

MARIA MADRE DE LOS POBRES, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

“AN OASIS OF PEACE”



- Located in La Chacra, a barrio in the eastern part of San Salvador
- Consists of 22 communities divided into small ‘bloques’ or neighborhoods
- Settled as a result of land reform conflicts, civil war actions and earthquake in eastern part of country
- Includes about 2700 families and over 11,000 people
- About 70% are in the ‘informal’ economy: sell or resell things in the market and on buses; make tortillas, clean houses, iron clothes, wash cars
- Greatest challenges are extreme poverty, gang violence and territoriality, single parent families, teen pregnancy.
- Parish began in 1984 and school began in 1987
- Relationship with Holy Trinity began in 1989
- HT is one of 4 parishes that support the work of Maria Madre
- Parish has 19 Christian base communities, ongoing sacramental and spiritual formation
- Parish ministries include a clinic, lab, dentist, senior day center, scholarship program, school, afterschool program, child sponsorship of most vulnerable (godparent program), youth and teen formation, a coop and micro-lending program.
- The school serves 125-140 students from 3 months to 6th grade with 13 staff who receive \$1.85-5.45 hour.
- The school focuses on academic, psychological, spiritual, physical growth.
- HT granted \$37000 to the parish school in 2019 and \$1000 to the community’s *Equipo de Paz*, Violence Prevention Youth Development Work.
- Over \$2500 from greeting card sales was given to the school in 2018.
- About 43 parishioners sponsor almost 50 children at Maria Madre.
- Two delegations visit Maria Madre every year (January and Summer).
- Every third year delegations from Maria Madre visit Holy Trinity.

To be added to our listserv or for info about trips to Maria Madre, contact margielegowski@gmail.com