

A letter from Sister Immaculata

Dear Friends:

The holiday months are coming to an end and the opening of the new school year just around the corner. February was an exceptionally busy and satisfying month for us in Alto Trujillo. We had a "full to capacity" reading program, PLAN LECTOR, in our library mornings and afternoons with the Care Mothers assisting the librarian. It was wonderful to see the children reading, dramatizing etc. instead of being on the street. During the month I visited PROMOLIBRO in Lima (an agency of the Ministry for Education trying to promote reading) and came home with 90 new books from the best editorials (free). You can imagine the joy of the children when I arrived in the library with the collection. The Care mothers of San Jose worked all week in the program, half in the morning and half in the afternoon. The Food Kitchen was open all summer; one hundred children receiving lunch daily. The new Food Kitchen in Barrio 4 was recently approved for government assistance, received their first allotment of basic foods this week and is in operation. We still await approval for Barrio 1A.



We just finished a complete week of CAPACITY TRAINING for the Care Mothers, cooks and coordinators. The themes were:

- The spirituality of the Care Workers.
- Guidelines for the care and protection of children, drawn up by a female lawyer for us. A lot of children suffer from abuse in their homes.
- Understanding children and their problems by a psychologist.
- Helping children who are behind academically by teachers from the special school, SANTO TORIBIO.
- Techniques on how to help children with their homework by teachers of different grade levels.
- Teaching math through games. We have a young man teaching bakery (his first love) in the Technical School who has an M.A. in Math from the National University and did his thesis on creating games as a means of teaching math. What creativity!
- Finally, Gisela who is now Coordinator of the Cultural Center for the Mayor, brought a teacher recently awarded with a scholarship to Europe for his creativity for two afternoons to teach "ecological chess". Helps children and adults use their brains.
- The cooking teacher in the Technical Center and nutritionists from the National Food Program gave workshops, with new ideas and new menus to the cooks.

So it was a wonderful week and all are animated and prepared for the new year beginning on March 5. Also during the last two weeks of February we had RELIGIOUS FORMATION every night from 7:00 -9:00 on a parish level to prepare for the new year. About 70 attended, adults and young adults who are catechists or leaders of Bible Groups. During the month I took 16 of these catechists/leaders to Lima for a weeklong National Training Course. They stayed in our house which was not too far from the Centre. There were marvelous speakers, creative workshops etc.,etc. They had a wonderful experience and met people from all over Peru.

I thought I would write you about these activities since you make all these projects possible.

God bless,

Sr. Immaculata Murphy



Good bye my friend. Hope to see you soon.

On Thursday, January 12th, 2012 our very good friend Ronald J. Pusak took his last breath. How great he must have felt hearing the words he longed to hear: Well done good and faithful servant. A few days after the funeral I still hadn't totally let go. On my computer, I typed his name (I had done it once or twice in the weeks before). For the first time this article came up:

Chosen by God

Being chosen by God is risky business. Look at John the Baptist, Paul and Jesus Himself. All three were chosen by God. All three were lights to the nations. But people tried to put out the lights of all three. And all three blazed out. The spirit of God rested on all three. But the spirit did more than that rest. It sank its undo velike talons deeply into them and led them to offer their lives for the good of others. If we accept God's Choosing, can we look for any other fate? Can we expect a different destiny? To be chosen by God and baptized with the Holy Spirit means to live a life of blessedness, yes, but not a life of tranquility. The quiet life, the uneventful life, is not the life of a Christian. If things are hectic in your household, rejoice! The Spirit of God is moving there. To be chosen by God and baptized with the Holy Spirit means doing the will of the one who has chosen us. If people make demands on you, if things don't seem to be going your way, if life is a series of interruptions, rejoice. Your will is taking second place to the will of others and to the often inscrutable will of God. To be chosen by God and baptized with the Holy Spirit means following the Path of the cross, the path less traveled. And that makes all the difference, in this world and in the world to come.

*Reverend Ronald J. Pusak
Pastor St. Richards Catholic Church*



Thanks Ron, I needed that!
Ed

Invitation to all of you



On Saturday, March 31 from 5 pm to 8 pm, the parish will host our SJA Annual Spaghetti Dinner in Mercy Center. The Ministry of the Good Shepherd will have a display. We are very grateful that 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 this opportunity and festivity.



Win a trip to visit Sister Immaculata

Since 1995, Sister Immaculata has had more than 35 visitors from SouthFlorida to her Mission in Peru—the most recent ones being Eleanor Danciu (who won the Raffle at last year's Spaghetti Dinner) and her daughter, Peggy Hutto. All who have visited have come back changed and committed to helping the poor. Marjorie O'Sullivan has gone to visit with Sister every year for the last 5 or 6 years, and is so convinced that more people should experience the Mission that she donates the ticket for the Spaghetti Dinner Raffle. Tickets are \$20. Each for the chance to win a trip that will make a lasting impression. You will experience Sister's Mission up close and very personal. Others who have made the trip include Father Pusak, Msgr. McGraw, Bill & Margarita Comisky, Ed and Betty Heemskerk, Jenny Guastella, Jim Beaty, Jerry Fickel and many others. All come back with heartfelt stories and an enlightening experience to relate.

For a chance to win this trip and support the Ministry of the Good Shepherd you can either call Marjorie O'Sullivan at (561) 395-6029, Betty Heemskerk at (561) 391-4426, or Cristi Manceri at (561) 251-1733 for advance tickets OR you can purchase the tickets at the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday March 31st. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.