

Many of us St. Tom's parishioners are, or have been, in the "business" of education and our mission states our purpose is to "build up the Kingdom of God among the college communities of Kalamazoo."

As an extension of our mission here in Kalamazoo, we also encourage and support students from our sister parish Maria, Madre de los Pobres through the AYUDA ESCOLAR PROGRAM (scholarship program) which we began supporting in the early 1980s.

Our sponsored Salvadoran students face many hardships in order to continue their studies. Some are forced to drop out for various reasons, including the gang situation in the country.

Those who persevere do so through the grace of God, their faith and tenacity, and the knowledge that folks from Santo Tomas in Kalamazoo "have their backs."

If you have been sponsoring a student, please continue to do so. If you haven't done so, please consider it.

If you can't afford a scholarship, please simply make whatever donation you can to the program; education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty

Judy Bohl
Member of the 2016 Delegation

St. Tom's relationship with Madre has extended over 20 years.

Our friendship and our scholarship program
have blessed the Salvadorans and us.

If you would like to be a partner in this scholarship program complete the form on the inside of the brochure or call Michele at the parish office, 269-381-8917, ext. 261 or email michele@sttomskazoo.org.

Correspondence to:

Salvadoran Scholarship Program - c/o St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
421 Monroe Street - Kalamazoo, MI 49006

2017 SALVADORAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
and
María, Madre de los Pobres ~ San Salvador



2016 Salvadoran Scholarship University Graduates



2016 Salvadoran Scholarship High School Graduates

AYUDA ESCOLAR SALVADORAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2017

María, Madre de los Pobres (Mary, Mother of the Poor) is St. Tom's sister parish in San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador. St. Tom's has sponsored a scholarship program for high school and college students for many years. More students are realizing that education is essential for their future growth and the development of their country, and there is a need for this program now more than ever. You can be part of this great program in one of three ways.

Plan A allows you to **assist a Salvadoran student with their education while building a relationship with them.** Students look forward to hearing from their sponsors and are very grateful for the financial assistance. If you choose Plan A, you will soon be informed of your student's name. There will be announcements in the bulletin when someone is going to El Salvador who can deliver correspondence, so that you know when to write. Letters may be mailed to St. Tom's, dropped off at church or parish office, or e-mailed to sttoms@sttomskazoo.org. Your letters will be translated for delivery to your student. The students really appreciate receiving a picture and a brief message from their sponsors.

Plan B contributes to the expenses associated with education, but there is **no communication** between donors and the students.

Donations to Plan A and B do not go directly to a student, but rather to a general fund that is administered by the pastor and a coordinating team at María Madre. The contributions are distributed by that committee per their budget and as necessary on a case by case basis. In return, students are required to contribute service as a tutor, catechist, librarian, medical assistant, or participate in parish-sponsored or community activities such as choir, theater, and youth groups. Education is understood to be a gift for the entire community and not just for personal advancement.

Of the total budget for the Student Scholarship Program, approximately 80% is generated in Plan A, while the other 20% comes from Plan B donations.

Gifts are tax-deductible as a donation to St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish.

Plan C allows participants to build and maintain a relationship with a Salvadoran student while they are active in the program. **No financial commitment** is expected for this option. Plan A and Plan B participants meet the program's financial goals, while Plan C will help us meet our goals for solidarity with all the Salvadoran Scholarship students at our Sister Parish.

Letters to students can be translated and delivered by the parish office. Reminders will be sent in parish bulletins, newsletters and on the St. Tom's Sister Parish website www.sttomskazoo.org. Select the "Ministries" tab and "Sister Parish" link for more details.

2017 AGREEMENT FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PLAN A

I commit myself to be a friend and carry on a correspondence with a student at our sister parish and assist with the expenses of his/her education. Indicate your preferences below, and we will do our best to match your request.

_____ MALE _____ FEMALE

_____ GRADES 7-12..... \$300-\$400/YEAR (\$25-\$33 month)
(actual scholarships per student for 2017 is \$516.00)

_____ UNIVERSITY..... \$500-\$700/YEAR (\$42-\$58 month)
(actual scholarships per student for 2017 is \$1,043)

You may pay monthly, quarterly, or a one time payment.

_____ I will translate my own letters or arrange for my own translator

_____ I would like to sponsor the same student that I sponsored last year, if that student is still in the program.

PLAN B

I wish to make a contribution of \$_____ at this time to assist with educational expenses at our sister parish.

I am pledging a monthly contribution of \$_____ to assist with educational expenses at our sister parish.

PLAN C

I commit myself to be a friend and carry on correspondence with a sister parish student. I understand that no monetary contribution is expected and that the student's scholarship is funded by Plan A/B contributions. Plan C sponsors and scholarship students will be assigned based on availability/funding of students. My student preference is:

_____ Male _____ Female _____ Grade 7-12 _____ University

Please make checks payable to:

ST. THOMAS MORE SALVADORAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For electronic giving please contact the parish office at 269-381-8917

or visit our website at

www.sttomskazoo.org and click on Stewardship/Electronic Giving.

(No payment reminders are sent by St. Tom's.)