

Miracle and Mystery

A miracle-so quiet it could be missed-is the deep peace that can exist in the midst of terrible troubles. This "peace that the world cannot give" is a miracle. It is a mystery why a person will reach beyond their own worries and troubles to be with people faraway-people of a different culture. That person will care, will pray, will help, will visit. How can we explain that mystery of solidarity? How does compassion become woven into relationships-animating work and family life and worship? Within the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, we experience these miracles and this mystery, we sense a and joy that signals God at work.

Last spring the International Mission of Friendship hosted a delightful "Spaghetti Dinner". Besides enthusiastically serving up pasta, Msgr. McGraw designated Good Shepherd beneficiary of \$6,000. raised. The funds were sent to Sr. Immaculata to buy desks, chairs and materials for TEN new Child Care Centers. Pasta into furniture -how's that for a creative conversion!! At the same dinner we raffled a free ticket to Peru(Lima/Trujillo) to visit with Sister and the winner was Eleanor Danciu who was thrilled to reunite with a dear old friend. Her daughter, Peggy Hutto is a board member and got her own ticket; so Marjorie, Peggy and Eleanor will leave on September 22 for an exciting week with the Mercy Community. This may be the start of a new tradition!



In May and June, our president, Jerry Fickel visited the Mercy sisters in Trujillo and Mache. He got to be part pf ceremonies which celebrated the evolution of Alto Trujillo from "human invasion" to "human settlement" to MUNICIPALITY which means a myriad of essential services for the residents-and their own Mayor! A vital part of that progress was the work of creative and committed missionaries from Ireland and Spain. They were Sisters, priests, brothers and laypeople who started churches and schools and built clinics and houses. A colorful parade featured residents, many familiar to us. Many of them were in uniform, like bakers, child care mothers and librarians. They looked so happy, proud and empowered! Sister Immaculata appears in one photo of a platform full of VERY important men. She is peering innocently from a back row seat! Recently she was awarded special recognition by a Spanish NGO long active in Alto -Fr. Aitor, the pastor, is one of their members. Needless to say, Immaculata is recovered!



Peruvian Independence Day Celebration



Women of Care Centers

August saw a visit by Ed Heemskerk, our founder, and Deacon Dick Venezia of St. Andrew parish in Stuart. We include brief reflections from each of them. While he was there, Ed directed a videotape of conversations with care mothers and other leaders in the community. Immaculata sits beside each one and translates -her loving solidarity with them and their strong commitments to good works and the church make for a deeply moving documentary. **The Ministry of the Good Shepherd will show this DVD on Sunday, October 2nd at 2 pm at the home of Marjorie O'Sullivan. If you would like to come and see, please RSVP 561.395.6029.**

On Sunday, October 23 after the 12:15 pm mass, the parish will host an International Festival in Mercy Center. Guests may sample foods from many nations and drinks will be for sale. Peru will certainly be represented and Good Shepherd will have a display. Donations will be accepted. That same weekend there is a second collection at all the masses for Propagation of Faith. We are very grateful that half the proceeds will go through the International Mission of Friendship to the mission work of Sister Immaculata and the community of Mercy sisters in Alto Trujillo. We hope with all our hearts that you will choose to participate in these opportunities and festivities.

Reflection from Deacon Dick Venezia

We are called to see the face of Jesus in the faces of all we meet. How easy this was during my time in Peru with Ed Heemskerk. Jesus was apparent in the faces of children who cheerfully greeted us "Buenos dias!!" I saw Jesus in the faces of the thirteen Care Mothers who so proudly wore their new monogrammed smocks while lovingly nurturing their charges. Jesus' face showed itself in the wide-eyed smile of the Down syndrome boy who nearly knocked me over with his bear hug! A young spastic girl gave me the only gift of which she was capable-a huge Jesus smile. She lit up the room. I saw Jesus in the faces of the beautiful children who come daily to the library; saw Jesus again in Lillian the librarian and her assistant, Jessica. I had an unforgettable conversation with Juan Carlos, the resident psychologist who serves in the center for addicts and alcoholics with the advantage of having once been one of them. I saw Christ in him as I did in Sr. Calixta who directs the facility. It takes special people to brave the challenges of working in areas of extreme and harsh poverty. The good sisters follow Jesus - and it is written all over their faces!

Reflection by Ed Heemskerk

During my seventh visit to Sr. Immaculata's mission, I met with and videotaped conversations with a group of the Care Mothers. All together, they care for 208 children for four hours each school day. They feed them, help them with homework, take them to the library at San Jose and protect them from gangs and possible sexual abuse from family members or neighbors. Because their moms are single and out working, these children would otherwise be unsupervised every afternoon. I was deeply impressed by the coordinator of these Care Mothers, Rosa Rodriguez. She has a husband, seven children and lives in Barrio 2A, right near San Jose church. She has been with these Care Centers for nine years, has a heart for these children and dreams that each child in her care "would become a professional". In addition, she was appointed by the pastor (Fr. Aitor) to work in a new program: Caritas Parochial. She must seek out



Luis and his mother

exceptionally poor people with serious medical problems and get help for them. In this capacity, Rosa took us to visit Luis, a 14 years old boy suffering from severe depression. He had stopped going to school. Sister consulted with his school principal and had a visiting psychologist interview him. Sister and Rosa learned that his depression related to his extreme poverty and his shame over his home. The home was poorly made, barely had a roof, just plain pathetic, filthy and about to fall apart. Luis was dressed in his school clothes, though it wasn't a school day. Turns out he didn't have any other clothes. He shook hands reluctantly and wouldn't make eye contact. I was moved to tears and just wanted out of there. As we left, I found myself hinting that help would be forthcoming. Sister often quotes the words(of God) from Exodus 3: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people... and have given heed to their cry". A modest adobe house with a good roof and a door costs about \$3,000. Could you help us help Luis and his family?