

At Maria's First Communion party, aunts and uncles gathered to congratulate her.



You were so pretty in your communion dress, Maria!

And you knew all the answers, we are so proud of you!

So proud!

Such a good job!

Congratulations, sweetheart!

What a beautiful day!

"We're so proud of you," one relative after another repeated.

She looks like her mom, has her eyes, but she has her father's mouth.

Haha, everyone's laughing at that.



Laughing at that.

Usually, remarks like that made her mad. But this time, Maria just smiled.

And, one by one, she went around the room and hugged all her relatives.



"One thing's for sure," someone said, "she has her mother's big heart."



Through her hugs, Maria showed all her relatives her love. Love passed along through people.