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SPECIAL NEEDS

India - Purchase 10 Computers for School Children - \$5,320

Additional computers are needed for the children at St. Mary's School for their computer lab.

India - Purchase Library Books and Book Racks - \$2,445

Funds are needed to purchase library books and racks for the children at St. Mary's School.

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Help the Helpless



Easter Newsletter

April 2023



A sponsored family in Guayaquil, Ecuador, receives their monthly food basket.

A Note of Gratitude from Fr. Rafael

Dear Benefactors of Help the Helpless:

In these days, we have read the Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 8, verses 1 through 10, about how Jesus satisfied the need for food of his followers with the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. After distributing all the food, there were still seven baskets left to collect, meaning there was still more to share. In the same way that their generosity enables them to satisfy the needs of many for bread, wisdom and knowledge, so too your generosity does the same. The Home of the Mother is very grateful to you. We are intermediaries between your generosity and the needs of those with whom we live and share our lives. Thank you very much because, without you, all that we have done lately would not have been possible.

The year 2022 ended with 300 scholarships for children, 50 scholarships for university students, 200 sponsored families, and the opening of a fifth soup kitchen which feeds 115 children each day. Medicines have been obtained for the care of children and families in the areas of Flor de Bastion and El Fortin. Three water purifiers have been installed, and we will install two more. In addition and of no less importance, we are also helping with catechetical and evangelization material, evangelization missions, camps for young people, spiritual retreats, and apostolic activities.

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A Note of Gratitude from Fr. Rafael (continued)

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As you can see, we have been able to do a lot with what you have given us. Just as the bread came from the hand of Jesus, and the apostles distributed it, so too now generosity comes from your heart as a new Jesus. These things can be done for the spiritual and material good of those who benefit and for the good of those who give generously, because as you know, the Lord said: "Give and it will be given to you."

With my heartfelt wish before the Lord to bless and protect you always, receive my most sincere blessing.

Fr. Rafael, Founder of the
Hogar de la Madre



A Message from the Sisters in Playa Prieta, Ecuador

Dear HTH Benefactors—HAPPY EASTER!

It is a joy for us to be able to share with you some of the experiences lived in recent weeks in our community in Playa Prieta, especially in Holy Family School where so many of you sponsor children.

A few days ago, in March, the students in their last year of high school graduated. We want to share a very enriching experience that occurred shortly before graduation. We had the opportunity to spend more time with them on an end of year pilgrimage trip to the Cuenca region. The boys went with the Servant Brothers, and the girls went with the Servant Sisters. It was an unforgettable trip!

We visited a very special place dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the park of "El Cajas," with a shrine in honor of the Virgin under the invocation: "Mary: Protector of our Faith." The message and the place chosen by the Blessed Virgin are particularly important and touching for 17 year olds. We had time to pray, to sing and ask for strength, especially in the current moment of the students' lives, since they are now making serious decisions regarding their futures. Many asked for Our Mother's blessing before going on to college, so that they might not lose so many graces received over their years in our school.

In the second part of the trip, our students had the opportunity to exercise the virtue of charity, giving the best of themselves and being bearers of joy, putting themselves at the service of others in "The Mission" that the sisters of

Guayaquil have on Saturdays in one of the poorest sectors of Guayaquil. Some helped children with their homework, others made an effort to invent games with the little ones, others taught them catechism..... And at the end of the day, everyone was happy to have given themselves up, forgetting about themselves.

The experience lived in those days of friendship and service was something unforgettable that each one will carry in their hearts and that for some of our students, took place in a crucial moment in their lives.

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One student shared her experience, saying that there is more joy in giving than in receiving. She said that what had struck her the most about that mission day with the poor children was that she had completely forgotten about herself for the first time in her life; she was so busy doing what she had to do for others that she hadn't taken care of herself which filled her heart with joy. This "end of year trip" was worthwhile simply for that student.

God is so good that He allows us to see some fruits of what is being sown among souls. To you, who with your prayers and collaboration, make it possible for us to work in the Lord's vineyard: Thank you!

As always, we ask for your continued prayers so that everything sown can bear abundant fruit of eternal life. God bless you.

The Sisters in Playa Prieta

A Message from the Sisters in Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless Friends,

Happy Easter!

"Where, o death, is your victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55) He has conquered death!

These words are very comforting in the midst of the situation we are currently experiencing. Violence has reached staggering levels in this area, and yet, the suffering that families are experiencing is moving. At times, we may be tempted to believe that evil and death have the last word, but then Resurrection Sunday shines with a dazzling light; life conquers death, granting life and life in abundance.

This feast that we celebrate every year—we see it very clearly in the lives of the children and families we work with. When we first come into contact with them, sadness, hopelessness, and disappointment are perhaps the traits that most characterize them, but as love enters their lives, as the life of grace enters, everything is transformed. We see this continually in the children in the soup kitchens, in the sponsored families, and in the evangelization projects.

Recently, we were able to prepare nine couples for marriage. They had been living together in sin for years, and the Lord broke into their lives. They have made their first Communion, confirmation, and marriage. One of them said to us on the day of first Communion, "I don't know what was going on, but I felt a fire and a joy inside." One of the women confessed to us: "Now I can look my husband in the eyes without feeling shame."

We thank God because all this bursting forth of life, which comes from the Risen One, we can see it first hand, thanks to your generosity. Your kindness allows us to help souls meet God through charity.

May God who is never outdone in generosity, also give you Life and LIFE in abundance.

Thank you for all your continuous and generous help.

Happy Easter!

The Sisters of the Community of Guayaquil



Nine newly married couples.

Greetings from India

Dear Loving Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings and Easter wishes to all the benefactors! My heartfelt gratitude to you and all the benefactors for your prayers and constant support of St. Mary's. With the grace of our Lord Almighty and the blessings of our Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, the school is running smoothly.

We have observed the Christmas celebration in a grand manner. All the school children received gifts, cakes and sweets. A special thank you to those who sent donations to purchase Christmas gifts. We served a special lunch to all the children, and we also celebrated a special Mass on Christmas and New Year. The children enjoyed it immensely.

Every year our government state organizes sports and cultural competitions at the district and state level. For the past two years, these events did not take place due to COVID, but this year, the events were held. Students from both the deaf-mute and special needs schools participated in a variety of competitive activities, and many of our students won prizes at both the district and state levels! The government then organized an awards ceremony to distribute prizes for those from the city of Chennai, and eight students from St. Mary's were recognized! The children were very proud to be recognized for such honors. Those who did not win are even more motivated to try again next year.

This all happens because of your support and prayers. We are so grateful to all the benefactors of Help the Helpless who support our students. Our students continue to be healthy and to study hard. Please pray for all our St. Mary's children for their success in the annual forthcoming government board examinations. We thank all of you for your prayers and support. We love you all. Yours in Jesus,

I.Mariaselvam (Administrator of St. Mary's Schools)



St. Mary's students receive awards for their accomplishments in the annual district and state competitions.

A Note from Father Robert Altier

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Easter is the greatest solemnity of the year. In rising from the dead, our Lord has destroyed the power of death. Death, recall, is one of the effects of Original Sin. So, in redeeming us from sin and its effects, Jesus entered into death. It appeared that death and the devil were victorious over our Lord on Good Friday, but when Jesus rose on the third day, He destroyed the stronghold the vile creature had on humanity as it looked into the face of death with no hope. In the resurrection, hope has been restored, and the fear of death has been removed. We may still experience some trepidation when we think of death, but that is more because of the unknown aspects. We know that if we are in the state of grace, eternal life awaits us. This should make us want to run more toward death than away from it. Jesus demonstrated that life is more powerful than death. Like Jesus, you and I will have to enter into death, but this is so we can share in the victory of life over death. Satan tries to scare us, but our resurrection will be a participation in the crushing of his proud head and a clear demonstration that he has no power over us.



Delivery of a food basket to a homebound family in Ecuador.

Your charity in the midst of a situation that is becoming more difficult is a reflection of the resurrection. Like our Lord, you are dying to self to give to others. Like Him, you are rising above what would pull us down or cause us fear, and you are showing yourself to be the victor in this battle. We are forever amazed at the charity of our benefactors, and we extend our profound gratitude to you. I think I can speak for the people in India and Ecuador who are the recipients of your goodness, and say a heartfelt thank you to every person who has contributed to helping them more forward. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, I thank you and pray for an abundant outpouring of God's blessings for you and your family. May you have a truly blessed Easter. God bless you,

Fr. Robert J. Altier
President of Help the Helpless