

Ecuador — Chapel Roof Repair — \$2,700

The perpetual adoration chapel at Holy Family School in Playa Prieta is in need of repairs. The chapel roof has deteriorated after years of harsh rains and flooding. It needs to be replaced. Project funds will be used to cover the cost of materials as well as installation.

Ecuador — Furniture for Families — \$4,400

This project will fund the purchase of basic furniture, as well as hygiene necessities, for 20 families in need in Guayaquil. Since many of these families have nothing, we will help provide them with bedframes, mattresses, tables, and chairs.

Ecuador — Christmas Mission — \$4,250

The Sisters in Portoviejo are working to prepare a special Christmas celebration for the girls in the foster home. This celebration would include a Christmas meal, games, prayer, and catechesis. They would also like to purchase gifts for the girls—a shirt, a pair of shoes, some hygiene products, and some sweets.

India — Plumbing Updates — \$6,880

St. Mary's School is in need of plumbing updates to their student bathrooms. The bathrooms are quite run down and are becoming unsanitary to use. This project covers the cost of materials, labor, and installation to update bathrooms for safe student use.

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!

Help the Helpless



Christmas Newsletter

December 2025



A Message from Fr. Rafael Alonso



Dear Help the Helpless Benefactors,

Now is the time when many people open their hearts to helping those more vulnerable than themselves. This is good, but we must remember that generosity is not just for a few months when the lights are bright, the sweets are good, and the carols warm our hearts. The poor need food and housing all year round. That is why I would like to thank you, dear benefactors, for your selfless generosity every day of the year, not just during the Christmas season.

When you let go and give what you have, you grow interiorly. But even more so, when you not only give something you have, but you also give of yourself (by helping with your donation or volunteering, giving part of your time to help others), then your soul comes closer to Happiness—with a capital H. When we do good, we come closer to the Supreme Good, God, from Whom our happiness comes.

I am very grateful to you for continuing to contribute to so many projects of the Home of the Mother: the Sister Clare Missionary Center, grants for university students, soup kitchens, housing construction, school scholarships, family sponsorships, teachers' salaries... and so much more. Only God can measure what is in your hearts when you give and give of yourselves. May He reward you and fill you with happiness, if not here on earth, then in Heaven.

I bless you and your families with all my heart.
Merry Christmas!

Fr. Rafael Alonso
President, Home of the Mother

News from Guayaquil, Ecuador



**Celebrating the
Newest Members of the Church**

Dear Help the Helpless Benefactors,

As Christmas approaches, we don't want to miss this opportunity to greet you and thank you for all you do for the children, young people, and families in this area of Ecuador.

We thank God for the many blessings we have received in 2025. Eleven children have been baptized, most of them from our after school program in the neighborhood of El Fortin. It was a day of celebration for these new children of God, and we celebrated in a special way with the children of the mission who attend on Saturdays. The children's godparents are people committed to their faith and willing to watch over the spiritual formation of these children whom God has entrusted to them. We were also delighted to receive the news that the parents of three newly baptized children have decided to get married in the Church!

Additionally, some of the cooks in our soup kitchens have been able to deepen their faith, thanks to the formation they receive. They are people of very low-income and, with the help they are given, they are gradually emerging from their precarious situation. This year, in May, we decided to make a pilgrimage with the lay volunteers of the Home of the Mother, and many of the cooks from our soup kitchens attended, as well as their spouses. It was a unique experience for many of them, as it was the first time they had left their surrounding areas. May God always be blessed for pouring Himself into these souls with whom He allows us to work and who are a comfort to Him!

Nothing more to say, dear friends and family, except for Merry Christmas! With all our hearts, we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings.

We thank you all on behalf of so many poor people who cannot thank you themselves. May Jesus be born in the heart of every family and continue to work wonders in your lives. We ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, Mother of Missionaries, and Mother of the Poor, that she cover you with her mantle and place Jesus into your hands.

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, Guayaquil

News from St. Mary's School, India

Dear Loving Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings from St. Mary's! With the blessings of God Almighty, the guidance of Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, and the support of the benefactors of Help The Helpless, everyone at St. Mary's is enjoying good health. As we enter the holy season of Christmas, we write with full hearts to thank you for your generosity and to share how your kindness is transforming lives at St. Mary's Schools for Handicapped and Deaf-Mute Children. Your support has been a light for our students, especially those who are deaf, hard of hearing, non-speaking, or living with other disabilities. Because of you, they are learning, growing in confidence, and discovering their God-given gifts.



Gold Medal Kabaddi Team

I would like to share one small glimpse of your great prayers and support. A young student arrived at St. Mary's this year, shy and unsure, communicating only through gestures. With patient instruction in sign language, consistent therapy, and encouragement from peers, that same child now leads a morning prayer in sign, helps classmates in art, and smiles with a confidence that lights up the room. This transformation which we witness again and again belongs to you as much as to our dedicated staff and the courageous children we serve.

I wanted to share a happy moment in our St. Mary's community. We are proud to announce that seven students from St. Mary's Deaf-Mute School recently participated in a Kabaddi competition in the 2025 Tamilnadu Chief Minister's Trophy Games at the state level under the hearing impaired category. They achieved remarkable success by winning first prize, a certificate, and a medal. Additionally, our handicapped children participated in football and badminton competitions under the cerebral palsy category in the same games.

This article is continued on page three

News from St. Mary's School, Continued

Continued from page three: We are especially proud of our football team members who won the silver medal. A large part of their success was due to their shoes and uniforms, which you helped purchase. We are deeply grateful not only for your contributions, but also for the love behind them. Your support is cherished by everyone in our community.

Now here at Christmas time, we celebrate Emmanuel — God with us — who comes as a light in our world. May that light bring peace to your homes, healing to those who need it, and joy to your hearts. Be assured of our daily prayers for you and your families. We remember you at the altar with gratitude, asking that the Christ child bless you with hope, health, and the deep happiness that comes from love given and received.

On behalf of our students, their families, teachers, therapists, and staff, thank you for being part of the St. Mary's family. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled new year 2026.

I. Mariaselvam
Administrator, St. Mary's School

News from Portoviejo, Ecuador

Dear benefactors of this mission work in Ecuador,

Christmas is approaching! Once again, the liturgy invites us to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnate Word, Who was born poor and destitute in a forgotten corner of the earth to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph.

We are very grateful to you for the welcome you have shown to our missionary work and projects. As most of you know, it's been almost three years since we founded this new community in Portoviejo. There are always so many needs, and our hearts would like to be able to assist everything. However, the Lord ensures that with these poor instruments that we are, and with your great generosity, we can work for his Kingdom in the lives of those entrusted to us. This year, you have been sharing with the families and young people with whom we work here in Portoviejo. We are very grateful for the generosity you have shown our missionary work and projects. Thank you for giving of yourselves, giving to others, sharing with the poorest.

In this final stage of the year, the major project we carried out was the VEMJ pastoral event, a weekend activity in August for the evangelization of the youth of Manabí, revitalizing their faith through a Eucharistic and Marian experience. This is the second time we have held this event, and our expectations were exceeded. This year, the number of young people who participated doubled. We had to close the registration period before the scheduled date because all available accommodations on the university campus in Chone, Manabí, were filled. Four hundred young people attended, and we had the collaboration of approximately 100 young and adult volunteers. The young people were very pleased with the reflection workshops, the moments of prayer, and the atmosphere during all the events... Efforts are always worthwhile when you see the experiences the young people gain.

In these months, leading up to the end of the year, we have restarted the catechism course in the parish and the activities with the university students. We are already organizing the activities we want to carry out especially for the Christmas season, for which we ask for prayers. We will prepare Christmas meals with young people for the needy in the Portoviejo Urban Center, and we will visit and make a Christmas celebration for the children in "Hogar de Belén" and to children in the poorer, red-zone areas. We want to bring clothes, games, hygiene products, and gifts for the children.

Thank you very much because it is going to be made, thanks to your generosity.

May God bless you. We place you all in the arms of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph in our small chapel, before the tabernacle. For all of you, our generous friends, we will pray before the nativity scene on Christmas Eve.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, Portoviejo



The VEMJ Youth Outreach Event

News from Chone, Ecuador

Dear Friends and Collaborators of Help the Helpless,

Merry Christmas! It is written “A Child is born unto us, a Virgin has given Him to us, come, let us adore Him!” Once again, we write to you during this special time of the year for all Christians. These are days filled with joy and hope. It cannot be otherwise, for God brings us the true hope of Salvation.

We would like to tell you how our work continues with the newly constructed Sister Clare Missionary Center. It is proving to be a great tool for evangelization. Our soup kitchen is heavily attended by many children. They receive not only a plate of food, but also catechism classes, as well as instruction in reading and writing. Since this will be their first Christmas with us, we want to make sure they understand its true meaning so they can have a meaningful encounter with the Child Jesus.



Children at the Sr. Clare Center

Thanks to the Missionary Center facility, we now have a place to resume formation talks for the sponsored families. Before receiving their food basket, we have discussions with the families about faith and human values. Everyone is very grateful for these talks, as they can ask questions and learn more about spiritual life, as well as many practical things that provide a human foundation on which to base their faith. The Missionary Center is also being used to hold retreats for both young people and adults. We had a three-day women’s retreat recently where, in addition to laughing a lot, praying, and spending time together, these women were able to deepen their understanding of the dignity of being a woman, as well as the different aspects of a woman's vocation. What a beautiful time this was.

We are especially proud of our meetings and activities for married couples. With the help of the Servant Priests of the Home of the Mother, we gather for meetings and discussions with the married couples in the community. During these meetings, we address the difficulties, joys, and challenges of married life, as well as raising children. We also speak about family life in this welcoming atmosphere where everyone can express their opinions, doubts, struggles, dreams, and hopes. We are able to offer activities and supervision for the children during this time, so that all parents are able to come. We are so grateful to our many volunteers who assist us with this.

It is a joy to be able to use this Missionary Center, where so many works of mercy are being carried out and experienced. Because of your donations, we are helping so many people of all ages to have an encounter with God. For all this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we hope that you will rejoice with us for all that the Lord allows us to experience in this place. May God, who became a Child out of love for mankind, bless you and grant you this Christmas the joy that He promises to those who give selflessly.

The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, Chone

News from Playa Prieta, Ecuador

Dear Benefactors,

MERRY AND GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS! To all our friends and benefactors, thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of so many people whose lives you have touched thanks to your prayers, your sacrifices, and your donations. We are writing to you again from Playa Prieta, to thank you for all the spiritual and material help you offer us. We pray daily that the Lord and Our Mother may shower upon you abundant graces and draw you ever closer to Their Hearts.

We would like to share a short anecdote with you about a missionary, Fr. Christopher, who came to visit us from Mexico. He is a part of the Arroyo Prieto Mission. The people of his parish are in a very similar situation to some of our families—they are quite poor and have very few material belongings. As Fr. Christopher was preaching to our students, they decided they wanted to help his mission and implored us to speak to him. At first he declined, because he saw the poverty of our own students, but they insisted they wanted to help. So we got to work. Some classes held raffles, others sold mangoes or other foods, and those who could not contribute financially prayed rosaries and other prayers. We even had a short festival where some classes dressed up and performed dances from Mexico. At the end of the month, all the funds were donated to Fr. Christopher's mission so that he could purchase school supplies for the children of the parish.

The children of our school, even though they have so little, were moved with God’s love to give to those in need. How inspiring and beautiful this was for us. Blessed be God who allows us to help others in need with small acts since we have received so much ourselves. We ask the Lord to give us a generous heart, like these children, so that every benefit we receive may enable us to give more, to love more, to forget ourselves more, and to give ourselves more to God and to our neighbor. So be it.

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



Festival Performance