

HIM Update

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Newsletter of Humanitarian Interfaith Ministries (HIM)

Winter 2011

The life of a child saved through the support of HIM Ministries



Father Joe Maurizio pictured with some of the Religious Sisters who operate some of HIM's mission supported projects in Nicaragua.

[A Christmas and New Year message from Father Joe Maurizio](#), founder of Humanitarian Interfaith Ministries (HIM).

In the last 15 years I have traveled over 35 times to Central America to try to help the poor, orphaned, abandoned, and at risk children of the streets. We presently are supporting eight projects in five countries that follow my mission of helping children of the streets. We also have many people who are sponsors to many of our children living in our supported orphanages, and many other people who send their tax deductible donations that support all the other projects.

We desperately need more people to become Sponsors.

I have been personally traveling to our supported projects, all of which are operated by religious organizations, and I work to ensure that the finances we donate to them are

used to help the children appropriately. This is my promise to the many supporters of HIM missions.

Because of the many supporters and volunteers of the projects, at the present time we return over 95%



Pictures of children we support that use to live on the streets or were abandoned by their parents. Also Fr. Joe and a Religious Sister who works the farm.

of our donations to help the children. The more financial support we receive, the more children we are able to help. Without your help, nearly 90% of street children turn to drugs of some kind to take away their hunger pains. As I have seen many times, when the street children are high on drugs, they will be able to eat anything they find in garbage cans. This life style leads to an early death. So, as true followers of Christ, HIM and myself continue to beg you for your support. Please mail your check to HIM today. God Bless you all for your generosity. - Fr. Joe Maurizio

Our Mission Projects in Nicaragua

I was recently in Nicaragua visiting our Mission projects run by the Sisters of the Servants of the Divine Face. These Religious Sisters were formed to care only for children of the streets. The Sisters say they are "always happy to see Fr. Joe visit (Continued on back page)



them because their needs are so great”, and HIM missions supports the children with some of their needs.

The main orphanage has about 35 former street girls. I am always impressed with the happiness and joy that these children have. They are so happy to have a warm loving place to live, as well as a place to go to school and Mass every Sunday. They all thanked me for our support.

The second orphanage in Managua, Nicaragua that the Sisters serve, is for little children ages six to a few months old. The number of these little children has doubled in the last two years. They have about 35 little children living in three small rooms. I do not know how they take care of all these children with three Religious Sisters and a few volunteers. They have no outside play area, and it appears the recreation for many of the little children is bouncing up and down on the mattress that are stacked on the floor in the morning, after the children have slept on them during the night. Many of these little children always seem to be hungry, and it appears their main diet is refried beans and corn bread.

These Sisters have a third project near the city of Managua, which is the small farm they operate to feed most of the children they serve. A generous HIM supporter donated money for the Sisters to plant fruit trees and banana plants. They are now producing food for the children to eat. The Sisters also grow beans, corn, tomatoes and other vegetables that keep the children healthy. The Sisters no longer raise chickens and pigs because they cannot afford the medicine and food they need. So now the only animals they raise for meat for the children are goats. They also get milk from these goats, and some of it is turned into cheese for the children. Without this farm, the Sisters would have to let most of the children go back to the streets because they could not afford to feed them.

Father Joe recently visited some of our supported projects in Costa Rica

Fr. Joe and Fr. Sergio with some of the young teenage boys we are helping to get off the streets.



Costa Rica continues to suffer from a very large immigration problem from other countries in Central America. The standard of living is higher and has more jobs, but Costa Rica is still a very poor country.

Most of the children we sponsor in Costa Rica are girls because they are escaping from being kidnapped and thrown into the international slave market. We support more than 50 girls from the Hogar Christiano Orphanage. Most of these girls have been pulled off the streets by the government and given to the Sisters to raise. Without the support of HIM, many of these girls would have to go back to the streets. Many of these girls are sponsored by friends of HIM.

Father Sergio in San Jose, Costa Rica has been supported by HIM for about seven years. With our help in construction of a new building, Father Sergio and his Works of the Holy Spirit are taking care of many little children of the streets. They live in the building and are cared for there.

A new project that we are working on with Fr. Sergio is to care for about 20 young teenagers who lived on the streets. Day after day, they would come to him and beg him to help them get off the streets. The girls had been forced into prostitution to survive and the boys were forced to run drugs to customers of the gangs. So if the boys were arrested by the police and sent to jail, the gang members were not.

Fr. Sergio has made available one house for girls and houses the boys in a small room in one of his warehouses. HIM has given Fr. Sergio money to help these street children and take them out of the hell on earth that they have had to live in.

I expect to be back in Costa Rica later this year and I will try to give all our supporters a report on the developments of this latest HIM project.

Please make your checks payable to HIM and send your donations to Father Joe Maurizio:

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