Please join us in prayer!

Our Oblate Sisters in Ecuador need us!

Saint Leonie Aviat School in Manta, Ecuador

We are all aware of the earthquakes that have devastated the people of Japan and Ecuador these past few weeks. Our Oblate Sisters own and operate several schools in Ecuador. Four of our schools were destroyed or badly damaged in the earthquake. You can imagine our worry for the safety of our Sisters and the children they serve. The lack of electricity made it difficult to receive news; however, we now know that the Sisters are safe. Fortunately, schools in this region of Ecuador were closed with the new year scheduled to begin on May 2nd. No children, teachers or staff were in the schools.

St Leonie Aviat School before the Earthquake

The clean-up has begun!

A treasure has been found: Our Lady of Light

Ways to help:

- Pray for all those affected
- Ask Christ to give them the spiritual and emotional strength they need
- Spend each day in solidarity with our Sisters and those they serve.
- Support their efforts to rebuild their lives in any way that you can

Rocafuerte before and after: to the right is a photo from a part of the school still standing.

Oblate Sisters schools affected by the earthquake:

St. Leonie Aviat, Tarqui,Manta	800 students	**St. Francis de Sales, Rocafuerte**	650 students
Stella Maris, Manta	940 students	**St. Mary Magdalen, San Placido**	400 students

From our Sisters in Manta:

Thank God nothing happened to our Sisters, although there have been deaths in their families. What happened to our schools is terrible, just as terrible as what happened along Ecuador's coast to many people who live there. Our school St. Leonie Aviat in Tarqui(outside Manta) doesn't exist anymore; both school buildings collapsed in on themselves. Tables and chairs lay in the street. Everything is just a huge pile of debris. The school Stella Maris in Manta has many cracks with collapsed walls and shattered windows. More than half of the school in Rocafuerte has collapsed and the rest has to be taken down. Also, our school in San Placido is badly damaged. It has not been examined by engineers to see if it can be repaired.

How can we teach? What will happen to the teachers who may not be able to find work? Many of our pupils, teachers and employees have lost their homes or even relatives.

When the earthquake hit, our Sisters were in the Chapel. At 18.58 all the statues fell and shattered. The candles flew like bullets through the air. You could not stand upright, the shocks were so strong. But despite all that we have to be thankful there were no children in the school, that all the Sisters were together in a safe place and could run outside, holding each other up and hugging.

Please, we need your help, your solidarity and your prayers!

How can we help financially?

Due to the difficult situation in Ecuador, we have set up a special account to receive and hold donations until our Sisters in Ecuador are able to receive them.

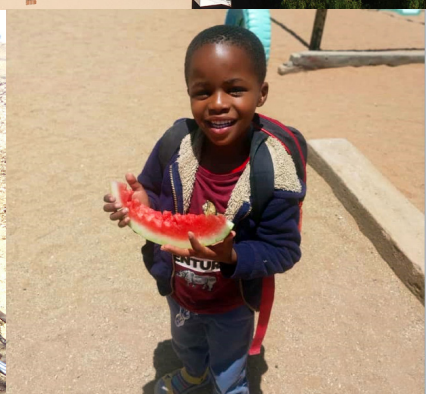
Checks can be sent directly to the Oblate Sisters in the USA:

Make checks payable to: Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales

Send to: Oblate Sisters, 399 Childs Road, Childs, MD 21916

Online donations may be made on our website: www.oblatesisters.org

The Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales, Inc. is recognized as having exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are eligible to be deducted up to the full extent of the law.



MISSION APPEALS FOR OBLATE SISTERS IN AFRICA

"The more one loves, the more one gives.
The more one gives, the more one loves God."

These words of Blessed Louis Brisson, our founder, continue to animate and encourage us as we walk with God's people in South Africa and Namibia. With confidence in your goodness and openness to the Gospel, we come to ask you to join us in this walk of faith.

Feed the Hungry

Many of our brothers and sisters throughout our world are suffering from hunger and poverty. Our Oblate Sisters in Africa minister to them every day. Due to increased unemployment and growing poverty in our communities, the children go hungry if we do not feed them. Both those in our schools and those coming from the townships hope to get something to eat from the Sisters. It is a sad and heart-breaking experience to see men and women who line up for food for their families as they face the daily hardship of hunger. Food is costly, our resources are few, and we cannot bear this financial burden alone. Your donations will help us **"feed the hungry."**

Solar Panels

South Africa is experiencing an energy crisis. Power blackouts have gradually become the norm and are having a devastating effect on our daily lives: our water pumps don't operate, refrigerators stop running causing food to spoil and classes are shortened negatively impacting our education system. The loss and damage seems endless. Since 2022, there have been scheduled blackouts. For up to 10 hours **every day**, there is no power. It is a life of suffering, misery, and loss for all. Our only solution to this serious problem is to have solar panels installed on our convents and schools. Your donations will help provide renewable energy for much needed water and light.

Medical Supplies and Care for our Elderly Sisters

Our elderly and sick Sisters are being cared for in our convents of Koelenhof, Matjieskloof, and Karasburg by the Sisters of the community. Their devotion and care of our Sisters, who have seen the face of Christ in those they served for decades, is a blessing. However, our Sisters lack necessary medical equipment, which would improve treatment and care. We are seeking funds to buy hospital beds, patient lifts, and other basic medical equipment. Your donations will improve care for those who have sacrificed their lives in serving God's people unselfishly for many years.

United in Sharing God's Love

Our Oblate Sisters in Africa will be the hands that provide loving care and the voices that speak of God's love to people burdened by poverty. For our part, we assure you of our prayers. Every week a Mass is celebrated by our Oblate Fathers for the benefactors of our mission appeals. Our Sisters remember our benefactors in our daily prayers and God's little ones whom we serve pray for you as well. No gift is too small. If you are unable to offer financial support, we ask for your prayers. May Christ continue to bless and strengthen us as we walk with our brothers and sisters in Africa.

OBLATE SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES AFRICA RELIEF FUND

Your financial contribution will provide desperately needed food and basic supplies and relief to the poor and those suffering. Every dollar donated goes directly to the needs of the Sisters and those they serve. For online contributions: www.oblatesisters.org USA Contact: oblatesisters@mountaviat.org