**Special Needs**

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

*Purchase of 3 Additional Computers for Virtual Classroom in Ecuador - $1,700*

The Sisters are anticipating that the 2021-2022 school year beginning in May will be virtual. Three of their computers are beyond repair and need to be replaced so they can continue to teach online.

*Repairs and Maintenance of School in Ecuador - $4,045*

Holy Family School in Playa Prieta is in need of repairs and maintenance, from repairing cracks in walls to painting and fixing the rusted doors.

*Purchase of 44 Mobile Devices for St. Mary’s - $5,091.80*

Schools continue to remain online in India. Many of the students at St. Mary’s lack the resources to go online as they do not have a device to access the internet. Your donation will provide devices for those students in grades 10-12.

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Update from Chone, Ecuador

...If Christ has not been risen, then our faith is in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:14).

Dear friends and collaborators of Help the Helpless:

We write to you these lines of Easter greetings one day before leaving on pilgrimage, spiritual exercises, and get together activities that all the communities of Servant Sisters and Servant Brothers and Priests of Ecuador are carrying out. We have a few days of vacation ahead of us, and all the communities have organized some activities. How nice it is to have one heart and one soul. In Guayaquil, the Sisters have organized spiritual exercises for girls, and all the spots have been filled. In Playa Prieta, the sisters are going to make a pilgrimage. And in Chone, we will also have a few days of Mission, Prayer and Pilgrimage, a very complete program for sponsorship, the different help for house repairs and apostolate with the people here.

Happy Easter, but it is also an opportunity to thank you for the good you do. This is the first thing that has come from our hearts in this email which was originally to wish you a Happy Easter, but it is also an opportunity to thank you for the help you provide us, which allows us and facilitates the apostolate with the people here.

As for the rest of the projects, we continue with our work that you already know about, such as family and children sponsorship, the different help for house repairs and construction, emergency aid with medicine, COVID tests, caskets, burial expenses and the construction of the multifunctional center, which we now call The Missionary Center. At the end of January, we finished the construction of the perimeter wall. Since we needed a space for the meetings with the adult and youth groups, a roof over a cement floor was built, and we use it for apostolate meetings, to prepare the monthly food baskets and as a garage.

Thank you for helping us and for allowing us to be your front line collaborators in this exciting mission of evangelization and service to the most needy in these areas of Ecuador where we are. May God bless you and repay you abundantly for all the good you do. “And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Happy Easter.

United in Prayers with a heart full of gratitude,
The Sisters from Chone

Greetings from India

Dear loving friends and benefactors! Warm greetings and Easter wishes to all of you. Thank you for all your prayers and support to St. Mary’s. Things at St. Mary’s are running smoothly. The students are getting ready for their final examinations. Grades 10-12 will complete their exams in April.

Christmas, day of gifts, new outfits, was made possible Helpless, Mr. visited all the students, and students entertained had meetings with him Mary’s, I speak for staff in saying your help in providing smart for our deaf-mute help in purchasing 50 f the deaf-mute and furnishing it with the necessary equipment for St. Mary’s.

We are always grateful to Help the Helpless. We are praying for all the benefactors. Please pray for all our children in the success of their board examination.

I. Mariaselmam Administrator of St. Mary’s Schools

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Skill Development Training Center

We have a training center at St. Mary’s which teaches skills that students can use to get a job. In the Indian culture, the majority of women are not allowed to pursue higher education or a job once they are married. However, with high unemployment rates and other family and financial issues, more women are looking for day labor. This is one of the main reasons the Skill Development Training Center was created. Once a student completes the training, St. Mary’s will make arrangements to either place the student in a job or help him become self-employed.

Staff from St. Mary’s go to nearby villages to seek out those who could benefit from this program. It was at one such village that they found Madulampet Aparna. She was 18 years old and was deaf and mute. She had completed the 10th grade, but her parents had then taken her out of school due to her disability. The staff convinced her parents of the great opportunity of allowing her to enroll in the tailoring course. Her parents were initially nervous to let her go, but she now goes to and from St. Mary’s each day, understands what the teacher is saying, and is learning to stitch, embroider, etc. Madulampet and her parents are very grateful for the opportunity to learn such a necessary skill and be assured of a job when she graduates from the program. It is thanks to your generosity that these types of programs exist.

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Madulampet Aparna learns to sew at the tailoring courses offered at the Skill Development Training Center at St. Mary’s School.
Update on Summer Mailing Special Needs

Sr. Eyling

The Immaculate Heart of Our Mother will Triumph! God bless families!

now without work, they will have even more difficulties. Once only thing we have." The poor people here are day laborers, so thank you. We are rationing the rice and the bananas...it is the virus continue for a long time, we will have a difficult time all these families because if these restrictions and spreading of the two volunteers deliver it. In each food basket, we are including a

We just want to share with you a bit how we are carrying out the delivery of the food baskets to the sponsored families and to the other poor families and elderly people, because during these hard times due to the Coronavirus, they cannot come to our house to pick it up. Here in Chone, Ecuador, two Sisters go out in a car with their masks and antibacterial soap to very quickly deliver the food. They are required by police to have masks and soap and must show it if stopped. In Guayaquil, it is more difficult because the people are scattered and live on the periphery. A priest buys the food, and two volunteers deliver it. In each food basket, we are including a rosary and a brochure on how to pray the rosary. Please pray for all these families because if these restrictions and spreading of the virus continue for a long time, we will have a difficult time bringing the food to them. We know that for many of these families, the only food they have at home is what we give them each month. Yesterday, when we went to give the food to some of the families, they were so grateful as they said, "Thank you, thank you. We are rationing the rice and the bananas...it is the only thing we have." The poor people here are day laborers, so now without work, they will have even more difficulties. Once again, thank you for making it possible to care for our poor families!

The Immaculate Heart of Our Mother will Triumph! God bless you! United in Prayers,
Sr. Eyling

Update on Summer Mailing Special Needs

A special thank you to all those who donated to the special needs projects from our Christmas newsletter. We received over $3,000 to help repair the home and build a bathroom for the Cedeno Piloso Family in Ecuador, to help take care of Mrs. Rosa Piney, an elderly woman who lives alone, and to purchase playground equipment at St. Mary’s School in India. It is not too late to donate to these projects. Please visit: www.helpthehelpless.com and click on the Give tab at the top.

Easter, 2020 | Help the Helpless

An Update from St. Mary’s School in India

Dear Loving Friends and Benefactors!

Warm Greetings and Easter wishes to all the Benefactors.

How are you all, Friends and Benefactors?

My heartfelt gratitude to you and all the benefactors for your prayers and constant support of St. Mary’s. With the blessings of Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier and all your prayers and support, St. Mary’s Schools are running successfully. This Corona issue makes the academic field more difficult, but the teachers have introduced new methods of teaching to reach the students who are all at home. When we began, it was the toughest task, and now all have adapted to some extent.

Our State Government has announced the opening of schools for grades 9-12 for non-disabled children. However, it will not allow the schools for special needs children like handicapped, deaf-mute, blind, etc because they say that these children may be more easily affected by COVID-19. So, we are unable to reopen our 2 schools for the special needs and deaf-mute. We miss them a lot. However, we are continuing online classes for them. St. Mary’s children and their parents are safe in their homes. We have not had any persons affected with COVID-19 among the families. However, the families continue to face a severe economic crisis and unemployment. Corona has changed almost all peoples’ lives here, including even the highest wage earners. Thank you for your support in giving to the Corona Relief Fund. To date, we have received more than $17,000 to provide food, supplies and financial gifts to those families in need. We have been able to offer COVID testing to our employees and teachers who continue to come to the school. A total of nine staff members have been infected with mild symptoms and have recovered.

We observed the Christmas celebration for the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff on December 23, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we could not gather with the students. We also observed Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier’s third death anniversary on February 18, 2021. Fourteen priests came from our diocese and celebrated mass for the repose of the soul of Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, the founder of Help the Helpless and St. Mary’s Schools. At that time, we issued welfare assistance to some of the St. Mary’s families. We had intended to do this at Christmas time, but due to the heavy rains and COVID restrictions, this was delayed. We will give aid to all our families but will have to do this over the course of time due to the gathering restrictions.

Our country is in a severe economic crisis. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, COVID-19, and heavy rains during the harvest season have changed the economic level of the country for the worse. Due to the rains, the crops are damaged and most could not be harvested. Farmers are now expecting help from the Government. The petrol and diesel price also increased significantly these past few months. The farmers have been protesting for nearly four months. The daily wage earners suffer a lot. Now there are many protests against increasing petrol and diesel prices. We look ahead to the State Government elections in April, 2021. Please pray for the assembly of better Governance in our state.

We are always grateful to Help the Helpless. We are praying for all the benefactors. Please pray for all our St. Mary’s children for their success in the forthcoming board examinations in the next month. We thank all of you for your prayers and support. We love you all. Once again, we wish a Happy Easter to you and all the benefactors.

Thanking you.

Yours in Jesus,
I.Mariaselvam

St. Mary’s School Easter, 2021 | Help the Helpless

Deliveries of food and aid were made to families who could not come to St. Mary’s School

Easter, 2020 | Help the Helpless

Deliveries of food and aid were made to families who could not come to St. Mary’s School
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