

December 2024

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I've visited Alto Trujillo many times, but this was my first time during the Christmas season. I couldn't miss this opportunity! This time I experienced plenty of gratitude, from the people of Alto Trujillo with our Lord, for how he provides and procures for them. Sharing the Christmas celebration with the children and caring mothers; and seeing the devotion with which they pray was so fulfilling. The care mothers put a lot of effort into preparing hot cocoa for all the children and rehearse with them singing Christmas songs in front of a Nativity. All the songs were so special! The enthusiasm the children put into the celebration of Jesus' birthday was quite evident. Once again, I left with my heart full of love to give, and with a lesson learned (which happens every visit). True joy is always found in simple and essential things, friendship, time with our loved ones, and the blessing of sharing our faith.

Thank you for being an important part of that joy, Thanks to you, the children in Alto Trujillo can focus on learning, enjoy the Christmas celebration, and living their faith. What a wonderful gift you are giving them! God bless you always!

Gissela Delgado Tomasula
President Ministry of the Good Shepherd

Although I have lived in Lima, the Peruvian capital, half of my life, and visited Trujillo many times, I had never heard of Alto Trujillo. It makes sense that Alto Trujillo, like many other impoverished areas in the world, is only known by those who end up there hoping to improve their lives by finding work in the nearest city, and by those who do their best to help these communities climb out of the desolation of extreme poverty. This is how Sister Juanita explained to me that the Sisters of Mercy found themselves there, a place where nobody else wants to go.

My children (Massimo, 11 and Sienna, 7) and I were received as celebrities at the airport by the sisters and day care mothers. We were quickly taken up the mountain and visited the care centers, the libraries, the chapels, and the technical education center. All I could think was how much the Sisters had already done for this community, how important their work is for the wellbeing of so many in Alto Trujillo, and how much there is still left to do. Hearing the life-changing stories of children, teachers, adult students, and care mothers who now thrive with the education and opportunities that were given to them by friends all the way in Boca Raton was breathtaking.

Now that I'm back home in Boca Raton, I'm grateful for all the kindness and joy, for the vision of true charity that my children have been able to see, and most of all, I am energized to continue helping the Sisters of Mercy in their labor of love. I urge you all to continue donating to make this wonderful Mission viable for years to come. May you all have a blessed 2025.

Adriana Bandy

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