

A letter from Sister Immaculata

This year the Sisters of Mercy complete 12 years in Alto Trujillo. It all began when Sister Josephine, with the aid of the Congregation and a donation from THE MINISTRY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, Boca Raton, built a Pastoral Center in the sand in the new Human Settlement called Alto Trujillo. Then, for health reasons she returned to Ireland and Sister Immaculata came to the area. She invited a Jesuit, who was building houses for Habitat for Humanity in the area, to celebrate Mass on Sundays for the people living in the ranchitos around. Quickly the center filled up making it necessary to build a chapel which we call San Jose, made possible by the Ministry of the Good Shepherd. This was followed by the construction of a Library and Study Center through the generosity of Ray and Katherine Eckstein and finally, in three phases, a Center for Technical Education and Bakery. This building of a physical plant was of course accompanied by the gradual building of a Christian community with its spiritual and social aspects.

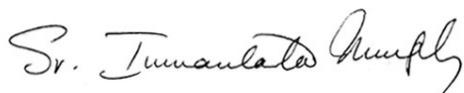
Finally this year, 2013, on October 18, San Jose was named a Parish by the Archbishop of Trujillo. So St. Joan of Arc now has a Parish in Peru, an alive community with a physical plant that they are very proud of, in the midst of a lot of sand, poverty and violence. Monsignor McGraw very appropriately called it an "Oasis in the Desert" when he visited here. When a group of youth with their Youth Minister, Katherine Leach, came on a mission awareness trip in July of this year, I explained to them that this was really their Parish because it was made possible by St. Joan of Arc. And the involvement has not ceased with the building. St. Joan of Arc, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, continues to make possible the many programs that benefit the poor here such as 20 Care Centers for Children, Library and Librarian, education of 38 special children, third level education for poor youth etc, etc. We here in Alto Trujillo are truly grateful to St. Joan of Arc for their spirit of solidarity and St. Joan's can be truly proud of what they have accomplished. Pope Francis would surely approve!!!!

Last week thirty seven young people (16+) and a few adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation in our church, and next Sunday, Dec. 8, 73 children will receive First Communion. The two small additional Centers, built in the expanding areas, also have their spiritual and social programs, and the challenge for 2014 is to develop them further as well as outreach to the newer areas where people continue to move in and build their ranchitos. Alto Trujillo now has a population of 71,000.

Words could not express our gratitude to Msgr. McGraw, the Ministry of the Good Shepherd and The Fathers Table Foundation that has contributed enormously to this whole project- especially to the Technical School who this month will see 60 students complete their modules in shoemaking, hairdressing, clothes making, computers etc. thus providing them with a skill for life.

Your new "PARISH IN THE SAND" has become a reality because of your generosity. On October 18 when San Jose was declared a Parish, you were all very much in our minds and hearts. May He who said "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, that you do unto me" bless you and yours during this special time of year and in 2014.

Gratefully,



Send a Child to School Program

January is Send a Child to School month, for the Ministry of the Good Shepherd. A child cannot attend school in Peru without having the necessities: uniforms, shoes, books, supplies and registration fee. The cost is \$120. per child, and includes a nutritious snack. For Peru the school year begins in February so now is the time to help these little ones so they can get an education and better their lives in the future. If you would like to make a Donation to send a child to school , please make a notation on your check that indicates "Sponsor a Child". For more information, or if you would like to attend a Special Event please contact Cristy Manceri at: (561) 251-1733 or e-mail her at csmanceri16@gmail.com . All donations are tax deductible and 100% continues to support to Sister's mission. Your donation in any amount is greatly appreciated.



The Power of a Visit

Over the years nearly fifty people from South Florida have visited Sister Immaculata in Alto Trujillo and sometimes in the mountain village of Mache. Their ages range from sixteen to eighty years. Never has Marjorie O'Sullivan heard anyone regret the trip. Most count it as heart changing; for some it has been life changing. She made her NINTH visit this September and the experience only grows more impressive. The number of active community leaders is steadily growing. Fine programs like Child Centers, Library, Adult Vocational school, Sacramental preparation, all are maturing. Disabled youth continue to be transported to the excellent special school at Santo Toribio but now FIVE have strengthened enough to be sent on to normal classroom! Scholarship students have graduated and now give back to the community in nursing, psychology, pharmacy and administration. Alto Trujillo is developing into a municipality with more and more services -like sewers! San Jose has now been designated as an official Parish of the Trujillo Diocese. We have had the joy and the privilege of being part of this progress, and you as supporters of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, share in that joy and privilege. We are experiencing "solidarity", not just a vague feeling of distress at the misery of others, but rather "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and each individual because we are all really responsible for all" (PJPll '-On Social Concern' 1987)

There's the possibility of organizing a visit during Lent of 2014. Flights from Ft. Lauderdale to Lima are at a very attractive price. If you think this might be an opportunity for you to meet with Sister and see the work firsthand, to experience a community where the Gospel is truly lived, you may contact Marjorie O'Sullivan at mab395@bellsouth.net or at (561) 213-6214. She would need to know by early January.

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.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF OUR MINISTRY!!!

We would love to share our stories and hopes with you. Please, call us if you are interested.
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