

***A letter from Sister Inmaculata***

Dear Friends,

During this beautiful time of Thanksgiving my thoughts always turn to Boca Raton. As I reflect on what I am grateful for in the year 2011, I realize that so much of what we do here on the Peru Mission is made possible by the generosity of the people of St. Joan of Arc and their friends. Today I complete 21 years in Peru and I can truly say with the psalmist, "Surely the goodness and kindness of the people of St. Joan of Arc have followed me all the days of my life". This year was different - an accident, time in hospital, surgery, 5 pins in the femur (they are still there), prolonged recuperation, learning to walk again etc. However, through the blessing of the Lord and the prayers of many people I am walking again and able for a full day's work. I thank God for the many wonderful people in San Jose parish who kept things going and also for the part time assistant that you have provided since September to go to the more distant, sand-filled areas where I have difficulty walking. All the programs that are sponsored by you in Alto Trujillo and Mache are doing well. This year we created ten additional CARE CENTERS which include two kitchens since they are at different sides of the parish, in barrios that are new and areas of extreme poverty. The cost of setting them up was covered by Msgr. McGraw and the Spaghetti Dinner activity. Running costs are being funded by THE FATHER'S TABLE FOUNDATION. The project also gives stable, part time work to 14 additional women. When the new Centers opened in March (I was still in hospital) the local government was not disposed to furnish the basic foods as they do with the existing centers. However, we appealed again recently and last week the two new food kitchens were approved for the year 2012. That is a great blessing as it will cut down on the cost of food and help us cover the 10% minimum wage increase our new government recently mandated. The centers are in great demand and provide a real important service.

We're very grateful too for the scholarships that included materials for students in the Technical School, provided by THE FATHER'S TABLE and THE MINISTRY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD this year. In December, for the first time in the new center, 20 students will receive diplomas/ certificates for completing four modules in their special area. The materials you supplied ensured that the students did not quit school during the year for lack of supplies as they always did in the past and also enabled them to do their practicals in a more realistic way. Those who did quit classes this year after two modules did so because they found work. Areas that provided work were Textile (some got work in Lima in the large textile manufacturers), Hairdressing, and Shoemaking. Of course they can always come back for additional training but when work is available the temptation is very strong to quit. Another "surprise" blessing this year was the GOOD SHEPHERD and IRELAND investment of the funds the teachers needed in their specialty. All teachers have been taking courses on weekends. Recently, the Ministry for Education announced that all teachers would be evaluated and that in 2012 work would only be given to those who have modernized their methods. In June, Santo Toribio School, where we daily send 33 special children, celebrated 25 years of foundation by the Irish Mission in a ceremony that was truly exceptional involving all the students. Some weeks later the new Minister for Education came to visit. What a blessing that our 33 children coming from such a poor area can attend such a wonderful school. And thanks from the 60 children who can attend school because of the efforts of Cristy Manceri and her friends. Also thank you from the college students who are so happy to be given the opportunity to study and who in turn share their talents with the parish as catechists etc. on the weekend. Enabling poor families to purchase medicine, receive health care attention, the service of a psychologist which would be entirely beyond their reach - for all these things I feel so grateful to God and to all of you. The library with its new stock of books and new copier are real assets in the community. This year I made it obligatory for the Care Mothers to bring their group of children to the library one afternoon a week as there is no culture of reading in Peru. It is amazing how so many now come with enthusiasm to choose their book and read. And of course a great blessing in 2011 was the visits from our friends in the MINISTRY. We had visits from our president, Jerry Fickel. There was of course a certain sadness in meeting him because of Ana Maria's passing but we know that she is praying for us in heaven; she had a tremendous interest in the mission. Then we had a week's visit from Ed Heemskerk (founding father) and Dick Venezia, Marjorie O'Sullivan, Eleanor Danciu (we struggled together in the early years of St. Joan of Arc School) and her daughter Peggy Hutto. These visits are always a great source of animation, joy and support. I thank each of you who made the trip to Peru.

There is more of a sense of hope among the poor in Peru with the election of the new president whose priority is INCLUSION. He has two huge challenges facing him, corruption on all levels and violence. Trujillo has become a very violent place and the poor outlying areas where we work, more so. But at least there are sincere efforts being made on many fronts to improve things. So as I celebrate this Thanksgiving I thank God for Msgr. McGraw and his continued support of, and interest in our mission, the members of St. Joan of Arc Parish who continue to be so generous, the FATHERS TABLE FOUNDATION for their strong on-going commitment to us and to the MINISTRY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD who make it all happen. May you and your families be blessed this Thanksgiving. As Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, that you do unto ME". **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Inmaculata Murphy".

# Ministry of the Good Shepherd

## ***A letter from Giovana Mendocilla Lujan of Mache. One of our many sponsored students***

I greet you very kindly hoping that your health is good and that you are in the infinite mercy of God. I am very thankful for all that you have done for me and all the people that receive your help. Truthfully, I never expected anything. Each day I ask God to protect you and bless you in all your marvelous works that you do for others. I'll tell you a little bit about my life. I was born in Mache in the province of Otuzco and the State of La Libertad. Since early childhood I wanted to know God better and that is why I made my first communion and my confirmation. All of this experience was beautiful because I felt closer to God and I felt as if I were his daughter and my chest shook with happiness. At age 15, I joined the youth group of the church Christ the King of Mache. It was very pleasant to be part of this group. Together with the Sisters we visited surrounding villages to have exchange gatherings with youth there and to tell them how wonderful and merciful is our Lord Jesus. At age 16, I had a great shock of my life. My mother died leaving me with my father and a younger brother. It was difficult to adapt to the new and difficult way of life. I thought that I would never be able to accomplish any of my dreams or goals. But, at that time, with the support of my family and the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters Angelica and Catalina, I was convinced that I am in this life to struggle to accomplish my dreams and goals, to never give up because always with me is our Lord Jesus giving me strength and guiding me to go forward.



I dreamed of studying nursing but my father had no economic possibilities of help for me, but, one day, certainly the happiest day of my life, the Sisters surprised me with the news that they were going to help so that I could study at the university. In that moment I felt so much emotion that I cried tears of joy. Now, I am studying nursing in the Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego de Trujillo. I am very pleased to be studying there because the courses are taught well and I have not had to repeat any. I repeat to you my many thanks for all of the assistance. I will not disappoint you. I will finish the studies for my degree and I will be a good professional as a nurse. May God bless you, enlighten you, protect you, and give you strength to go forward because He never lets you go from his blessed hands.

### ***Thank you gift***

At the November board meeting Father Ronald J. Pusak was presented with a thank you gift from Marino, one of the many young people father has helped educate in Peru. Marino now runs a very successful practice as a psychologist in Trujillo. He assists Sister Immaculata in Alto Trujillo weekly at a very reduced rate and also offers free counseling at his office one day a week to Alto Trujillo residents in need. His gift to Father Pusak is a collection of three framed pictures, one of his family (with wife and two children), one of Marino behind his desk in his Trujillo office, and the third a picture of his youngest child whom he named Ronal after his benefactor Father Ronald.



### ***Visitors to Peru***

Over the past years Sister has been visited by old and new friends alike. The most recent visitors were Eleanor Danciu and her daughter Peggy Hutto. Eleanor says "Sister and I go way back to the early days of SJA parish and school. My late husband Emil and I have been parishioners of St. Joan of Arc since 1960 and Sister Immaculata taught all of our children at one time or another.... I find it hard to describe how grateful I am for the opportunity to have seen Sister's mission work in action.... How wonderful to have seen with our own eyes the good work of Sister Immaculata and the Sisters of Mercy in Peru. I thank God for having had this opportunity." If you feel led to visit Sister in Peru and see her work in action, contact Marjorie O'Sullivan (561- 395-6029) or Betty Heemskerck (561-391-4426).