



Heartbeats

A publication to share our accompaniment on the mission journey

Yes, Jesus and His Family Were Undocumented Refugees

August 8, 2014



Taking a little child in his arms,
Jesus said to his disciples,

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me."
Mark 9: 36-37



Jesus encourages us to be "childlike"
Mt 11:25

To follow Jesus is to enter into the heart and mind of God

Let us ask him to open our eyes and give us new insights into his stories and his love

Today imagine Jesus putting his arms around you and drawing you close to his heart. Hear him telling you how precious you are to him.

And when you finish reading our story, at the right, listen to your heart for an answer to the

following questions:

"How will I pass Jesus hug onto others?"
"How will I hug the undocumented minor refugees?"

Share your story of support to this heart-rending cause by forwarding this newsletter to family and friends, urging them to let Jesus hug them and listen to him telling them how precious they are and to pass on that love and spread the word.

God's Blessings of Peace and Love to all of good will!

Your Sister Mary Gloria Mar, FMA,
VIDES+USA Director
director@vides.us

Greetings,

In this heart-breaking drama of our transient minors that we are living today, Ben's plea in italics below also rises from the hearts of many people of good will. Therefore, I repeat it (since he expressed the anguish to help so simply and deeply) and respond.

"Is VIDES working on the frontera to help los huérfanos? Como puedo ayudar a ustedes en sus trabajos? Cuénteme por favor. Que el Señor los bendiga, Ben"

We respond to this great concern.

YES, we, FMA (our Religious Order of Sisters) **and VIDES** (our young adult Volunteer Missioners) **are at the SOURCES and at the two FRONTERAS** (Guatemala-Mexico border and Mexico-USA border). We **serve the HUERFANOS** (orphans) who are fleeing in such great numbers from the violence and inhuman, hopeless and desperate conditions in their countries; suffering atrocities along the way to the United States.

Before we delve into **OUR JOURNEY WITH THE MIGRANT MINORS**, let me explain that our **VIDES[1] Missioners** are able to go to many places around the world because they **serve at the Mission Sites of our FMA (HMA) Sisters.[2]**

[1] **VIDES** = Volunteers International for Development, Education, and Solidarity (Young adult lay missioners)

[2] **FMA = Daughters of Mary Help of Christians**, I am an **FMA= Figlia Maria Ausiliatrice**. We use the Italian FMA in English since we were founded in Italy. In Latin America, our Sisters use the Spanish translation: **HMA= Hijas de Maria Auxiliadora**.

Here is a synopsis on **where** we (FMA and VIDES) are and **what** we are doing along the journey of the minors and their families.

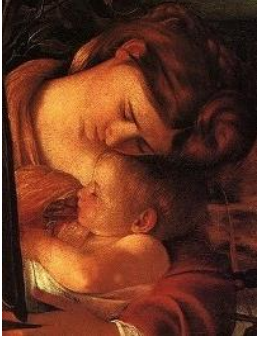
From Central America to the Mexico-US border we meet them as they try to find life solutions by which they can help themselves to break the vicious cycle of poverty, abuse, and cruelty in which they are caught.



Refugees just arriving in Laredo, TX

Especially, starting at the root, in Central America, we do it through the

**Proyecto PREVENCIÓN y ORIENTACIÓN
Ante la Migración de Menores-USA**



PREVENTION and ORIENTATION Project before the Minors' Migration to the USA

Be a Part of the FMA-VIDES Prevention Project!

Through your PRAYER and CONTRIBUTION bring a hug, joy and hope to the young and to women in need. God bless you!.

You may MAIL a CHECK to VIDES
6019 Buena Vista St. San Antonio, TX, 78237

DONATE through [Network for Good](http://www.networkforgood.com)
Or PayPal <http://www.vides.us/DONATE/donate.html>

Massive Immigration

some of the most important CAUSES:

- In Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador we perceive the **parents' fear of the Maras** Click [Maras gangs](#) to learn about these gangs.
- The parents prefer to send their children to the United States rather than to see them **involved with the Maras gangs**.
- Many parents immigrated to the US, leaving their children in their birth place and desire wholeheartedly the **reunification of the family**.
- There is a **lack of opportunities for studying and working** in the three countries; so that the families can survive and the children may grow up to be good citizens in their country.

Our Response STARTS at the ROOT of the problem for the minors and parents we serve.

Here we present our service for the "huerfanos transientes..." briefly, just a **quick look at a few of our missions: where and how** we are involved in offering a **Response to address the ROOT of the problem**.

Three steps of our journey with the "huerfanos transientes"

1. At the **SOURCE** in Honduras, Central America
2. At the **Guatemala-Mexico border** in Chiapas, Mexico, where the Mexican youth are lured to join the journey of the Migrant Minors, and
3. At the **Mexico-US border** in Laredo, Texas

This synopsis of the **Prevention and Orientation Project** gives you a very good idea of what we are also doing in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico.

Three-fold OBJECTIVE in the Face of Violence and Destruction

- 1) **Take the minors from the streets**, from situations of dire poverty and violence, from being absorbed into the gangs, to prevent their leaving the country and migrating to the US
- 2) Offer the young ones: a **safe place to live and experience a family spirit**, have their basic needs met, and have the possibility of an education and/or of learning trades so they can sustain themselves and even help their families in a

near future.

3) **Offer parents, especially single moms** (and street young women), the opportunity to **learn about the risks and dangers of their and minor migration** and about other life-giving options for young people. Offer parents and youth the possibility to obtain an **education** through distance learning.

We are working in some of the **most dangerous and violent gang infested neighborhoods**. We can see why parents are encouraging their children to leave the country rather than be captured and become part of the gangs. The prevalence of **Maras gangs** which destroy everything on their path in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador creates a desperate situation of exploitation and death.

First Stop - Starting in Honduras

In Honduras, we have the following missions:

San Pedro Sula, 3 missions - 1) Escuela María Mazzarello y Casa Hogar, 2) Centro de Promoción Social Femenino María Auxiliadora, 3) Escuela Laura Vicuña

Santa Rosa de Copan, 1 mission - Instituto María Auxiliadora (IMA) School y Casa Hogar (Casa Hogar = Home for Orphans)

In Tegucigalpa, 4 missions - each one includes most of the following: school, distance learning, (street) women promotion, youth ministry, and extracurricular activities

[Read more about San Pedro Sula and Santa Rosa de Copan, click here.](#)

The information this link takes you to, is awesome.

Second Stop, the journey continues

with the orphans and migrant children, **we get to the GUATEMALA-MEXICO border.**

In the state of Chiapas, Mexico, we have:

Copainalá, Casa Hogar Auxilio, teaching trades and doing youth ministry

Ocotepec, Casa Mision Santisima Trinidad, with a boarding school, youth ministry, visits to the villages, and promotion of women

Tuxtla Gutierrez, 3 mission sites: 1) Casa-Hogar Maria de Nazaret, 2) Villa Mornes for the promotion of (street) women, 3) S Domingo Savio, Casa-Hogar for boys

Villaflores, Colegio Motolinia, pre-school, primary and secondary school

Third Stop, arriving at Laredo, Texas in the US

Here the Sisters from Mary Help of Christians School are serving the refugees, participating, organizing and working with local parents, pupils, past pupils, cooperators, and volunteers in the preparation of food, clothing, etc. for the migrants. They tell me that about 200 migrants arrive daily, whole families--father, mother, and children. As they arrive in the US, our government separates the men from the women and the children! The US authority does not allow us to work directly with the unaccompanied minors.

We hope that with your help our FMA-VIDES Prevention and Orientation Project many other minors will have the opportunity of a better life, education and work in their own countries and

will not need to undertake the long and treacherous journey to better their situation. Whatever we do for them, let us remember, we do for Jesus.

Our Works in San Pedro Sula, Santa Rosa de Copan (in other Central American locations, and Mexico) are simple, but filled with loving-kindness, accompaniment and values.

The FMA and VIDES, following the PREVENTIVE SYSTEM of St John Bosco of reason, religion, and loving-kindness share with the youth and their parents hope for the future, life, education and trades.

The zone of San Pedro Sula and Santa Rosa de Copan is most vulnerable because it is at the border of Guatemala; so, it is easier for the migration to the United States.

Now, listen to your heart for an answer to the questions:

"How will I pass Jesus hug onto others?"

"How will I hug the undocumented minor refugees?"

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Thanks and God bless you!

S Mary Gloria Mar, FMA, VIDES+USA Director

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