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SPECIAL NEEDS

Ecuador—Construction of Chapel at St. Henry's Soup Kitchen—\$3,499

The children and families who utilize the soup kitchen have nowhere to celebrate Mass. Funds are needed to purchase materials to construct a chapel for them.

Ecuador—Furnishing of Pastoral Center in Loreto—\$5,000

This project will raise funds to rebuild and furnish the Pastoral Center that the Sisters and Brothers of the Home of the Mother use for catechesis and spiritual formation.

India—Purchase of 30 Tables and 120 Chairs for Dining Area—\$5,868

The handicapped students have a difficult time sitting on the ground to eat. They would be able to use these tables and chairs not only for dining but also working and studying.

India—29 New Hearing Aids for Deaf Students—\$3,983

29 students need new hearing aids, as their current ones are outdated and broken.

DONATE HERE



Open the camera app on any smartphone to scan this QR code and support our 2024 Christmas Special Needs! You can also visit www.helpthehelpless.com/projects to make a donation.

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Help the Helpless



Christmas Newsletter

December 2024



A Christmas Message from Fr. Robert Altier



Dear Benefactors,

As we come to the most joyful season of the year, we are faced with a lot that does not appear to be very joyful. With all the troubles around the world and at home, people are frightened, and they have lost their peace.

We must remember that it was during a situation similar to our own that Jesus came into the world. He came as light in the darkness, and He came as peace in the midst of turmoil. The joy of the birth in Bethlehem was not overshadowed by the fears and the political tensions of the time. Instead, as the angels made clear in their hymns of glory, the Nativity overshadowed the fears and tensions that gripped the people.

That being the case, as Christian people, we must allow our Lord's birth into our world of sin and darkness to shine brightly in our lives. He still shines in the darkness and enlightens human hearts with His love. He still brings peace into the hearts of those who love Him and receive His Love. In your great charity toward those who have little or no hope on the natural level, you have brought hope and joy on the spiritual level. For these beautiful people, you shine like a light in the darkness, and you have brought peace to them in the midst of their struggles.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, I thank you from the depths of my heart for your great and continuous generosity. Only in Heaven will you be able to see the fruits of your goodness. All of us at Help the Helpless extend to you and your family a most blessed Christmas. And I pray that in the midst of a very troubled world, you will know the peace of Christ and allow Him to shine through you to be His light in the world.

God bless you,
Fr. Robert J. Altier
Founder, Help the Helpless

News From St. Mary's School, India

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With the blessings of God Almighty and the unseen guidance of the late Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, founder of Help the Helpless, along with the support of all you benefactors, everyone at St. Mary's is enjoying good health. We are immensely grateful to all of you for your prayers and support.

The Bible says, "When you help the needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you." (Mt 6:3-4) Like these Bible verses, Help the Helpless has quietly extended their merciful hands towards St. Mary's, sharing their resources with us. We are incredibly grateful to all you generous benefactors. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you abundantly. We at St. Mary's are wholeheartedly praying for you always.

Recently, the Tamil Nadu State Government hosted various sports events for individuals with physical challenges. Students from both the Handicapped and the Deaf-Mute School won several prizes, including cash awards, certificates, and medals! We would like to recognize a few students from our Handicapped School in particular: Jayakumar Jayamani for silver medal in badminton singles; Jayakumar Jayamani and Annadurai Arulseli for silver medals in badminton doubles; and Balakrishnan Bhavan, Ponnusamy Kathiravan, and Senthilkumar Nithish for bronze medals in football.

And from our Deaf-Mute School, we would like to recognize the seven women who represented St. Mary's in the State Kabaddi Competition. They achieved remarkable success by winning the first prize, and they each received a cash award of 893USD, along with a certificate and a gold medal. The participants are Rama Subhamathi, Navaneetha Visalam, Anbarasan Reshma, Dharmaraj Dhivya, Iniaya Dharshini, Manju Parkavi, and Sundaramoorthy Bhuvaneshwari. We are incredibly proud of these children and their achievements. Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, St. Mary's has been blessed with the resources needed to create a supportive environment for their athletic pursuits. This includes a

well-equipped playground, necessary facilities for training, and adequate food and shelter. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, and we are always praying for you.

Once again, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
I. Mariaselvam

Administrator of St. Mary's School

Award Ceremony for Winners



News From Chone, Ecuador

Dear friends and benefactors of HTH,

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his only Son, that whoever believes should not die but have eternal life." (Gal 4:4-5) We are already close to the Christmas season, and this verse of Scripture resonates very strongly with us this year. God alone, in His Divine Providence, knew and chose what he wanted for the coming of his Divine Son, so that all humanity could meet him and be saved. He prepared everything for His Son to be born at that moment in history, in that place, surrounded by those people.

The time has come for us to open the newly finished Missionary Center, where we hope that many will meet the Lord! We were not able to start this project for many years, but thanks to your donations this year, we were able to begin construction on July 3. And now, thanks be to God, the facilities are very close to completion. In fact, they will most likely be done by the time you are reading this letter.

We are very excited that this center will serve as a great instrument of apostolate for children and adults alike. Here, they will have the opportunity to meet with God in the same way that the shepherds and the Magi had their encounter with the Christ Child. We hope to treat the soul with youth and adult retreats, prayer groups, and *(continued on page 3)*



Continued from page 2: spiritual exercises. We will also provide for the body by hosting a soup kitchen, after-school tutoring, medical care, and fun activities for the children.

We are so grateful for all that God has provided for us in this year! We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all the people who contributed with their donations so that this missionary center could become a reality. We send heartfelt thanks for your help and prayers. We also have you in ours.

God bless you,
The Sisters from Chone

Pictured left: Missionary Center
under construction

News from Playa Prieta, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless,

We are writing to you from the Community of the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother in Playa Prieta. We would like to share with you a brief story that the Lord has allowed us to experience in this last month through our mission work in Barraganete, a community in Manabí.



Rose Mary's Family

In one of the communities, they told us about a 24 year old girl, Rose Mary Muñoz. She had died because she had poisoned herself. We attended the burial that took place and felt a palpable lack of God. Although hers was not a religious family, we were able to talk to them about the great need to pray for her soul. We knew in our hearts that the Lord had placed us in that community at the time of her death in order to teach her family how to pray for her. What a blessing that we were able to lead this community during their time of grief. Without the Lord's providential timing, there would have been no one to pray for this poor soul.

The next day at Mass, we met her parents and uncle, and the latter told us that while he was arranging his niece for burial, he found a medal of the Miraculous Virgin in her hair. Such is the merciful hand of God who seeks the salvation of all souls! The only thing He keeps asking of us is that we respond to His guidance, so that we can be where He wants us to be. We want to thank you, dear donors, for your selfless help. The Lord works through you so that we can reach the souls that He wants to bring closer to Him. We continue to ask for your prayers for all these families.

Merry Christmas! May God bless you!
The Sisters from Playa Prieta

News from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Christmas is approaching, and with it, the joy of the infinite mercy of God. How much gratitude we should have towards Him Who was born into man's suffering, so that man might one day attain His glory in Heaven! We would like to share with you the joy of seeing how a man, even when he is wounded in the deepest depths of the soul, can overcome all to attain the peace that God grants to those who love Him.

While supervising one of the construction projects that Help the Helpless sponsors, we met a young man, 32 years old. He was a former member of the gang that controls that area. This young man, Juan, had every inch of his body tattooed, and from the nature of these tattoos, we could see that he had several murders on his conscience. We approached him and greeted him, but he did not even look up to respond, so we put a rosary in his hands and urged *(continued on page 4)*

News from Guayaquil, Continued

Continued from page 3: him to find someone to teach him to pray. A few weeks later we met this young man again, and to our surprise, he responded to our greeting with a smile. After that, when we saw him, he would run to meet us and talk to us like old friends. One day, we brought a scapular with us to give to him, but he impressed us by showing us he was already wearing one! He had started going to church again and made a good confession, and the priest had given him one to wear. From then on, Juan began living his spiritual life with more fervor than many lifelong Catholics never attain. He went to daily mass and weekly confession, and he read his bible and prayed every day.

A few weeks ago, we received a phone call telling us Juan had suffered an accident and was in the ICU at the public hospital. Luckily, we Sisters were able to visit him. As we saw him lying there, we noticed many Satanic symbols tattooed on his body, but we knew that his soul was newly committed to God. We could not help but smile, since his soul was in such a state of grace that the marks on his body no longer had any meaning. Satan had been defeated once again!

Juan went to confession three days before he passed away. He received Anointing of the Sick and died wearing Our Lady's Scapular. As we were praying for him and his soul, a certain Bible verse came to mind: *"He came to His own and His own did not receive Him."* There are so many souls that the Lord wishes to win over, and yet they will not have Him. However in Juan, He found a soul that finally received Him. This Christmas, Juan will sing carols of adoration to the Christ Child for an eternity in Heaven. We rejoice for him during this season of joy!

With an immensely grateful heart, we wish you a Merry Christmas!
The Sisters from Guayaquil



A Message From Father Rafael

Dear Help the Helpless Benefactors,

As I reflect on what I could say to you during this time of Advent and Christmas, I called to mind the story of Brother Rafael Arnáiz. St. Rafael Arnáiz was a Spanish monk who died at the age of 27. He said that we have to learn "the art of knowing how to wait." Knowing how to wait properly is a key step in becoming saintly. We live in a society that is very much focused on immediate gratification. We say, "I want it right now; I need it right now..." and it should not be that way! We must learn how to wait and live our lives at the pace that God sets for us. After all, Advent is the season of waiting and preparing. We have to cultivate patience in ourselves and with others, because patience is also the ability to know how to wait.

I want to remind you that holiness does not come from doing very great or difficult things. St. Rafael Arnáiz tells us that "in order to be great saints, it is not necessary to do great things; it is enough to do great work in small things. God can make me as holy while I am peeling potatoes as if I were governing an empire." The supernatural value of our actions depends, therefore, on the intention with which we perform them. "Anything offered with the whole heart is enough for God." (St. Raphael) And so, if we put our heart into what we do, if we learn how to wait, if we allow the Lord to work in our lives at His pace, we will one day attain Heaven.

Therefore, I encourage you to continue doing all that you have been doing for the Missionary Groups of the Home of the Mother. Unite yourselves to Christ this Christmas season, as everything takes on greater value and merit in His eyes when we do it united to Him and the Blessed Virgin.

I cannot thank you enough for all that you do to help the Sisters in Ecuador. You are the hands of the Christ Child who goes into every Ecuadorian home where they need a Christmas meal, a mattress, a coat, a roof... You, with your charity, make it possible for others to have hope for Eternal Life. To all of you, I wish a Happy Advent and a Happy and Holy Christmas.

My blessing for you and your families,
Fr. Rafael Alonso
(Founder, Home of the Mother)

A Family at their Parish Church in Ecuador

