



December 2nd, 2009

The members of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd offer our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful and generous support. One hundred percent of your donations goes toward the work of the sisters with the poor. You make progress and dignity and good choices become realities. May God richly bless you. For vivid photos and lively stories we remind you to visit our website: www.ministryofthegoodshepherd.org Please, below find a letter from Sister Immaculata.

Dear Friends:

This past Thursday was Thanksgiving Day, one of my favorite holidays, with many memories of a crowded church at St. Joan of Arc and a real atmosphere of gratitude for the many blessings of the Lord. So here in Peru this 2009, what am I grateful for? Let me share two stories with you. On the bus last week I sat beside Giralda's mother as she traveled to the jail to see her husband. Giralda, the eldest of eight children is a deaf mute, 17 years old. She would never go outside the door in the sierra where they lived. She was so ashamed of her condition, timid and withdrawn. When they moved to Alto Trujillo last year I put Giralda in Santo Toribio where she was first taught the basics of communication and then placed into the Pastry Making Workshop. I visited the class last week and found Giralda, in her lovely white uniform, with her 14 companions, looking so pretty and happy and she gladly led me to the display counter to show me her pastries. Her mother, with tears in her eyes said to me, "Now my daughter goes off every day on her own in the school bus with a smile on her face. How can I ever thank you"? Next year she will enter our new Technical Center to continue Bakery and Confectionary.

Four years ago Anthony's wife died giving birth to twins. There was no choice but to put the twins in an orphanage and we placed the other three boys in our Care Centers since Dad goes to work at 7:00 a.m. and does not return until late at night. Three months ago the orphanage called him and said, "It is time for you to take your kids home. TODAY." The fourth grade Care Mother, although she had a "full house" offered to take them. Since there was still some money in Cristy Manceri's fund, I put them in a very good kindergarten close to home and at noon they walk to the Care Centre a few blocks away. Now, they are not only cared for but are experiencing the love of a mother from a very loving, caring Care Mother. All the older siblings are boys so this little girl and her brother are truly coming to life in their new situation. Their father said to me, "Gracias, gracias, gracias."

All this gratitude goes to God and to you in the Good Shepherd Ministry, its supporters at St. Joan of Arc in Boca Raton, the Fathers Table and all those generous people who make the above stories possible.

So, at this time of Thanksgiving I give thanks for all of you. May you and your families be blessed during this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Immaculata Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Immaculata Murphy