

## Greetings from Fr. Altier, President of Help the Helpless

Dear Benefactors,

As the summer months continue to swiftly pass by, I am reminded of my visits to India with the oppressive heat and humidity. But what I remember most are the smiles on the faces of the children. I have said it before, but the Indian people have the most beautiful smiles in the world. I have always been in awe of what the staff at St. Mary's has been able to accomplish with the beautiful children there. Thank you for great charity to keep them going. Your kindness not only provides for the schooling of the children, but also their room, board, and medical care.

Of course, your charity has also provided most wonderfully for the people in Ecuador, as well. There, the Sisters from the Home of the Mother are doing excellent work with the families and the children as well as general care for the poor. You are helping to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, and provide education for the next generation so there can be hope for a brighter future.

I never cease to be amazed at the loyalty and the generosity of the benefactors of Help the Helpless. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank each of you for your goodness to these people in far off lands who are in need. I praise the Lord for giving you such generous hearts! Enjoy what remains of the summer, and you will hear from us again before Christmas.

God bless you,

Fr. Altier



One of ten new houses built and given to poor families in Rio Chico, Ecuador, made possible by a grant from Help the Helpless.

## A note from Fr. Rafael Alonso, President and Founder of Home of the Mother

Dear friends of Help the Helpless,

Without your help, it is impossible for us to do anything. But with your help, we have been able to carry out many projects in Ecuador, more concretely in Guayaquil, Playa Prieta, and Chone.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you for your generosity. Thanks to you, we have been able to continue to feed the hungry in our soup kitchens; thanks to you, we have been able to send young people who desire to grow in their faith and have an encounter with Christ to summer camps and spiritual exercises; thanks to you, the community of brothers in Rio Chico has the ability to move about thanks to the truck, and the sisters have a 17 passenger van. Thanks to you, we have been able to increase the salary of 18 teachers in the school. Thanks to you, we have been able to build and donate 10 houses to poor families in need (pictured below). How could we not acknowledge such a vast contribution? We feel indebted to you for your generosity. We are only mediators between your generosity and those who receive your help.

In addition to all of this, we have been able to give school scholarships, build a well, continue with the sponsorship of poor families, give medical aid, and continue with the construction of the multipurpose center which will offer further opportunities to help the poor children and families.

Summer is vacation time, but charity does not take vacations. You all are on this level of charity, a charity that never grows weary of working for the poor and rejected just as Pope Francis exhorts us to do. Jesus Christ told us that whatsoever you do to the least of My brethren, so you do unto Me. I, as a priest and president of the Home of the Mother of all Humanity, Mother of the Youth, thank you and encourage you to continue on this path which will certainly be greatly rewarded by the Lord.

Thank you and until next time,

Fr. Rafael Alonso



## Help the Helpless Triannual Newsletter

Summer, 2019

### Special Needs

If you could help support any of these special, urgent needs of the Sisters in Ecuador and St. Mary's School in India, we would be so grateful.

#### **\*Piano, Guitar and Sound Equipment for Children's Choir: \$5,000**

The Sisters at Holy Family School in Playa Prieta have formed two children's choirs, with over 60 children who want to participate. However, the sisters need a keyboard and guitar to accompany the children, as well as sound equipment. Everything they have is either broken or has deteriorated so badly that it cannot be used. This amount will provide all the necessary equipment for the choir to sing at the weekend Masses.

#### **\*Wheelchairs and Hearing Aids: \$5,700**

Two wheelchairs and several hearing aids need to be purchased for disabled and deaf-mute students at St. Mary's School in India.

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## Update from Chone, Ecuador

Dear friends of Help the Helpless and collaborators,

Our greetings to all of you. We would like to share with you the news that we have been able to begin the construction of the first phase of what will be the Multipurpose Center in Chone, Manabi, Ecuador. The first phase includes a home for the Sisters. The next phase will include buildings for a children's soup kitchen, a medical dispensary, a store for poor families in which products will be sold at a low cost, housing for volunteers, etc. God willing, shortly, when the work of the house is finished, we can start work on the other facilities.

All of this is only possible thanks to your generosity. That is why we want to send our sincere gratitude from Chone to each and every one of those who in one way or another have contributed to make this project a reality.

In conclusion, an image comes to mind that I want to share with you. I am writing this on the eve of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Just a year ago, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament passed right in front of the property. At that time, it was a piece of land full of grass and shrubs. As the priest passed by, he blessed the land with the Blessed Sacrament. We were so excited when we saw this because we knew that his blessing was going to be the beginning of many more that the Lord was going to pour out from there. Now, a year later, it just so happens that the procession with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will again pass in front of our property. It is surprising to see the difference. It was nothing back then. In the course of a year, we see the project of the Lord and Our Blessed Mother progressing and advancing, for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls!

Blessed be God! THANK YOU!!

Sr. Rosi and the Community of Servant Sisters of the Home of Mother

## Update from Playa Prieta, Ecuador

At the end of April, we started the new school year of 2019-2020. With your generosity, we were able to fill two classrooms with new desks for the students as shown in the picture below.

One of our important apostolates which many of you are a part of is sponsorship of families. We would like to tell you about one of these families. About a month ago, we were told about a family with 5 kids who had recently moved to Playa Prieta. The father of this family had been working in Guayaquil on a farm, and when he started to have knee problems, they fired him from his job. He came to live in Playa Prieta with his family who was living in a barn. The sisters went to visit this family, and the father began to cry because he felt so helpless not being able to work and not being able to feed his 5 children, ages 9 months to 12 years old. Some of the lay members of the Home brought him to the doctor. During these doctor visits, they discovered that the man only had rheumatic fever and that he could easily recover and begin working again. Since then, the father has recovered his desire to live (he had been contemplating suicide), and he is very thankful for all the help that he and his family have received. The lay members are also giving him and his wife catechism classes so they can get married in the Church, and they are also teaching his wife how to take care of her house. We are sponsoring this family and also giving them a free house as part of the Houses of Christ program (made possible by a generous grant given by a foundation that supports Help the Helpless).

To show thanks for all that we receive from Help the Helpless, we are offering our school Mass every Tuesday for Help the Helpless benefactors.

Thank you so much and God bless all of you!

Sr. Ruth and the Servant Sisters from Playa Prieta



## Greetings from India

Dear loving friends and benefactors! My seasonal greetings to you all! We are so grateful to you! I hope that you all are fine by the grace of God. The children at St. Mary's Schools are doing well. We believe in God's abundant love and Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier's, founder of Help the Helpless, blessings. Admissions to the school for the deaf and mute and for the differently abled are almost complete. New sets of uniforms and new books have been given to the students. Some electrical, carpentry, plumbing and other minor repairs have been done at St. Mary's. A mini van and a mini truck have been added to the fleet of vehicles for the benefit of St. Mary's children and teachers. These can be used around the clock for emergency purposes.

The students in both 10th and 12th grades have all passed their government required annual comprehensive exams. The headmistress, principal, and faculty of the schools spare no effort in helping the children achieve academic success. The students also do well in sports and extracurricular activities.

Here at St. Mary's, we see the children with disabilities as gifted children, and I believe that God has appointed me to serve these children. While some people know about the wonderful opportunities available to the disabled children at St. Mary's, many do not. We make it a point to go out to the villages and find the children who otherwise would not be able to receive an education because of their disability. Please continue to read on as I share one such wonderful success story of a child, all because of your generosity.

Here in the state of Tamil Nadu, water is very scarce, as the seasonal rains have failed us. There is also unrest throughout India as the major political party, BJP, has won again. They vigorously pursue Hindu Nationalism. They are also trying to take over public institutions like the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Please pray for us during these trying times, and please be assured of our prayers.

Thanking you with warm regards,

I.Mariaselvam  
Administrator of St. Mary's Schools



## Story of a New Student at St. Mary's School in India

My name is R. Avineswaran, and I am a differently abled child. I come from a very poor family. My parents are daily wage earners. I studied up to the 5th grade in my village, which is 25 miles from St. Mary's. My ambition was to become a teacher, but my family does not have the financial ability to help, and my village did not have the resources or facilities for me. I was dependent on someone else's help for all my basic needs and activities, such as bathing and toileting. My old school was not handicap accessible, nor was my home, and I could not even use the bathrooms without help. One day, some teachers from St. Mary's came to my village and spoke with my parents. They explained all that they offered to me as a poor child with a disability - free education, free room and board, books, etc. My family was so excited for the opportunity, and so I received their permission to go and study and live there. Now that I live and study at St. Mary's, I do not need to depend on anybody to do my daily activities because the buildings are made for people like me. I made some new friends and am very happy here. Had the teachers from St. Mary's not come to my village, I would have stopped my studies. I am always thankful to the late Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, his nephew and Administrator, Mr. I. Mariaselvam, and to you, the generous benefactors, for providing such a wonderful environment for children like me.