

# MISSION

MAGAZINE

FALL

2025

© Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity

## INSIDE

**LOOK UP:  
THE SILENCE OF ADVENT:**

Fr. Peter Marsalek, **SOLT**

**ADVENT, WAITING  
WITH JOYFUL EXPECTATION:**

Sr. Mary Aloysius Kim, **SOLT**

**ADVENT AND CHRIST'S CALL:**

Sr. Mary Claire Strasser, **SOLT**

**THE MISSION OF ADVENT:**

Sarah Soto

**SEATS OF HOPE:**

Santa Maria del Mexicano



► **CONTACT INFO**

Director of Development  
**Mauricio Romero**  
 P.O. Box 4116, Corpus Christi,  
 TX 78469  
 (361) 654-0054 ext 101  
 mauricio@solt.net  
 www.solt.net

► **VOLUNTEER**

**Ginny Robinson**  
 soltvolunteer@gmail.com  
 www.solt.net/volunteer

► **VOCATIONS**

*Priests & Brothers Vocations*

**Fr. Dave Brokke, SOLT**  
 vocations@solt.net

*Sisters Vocations*

**Sr. Mary Claire of the Holy Family  
 Strasser, SOLT**  
 solt.net/sisters/inquiry

*Lay Vocations*

Rosalie Buegler  
 solt.net/laity

We'd love to talk about  
 how your generosity  
 makes a difference.



**A** number of years ago, I spent a few days visiting Seoul, Korea. While it was a highly impressive and dynamic city, one thing stood out vividly: the omnipresence of cell phones. People walked down the streets with their eyes fixed on their screens; some even used two phones at once—watching a video on one while texting on the other. The phenomenon was so noticeable that the local government took action. On the Seoul subway, I saw signs posted everywhere that read, “Look up! Your future spouse may be looking at you.” In other words, while you are busy communicating virtually, something important—perhaps even life-changing—might be right in front of you, if only you would look up.

That sign in the Seoul subway captures the spirit of Advent. Our lives are filled with noise, distraction, and preoccupation, and if we are not careful, we risk missing the most important

# LOOK UP: THE SILENCE OF ADVENT



reality before us: that the Word became flesh and will come again in glory. Advent calls us to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord, and that preparation begins in silence.

St. John Paul II once wrote, *“The mystery is continuously veiled, enveloped in silence, lest an idol be created in place of God.”* This insight beautifully expresses the essence of Advent. The mystery of the Incarnation—made visible at the Nativity—can only be entered into through silence and contemplation. God’s voice is heard in the quiet of the heart; the world’s noise only distracts us from hearing it. As St. John Paul II warned, if we refuse that silence, we inevitably replace God with some idol. How telling it is that what the world neglects to celebrate in the Word made flesh, it so easily substitutes with

a fantastical tale of a jolly old man in a reindeer powered sleigh bringing gifts to children.

In this edition of Mission Magazine, we invite you to enter the silence of Advent—to quiet the noise, look up, and behold the wonder that is right before you. Then, in that stillness, may you join the angels and shepherds in proclaiming with joy: Glory to God in the highest!

As always, we remain deeply grateful for your prayer, support, and collaboration with SOLT. We pray you have a blessed Advent and joyful Christmas season.



Fr. Peter Marsalek, **SOLT**  
**SOLT GENERAL PRIEST SERVANT**



# ADVENT: WAITING WITH JOYFUL EXPECTATION

Something happens in the heart when Advent begins. The world seems to hush as candles are lit, and prayers are softly whispered. It is a season of waiting, but not the kind that is passive or idle. It is a waiting that is focused and full of hope. This season invites us to keep our hearts attentive to the Lord's presence, expecting His coming not only at Christmas but also in every moment of grace. It is a time that forms our hearts in love and stretches them toward the One who comes to make all things new.

True Christian waiting is never centered on ourselves. It is a waiting for someone else: for God, for our neighbor, for the Church, and for the community that has been entrusted to us. This is the heart of the missionary life - to wait for Christ so deeply that His joy becomes the joy we bring to others.

I had the privilege of being in Rome during the last conclave. On May 8, 2025, I was walking through the streets toward St. Peter's when suddenly the bells began to ring. Then people's phones started buzzing, and we began to hear the word spreading through the



crowd: “White smoke!” Without thinking, I started running, and so did everyone else. It seemed as if the whole city was running toward St. Peter’s Square. The air was filled with excitement. We pressed into the square, hearts pounding, faces turned toward the great balcony of the basilica. Then we waited. It was a focused waiting. We did not yet know who the new pope would be, but there was no anxiety - only a deep, shared joy and faith that the Lord had once again provided a shepherd for His Church.

Finally, the new Holy Father stepped out onto the balcony, and the square fell silent. Then, with a gentle smile, he said his first words: “Peace be with you.” In that moment, we felt it. Peace was not

just an idea; it was something real, almost tangible, washing over the crowd like a quiet wind after a storm. Our waiting had been fulfilled, not because of who he was, but because we had seen God’s faithfulness revealed once again.

During Advent, we look to Our Lady, who shows us how to wait with faith, trust, and readiness to serve. Her “yes” teaches us that waiting is not emptiness but openness to God’s promise. May this Advent renew in us the joy that waits in faith, serves in love, and rejoices when Christ draws near!



Sr. Mary Aloysius Kim, SOLT  
**GENERAL SISTER SERVANT**



# ADVENT AND CHRIST'S CALL

**A**dvent comes from “ad-venire” in Latin, meaning “to come to.” Advent, though, often becomes a season of waiting or hurry. We are waiting for Our Lord’s arrival at Christmas or hurrying to one seasonal event after another. I remember as a child the excruciating wait for the Advent candle to be lit each week. It seemed to take forever to arrive at the fourth week. As the years passed, I’ve had to remind myself to slow down and take in the newness of the next light of each week. Now Advent goes too fast, easily filled with events and many good things. The temptation is to hurry; the invitation is to wait.

The experience of discernment can go much the same way. Many spend much time waiting for clarity and certainty. An encounter and invitation from the Lord can send one into a hurry to figure out what it means. Or that encounter may stir up fears that were previously unknown which Jesus wants to free the person. There can be a sense of urgency to enter, get through formation, and a desire to serve and evangelize. Often the invitation from the Lord is to slow down, listen, and be with Him. In the waiting, in the silence, there is the

advent. Coming to a generous yes to a call to be His. As one of my favorite Advent hymns prays:

*“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.”*

Not only did Jesus do this through the Incarnation, He also longs to do this in our own hearts as well. Advent and vocational discernment are both seasons of expectation and preparation. We prepare for the Lord to come, quieting our hearts for His arrival.

Please pray for those discerning a vocation to the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. As you “come to” His arrival this Christmas, please pray that in this season of “coming to” acknowledging and accepting His call, those whom the Lord is calling to SOLT are able to respond generously.



Sr. Mary Claire Strasser, SOLT  
**VOCATIONS SERVANT AMERICAN REGION**

# A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

*“When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming” (CCC 524)*



In a world marked by exhaustion—of body, mind, and soul—Advent comes like a quiet dawn breaking through a long night. The season is not merely a countdown to Christmas festivities; it is a sacred time of preparation, a call to awaken from spiritual slumber and make room for the Word made flesh. “A weary world rejoices” not because its weariness is denied, but because into that very weariness steps the living God.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us the season of Advent not only for joyful anticipation but also for penance. This may seem counterintuitive to a culture already stringing lights, playing carols, and rushing through endless lists. Yet true rejoicing requires a heart ready to receive. Like a house awaiting a royal guest, the soul must be swept clean. The Catechism reminds us, *“When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming” (CCC 524)*. This preparation is not passive; it is active, interior work.

Penance is not a dreary task but a doorway to joy. Through acts of penance—whether sacramental confession, fasting, almsgiving, or intentional silence—we acknowledge our need for a Savior. We turn from the clutter of sin and distraction, making space for Christ to dwell within us. St. John

the Baptist’s cry echoes through Advent: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!” (Mk 1:3). His message is not only historical but perennial, addressed to each generation anew.

In missionary life, this penitential aspect of Advent is especially poignant. Missionaries encounter the weariness of the world in a unique way: the weariness of poverty, injustice, unbelief, or wounded hearts. Yet they are also called to be heralds of joy—the kind of joy that is born only when hearts are converted and reconciled to the Father. Just as Our Lady prepared her heart to receive the Christ Child, so too must we allow grace to reshape our lives in these weeks of waiting.

Advent penance is not about mere self-denial; it is about clearing away what hinders love. When the night is longest, even the smallest light shines brightly. So too, when we bring our sins to the Lord and allow Him to heal and transform us, the joy of His coming blazes all the more brightly in our lives and in our mission.

This Advent, let us embrace penance not as a burden but as a gift—an invitation to let our weary hearts be renewed. Then, when Christ comes, we too will rejoice with the world made new.



By Sarah Soto  
SOLT LAY MEMBER

# THE MISSION OF ADV



# ION VENT

**A**dvent is a season of waiting and joyful hope, but it also carries a missionary dimension.

We prepare not only for the coming of Christ into our own lives but also for bringing Him to others. What begins as expectation must end in proclamation.

Two key figures, St. John the Baptist and Our Blessed Mother, offer us a missionary model for Advent. John is the voice crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord and calling all to repentance and conversion. Mary is the perfect missionary disciple, who opens her heart to the Word made flesh and carries Him with haste through the hill country of Judea to her cousin Elizabeth. Both teach us how to be heralds of the Gospel. Their witness and presence in the Advent season stir us from complacency and urge us to share the light of Christ with those who dwell in darkness. They give us simple and practical ways to live the missionary spirit:

- **Perform acts of charity** for someone in need and stand in solidarity with the poor.
- **Share your faith** naturally in conversations with family, friends, and coworkers.
- **Pray for those who are far from God** and invite them to take a step toward the light.

These practices are lived beautifully within our



SOLT charism: **community life, rooted in Marian-Trinitarian communion**, is meant to radiate a missionary presence that draws others into this communion of love.

Advent waiting is not passive—it is an active going forth. As pilgrims living between the two comings of Christ—His humble birth in Bethlehem and His glorious return—we are inspired by the first and urged by the second to be vigilant and fruitful in spreading the Gospel. In his encyclical *Spe Salvi* (“On Hope”), Pope Benedict XVI reflected on the Final Judgment as a lesson in hope. In ancient basilicas, depictions of Christ’s coming in glory were placed above the church doors, reminding all who gathered for the Eucharist of their mission to proclaim the Gospel as they went forth.

Advent renews our missionary zeal. We are called to be like St. John the Baptist and Our Lady—messengers of hope. As we await Christ, we become His heralds, preparing hearts and homes for His coming and carrying the Good News to the ends of the earth.



Fr. Brady Williams, SOLT  
**NOVICE SERVANT**



Santa María  
del Mexicano

## Seats of Hope

Since its founding in 1975, **Santa María del Mexicano** in Colón, Querétaro has provided spiritual, educational, moral and human formation to children and elderly residents who have faced poverty or abuse. The mission has grown into five homes, two for boys, two for girls and one for the elderly, and today serves over 200 residents. Your prayers, gifts and volunteer work have made this possible.

This year, we are excited to share the launch of **Seats of Hope**, a new campaign that will help us ensure every child at **Santa María** has the resources they need to thrive. A “**Seat of Hope**” is more than a chair; it represents a child receiving daily meals, a warm bed, access to education, and the spiritual care that builds faith and resilience. Each seat also supports the broader mission, three schools, five houses, 50 staff members and medical costs, so that our doors remain open and our care remains consistent.

Why focus on seats? With 150 children living at **Santa María**, we want to make sure each of them has a place where they belong. At the dinner table, in the classroom and in the chapel. Monthly support is the foundation of this work. Recurring gifts provide predictable income for food, utilities and education, allow our missionaries to focus on pastoral care rather than

constant fundraising, and enable us to respond quickly when new children arrive. Steady support keeps our mission stable.

Here's how **Seats of Hope** works:

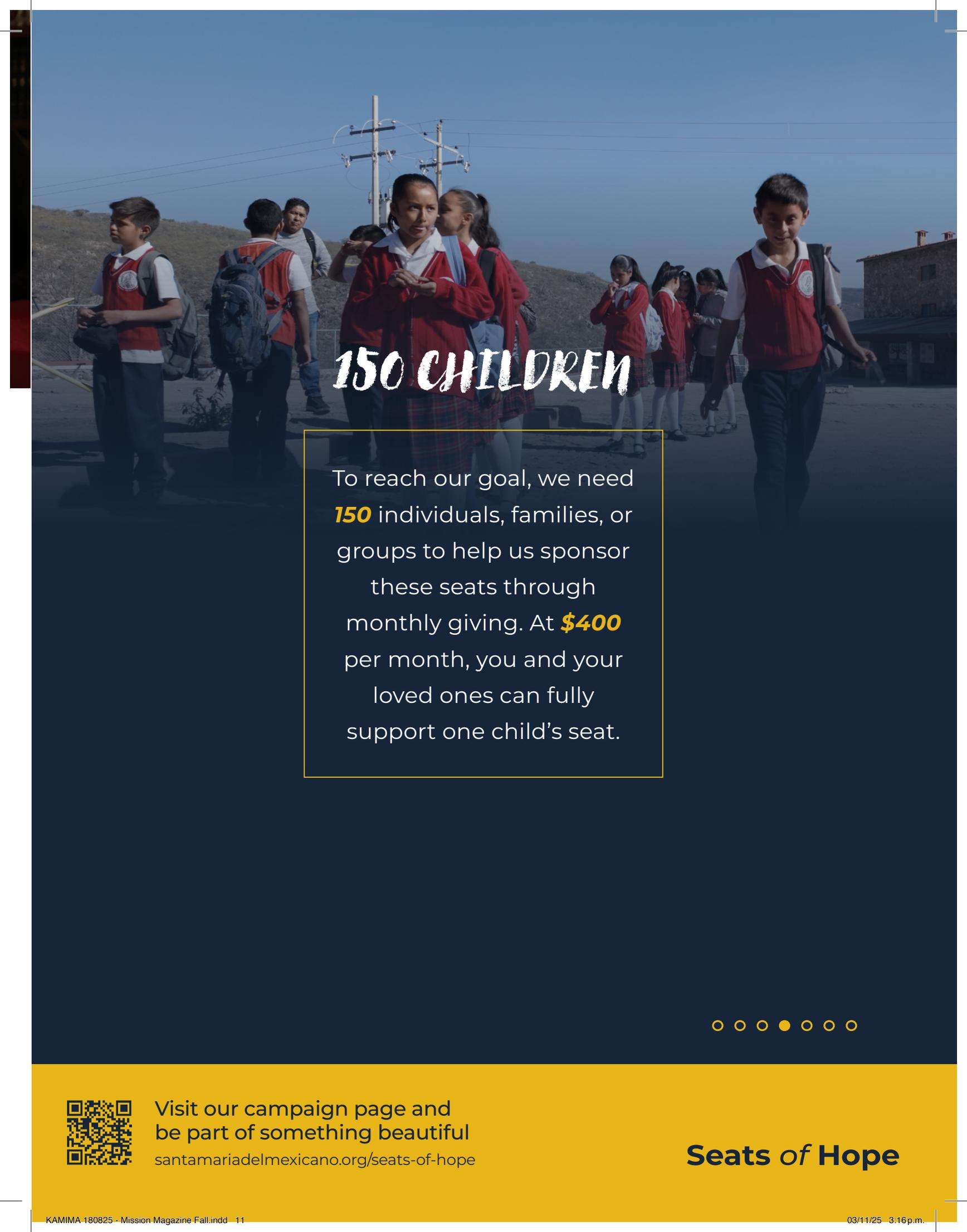
- **Sponsor a Full Seat:** This is a monthly commitment that ensures one child's full care.
- **Become a Seat Ambassador:** Not everyone can sponsor a full seat on their own, but they can gather a few friends or family members to collectively sponsor a seat.

We have always relied on the generosity and good will of our donors. **Seats of Hope** is our way of making sure each child at Santa María has more than just a place to sit. Each seat represents safety, education, faith and the promise of a brighter future. To learn more about the campaign please visit our website or contact our mission office.

Please pray for the success of the campaign. With your help, we can ensure that every child at **Santa María** continues to experience true hope.



Fr. Dan Estes, SOLT  
Director



# 150 CHILDREN

To reach our goal, we need **150** individuals, families, or groups to help us sponsor these seats through monthly giving. At **\$400** per month, you and your loved ones can fully support one child's seat.



Visit our campaign page and  
be part of something beautiful  
[santamariadelmexicano.org/seats-of-hope](https://santamariadelmexicano.org/seats-of-hope)

**Seats of Hope**



**SOCIETY of OUR LADY**  
of the Most Holy Trinity

PO Box 4116 • Corpus Christi, TX 78469

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Robstown, TX  
Permit No. 774



**SUPPORT OUR SOLT MISSIONS**

By partnering with SOLT, your gift will impact the lives of some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters our missionaries serve all over the world.

**MISSION**  
MAGAZINE