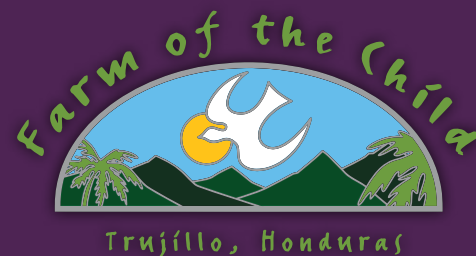


FRIENDS OF THE FARM

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



E A S T E R 2 0 1 1



THE BOY & HIS MOTHER

By Deisy Archaga

There was once a boy named Enrique and his mother Sonia. They were very poor. All he could do was walk the streets of Trujillo and La Ceiba begging. One day Enrique asked the Lord to give them a house and food. Enrique was only 10 years old. God heard his prayer. There was a man of God passing by them, and he stopped and called to Enrique and his mother.

“What is your name?” He asked the mother.

“My name is Sonia,” she said. “What do you want?”

“God has sent me here to give you this money, so that you will be able to eat and have a

house, because he has heard the prayer of Enrique, and for this reason he sent me here to you.” The man gave them the money and then went away.

Enrique and his mother bought a beautiful house, and some food, and then went to the church

to tell God that they believed in Him. After, they both dedicated themselves to working and came to the church every day to praise God and to give thanks for everything He had given them.

Now, they never lacked food and had money to buy clothes and shoes. After a while the man came back and asked them, “How are you living now?”

“Very well, thanks to God,” answered Sonia, and the man left, and they lived happily ever after.

This is an original story written by Deisy Archaga, a fourth grader at the Farm’s school, as a part of an independent work program, through which students can choose to do extra assignments and activities, like writing their own creative stories,

to earn special privileges. School is difficult for Deisy; she has been unofficially diagnosed with a learning disability related to dyslexia and has to work very hard to pass her classes. Deisy lives about thirty minutes from the Farm on foot, and walks to school every day from the mud house where she lives with her parents and four of her siblings. Her family struggles daily to find enough money for food, and she and her siblings like many of our neighbors, come to school with tattered second-hand clothes under their uniforms. For Deisy and her siblings, receiving a quality education is their best chance at breaking the cycle of extreme poverty. Deisy would like to say thank you to God and to all of you who make her education possible. **Gracias!**

\$360,000 must be raised by June to keep all program services running at current levels

\$360,000



Please help us reach the goal and continue serving the children and families of the Farm of the Child

\$270,000 raised to date

SPIRITUALITY

SERVICE

COMMUNITY

SIMPLICITY

¡LA MUERTE, YA NO TIENE DOMINIO!

By Erin Ramsey

Last night during our weekly Community Night here in La Ceiba, I sat in a circle with the three teenagers with whom I live with this year and reflected on this past Sunday's gospel reading – the mystery of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). On the table in front of us lay a single candle, a cross, and a paper chain. After reading the gospel together, I invited the teenagers to reflect on the transfiguration that they wish to see in our own world, and how they, as people who (like the apostles) have experienced the resplendent Christ and are called to witness Him to others, each might cultivate that transfiguration in their own lives and hearts and in the world around them.

One by one, the teenagers tore off pieces of the construction-paper chain in front of them representing the shackles of oppression, injustice and sin that enslave us, and spoke aloud their hopes for our world. "Que haya un día en que..." That there might be a day in which... In which all might have a home. In which there will be no violence, and in which all nations know peace. In which no one will go hungry. In which every woman, man and child might be recognized with equal dignity as a person created in the image of the one Living God.

As I listened to these teenagers' hopes and dreams for the broken, beautiful world they see around them and reflected on my own, and as we, together, reflected on what action we must take in our own hearts to bring

these changes about, I couldn't help but think that perhaps this is what Gandhi meant when he said that we must "be the change we wish to see in the world." If we want a world that is more peaceful, we must cultivate peace first of all within our own families and our own hearts. If we wish for all to claim their dignity as children of the light, we must begin by recognizing the dignity of the homeless and the



hungry outside our door. If we wish for a world in which no one hungers, we must begin by sharing our own food with others.

The prophet Jeremiah writes, "But in this place of which you say it is a waste... there will be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness... the voices of those who sing." At the Farm of the Child, we are called to live as an Easter people – a people who live between the "already"

and the "not yet" of the Kingdom of God. We witness the suffering Christ in the wounds of our children, in the hungry faces of our neighbors, in our own brokenness and need for healing. At the same time, we wait and work in the joyful hope that comes from the knowledge of what is to come – that three days after the most horrific type of humiliation and suffering, the stone will be rolled away, the tomb will be empty, and death will have no power over life. We envision the transfigured world we wish to see – a world that perhaps is a little more of what God had in mind – and trusting in the empty tomb, in the "slow work" of God, we hope and pray and work tirelessly to bring about this world, a world in which the voices of mirth and gladness shall sing.

"¡La muerte, ya no tiene dominio!" Death has no power. On Easter Sunday, we will listen to these words spoken from the pulpit, and we will hear them resonate in our own hearts. Christ is risen, and death no longer has the final word. This Easter, may we come to believe evermore in the power of life over death, and may God grant us the grace to work faithfully and tirelessly for the transfiguration we wish to see in the world.

**Christ is risen,
truly risen!**

Alleluia!

**Thank you to
Dr. John and Barb Nei-**

YOU KEEP US SMILING!

Thank you to Dr. John and Barb Nei for another year of faithful service to the dental needs of the children and families served at Farm of the Child.



**Thank you to the missionaries
from Franciscan University of
Steubenville for sharing your
faith, hope, and love with all of
us at Farm of the Child!**

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

During this joyous Easter season we pray in a special way for the following:

For our children at the Farm, that the great grace and joy of Easter may inspire hope and joy in their hearts.

For our house parents, that in gratitude for their amazing service to the Farm, this Easter season may shower them in God's grace.

For our Franciscan Sisters, that this holy time may provide them ample opportunities to continue to guide and develop the faith and spirituality of the Farm.

For our volunteers, that the joy and great love present in Easter may reinvigorate their commitment to love and serve the Farm every day.

For our benefactors, that they may receive plentiful blessings in gratitude for all their kind and generous support of the Farm.

Amen.

Support the Farm of the Child by donating online at www.FarmoftheChild.org

LIVING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

By Ysmary Trejo

"What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be but the bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or some other kind; but God gives it a body as he chooses, and to each of the seeds its own body."

1 Corinthians 15: 36-38

Farm of the Child, over the course of our history, has always supported the at-risk children and youth of Honduras such that we might build a more integrated society formed in Christian values. For this reason, as we anticipate Christ's Resurrection, I would like to express, in a few words, through this reflection, my perception of how we share in the Resurrection through our ardent and committed labors within our community.

I want to reference the beginning of this mission, the grand desires to transmit and share God's love to children and youth. It has not always been easy, there have been many years of hard work; and even in the face of adversity, our mission has advanced.

This Easter season, the Farm celebrates and shows forth the Resurrection with the strengthening of our mission and development of our programs, especially as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of our founding. In this way, we feel the power of the Resurrection, remembering all those who make this mission possible, meeting both our basic and secondary needs, especially you, our donors and supporters, whose contributions make this project a reality. We celebrate the mission groups who visit us and strengthen us with their examples of faith and hope (Espiritu Santo, Christ the King, Franciscan University, Riley's Helping Hands, among others); converting sad hearts into joyful hearts, proud of their

God-given dignity. And always celebrating the efforts of Vincent Pescatore, who even after his death, gives witness to the Resurrection, as each day he lives on, in, and through this mission.

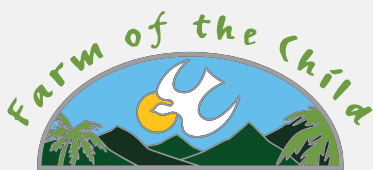
In other ways, we witness this rebirth through each one of the people who has been a part of this mission—board members, Franciscan Sisters, volunteers, staff, neighbors, and friends. Among these faithful servants, I now find myself.



Ysmary Trejo

Personally, in this first year of sharing in the community life of the Farm in my role as Program Director, I have felt an inner transformation, a strengthening of my own commitment of faith and service. After passing through a period of serious health issues and still, today, being in the healing process, I have felt the reaffirmation of my faith and my vocation of service to the mission of Farm of the Child. Even when the dark night of our existence takes us by surprise, that night is illuminated by the transfiguration and the Resurrection. I am joyful because God lead me to the Farm so that I could see the ardent work that has been done, and continues to be done by many hands, bears fruit. God provides us with the spirit of service in order to bring opportunities to our community through life's transformations and through His own Resurrection.

This reality allows us to stop for a moment and see this Easter season as an opportunity to come together, to share in the adventure that is the mission of the Farm, to share that which allows the mission of the Farm to continue growing and strengthening. And what more could we ask for when the fruit of the Resurrection, that transforms us, can be witnessed in our children and youth, that are raised up each day in a creative spirit to be a living example that a different way of life is possible. Thank you to our children and all those who are transformed by daily resurrections to make Farm of the Child a witness to the power of the Resurrection.



1616 Nottingham Knoll Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32225

We exist because generous people donate money and time to help fulfill our mission — to provide for orphaned Honduran children.



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The production and printing of this newsletter is completely donated.
Farm of the Child is an IRS 501(c)3 organization.