

Greetings from Fr. Altier, President of Help the Helpless

Dear Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Each year we have the privilege of preparing for the birth of our Lord with His most holy Mother and St. Joseph. The time of Advent is truly blessed as we prepare spiritually for the celebration of our Lord's birth. At the same time, we can meditate on the anguish she must have experienced knowing her Son, Who is God Incarnate, would be rejected and put to death. Of course, we know the peaceful time of our Lord's gestation ended abruptly when no one was willing to take in a woman who was about to give birth. The events that followed, be they the recognition of Jesus by Simeon and Anna, or the visit of the Magi, brought Mary and Joseph great solace while the attempt by Herold to kill Jesus, or the flight into Egypt, brought great hardships to the Holy Family as they left family and homeland, seeking safety and fleeing for their lives.

So many of the families we support have undergone some of the same joy and anguish. Some of the children have been abandoned, or their families have no means to support them. Your goodness is like the visit of the shepherds or the Magi bringing hope and joy into what might otherwise be lives of sorrow and despair. By providing food and housing, you are helping with the immediate needs, charity that was denied to the Holy Family. By providing education, you are helping children to be able to rise above the poverty of their circumstances and have reasonable hopes of being able to live productive and secure lives. On behalf of the families and children of India and Ecuador, and on behalf of the Help the Helpless Board of Directors, thank you for your extraordinary charity. May God, Who is never outdone in generosity, bless you and your families abundantly during the most blessed of seasons.

In our Lord and Our Lady,

Fr. Robert J. Altier

Update from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless family,

First of all, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas, and we ask that Our Lord will come with His innocence and His power to each one of our hearts.

Along with this Christmas greeting, we would like to add a few words of thanks, both from the people who benefit materially and spiritually from your aid, as well as from us, the Servant Sisters and the Servant Brothers, who are so blessed to be privileged witnesses of the Mercy of our God, who is so good.

We have been able to help so many, thanks to your generosity. Many children are able to continue their studies, many families receive a monthly food basket with basic items, many children receive a lunch every day in the soup kitchen, many people are being cared for and aided with medicine, but most importantly, many are encountering the love of God through His providence, which makes them feel that they are not alone, despite the hardships of life that they had to live. It is precious to see how charity awakens hearts to the knowledge and love of God. We share with you a short story and a picture.

Lucia: She is a woman who lives in a bamboo house. She has very advanced osteoarthritis, and she practically cannot leave her bed. This year, she made her First Holy Communion; she was filled with such joy that it seemed like she was a little girl.

Rejoice with us because the good you are doing is not only material, but rather, it is a bridge to an eternal good, and the reward you receive will also have an everlasting value.



Help the Helpless Triannual Newsletter

Christmas, 2019

Special Needs

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

*Assistance for Mrs. Rosa Pincay: \$1,500

This would enable the Sisters to hire someone daily to take care of Mrs. Pincay who is elderly, an invalid, blind, has hearing loss and needs care.

*Construction of bathroom and home repair for the Cedeno Piloso Family: \$3,000

An elderly couple, of whom the wife is blind, is raising their 5 grandchildren, ages baby to 12 years old, because their mother (the daughter of the grandparents) recently committed suicide. This would be to fix up their home for them and their grandchildren.

Playground equipment for St. Mary's School:

\$10,000 This will be used to purchase much needed playground equipment for the disabled students at St. Mary's School in India.

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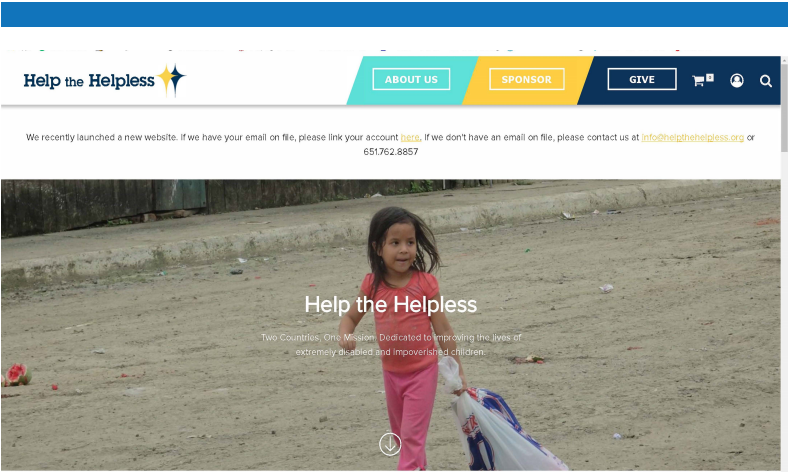
New website update and note from Chone, Ecuador

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A note of thanks from Fr. Robert Altier, President of Help the Helpless, and update from Guayaquil, Ecuador



Help the Helpless has a new website!

We invite all of you, dear friends and benefactors, to visit our new website at www.helphelpless.com or www.helphelpless.org! There you will find a much more informative, easy to use and functional, secure website. If you already have a current email address on file with Help the Helpless, you can use that to login to your account to immediately access all past giving, from 2010 to present. You can print off year end tax receipts, receive donation email reminders when your donation is due, see which child and/or family you are supporting and even write letters to your children and families and submit them through the site. If you don't have an email on file with us, you can create an account on the website, and we will link it to your past giving and sponsorship records. You can also sponsor children and families, even choosing which child or family you would like to sponsor, as well as make one-time or recurring donations. There is even an option to create a fundraising campaign, similar to Go Fund Me! We are very excited for the new site, and hope you will take advantage of all that it has to offer!

Update on Summer Mailing Special Needs

A special thank you to all those who donated to the special needs projects from our summer newsletter. The Sisters had requested \$5,000 to purchase musical instruments and equipment for the children's choirs to sing at Mass. We are happy to say that thus far, we have received over \$5,500 which allowed the Sisters to purchase all they had asked for and even a little more! To the right is a picture of the children using the newly purchased equipment as they sing at Mass. Additionally, the Headmaster at St. Mary's School had requested \$5,700 to purchase hearing aids and wheelchairs for the children, and to date, we have received \$7,518, all of which will be used to purchase even more medical equipment for the children. We could not have done this without your generosity!

Update from Chone, Ecuador

Dear friends and collaborators of Help the Helpless:

As Christmas draws near, we write you with a heart full of gratitude for everything we can do, thanks to your generous contributions. All is for the benefit of the needy, and many times, as well, to improve our working conditions and apostolate. Thank you for all you do!

We will share with you a little bit of what has been done thanks to your help in this last term:

The construction of phase 1 of the multi-purpose center, House for the Servant Sisters: The housing for the sisters, the first phase of the Multifunctional Center project, is nearing completion. It has been six months of intense work, and it is almost finished. We hope that by the time you read these words, the sisters will already be living there. Thank you, because without your help, it would have been impossible.

We continue bringing the monthly food baskets to all the sponsored families, as well as other food aid and other needs that arise, such as medicine and clothing, etc. We continue helping children and young people with scholarships, school supplies and uniforms. We have been able to purchase and distribute Bibles and religious objects to those who cannot afford them.

All this is being done thanks to your contributions. We ask you not to forget to pray for the Ecuadorian people and for those of us who are here trying to serve them. We need the support of your prayers so that we also know how to always put our Lord in the center of our lives and our apostolate. *"In this the love of God was made manifest to us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him."* (1 John 4:9)

Sr. Ruth and the Servant Sisters from Playa Prieta



Story of a New Student who is Excelling at St. Mary's School in India

Durairaj Pradeep is a new student this fall, studying in the 11th grade at St. Mary's. Every week, the teacher reviews the students' notebooks. When she looked through Durairaj's notebook, she was amazed with the pictures he had drawn of various National Leaders. What is even more incredible is that he only has two functioning fingers on his right hand. When I heard of this, I wanted to encouraged him to enter the Inter School drawing competition at the District level. Despite competing against children without disabilities, he won the first prize! We then realized the hidden talent of this child. We will continue to support any higher level competitions that Durairaj wants to pursue. After high school, he wants to continue with studying multimedia or fine arts in college, and we will make sure that he is supported in his endeavors.

I. Mariaselvam



Greetings from India

Dear loving friends and benefactors! Our grateful, heartfelt and cheerful wishes for a Merry Christmas and New Year to you all. The children attend daily Mass with the Montfort Fathers and in the month of November, we had special intentions each day. We prayed for the Help the Helpless benefactors and their families, as well as for the souls of those supporters who have passed away to eternal life.

The children are all studying well. They all scored good marks on their quarterly exams. Now they have their second mid-terms and half yearly examinations. Teachers give special care for the children's studies so they do well on these exams. Please pray for them and for their studies. By the time you read this, we will have celebrated World Disabled Day on December 3rd. On that day, we also celebrate Fr. Antony Xavier's patron saint's feast day. Father Antony was the founder of Help the Helpless and all the school institutions of St. Mary's in India. We continue to remember his untiring work for over 25 years for the disabled children and continue to pray for the repose of his soul. On December 3rd, a new biography of Fr. Antony Xavier will be released in English, as we strive to keep his memory alive.

St. Mary's always prays for all the benefactors of Help the Helpless, and please pray for us.

Once again, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020.

Thanking you with warm regards,

I.Mariaselvam
Administrator of St. Mary's Schools

