



Ulisses and Emilia Maio

Porto, Portugal



Emilia Maio's sister, Custodia, was born with significant disabilities. Fifteen years ago, Custodia came to live with Emilia and her husband, Ulisses. As a family, they have learned that selfless family service is a great source of joy.

LESLIE NILSSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

Emilia:

Of course it was hard in the beginning. I had to leave my job to take care of my sister. But it has been a blessing. When Ulisses and I were first married, we discovered we couldn't have children. Custodia is like a child sent from God for us to take care of. In many ways, she helps fill the void we feel being childless. She's loving and caring. She loves to laugh and loves going to church. She is a joy.

Ulisses:

Serving my family has always spiritually uplifted me. Although we do not have as much alone time as a couple, we are close to each other spiritually. We are closer as a family. The whole time we have seen the hand of the Lord helping us. He has showed us miracle after miracle. We are truly blessed.

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See more about Ulisses and Emilia's journey of faith, including additional photos, in the digital version of this article in the Gospel Library app or at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org/go/E3206](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/go/E3206).