



MARIA MADRE CHILD SPONSORSHIP (GODPARENT) PROGRAM

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The Invitation

The Holy Trinity Maria Madre group warmly invites you to participate in our parish's thirty-two year relationship of service, faith sharing, friendship, and solidarity with our sister parish by becoming a godparent in the Maria Madre Godparent (child sponsorship) Program.

What is Maria Madre de los Pobres?

Maria Madre de los Pobres is a Catholic parish located in La Chacra, a very poor neighborhood on the outskirts of San Salvador. Most parishioners fled to La Chacra to escape violence during the country's civil war in the 1980s. Some came after a major earthquake devastated the country during those same years. All came seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families.

Residents are confronted daily with chronic un- or underemployment, substandard living conditions, and unpredictable gang violence as well as the devastating effects of natural disasters.

In response to these challenges and with the financial help and solidarity of their sister parishes, Maria Madre ACTS*. Guided by their faith, parishioners and staff strengthen families and the community through a Godparent/child sponsorship program, partial scholarships for higher education, an elementary school, a GED program, a senior day center, an emergency response team, an after-school program and a clinic - in addition to ongoing faith and sacramental formation and practice.



What is the Godparent Program?

Administered by Maria Madre parish staff under the leadership of a sister of the Apostólicas Corazón de Jesús, the Godparent program is a child sponsorship program that serves the children and youth in La Chacra whose families have the greatest socio-economic needs.

Godchildren receive assistance with school fees and supplies and engage in ongoing, age-appropriate (and fun) activities that develop values, strengthen faith and support positive youth development. In addition, parents or caregivers participate in lively monthly formation sessions coordinated by program staff and peer leaders. Sessions address such issues as family communication, child development and mental and physical health.

What does a Godparent/Sponsor Do?

For \$300 per year until your godchild graduates from elementary school or leaves the program, you or your family can help support your child's education. Sponsorship fees go toward tuition, books, uniforms, shoes and supplies. They also cover health checkups, dental screenings and treatment, weekly formation for students, monthly formation for caregivers, home visits, field trips and birthday and holiday celebrations. During crises, your contribution helps families meet basic needs.

As a godparent, you are asked to email or mail birthday and Christmas greetings to your godchild through Holy Trinity's coordinators, Mauricio Rodriguez and Margie Legowski. You are also invited to join a Holy Trinity trip to El Salvador so you can meet your child. (This is not required!)

How do I sign-up?

--[Complete and email the attached Maria Madre Sponsor Information Form](#) to both Mauricio Rodriguez and Margie Legowski (address below).



ACTS*

Accompany One Another in Christ
Celebrate God's Love
Transform Lives



--Mauricio or Margie will request a child for you.

--When a family is ready, the El Salvador staff will email your child's information. (Sometimes there is a delay as the staff need to visit each family to assess whether the program is a good fit for them.)

--Once we have a child's name, you can make your annual \$300 program donation online. Go to trinity.org > donate > social justice and select the fund Maria Madre Godparent. Put in the amount.

--Mauricio or Margie will email your godchild's information and photo to you.

--Email the date and amount of your payment to Mauricio at debandmo@verizon.net and Margie Legowski at margielegowski@gmail.com

--Email Mauricio and Margie or call Margie if you have questions at 202-257-4279.