. Children continue to be prepared to be involved and productive citizens of the country and, most importantly, of Heaven.

We are most grateful for your generosity, but I ask on behalf of the Board of Directors, that you please continue to pray for these missions. That is really the greatest and most important charity anyone can provide for these beautiful people. Thank you, once again, for your goodness. Wishing each of you and all your loved ones a most blessed Easter season. God bless you, Fr. Robert J. Altier

A note of gratitude from Fr. Rafael Alonso, President and Founder of Home of the Mother

"I lie awake and moan, like a long sparrow on the roof." For me, these words from Scripture have always been a reason for reflection and deepening thought. These past days here in our house in Zurita, Spain, we have been cutting down the trees that surround our farm. In them, there are many bird's nests. When we cut the trees, we see that they flutter around insistently, looking for a home. Certainly, the heart that contemplates this event is moved. You just have to be a little sensitive to understand the situation of these birds. If this moves us – how much more does God the Father suffer through the heart of Christ for the situation of so many people who do not have a place to lay their head like Christ?

The touching situation comes to hold out its hand for your help. You have been true Samaritans before the needs of others. God Himself acts through your generosity in order to alleviate some of these sufferings in some way. I can only thank you with all my heart. For all of you, I hope that 2019 is full of God's benefits and that you can somehow feel the Paternal embrace of a God who loves you and has sent His own Son to open the way to Heaven.

Happy Easter and may God bless you,

Fr. Rafael Alonso

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!!
Just a quick note that we are in need of your email address! We currently only have email addresses for about 15% of our benefactors. We are in the process of designing a new website which we are very excited about (a site that will allow you to communicate with your child, adopt children and families, view your giving and more) and need email addresses to be able to send receipts and newsletters electronically to save on mailing costs. If you would like this option, please email, call or send back the enclosed remittance envelope with your current email address!



Help the Helpless Quarterly Newsletter

Easter, 2019

Special Needs

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

***Soup Kitchen need of \$25,200** – This would provide a daily meal to more than 100 children in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Sisters began providing 1 meal a week at a soup kitchen, but quickly realized the families could not provide for these children. This money would provide daily meals for these 100 children for 1 year.

***Teacher Salary need of \$21,000** – The Sisters would like to increase the salaries of the 18 teachers at Holy Family School in Playa Prieta to a living wage of \$425 per month. This would ensure that the many students sponsored by benefactors receive an education from the best teachers and that those teachers will stay at Holy Family.

Inside This Issue

PG. 2
The Sisters of the Home of the Mother share a special story from Ecuador.

PG. 3
The Headmaster of St. Mary's School in India shares a success story of a student who graduated from St. Mary's.

PG. 4
Fr. Robert Altier, President of Help the Helpless, thanks you, our kind and generous benefactors for your continued support.



THANK YOU FROM ECUADOR!

Thanks to the Christmas donations we received from you, we were able to deliver food baskets, toys for the children, and a small baby Jesus statue that we gave to all the homes. The sponsored families continue to receive their food baskets each month. We now have many new families in need of sponsorship because the sale of lemons and coconuts is low which is how most people here make a living. Since there are a lot and they are inexpensive, they do not have a job because the lemons and coconuts are not collected. The 2018-2019 academic year has just ended and the students you are sponsoring are doing very well academically. We have received many enrollment requests for sponsorship for all grades next year. Many have stayed on the waiting list and we have more children than sponsors, so they hope to get in next year. – The Sisters in Ecuador

Update from Chone, Ecuador

The Lord is truly Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!! We wish you from Chone, in this Easter of 2019, that the Risen Lord may always be your Light and your Guide. We want to thank you once again for your work and for all the material and spiritual help that we received from all of you. The construction of the Servant Sisters' house in Chone is proceeding as planned. We continue helping with the construction of the houses of several poor families. We are currently helping one woman whose exterior staircase crumbled and her roof was full of holes. When the sisters went to visit her, they saw that the zinc roof had rusted so that when it rained, the inside of the house and the people in it all got wet. Thanks to your help we could take on the project to help them do the necessary maintenance and upkeep to make their home a bit more dignified. During this project, one of the construction workers we hired, Yipson, we discovered has a little girl with very severe heart problems. Thanks to your collaboration, we were able to pay for them to do an MRI which was very necessary but very expensive. We continue to help them with the bills for his daughter. Thanks be to God for your generous support!

A Special Story From the Sisters in Ecuador

We would like to share with you a special story that has touched us in a special way. There is a family of 7 children, the mother, Abigail, and the father, Ramon, who has diabetes. He worked distributing bread all day to surrounding communities on a motorcycle. He was left without the motorcycle and thus without work. We went to visit the family – they live in a rental house. When we visited, we saw they only had in the home: 1 table, a gas stove that was not theirs, and 5 mattresses for everyone. As the stove was not his, he had to return it, so we gave him one that we had. Ramon is not able to read or write, and Abigail only knows the basics. Seeing that their situation was very tragic, we helped them in the following way. Ramon's dream was to set up a bakery. We bought him a new oven and everything that was essential for the small bakery, as well as a motorcycle. We found a location that we could rent for \$70 per month. Now he is running his own bakery and is doing quite well. We are very, very grateful because all this we could not do without your help. We know that it is the sum of many generous people following the example that the Lord left us.



Greetings from India

Dear loving friends and benefactors! Warm greetings and Easter wishes to you all. The children at St. Mary's are well and getting ready for their annual examination. Children are attending morning mass regularly and praying for benefactors daily. This past winter was a little severe, but not even a single child fell sick. Proper precautionary measures were taken to protect them. The doctor paid two visits per week to ensure that all children were taken care of.

As you may know, we have many different kinds of children at St. Mary's – some are not disabled, but are poor while others are disabled and/or are deaf and mute. Their daily routines are as follows; as soon as the children with disabilities get up in the morning, many of them need assistance for all their daily tasks, such as getting dressed and bathing. They all then attend daily mass. We have a sign language interpreter for Mass for those who are deaf. After mass, students do homework and then they have breakfast. Children then go to a morning assembly where they pray and receive announcements before going to classes for the day. Children receive lunch and dinner and further studies in the evening before bed. The students also have free time and time to play outside

On Feb. 18th, we observed the first anniversary of the death of Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier's death (founder of St. Mary's School and Help the Helpless). A local bishop, 25 priests, sisters and around 2,000 students, staff, friends,

And alumni gathered to visit Father's grave in the morning and later to watch a documentary on Father. Mass was then celebrated and dinner was shared by all. We are very grateful to all that Fr. Antony did in helping the poor and disabled in India.



Success story from India

Ms. Arulmozhi, serial number 340, is an alumni of St. Mary's School in India. She was poor, and had difficulty walking from a disability, and many anxieties. She had no help from others. She joined St. Mary's in 11th grade in 2005. She aspired to become a teacher. She completed 11th and 12th grades at St. Mary's with high marks. She continued higher studies, and received financial support and guidance from Fr. Antony at St. Mary's (founder of Help the Helpless). She not only received her bachelor's degree but also her master's degree in English. With our help, she passed her teacher's exam, and got a job in a government school in Tamil Nadu. With hard work and help from Fr. Antony, she achieved her ambition. She is profoundly thankful to St. Mary's. This is all possible because of good hearted people from Help the Helpless. Our prayers are always for our beloved benefactors. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.