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SPECIAL NEEDS

India - Artificial Limb For Sponsored Child - \$2,315.50

Arunkumar Hariharan is a sponsored student studying in 9th grade at St. Mary's. He is disabled and would like an artificial limb to be able to walk and partake in activities.

India - Purchase 140 Pairs of Athletic Shoes for Sponsored Children - \$3,250.70

The sponsored students at St. Mary's participate in state and national level competitions every year. We provide them with athletic uniforms, and this year, we would also like to supply them with athletic shoes.

Ecuador - Construction of Collection Site For Those in Need- \$4,500.00

A collection center will be constructed at the San Jose Soup Kitchen which will serve as a food pantry to give additional food and hygiene items to those in need.

Ecuador - Purchase Non-Perishable Food and Hygiene Items for Collection Site - \$5,000.00

Funds are needed to stock the new food pantry that will be constructed at the San Jose Soup Kitchen.

MAXIMIZE YOUR GIVING

Does your employer have a **Matching Gift Program**? Ask your HR Department if your company will match your charitable contributions and potentially double your donations to Help the Helpless!

CONTACT US



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Help the Helpless



Summer Newsletter

August, 2023



A Note of Gratitude from Fr. Altier

Dear Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we have now settled into Ordinary Time or the Time After Pentecost, we realize that the way God is working in our lives and in the world is always extraordinary. This is no less true for Help the Helpless or for our benefactors. We have the privilege of serving some truly extraordinary people, which is a gift from God. At the same time, we look at our benefactors as also being truly extraordinary people. You may not think of yourself in that way, but the fact that God has chosen you to be part of this work, that He has put into your heart a love for His poorest children, and that He has given you the grace to practice heroic charity toward these beautiful souls makes you extraordinary in our eyes.

In the midst of all the chaos and uncertainty we are facing in the world, you continue to be a stable presence. Of course, for all of us, Jesus is the Rock on Whom we must be built in order to remain steady and stable. Our faith and our trust are completely in Him since without Him, we can do nothing. It is such a blessing to see the tiny seed that was planted continues to grow into a large tree that is providing food, clothing, shelter, and education for so many. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, thank you for your charity and your perseverance. Praying for you and your family to receive the abundant blessings of our Lord.

God bless you,
Fr. Robert Altier

Pictured above: Group photo of the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother with the students in Guayaquil, Ecuador

A Message from the Sisters in Chone, Ecuador

“Let the little children come to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matthew 19:14)

Dear friends and collaborators of Help the Helpless:

Almost halfway through the summer, we will tell you of the highlights of the last few months so that you can rejoice and give thanks to God for the works that He is doing in the souls here in Ecuador:

In the month of June, we prepared 240 children in the parish of St. Cajetan for their first confession. Here in Ecuador, the children make their first confession one year before they make their first communion. Although they were nervous, they were well catechized and fully aware of what they were doing and receiving: God’s forgiveness.

We would like to share the story of one boy who impressed us very much. When the day came for his first confession, after having prepared himself very well, he said to his mother, “Mom, I am so happy to be able to make my first confession. You should also go to confession because you are not living well. You are living in adultery; you have to get married.” The mother was surprised by her son, and her conscience was also moved. From there, they went to church where the little boy made his confession with full conscience and repentance for his sins. After praying his penance, the little boy, full of tears, gave his mother a hug, telling her how happy he was to receive such a great gift of God’s forgiveness. Both the mother and son cried as they told one of the Sisters the story to which she replied, “Do you realize that your son is being a catechist to you—that God is speaking to you through your son?” The son affirmed this and also said that he wanted to be a priest one day.

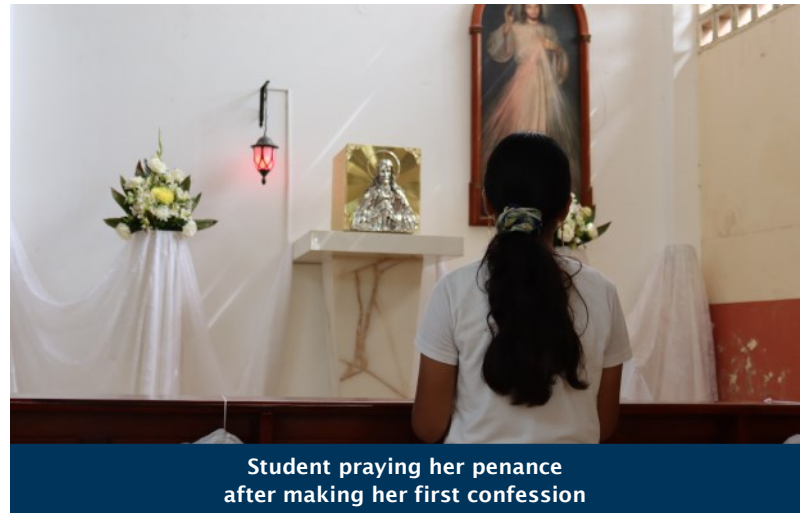
This little boy has been able to learn the truth, to put it into practice, and has been moved by God to share it with his family. His message is this: that there is nothing greater than to have God dwelling in the soul, for which we have to have to be in God’s grace. That is why we need the sacrament of confession. We hope that soon we will be able to tell you the happy ending of this story with the reception of the sacraments of his mother and God willing, in the future, this child will become a priest of Jesus Christ. We entrust him to your prayers that it may be so.

This is just a sample of what the Lord allows us to see every day here in Chone. We see how through catechesis, the Lord spoke to the heart of this little boy who with courage, told his mother the truth with charity. This is why Jesus wants the children to approach Him. He wants to touch their hearts and have them as messengers of His Truth in their homes.

We thank you indefinitely for your prayers and help to be able to work in Ecuador. It is a great privilege to be able to be a witnesses in the front lines of God’s work. We thank God for His immense goodness.

Thanks to all of you, as well. Keep praying for these souls, especially the children who undoubtedly please and comfort God so much.

Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, Chone



Student praying her penance
after making her first confession

A Message from the Sisters in Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless Friends,

We greet all of you and share with you our experience in the mission. These are hard times, but full of spiritual graces. The suffering of the people is increasing due to different factors: violence, which is increasing due to political instability, and drug trafficking and extortion that reaches even the poorest families who are trying to get by with some small business or honest work.

Additionally, it seems that the El Niño phenomenon is approaching. We are having frequent rains, and harvests have been damaged. Rice, which is the staple food of the families, has risen from \$0.30 a pound to \$0.70, and it seems that it will increase more in the coming months and even become scarce, because the farmers will not risk losing the next harvest. This makes families

Sister preparing a student for her first confession

more and more in need, compounded by the existing physical poverty which is often accompanied by moral and spiritual poverty.

Despite all this, the Lord consoles us with experiences that gladden the heart. One experience that was both painful and joyful was that of Billy, a 7-year-old boy who eats at one of the soup kitchens. He began to convulse, and was hospitalized. He got worse and worse, and was diagnosed with untreated encephalitis. He was losing more and more of his abilities. The child was unbaptized. Thanks be to God, Fr. Matthew, a Servant Priest of the Home of the Mother, was able to give him baptism and confirmation. From that moment on, a whole cycle of ups and downs in the illness began, but the consolation is that, even in the midst all the suffering, there has been an enormous growth in the child's faith. He even expresses the desire to go to heaven, because he says: "I am already a child of God; the Father told me so. I want to go to heaven." Or when he regains consciousness after severe crises, he prays the Hail Mary and makes those who are with him pray. We ask for prayers for Billy, so that if it is God's will, He will take him to heaven soon, and if He wants to leave him here on earth, He will comfort him during so much suffering.

Another precious experience is the one we have had through the school support program. Children who have not been in school until now and who were not motivated, now begin to awaken the desire to learn. The first thing we do with them is to go to the chapel, always ending with the prayer of the Angelus. They begin to build a friendship with Jesus and Our Lady. They are happy!

As they have almost no decent clothes, for Corpus Christi, with the help we received from you, our donors, we bought them a T-shirt with Our Lady on the front and a phrase on the back: All for Jesus, to console His Heart. It was beautiful to see them looking so handsome, accompanied by the joy from Jesus in the midst of streets full of physical and moral misery, but comforted by the joy of these children, throwing petals and cheers to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

We are very grateful for all the help we receive from you, and we ask for your prayers, while assuring you to keep you in ours.

May the Lord grant us one day to meet in Heaven,

The Sisters of Guayaquil



San Jose Soup Kitchen in Guayaquil



The Corpus Christi Procession

Greetings from India

Dear Loving Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings! How are all of you? We are so very grateful to you! With the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessings of Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, St. Mary's Schools are running smoothly. The children returned to school to begin another school year. They attend morning mass and then continue their day with their studies. All books, school supplies, and two sets of uniforms were given to the students to begin this year on June 26, 2023.



St. Mary's students receive school supplies and uniforms for the new school year.

The children are thriving at St. Mary's. Thanks to your generosity and support, the children live on campus and receive an excellent education, nourishing food, and housing. The teachers do more than just teach. They also help and console the new students who might be leaving home for the first time. They help them through their home sickness and separation anxiety. The warden who takes care of all the students treats them with kindness, like the heart of a mother. She makes the students feel welcome and safe. They are very happy here, and are so grateful to you, our donors, and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.



The Smart Classroom at St. Mary's.

We are in the process of updating some of our classrooms with smart technology. Thanks to your generosity, we currently have one classroom with smart boards and trained teachers. The students rotate using this classroom. This technology allows the students a better understanding of the material in a more interactive way, and it particularly benefits our deaf-mute students. We are also seeing the results with higher test scores. We have plans to add more smart classrooms in the near future so that more of our students can benefit.

We are excited to take part in the Grand Book Fair which is taking place in our district of Thanjavur. St. Mary's bought many new books for our libraries (thanks to your generosity from the Easter special needs donations received). We give all

students access to library hours and encourage them to read a lot. We also encourage our students to compete in the state and national programs for essay writing, poem writing and elocution.

Thank you for all of those who send letters, emails, and gifts for your sponsored children. We celebrate each child's birthday with a cake and blessing from the priests, and all children receive chocolate. One of our children noted that he had never celebrated his birthday like this before. With tears in his eyes, he thanked us for this celebration of his life.

Please know that all of the children and staff at St. Mary's pray for all of our donors daily that our Lord Jesus Christ will bless you for your generosity and keep you all safe and healthy. We are very grateful for your kindness—because of you, all of the children's spiritual and physical needs are met, and they are able to be happy children, enjoying their childhood. We love you all and will always be grateful. Please pray for us.

With Warm Regards,

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



Arunkumar Hariharan, who is in need of a new prosthetic limb