

Mano Amiga
ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



*The anonymous Christ who has something to give feeds and cares
for the anonymous Christ who has nothing.*

— Peter De Rosa

Dearest Friend,

The generosity of the human spirit is evident in today's world. Making for positive change in society requires people willing to give, even when it seems there is not enough to go around. I invite you to take a look at a program that has been making a difference for impoverished children and families since 1963. The Mano Amiga or "Helping Hand" Catholic school system has educated 21,000 impoverished children in 35 schools throughout Mexico, Latin American and the Philippines with proven success. Impacting thousands more through families, teachers, volunteers and communities, the Mano Amiga schools are truly a long-lasting gift from God.

The Mano Amiga formula works. Targeting extremely impoverished areas, the schools involve the family and the community to provide tools for self sufficiency. More than 85% of Mano Amiga graduates go on to institutes of higher learning, with many alumni coming back to work in the community and invest in the system. We are seeing child after child lifted up out of extreme poverty and given hope. What could be a life of drugs or despair is a beautiful partnership between school and family, designed to help craft a future for the child, strengthen the family and ultimately transform the community.

Caring for the Needy on all levels. The work of Mano Amiga does not necessarily begin or end with educating the child. While education is a key component to ending poverty, students cannot learn if they are not healthy, nurtured and well-cared for. These school systems provide everything from nutritional programs for students to literacy classes for parents, ensuring families have what they need to raise themselves up out of poverty. More than 15% of all these students have special needs of some sort. The enclosed brochure gives you a glimpse into the lives of Gaby, Josmar and Miguel. There are thousands more. These precious children of God have been given hope for their future, and need our continued support.

The 2011 Mano Amiga Annual Fund Drive is critical to the future of these children and schools. We urge you to consider a pledge to support this critical cause.

The need is urgent. The funds are low. Please consider a gift of sponsorship today. For \$780 or \$65 per month, you can provide an education for one child for a year. Partial sponsorships are available for a semester or a quarter. Any amount helps. But we urge you to consider the most you can give. We are so blessed. Please take the opportunity to share your blessings with an impoverished child. What a wonderful way to make a mark on the world. Every dollar you give will be used to cover all expenses associated with educating one child, primarily teacher salaries, but also including curriculum, building expenses and services for special needs. About 90% of students are on scholarship.

The consequences of falling short of our goal this year are severe. Several schools are struggling to meet expenses. Teachers are working hard on little pay. The needs are great, but with God, all is attainable. Every child deserves to be educated, despite circumstances or geography. Mano Amiga educates the mind and the soul in the beauty of the Catholic faith. What a wonderful gift for these children. **Our goal is to achieve 250 new sponsorships by the December 31, 2011.** The schools and the children are counting on Catholic World Mission.

I am grateful for your serious consideration of sponsorship today.

Thank you for being the hands of the anonymous Christ.
God Bless you.



Rick L. Medina
Executive Director, Catholic World Mission