



Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries

2023

Annual Report

for our Mission Partners, Sponsors & Friends



OVERVIEW

2023 was quite the year for us as we recovered from two years of COVID-19 pandemic obstacles. But recover we did!

The year began with implementation of our plans for significant expansion of our Regina Coeli Education Program. This effort developed over six months and was a huge success.

In January and February, Sisters stationed in the United States traveled abroad to Europe and Australia, spreading the Mission and fundraising.

We report on our comprehensive effort in 2023 to tackle the commercial exploitation of children and women, working with local authorities and visiting brothels across the country.

We report on amazing success stories from our Rescue Homes.

We received the very prestigious Platinum Transparency Rating Seal from CANDID.

Mira Sorvino, Hollywood celebrity and ambassador for UNODC, joined us as a Mission Partner!

The new Regina Coeli Home of Love Shelter for Women opened in Los Angeles, CA.

The Sisters stationed in the US traveled home to the Philippines to visit all of our facilities and programs and for the first time in five years spent time with their families at Christmas

And you may have noticed that we have an all-new website which has served us well over the past year!

You can read the details of these accomplishments and events in this 2023 Annual Report as we happily share our continued growth of the Mission thanks to your generous support..

God is good.

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Education Program Expansion Realized



Education Program

Our 2023 Strategic Plan for the Regina Coeli Education Program was to significantly increase our footprint in the rural areas of the Philippines. It's a fact that when children are in school they cannot easily be contacted by sex traffickers or those wishing to exploit them. In addition, the education of these children has a cascading effect on their siblings and our society, generating unity and pride.

So we set a lofty goal of expanding our reach to 12 new provinces, their towns, and barangays. We are pleased to announce that we have reached that goal and now serve 28 provinces, an increase of 75% over 2022. The 2023 fall school year saw an enrollment of 18,000 students, 6000 more than last year.

Our Sisters in the Philippines spent the first six months of the year seeking out the most remote villages to register children who patiently waited hours with their parents to become beneficiaries. The Sisters worked closely with local governments, educators, and parishes to build communities where would-be exploiters are not tolerated. We could not have achieved this goal without the help of the dedicated Bishops of these new provinces and our many Mission Partners, volunteers, and generous donors worldwide.

As Mother Corazon Salazar states, "In addition to school materials, we make sure we intentionally find students who need help the most. We never take our focus off giving parents comfort, dignity, and assistance as they provide their children with a happier and safer life".

We invite you to read the details of how our adventures and endeavors resulted in improving the lives of many.

Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries 2023



Grateful Appreciation to all of our Bishops!





Journey to Virac

After a five-hour boat trip from mainland Luzon, Sister Angela Villalon, MQHM, and Mission Partners traveled another long hour through the mountains to reach the Diocese of Virac. The tiny municipality rests on the south coast of Catanduanes. Most houses do not have running water or electricity, and months go by without a break in the rain, preventing the planting of vegetables and coastal fishing - the two mainstays of sustenance. One meal a day is the norm if you are lucky. Many fathers work in construction in Manila, and mothers with their children become 'house helpers' to assist in family survival.

This culture of poverty discourages kids from attending school. After interviewing student applicants for the Regina Coeli Program, MQHM identified 50 benefactors who were anxiously willing to take advantage of the program and start school in the fall. Each and everyone now have a chance to set a new course in life.

"We were committed, with the help of Father Butch, to rescue those in brothels and introduce parents to our Regina Coeli Program for their children who are in such dire need of education," said Sr. Angela.



2023
Fr. Butch Bueno,
Sr. Angela Villalon,
MQHM, and
Mission Partners

Reaching Into Rizal



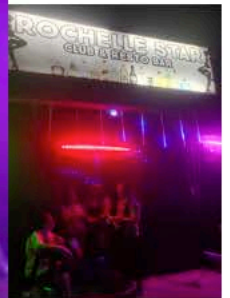
Located in the heart of Luzon, a northern region of the Philippines, you'll find the Province of Rizal. Nestled deep in the lush mountains are remote villages far from modern conveniences. Sister Lyra Yvette Durano, MQHM, struck out on her own, determined to reach the families and bring word of our Regina Coeli Education Program. Crossing streams and rivers on foot, she experienced warm greetings from local church workers and priests of small parishes of the Diocese of Rizal, who were so happy to have their communities exposed to our educational opportunities.



Most Rev. Francisco M. De Leon, Bishop of Rizal and Sr. Lyra Durano, MQHM

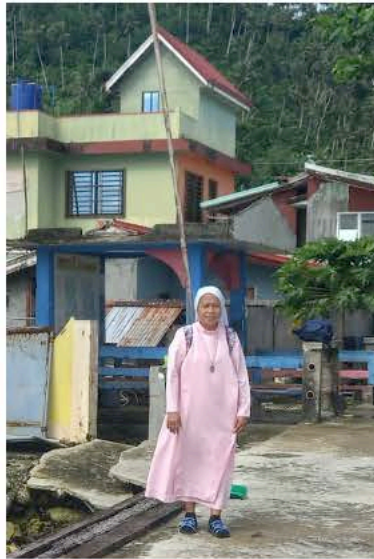
Sister Lyra soon discovered that the challenge in Rizal was more significant than just a lack of proper education. She learned of the prevalence of dysfunctional families, separated parents, and abandoned teens who are targeted by brothels. And many children had only "heard" of the Sacrament of Baptism, but never were baptized, "We need to go above and beyond in our quest to help the poor of Rizal", said Sister Lyra.

One parish was so grateful for the Regina Coeli Program we offer, that they donated allowances for 50 beneficiaries showing support for their youth. "It has been a successful endeavor. I don't mind the distance, whether near or far, what matters most is the mission God entrusted me to bring along with the good news of our educational program."



2023 Sr. Lyra approaches young girls in a brothel, offering help

**Sr. Spe Bacomo
and her fellow
Sisters worked
tirelessly
to reach into the
barangays in 2023**



12 NEW PROVINCES OPENED



MISSION PARTNER/VOLUNTEERS ARE KEY



Our Mission Partners finish the job by packing and distributing thousands of school supplies all over the country.

Maria Regina der Heimsuchungen
Hier ist, was wir tun...

Retung
Wir retten Kinder, Jugendliche, Frauen, die Opfer von Menschenhandel sind, und bringen sie in ihre Heimatländer zurück.

Ausbildung
Wir bieten Schulunterricht und berufliche Ausbildung für Kinder, Jugendliche und Frauen an, die Opfer von Menschenhandel sind.

Sauvetage
Nous sauvons les enfants et les jeunes femmes, et nous les ramène dans leur pays d'origine.

Éducation
Nous offrons l'éducation et la formation professionnelle aux enfants, adolescents et femmes victimes de traite.

Rescate
Rescatamos niños y jóvenes, mujeres y niñas de la explotación humana y los traemos de vuelta a sus países de origen.

Educación
Ofrecemos educación y formación profesional a niños, adolescentes y mujeres víctimas de trata.

Rescue
We rescue children & young women, ages 8 and older, from prostitution.

Education
We provide education assistance in homework and also the hand-pump of the Philippines.

Portugal
Spain
France
Italy
Monaco
Germany
Switzerland
Austria
Australia

Lisbon
Madrid
Ibiza
Paris
Marseille
Nice
Cannes
Antibes
Monaco
Milan
Genoa
Treviso
Venice
Palermo
Rome
Bonn
Hamburg
Munich
Berlin
Zurich
Geneva
Vienna
Sydney
Melbourne
Perth
Brisbane
Granada
Avila

2023 was a year of travel

Four of our Sisters covered nine countries and 28 cities, making presentations to parishes, religious communities, community organizations, prayer groups and Mass celebrations, as well as private gatherings and personal meetings in Embassies. The Sisters traveled in teams of two. From January through March Sr. Isabel and Sr. Irene traveled to Europe, and Sr. Glicerica and Sr. Monica headed down under to Australia. Sisters Glicerica and Monica returned to Europe May through July.

Here is just a sampling of the many presentations made and collection opportunities offered:

- Ambassador Feria of the **Filipino Embassy of Portugal**, Ambassador Myla Grace Macahilig of **Philippine Consulate in Rome**
- **El Shaddai Communities** in Munich, Germany, Marseille & Nice, France
- **Couples for Christ** in Madrid, Spain, and Bonn, Germany
- **Missionaries for Christ** communities in Austria, Germany and Switzerland
- **HAKUNA Organization** dedicated to Young People and the **Board of Regina Famile** in Madrid
- **Missionary Families of Christ General Assembly** and the **Daughters of Charity** in Paris, France
- **Visaya Association of French Riviera** in Marseille, France
- **Sentro Pilipino Chaplaincy** in Rome allowed us to present at 6 Masses
- **Mass Presentations** and some collections allowed in churches in Rome, Genoa and Treviso, Italy; Paris, Antibes, Marseille, Cannes, Nice and Monaco, France; Berlin, Germany; Vienna, Austria; Ibiza, Granada, Avila and Madrid, Spain; Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, Australia

We connected with a myriad of priests, sisters, nuns, and were hosted at numerous private gatherings and dinners. Convents, private homes and church facilities generously offered accommodations.

We had the pleasure of meeting Fr. Michel who is a friend of the Ambassador to the Holy See. Father promised to get us an audience with the Ambassador when we return!

Spreading the Mission Abroad





Mother Salazar, Foundress, remained very busy speaking in the United States



*L to R
Sr. Salazar with
Fr. Huy Nguyen,
at St. Gregory the Great,
Whittier, CA
and
Bishop Mark Trdeau,
at St. Cyprian,
Long Beach, CA*



*Archbishop Jose Gomez,
Archdiocese of Los Angeles*



*Bishop Brian Nunes
San Gabriel Regional Bishop, Los Angeles*



*Sister Ann Carla Costello,
SND Chancellor,
Archdiocese of Los Angeles*



*Sr. Maria Carlos, EIN
Vicar for Women Religious,
Archdiocese of Los Angeles*

The United States continues to be the stalwart of support for our Mission

Countless organizations, NGOs and Catholic Dioceses have become Mission Partners, and we continue to make strides in reaching more. We cannot be more grateful!

Mission Cooperative Plan

- Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas
- Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida
- Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah
- Diocese of Portland, Maine
- Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts

Strategic Plan to Combat Sexual Exploitation



CSEC - an acronym too often heard in the municipalities, barangays, and villages of the beautiful islands of the Philippines—**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**. Children trapped in the sex trade due to susceptibility and poverty become relegated to a life of unspeakable horrors which continue throughout their teen and adult lives. Today, nearly 400,000 are being trafficked in the Philippines and 80% are under the age of 18*. These girls are no different than any of God's children apart from being extremely poor, vulnerable, and at times, uneducated about the realities dwelling within the trade of prostitution.

Our archipelago located in the Pacific Ocean, sits between East/West business traffic, making it convenient for nefarious stopovers—a tragic circumstance for this island nation and its young people. Local corruption is not exempt from blame either. So many communities look the other way as brothels exist anywhere there is an opportunity for financial gain. Honest local police and the Philippines Department of Justice work with agencies like Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and are always pushing back the tide, but it is difficult. Recently cyber-sex cafes have become the modern day vehicle of trafficking and harder to track. It's also a fact that broken households have escalated the crimes of familial sexual abuse and the extreme impoverishment of so many sadly causes some parents to dismiss the harm and justify this trade for sustainability.

We Sisters of Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries are always on a mission of mercy for our country and its children. In 2023 the organization made an unprecedented commitment

to travel across the country and personally meet with dozens and dozens of local officials, NGOs, shelters, government agencies, teachers and clergy to gather information about problems that exist in their respective areas. And at the same time familiarize these groups, as well as high school students, with the mission of MQHM, which is to rescue, educate and rehabilitate as many victims as possible in our Home of Love Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, located in Tuburan, Cebu.



Our ambitious plan included collecting data about the Red Light districts' locations, the number of bars and brothels, and how many girls work in each while learning what local communities are currently doing to combat the scourge. We believe developing these partnerships is key to advancing the positive impact of our mission. After identifying the areas of most significant concern, we visited the brothels one community after another. Dressed in plain clothes we spent hours at night



connecting with the girls and women, offering a listening ear and sharing the possibilities of a decent, alternative life beginning in the Home of Love. some establishments turn us away, but many do not.

Not surprisingly, most of those we spoke with want a way out, and a chance to go to school or job train to make a respectable living. But with no other means of survival due to a lack of education and skills, it seems impossible, especially if this is all you have known since a young age. Many gave birth to children as a result of their trade which only compounds the situation they find themselves in. Our research also shows that suicides have become more prevalent due to depression, and alcohol and drug use is prevalent as they cope with the demand to perform repeated sexual encounters.

Dealing with the shame they believe they have brought on themselves adds to the tragic environment. Encouraging each to believe in the power of prayer and offering a future that could free them from this existence, we befriended the girls and became advocates. We promised to stay in contact and return once a victim had a chance to absorb and plan the possibilities of escape. This personal connection with victims and the awareness we created is having measurable outcomes.

Yes, it was ambitious. But undeterred we developed teams to work in sync.

Team #1 was Sisters Bernadette, Clare, Rose and Angelica with mission partner Vivian Santillan; Team #2 was comprised of Sisters Spe, Bridget, Marilyn, Rhovy and Rose Rufin and Melchora Fronteras; Team #3 was

headed by Sister Heart with the help of Pampanga partners; and Sister Lyra and Sister Angela collaborated as their own team. Collectively the four teams covered over 50 provinces, municipalities, towns, barangays and villages throughout the first half of 2023.



Malaya



"My mother sold me into prostitution at age 15. I came to Manila thinking I was going to be a housekeeper...but I was put in a hotel and forced to work nights. I started taking drugs then started selling drugs and went to jail. (she cries) I now have kids and have to continue to work to take care of them. I want them to stay in school."

There exists an entire global network of trafficking handlers preying on children and young women across the globe, and it's time the world takes collective notice. Only through the generosity of caring Mission Partners in many countries can we continue our Mission and have meaningful success.

Provinces, Municipalities, Towns, Barangays Visited by MQHM

Mohon	San Joaquin	Bagacay	San Frenando
Asuncion	Laganas	Catbalogan	Carcar City
Amparado	Lipa City	Daram	Cebu
Macrohon	Batangas	Jiabong	Sebonga
Inopacan	Bulacan	Motiong	Ronda
Hindang	Pampanga	Paranas	Santa Fe
Malitbog	Balibago	Pagsanghan	Bantayan
Iloilo	Angeles City	Bacolod	Calbayog City
Pavia	Baliwag	Silay City	San Jorge
Oton	Malosos	La Carlote City	Brgy
Tigbauan	Olongapo	Talisay City	Maasin
Guimbal	Iba	Davao	Santa Margarita
Miagao	Santa Barbara	Aliongto	Rizal



Caught in a web of violence at home, instead of heading to school young Renya headed to work to provide the means to survive, and tragically was absorbed by the world of trafficking. This insidious turn resulted in years of more horrific abuse and two children.

But darkness has its light. Rescued by Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries in 2018, she entered our Home of Love in Cebu, Philippines, determined to offer her own children the decent life denied her.

After much therapy, education, love, and untold resilience, she graduated high school in 2023 with honors and multiple skills to provide for her two beautiful girls. She is currently continuing her education at a higher level. Her eldest daughter recently received an honorable academic award from her middle school, and the youngest is a well-adjusted, sweet child who is said to be a role model for her peers. Three lives were lost and then found. What better example of personal courage and missionary dedication can there be?



Renya 2018



*Renya, daughters
and Sr. Corazon Salazar,
Mother Superior
2023*



Tala & Jasmine

Following is the true story of three sisters, whom we will rename Alma (age 17.) Tala (age 16), and Jasmine (age 14), who are from Luzon, Philippines. Life took a wrong turn after their mother abandoned them, leaving them to be raised by their father. The girls were left in the company of their grandfather and two uncles while their father struggled to find employment.

He is a good man. Unfortunately, the three siblings were continually sexually abused by their family caretakers - unbeknownst to the rest of the family. Threatened with dire repercussions if they spoke of their abuse, and sometimes even paid to keep quiet, the horrific situation continued for years.

The girls Aunt, who lived over 500 miles away in southern Luzon, suspected things were not right and convinced their father to let the children live with her. He reluctantly agreed, knowing he could not support them properly. And with the help of Sister Angela the children's suspected situation was brought to the authorities. However, their grandfather is a government official, and the girls fearing for themselves and each other, would not speak out. So, their cases were not addressed. The eldest, Alma, ran away from everyone as her trust in adults was lost. Her current whereabouts are unknown. Tala, the middle child, finally spoke to her aunt about the abuse she suffered beginning at age nine which continued until age fifteen.

Along with Sister Angela they all approached a local agency, and her story was told. Tala was permitted to leave Luzon and enter our Home of Love in Cebu.

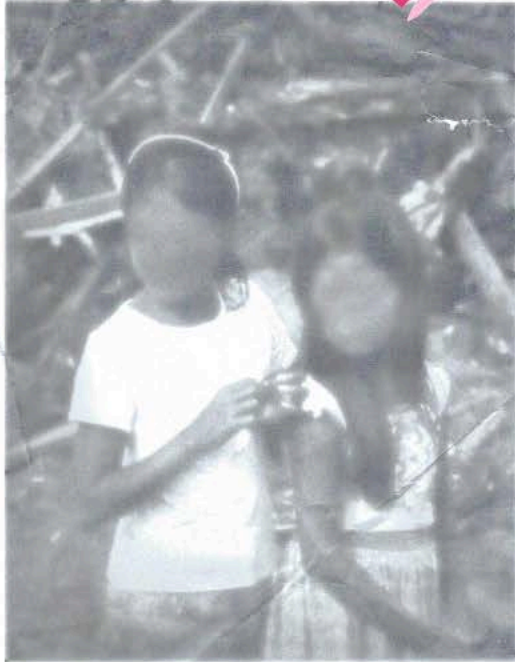


But Jasmine, too young to be able to verbalize the abuse she also suffered, was left behind and heartbroken to be separated from her sister. Jasmine eventually found her voice and confided in a teacher about the sexual abuse she had endured for years, and with the help again of her aunt and Sister Angela, a rescue mission was put into place.

On an early morning flight departing Luzon for Cebu, Jasmine boarded and was reunited with her sister Tala in our Home of Love that same day. Both girls continue to flourish in our caring environment as they work to build a life containing safety, trust, and love.



**My
Bonita**
Home for
Young Girls



Althea

There are many kinds of courage . . . courage to face your enemies, courage to face serious illness, courage to fight all types of adversity. But courage shown by young children is a quality like no other.

This is Althea's story.

When she was six years old her father died and her mother remarried a man who abused Althea and her sister. Three years later at the tender age of nine, she tragically lost her mother to illness. Orphaned and heartbroken, her grandmother who could not care for her, thankfully brought her to us at "My Bonita Home for Girls." Lost and homesick for her mother, we took Althea under our wings and nurtured her, offering safety, love and a welcoming home. Althea remained at My Bonita for nine years. One can only imagine the faith and strength it took for this young girl to battle the overwhelming trauma of her formative years and thrive in a totally new situation. Today she wisely says "God helped me persevere at My Bonita, guiding me to trust, study hard and make plans for a happy life".

Althea, being so incredibly bright, graduated high school and went on a scholarship to the University of the Visayas. She graduated with academic honors, receiving her Bachelor of Science in Human Resources & Development. Today she is testimony to dauntless fortitude and the miracle of a caring environment.



My
Bonita
Home for
Young Girls



Marikit



Born out of wedlock, Marikit was left with her grandparents when she was two months old. She eventually went back to live with her mother, who had married, but at age five, she was molested by her stepfather. This behavior went unreported to authorities so as not to expose the man. After repeated abuse until age eleven, Marikit could no longer keep silent and spoke up. Her stepfather was convicted and sentenced, but not before she had experienced tremendous harm. Now living alone with her mother, they were befriended by a 53-year-old neighbor who kindly offered to provide the impoverished family with food and necessities. Marikit had been so emotionally deprived of anyone who cared for her, the neighbor took advantage. He exploited her innocence and vulnerability and convinced her to have an intimate relationship. She understandably became despondent and mistrustful of everyone and lost her desire to attend school or interact with friends. The trauma and psychological experiences she has endured are unspeakable. Marikit was rescued by Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries at age 13, and has recently been welcomed at My Bonita Home for Girls. Marikit needs your prayers and we are so thankful for having her here at My Bonita. As she begins the long journey of recovery to overcome the atrocities of her tragic young years, think of her. We are hopeful we can report next year just how well she is doing.



My Bonita Home for Girls 2023



We are proud to announce that Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries has been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar (now CANDID) the leader in gathering data for transparency in the non-profit arena. CANDID's database includes all tax-exempt organizations registered with the IRS (more than 1.8 million), and its data comes from both IRS filings and non-profit reporting.

Our organization is now among the top 1% of non-profits nationally indicating that our organization shares clear and important information with the public about our goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements and progress indicators that highlight the difference Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries makes in the world.

MQHM was awarded the prestigious rating after a strict and comprehensive review of our key processes and accomplishments. Information was provided about financials, leadership, mission and outcomes. CANDID is a leader in providing donors and foundations information about a specific non-profit, so philanthropists may trust that their donations are assisting only quality organizations which make a substantial mark in their mission, and are good stewards of their finances.

Candid.

GuideStar



**Mary Queen
of Heaven
Inc**

Saving young people from
human trafficking

Special
Mission Partner!



Mira Sorvino New Mission Partner

We are thrilled to announce that Mira Sorvino, Hollywood celebrity and one of the stars of *"The Sound of Freedom"*, which was among the top ten box office hits in 2023, has joined us as a

Mission Partner! We were so pleased to have her attend and speak at our 2023 Mission Partners Gathering on September 9, in Diamond Bar, California.

Mira is currently a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, specifically focused on the **Global Fight Against Human Trafficking** agenda.

Mira travels all over the world denouncing this scourge and has called Los Angeles a "hub of human trafficking". She was very pleased to hear of the recent opening of our Regina Coeli Home of Love Women's Shelter in California.

Welcome Mira Sorvino!

Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries
Mission Partners Gathering
2023





**Shelter Opens
in the US!**

Regina Coeli Home of Love Womens Shelter Opened October 13, 2023!

The statistics for human trafficking in California are staggering. California has the highest trafficking rate in the nation and Los Angeles is a hot spot, 72% of victims are American citizens.

We felt compelled to bring our healing and rehabilitating services to a country which has been extremely generous in supporting our Mission. The Regina Coeli Home of Love Womens Shelter offers up to one year transitional housing and direct services to survivors of abuse utilizing a holistic strength-based approach. Victims and survivors are be motivated to choose whatever goals they desire while in our care.



Programs offered

- Medical & Dental Care**
- Food & Clothing**
- Substance Abuse Support/Recovery**
- Financial Assistance**
- Life Skills Training**
- Counseling about Victims Rights**
- Spiritual Support**
- Caring**

Our facility is able to accommodate 20 residents and we've obtained a well-rounded staff highly trained in addressing survivors of trauma, sexual abuse, substance abuse, as well as unhealthy and challenging environments. We have successfully partnered with a number of professional agencies to assist in the rehabilitation journey.

We thank all the donors for all their unbridled contributions and prayers that enabled us to see this project to fruition.

The Sisters Come Together

For the first time in many years, all of our Sisters came together in the Philippines over the Christmas season, putting a fitting end to a prosperous year. This was a very special time as we shared memorable moments with residents, met so many dedicated Mission Partners and had productive time discussing our Mission and plans for the future.

Here is a brief 'travel log" of the three week experience.

HOME OF LOVE - CEBU We began with a visit to the heart of our Mission, the Home of Love in Tuburan, Cebu. The girls were just as excited to be meeting all the sisters, as we were meeting them. They hugged us tightly, expressing their gratitude and making sure they knew each of our names. Their eyes were full of smiles as they presented many routines they had prepared for us and bestowed each Sister with flowers. We danced together, played games together and had meals together. Our hearts are full knowing our work can bring such joy and recovery to deserving children of God.



MY BONITA HOME FOR GIRLS - TALAMBAN Next stop was to see our beautiful residents who also greeted us with talented performances and hugs before they headed back to school. We are so pleased with the success of our childrens' home for abused girls and it continues to grow. We now have 80 residents, an increase in residency by 25% over last year.





VISITING STAFF AND MISSION PARTNERS!

Our travels also took us to our Mother House, our Junior House and our Regina Coeli Program office where we visited with staff.

Next we headed into the mountains and villages of Pampanga, Cebu and Bohol to personally visit and thank our dear Mission Partners who are our wings as we continue to serve God with our Mission. After spending time with our own families at Christmas, who we haven't seen in so long, we five sisters arrived back in the United States in early January. We are filled with optimism as we begin another new year.

Please pray for many young girls to join us in religious life so we may continue to grow. God Bless.



Our website incorporates the latest technology

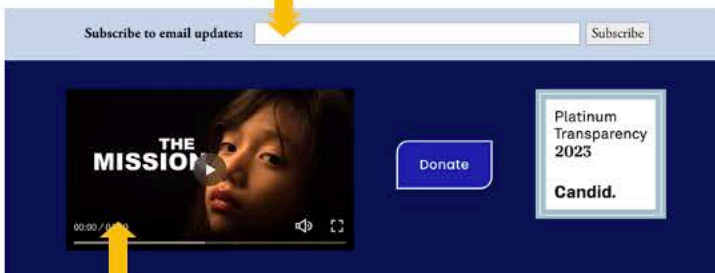
All New Website!



Donation Button on Every Page

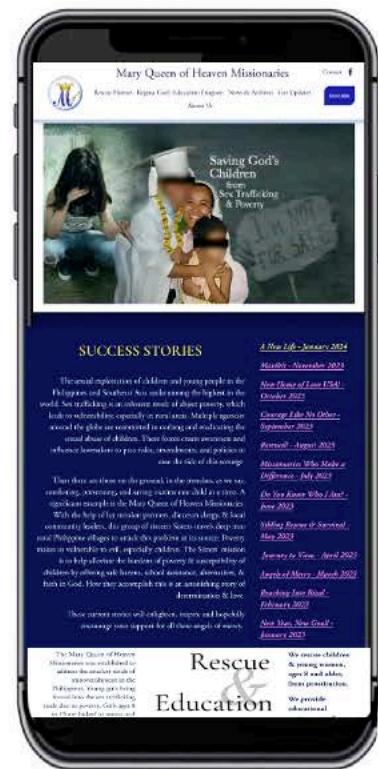
Timely Success Stories posted regularly on Home Page

Easy email sign up to receive all our latest news



Mission Video accessible with one click on Home Page

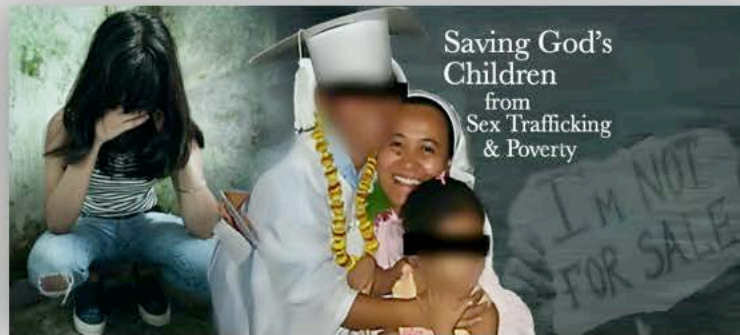
Scrolling gallery of hundreds of photos displayed on Home Page



Dynamic Mobile design for easy reading on phones



The Sisters of
Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries
keep you in our thoughts and prayers as
we work together in charity and devotion
to save God's children.



MQHM.org