

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

The Sisters of Mercy for Alto Trujillo send their annual budget for their projects around November of every year. Typically, during the last board meeting of the year we approve it. The budget includes all the care mothers, cooks, and assistant's salaries (minimum wage in Peru, is around \$275 a month), the professional services of a psychologist, supplies, medicines, and transportation needed for the year. It also includes the daily lunch budget for the 230 children, and the support for the CETPRO (Technical Education Center).

I remember when I started participating on the board, I was so nervous that we were making a commitment with the sisters for the whole year, and I had no idea how we were going to support and cover everything that was needed. With time, I realized that it was not my place to question, so I gave the place to the one who was in charge, and I left it to Him. But give it to Jesus, and trust Him completely, does not mean to be passive. He counts on us! We are given the opportunity to be His hands, His feet, and His eyes. So, every year, we share all the experiences, projects, and dreams of the Alto Trujillo people with all of you. We organize fundraisers, and pray for all of you, trusting that Jesus will continue blessing you. With your generosity, you will help multiply those blessings. For 27 years Jesus has been in charge and the Sisters of Mercy received all that was needed to serve the most vulnerable. Miracles do happen, every year and every day. Thank you for being a big part of making those miracles continue to happen.

See you at the spaghetti dinner! Let's keep being His instrument!

Gissela Delgado Tomasula
President



Donations can be made with the PayPal QR code above.

St. Joan of Arc's
SPAGHETTI DINNER

All are invited to SJA's Annual Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Ministry of the Good Shepherd in Peru, founded by Sister Immaculata.

Sister Immaculata is one of the four Irish Sisters of Mercy who started St. Joan of Arc School. She served here for 24 years and then moved to Peru where she did extensive missionary work. Proceeds from this joyful event will support 23 care centers, meals, afterschool programs, college scholarships, school supplies, and technical education opportunities for the most needed people in Alto Trujillo - Peru.

**Saturday, March 23 in Mercy Center
5pm to 8pm - Mark your calendars!**

is back!

\$22
Tickets for sale after Masses coming soon!

Our dear priests will help serve your delicious salad, pasta and dessert!!

Food, music, raffles and more!

DAWNING

A rabbi instructing his students about prayers asked them: "How will you know when it's dawn?" One said: "When I can tell a pear from an apple?" "No" said the rabbi. "When can I tell a goat from a sheep?" said another. "No" said the rabbi *"When you can look at another human being and see a brother or a sister, the dawn has come; if you look at another human being and you cannot see a brother or a sister, then the dawn has not come, you are still in the darkness."*

Sister Immaculata had this "dawn" kind of sight. Having served over 20 years at St. Joan, she was made a Mother Superior and sent to Mercy communities around the world. At the end of her term as Mother Superior she could choose her next assignment. She selected a small Mercy community - Irish and Peruvian - who were serving the very poor in Alto Trujillo, Peru.

Once there, she "saw" brothers and sisters. She gathered people, listened to their struggles, and challenged them to imagine solutions. Then she called her friends in Boca Raton and asked for the funds to implement their best ideas. And thus, was born the Ministry of the Good Shepherd!! Here are two great examples:

Care Centers- Children were at risk. Out of school at noon and unsupervised since parents were working. One bright young mother said, "What about giving after-school care in our homes? We could train mothers who would supervise homework, provide a nutritious meal, offer games, and trips to the library?" Care mothers, cooks, coordinators would get trained and paid. Desks, chairs, school supplies would have to be bought. Each home would supervise 12-15 children. Today there are 23 Care Centers across Alto Trujillo. Hundreds of children are protected, fed, and encouraged to study and learn!

CETPRO- Young adults desperately need skills and training for decent paying jobs. In 2005, a group from CRS was visiting Alto. Their leader, Barbara Roth, sat down with Sister Immaculata and an architect. They created a proposal for an adult training center at the parish of San Jose (Church built by Ministry). She brought the proposal to a Florida foundation (The Father's Table) and they funded over \$200,000 through the Ministry to construct a two story center – CETPRO- for teaching computers, sewing, hair styling, silk screening, and baking. The Ministry pays for childcare and a psychologist for the young parents. Brothers and sisters were seen, heard, and set on a path to good jobs and dignity.

There are so many more stories! We hope you will come to the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 23rd to see photos and hear more testimonies - and enjoy a delicious meal! Your generous donations year after year is what make these programs possible. By God's grace, you become brothers and sisters to people struggling to overcome poverty in Alto Trujillo. You are living in that "dawn", and we pray you will be richly blessed.

Marjorie O'Sullivan

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