

Ripples

December 2018 Issue

*Friends of Peace Orphanage Program
A Ministry of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
Corporal Works of Mercy Commission
861 Maitland Avenue
Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701*

THE WHISPERS OF THE CHRIST CHILD

In this season of the Christ Child, is your heart open to His gentle whispers? Do you hear them? Many of you have listened and heard His call. You share your faith and love through your support of our ongoing St. Mary Magdalen Mission Program, which benefits the children of Peace Orphanage in Mexico. The 51 children (ages 13 months through 18 years of age) and the Benedictine Sisters of the Holy Family send a special Christmas message of love to you. Their hearts are so full and bursting with gratitude. In their daily prayers to the Christ Child, they give thanks and raise up their St. Mary Magdalen Parish family and all of the Friends of Peace Orphanage. Every prayer and every penny that is donated continues to save the lives of these children and forever impacts their growth and development. You are the Christ Child's hands and feet in this mission!! Your involvement in the lives of these abandoned and abused angels exemplifies His great love to them. All of their futures now contain endless possibilities as we continue to support them through both their spiritual and temporal educational journey. Each child knows that they are encircled by the loving care of the Friends of Peace Orphanage and their Peace Orphanage Family. May God bless you for listening to the Christ Child's whispers.....



Monica Martinez is pictured with children in Peace Orphanage. Monica, her husband, Danny, and their daughters, Julianna and Gabriella, visited the Orphanage during a family trip to Mexico City in September 2018. During their visit, Danny installed and tested equipment to allow SMM the capability of Internet Video Conferencing with the Orphanage and the launching of a new educational project for the children of interactive English lessons provided by SMM Disciple Volunteer, Cheri Votey.

If you wish for your donation to be earmarked for one of our ongoing or special projects, simply note the project on the Memo Line of your Check. For example.....

ONGOING HIGHER EDUCATION FUND - (NOTE: Tuition per HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT is \$1600.00)

MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP - PROVIDING FOOD & BASIC NECESSITIES FOR 1 CHILD... \$99.60

OUR NEW AUTOMATED GIVING PROGRAM

Through our new Automated Giving Program (via ACH Transfer of Funds), you can arrange for a designated monthly donation to be automatically transferred to the Peace Orphanage Fund. For more information contact:

Susan Lewis, Program Founder

(407) 331-6256 or PeaceOrphanage@StMaryMagdalen.org

Blessed by your generosity through Sacrificial Giving and your Private Donations, you made it possible for our Program to accomplish the following Goals and Special Projects throughout this year.....

- **DONATIONS FOR FOOD:** *The Friends of Peace Orphanage Program sent \$4000 each month to the Orphanage for the purchase of food and the payment of other monthly expenses.*
- **MISSION TEAM VISIT:** *In February of this year, Father Charlie and 3 members our Peace Orphanage Committee visited the Orphanage both in Mexico City and Teoloyucan. Through their efforts, we continued to build our relationship with the children and Sisters. During this visit, 3 of our toddlers were baptized by Father Charlie and he celebrated Mass at both Orphanage locations. Assessment of the Orphanage facilities was completed by our Mission Team and the future needs of the children were discussed including: medical/mental health care and our support of the higher education goals of the older girls.*
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** *(Mexico City & Teoloyucan) Fees were paid throughout the year for ongoing Religious Education at local Parishes including preparation of the children for receiving the Sacraments.*
- **NEW COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION PROJECT:** *In September 2018, the Martinez Family - Monica, Danny, Julianna & Gabriella, visited the Orphanage during a family trip to Mexico City. Danny installed equipment to allow SMM the capability of Internet Video Conferencing with the Orphanage. The Video Conferencing will also make it possible to launch a new educational project for the children involving interactive English lessons provided by our SMM Disciple Volunteer, Cheri Votey.*
- **SCHOOL UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES:** *A \$2200.00 donation was received through the fundraising efforts of SMM School to provide uniforms, uniform shoes, and school supplies for the pre-school and grade school children.*
- **HIGH SCHOOL TUITIONS:** *\$12,800.00 was raised to cover the tuitions of the 8 girls who are attending High School this year. One full High School Tuition Scholarship was provided by each of the following: SMM Men's Club, SMM Council of Catholic Women, SMM School, and 4 private donors. Partial tuitions were also donated by the SMM Knights of Columbus and 4 private donors.*
- **MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE:** *Your contributions continue to provide medications and medical/dental care for all of the children.*
- **NEW PROGRAM – PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING:** *Beginning in September, two Psychologists are now coming to the Orphanage a total of four days per week to provide counseling for the children, who suffer from issues related to abandonment, and also physical and mental abuse. The fee for one of the Psychologists is being provided by a private donor, who is a SMM Parishioner.*
- **REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED & BROKEN WINDOWS & DOORS (Mexico City):** \$8328.00
- **INSTALLATION COSTS FOR TILE FLOORING DONATED TO ORPHANAGE:** (Mexico City) \$1200.00
- **FIRE ALARMS, EXTINGUISHERS, WINDOW & ROOF REPAIRS:** (Teoloyucan) \$1525.00
- **HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT & CHRISTMAS GIFT:** *The Corporal Works of Mercy Commission has arranged for Christmas Cards to be made by SMM Disciple Volunteers and sent to the children. Funds have also been donated by the SMM Men's Club for a "Fun Movie Outing" Christmas Gift for the children and Sisters. This gift will include transportation, snacks and lunch.....\$1200.00*

Make Checks Payable To:

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH - PEACE ORPHANAGE FUND

Or write on the Memo Line of the Check: For Peace Orphanage

Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the Church Office or placed in the Sunday Collection.