

GREETINGS FROM PERU

On the last weekend of February, we had our "Distribution Day" for needy families eager to send their children to school. This year we did things a little differently. During the past year we formed new Bible Circles in the peripheries away above San Jose church where many new families live in ranchitos. The Bible Circle leaders decided who were the most needy families and the majority of the aid went to those children while keeping in mind some of the very needy families that continue.

We had 98 families helped with shoes and/or uniforms. 188 children were helped and 500 copybooks were distributed. The 167 pairs of shoes were made by a parish member who is a wonderful Bible leader. We are all very grateful to the "Send a Child to School Program" and all who contributed to this activity of solidarity.

Also, this summer we had a very successful summer program for the children for three weeks called PLAN LECTOR. Activities included reading, math through games, English etc. One hundred and twenty three children participated, divided between the morning and afternoon sessions. What made it especially pleasant this summer was the fact that the patio had a roof, thanks to Bill Comiskey's friends, so the children could sit in groups outside protected from the hot sun.



Finally, we had a very productive In-Service Training week for our 27 Care Workers. The speakers included a psychologist, math and communications teachers, specialist on children with difficulties, nutritionist and cooking teacher for our cooks and a lawyer on the theme of the "protection of children". Education is changing a lot here in Peru and the Care Mothers need preparation on how to help the children with their homework.

All of the above was possible because of the generosity of the people of St. Joan of Arc and the leadership of the Ministry.

May the Lord bless you all.
Gratefully,

Sr. Immaculata Murphy

NEW HAPPENINGS

Last month the people of Alto Trujillo, Peru, celebrated the 50 year anniversary of the Irish mission which began in 1965. Because of the extreme danger and violence the Irish priests withdrew in 2008 and formally closed the mission. The sisters stayed on, Mercy's and Bon Secour, as they had Peruvian Sisters. When they began it was an enormous desert area of extreme poverty. In all they have built 25 churches and 15 schools. Seven former missionary priests and seven missionary sisters came from Ireland for the celebration. On the Feast of San Jose, an Irish Monsignor celebrated mass planned by the people. The last Prayer of the Faithful was for Saint Joan of Arc and the Ministry of the Good Shepherd who helped make all the building and programs possible. As we continue to move ahead Sister Immaculata has acquired a piece of land adjacent to the church property (San Jose) which she intends to use for youth activities. Daniel O'Sullivan has donated the \$10,000 necessary to wall in the property for safety and security. Sister's dream is to have this as a Center where the youth can safely gather to play, dance and explore the arts. In the near future she hopes to build two classrooms, two toilets and a small kitchen.

NEW OFFICERS FOR MINISTRY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

As you know, the Ministry of Good Shepherd is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and is governed by a Board with elected officers. It is considered healthy to regularly hold elections and rotate responsibilities. We have been marvelously served by President Jerry Fickel for more than four years. Our by-laws call for elections after two terms and so last December the Board nominated and elected John Kennedy as our new President. John is a St. Joan of Arc parishioner and traveled to Trujillo with his daughter Leah on the Youth Mission Trip in 2013. They were deeply moved. John joined the Ministry when he returned and has been a valued Board member ever since. We also elected a new Secretary -Marie Parker. She is a parishioner, active in literacy training, Eucharistic ministry and Gumbo Limbo volunteer. WELCOME John and Marie!!

SPRING FUNDRAISING: THE SPAGHETTI DINNER AT ST JOAN OF ARC

The SJA Annual Spaghetti Dinner was a big success!!! We would like to thank Msgr. McGraw, all SJA Priests, staff, organizers, Mike and Peg Tomasso, volunteers and guests that made this a joyful event! We raised over \$5,000 benefiting Sister Immaculata's mission in Peru.



AN ADULT MISSION TRIP

Ten years ago my youngest son, Daniel, insisted that I go to Peru to visit a very dear friend, Sister Immaculata. She was now living in a community of Mercy Sisters -some Irish, some Peruvian - and working in an area of extreme poverty called Alto Trujillo. The city of Trujillo in northern Peru is upscale and fashionable. But out on the margins is Alto (higher) Trujillo, a swath of dusty brown sands that is home to over 50,000 people, most of them very poor. It is here that the Sisters do their work of Mercy. I really wanted to go but was apprehensive about making such a trip on my own. Then I learned that Barbara Roth of CRS was bringing a group of donors to Peru and was including a trip to Alto Trujillo. They took me on, helped with travel arrangements and the rest is history!!

I was thrilled to be with Sister Immaculata and impressed by the programs and envisioned projects she was coordinating. Many were receiving funds from a small South Florida group called Ministry of the Good Shepherd. As soon as I returned, I joined the Ministry and have served on the Board ever since. It changed my life. Since 2005 I've made eight more trips to Trujillo and each time see more progress, gain more insight and enjoy deepening bonds of friendship. As of today over forty people from our area have made this trip. Our pastor has been there twice. We have been educated, entertained, inspired and yes, safe!

My next trip is planned for early October of this year and it struck me that some folks might want to come along. We have experience with a comfortable hotel in downtown Trujillo where the rates are reasonable. The travel is simple: Miami (or Fort Lauderdale) to Lima (five hours). Then Lima to Trujillo is less than one hour. Sister meets us at the airport with taxis and local travel will be made with well known drivers. I would stay with the group and serve as guide and facilitator. Sister would organize a meaningful agenda. I would envision a stay of 5-6 days for a group of about seven people. For anyone wanting to see more of Peru, like Machu Picchu, they could fly back to Lima then fly down to Cuzco on their own. You might give this idea some thought and prayer and if you are interested, you could call me at 561-395 6029 or email me at mab395@bellsouth.net. Yours truly, Marjorie O'Sullivan.

LEAVE A LEGACY

When planning your Estate, Will and Trust, please remember
The Ministry of the Good Shepherd.
You will leave a legacy of Christianity, love and care for those really in need.
For more information, please contact, Bill Comiskey at 207.385.4030

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Ministry is looking for someone with Computer Knowledge
to help with our newsletter approximately 4 times a year.
We are also looking for someone with an Accounting Background
to help keep our financial records in order.
For more information call Betty Heemskerk 561.391.4426

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF OUR MINISTRY!!!

We look forward to share our stories and hopes with you. Please, call us if you are interested.
John: 561.400.1156 Ed: 561.395.1661 Marjorie: 561.395.6029 Peggy: 561.703.9955