

HELPING AND THE HOLY GHOST

By Chelsea Flake Mortensen
(Based on a true story)

Mateo and his dad walked to their family's fruit stand together. Mateo's dog, Zeus, followed them.

"Did you ask the bishop about my baptism?" Mateo asked. He was already eight, but he hadn't been baptized yet because of the pandemic.

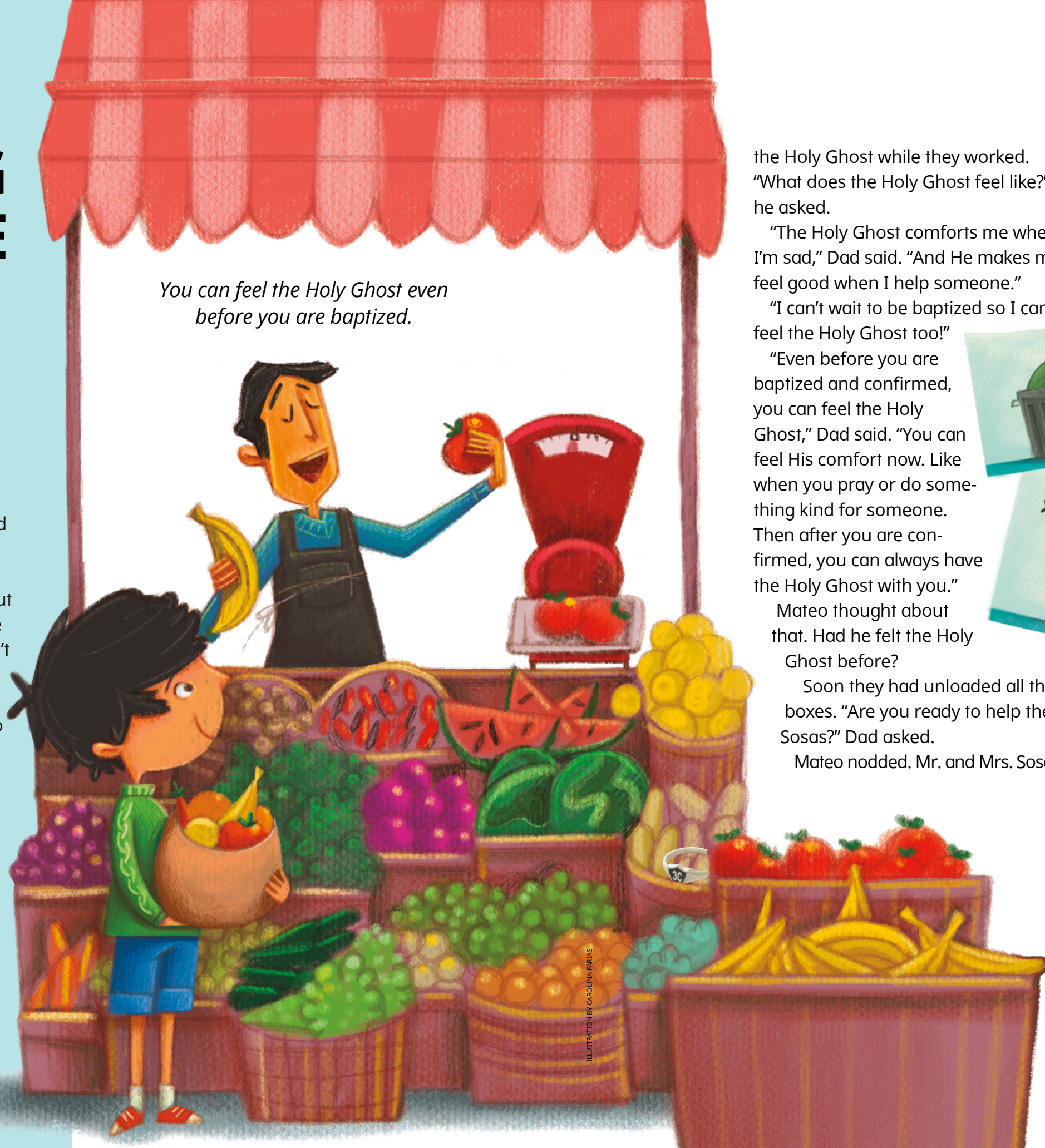
"He said you won't be able to get baptized this month," Dad said. "Maybe next month."

"OK." Mateo frowned. He really wanted to be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. But it seemed like it would never happen!

Dad unlocked the stand. Mateo helped carry out boxes of oranges, lemons, mangoes, and bananas. Then he helped put them on the shelves.

Mateo kept thinking about

You can feel the Holy Ghost even before you are baptized.



the Holy Ghost while they worked. "What does the Holy Ghost feel like?" he asked.

"The Holy Ghost comforts me when I'm sad," Dad said. "And He makes me feel good when I help someone."

"I can't wait to be baptized so I can feel the Holy Ghost too!"

"Even before you are baptized and confirmed, you can feel the Holy Ghost," Dad said. "You can feel His comfort now. Like when you pray or do something kind for someone. Then after you are confirmed, you can always have the Holy Ghost with you."

Mateo thought about that. Had he felt the Holy Ghost before?

Soon they had unloaded all the boxes. "Are you ready to help the Sosas?" Dad asked.

Mateo nodded. Mr. and Mrs. Sosa

both had a hard time walking. So Mateo went to the market for them. Sometimes he helped them do chores too.

Mateo and Zeus walked to the Sosas' house. Mrs. Sosa waved from the front porch. "Good morning!"

"Do you need groceries today?" Mateo asked.

"Yes. I need bread, potatoes, and beef."

Mrs. Sosa counted out some coins. "That should be enough."

Mateo took the money. He saw a bag of trash by the door. "Can I take that out for you?" he asked.

"Yes. Thank you!" Mrs. Sosa said.

After he took the trash out, Mateo bought the food. He thought about all the things he'd done that morning. He helped Dad at the fruit stand. He helped the Sosas buy food. And he *did* have a good feeling inside. He was feeling the Holy Ghost, just like Dad said!

Mateo hoped he wouldn't have to wait much longer to be baptized. He wanted to have the Holy Ghost with him all the time! ●

This story took place in Uruguay.

