



Father Joseph Walijewski
Legacy Guild
Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II

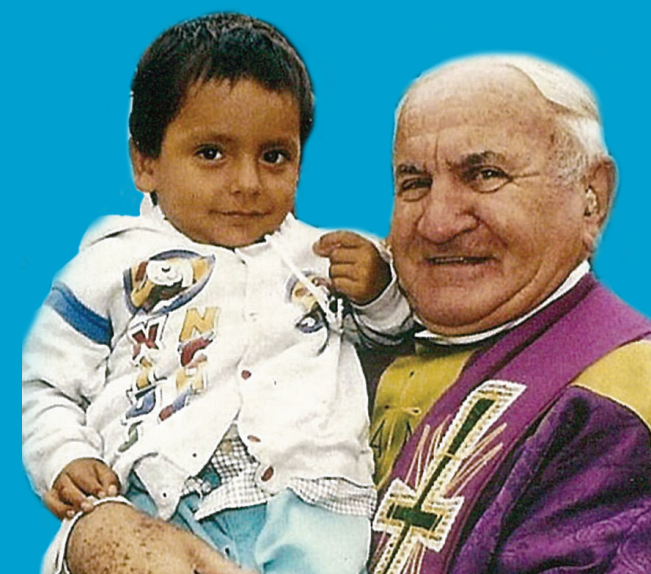
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SPRING 2024



Dear Friends,

With young people I often say that every man is called to be a father and every woman to be a mother. Many are called to be biological mothers and fathers, but all of us are called to be spiritual mothers and fathers. As a priest, I have experienced this fatherhood to people of all ages in the parishes and in the schools from the formation of the little ones, to counseling teens, preparing couples for marriage, accompanying the sick and elderly in preparation for their final reunion with the Lord.

I always admired how Father Joe Walijewski spent his life serving families in all aspects of parish life and finally with the children at Casa Hogar Juan Pablo. He was one of the best fathers I have ever known. He showed us how to be a spiritual father to all. When Bishop Callahan asked me to consider coming to Casa Hogar, I did not need time to think about it.

Here at Casa Hogar I work with a team of people on staff and with the teachers. We work with children who come from complicated and difficult backgrounds.

All of us working as spiritual mothers and fathers get to know each child, their hopes, dreams and struggles. We also take care to make sure they have a place to call home and all the things they need to grow into Christ-centered productive adults back in their biological families or wherever the Lord leads them.

Taking care of the place these children call home can be daunting at times, especially when the 38-year-old buildings have withstood the conditions in Lima, including earthquakes. Over the past 3 years, we have been blessed with financial support to work on projects but, as you can imagine, the list continues.

This year, the work includes: upgrading the electrical system in half of the apartments, administration buildings, chapel, convent and priest house, repair roofs for most buildings, and replace and reinforce structural columns. From there, the plan will be to repair and upgrade roof laundry areas including the installation of gas hot water heaters, repair and replace main kitchen plumbing and repair the steps to the grotto.

The cost for these projects is estimated to be approximately \$100,000. This is an expensive list of projects, but as a father I need to make sure the place that these children live is safe and, God willing, here for years to come.

I ask you as a father, please consider helping us meet the campus project goal to serve and support the children at Casa Hogar.

Msgr. Joseph Hirsch



Guild Leadership

Episcopal Moderator
The Most Rev. William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse

Director of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II
Monsignor Joseph Hirsch

**Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild
Director of Development**
Noel Furger

THERE IS POWER IN Prayer



You can submit your prayer
request online by visiting
frjoesguild.org/prayer-request

Fr. Joe's Prayer Box is a special way to seek Father Joe Walijewski's intercession for your prayer intentions. Submit your request online and the petitions will be kept in the Casa Hogar chapel in Peru. The children of Casa Hogar pray for these intentions daily and once a week, a group of children pray at Fr. Joe's tomb. It's a beautiful way to seek divine intervention.



Your prayers and financial support advance the Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild. Monetary gifts sustain the work of the postulator in Rome and our efforts to make known the life and work of Father Joe.



**Guild
Donation**

Casa Hogar Campus Projects



If you have any
questions or to
learn more about
the individual
projects, please go
to [homeajpm.org/
campus-projects](http://homeajpm.org/campus-projects).

Campus Improvement Projects

Electrical Upgrade Repair anticipated cost for project is \$45,000.

Electrical updates and repairs for the girl's apartments, chapel and convent, administration buildings and priest residence. These are the final four areas to be done and then the entire campus will have had electrical upgrades completed. This is considered the top priority for this year.

Roof Repair projected cost is \$25,000.

Repairs to the roof of the chapel and convent, administration buildings and the priest residence are needed. These repairs are due to the age of the buildings and the environment in Lurin, Peru. However, the project has been accelerated as the storms in March 2023 caused leaking in many of the areas scheduled to be repaired. This is considered the second most urgent of the campus projects.

Laundry Area Repairs includes Gas Hot Water Heater Upgrade projected to be \$30,000.

The laundry areas for the boys and girls are for the most part original to the buildings. The work to be done is repair of the cement sinks for clothes washing, the floor drains and cement repair and roofs over the washing stations. This project also includes the replacement and upgrade of hot water heaters which will be converted to natural gas and provide Casa Hogar tremendous savings.

Building Support Columns, Grotto and Kitchen Plumbing Repair projected cost is \$25,000.

The building support column project was started last year, leaving work to be done in the warehouse, workshop and administration buildings. Grotto work to be done includes concrete, stone and railing repair and replacement. Kitchen plumbing includes replacement of plumbing under the floor in the kitchen area.



To better explain these projects, videos are available on line at www.homeajpm.org/campus-projects.



The Casa Hogar Family Keeps Growing!

Every February Casa Hogar welcomes new children into our family. Summer is the best time for the kids to get acclimated to Casa and its daily life before starting school in March. This year we are excited to introduce you to the seven newest member of the Casa Hogar family: Kim, Leydi, Sol, Ricardo, Carlos, Rodolfo and Meyson.

KIM is 6 years old and has been welcomed into the Fatima family. She came from San Juan de Lurigancho where she lived with her mother, mother's partner and two siblings. Kim has been reunited with her sisters Luna and Jade who are also in the Fatima family. Kim is shy, but with the security of having her biological sisters close, she is coming out of her shell. She is very happy to be at Casa with her sisters, and likes the playground. She also likes the summer workshops where she gets to be creative. Kim likes school and is excited to be able to go to school again because she couldn't go at home. Kim's maestros, Paul and Judith, have noticed that her shyness has limited her comfort in talking to adults. They hope that with the presence of her sisters, who she is very affectionate with, she will find Casa to be a safe place and trust them and the other adults at Casa.



LEYDI is 11 years old and has joined the Guadalupe family. Leydi, and her cousins Meyson and Carlos, traveled 20 hours with her aunt, who is unable to care for them. Her cousin and brother remained with her aunt for the time being. Leydi likes to play soccer, tease and tell jokes. She likes school, especially mathematics. One of the first things she noticed at Casa was that the girls are respectful and the teachers are kind. Leydi's glad to have the opportunity to study so that she can achieve her goal to be a professional. She is especially happy that she no longer has to suffer as she did before Casa. When her Maestra, Yelitza, was asked how she would describe Leydi she said she is quiet, observant and very respectful. She has adapted to the house routine and gets along well with the other girls. Leydi is a real pleasure to have in the Guadalupe family.



SOL, 11 years old, is the newest member of the Rosario family. She has spent most of her life in an orphanage and had to leave the last place because she was too old. Sol likes to read and is excited to have an entire library to go to for new books. She shared that reading was something she did to distract her from

her world. Now she can read just for fun. She also likes math and is anxiously excited about starting her new school. She's glad to be going with other kids from Casa. One of the first things she thought about Casa was that it is a beautiful place. Her Maestra said she fit into the family from the first day she arrived. She is a calm, obedient, respectful young lady that lends a sympathetic ear to her spiritual sisters. What a wonderful disposition for a child that has faced such difficulties.



RICARDO is 7 years, and along with his brother Rodolfo, is now part of the Bosco family. The boys came from the district of San Juan de Lurigancho where they lived with dad and 5 brothers. His favorite food is green tamarind with fried egg. When asked if he likes school, his honest answer was "more or less", but if he had to pick a favorite subject, it's math. His favorite part of being at Casa is that he can play, read and watch TV. Ricardo is the most timid of the new boys in the Bosco family. While he is amicable with everyone, his fearful nature has caused him to be a bit isolated. His maestros have noticed that he is sentimental and prayerful which is a good trait in a young man. Though he does seem fearful to be at Casa, his confidence has grown with the family which they have noticed as he has started to be a little jokester.



CARLOS is 9 years old and, along with his brother Meyson, has joined the Bosco family. The boys, along with Leydi, traveled 20 hours to arrive at Casa. When asked how he feels about being at Casa he said he is sad that he can't be with his mom, but happy that he can go to school. Like most young boys in Peru, "futbol" is his favorite pastime. He enjoys Casa, especially helping with projects, going to Mass, playing outside and watching movies. His favorite food is



Pollo Brosther or broasted chicken. He can't wait to start his new school and his favorite subject is math. The first thing his maestro noticed was that Carlos has a very sad look from the hard hits he has endured during his young life. Still, he has incorporated well into the daily routines and gets along well with the boys. His maestros truly enjoy spending time with Carlos, and are glad to give him the affection he needs so he knows that he is loved and is away from the difficulties he faced before Casa.

RODOLFO is 10 years and, along with his brother Ricardo, calls the Bosco family home. He came from the district of San Juan de Lurigancho where he lived with his dad and 5 brothers. Ricardo is the only brother that came to Casa Hogar with him. Rodolfo loves soccer and is thrilled to have boys to play a game every day. His favorite meal is Aji Gallina, which is a shredded chicken in a cream sauce served over rice. Rodolfo will be in 5th grade when he starts his new school in March and his favorite subject is math. Rodolfo's maestro finds him to be a humble, intelligent young man with a big heart. He has been received well by the other boys in the family. He loves going to Mass and knows most of his prayers. He also likes to serve and can't wait until he is able to do so at Casa.



MEYSON is 11 years old and is in the Bosco family. Before Casa Hogar he lived in Punta Hermosa Santa Rosa with his mom, step-dad, 4 brothers and a sister. He is glad to be in the same family as Carlos, his brother, so that he can help his brother when he feels alone and scared. That's an example of an awesome big brother. Meyson likes living at Casa because he can play soccer with the other boys. He also likes school and is happy that he will be going to San Pedro the Catholic school of the Diocese of Lurin because he will be able to study his favorite subject, religion. Meyson, a humble young man, is always happy to help with the chores and activities. He shows initiative, is a hard worker and has adapted to the family very well. His maestro said Bosco is lucky to have Meyson in their family as he is a good example to his spiritual brothers.



Casa Hogar Sponsorship Programs Connect Children with sponsors in the United States.

It is our hope that every child is matched with two sponsors in the first few months of their arrival. Please consider sponsoring one of our new children and help them feel the love and care that a sponsor provides.



To learn more, go to homeajpm.org/sponsorship.