



Advent works of Mercy- All year long in Peru

During our Thanksgiving Holiday week, I had the graced opportunity of spending some time with Sr. Immaculata Murphy and of getting to know firsthand the Good Shepherd Ministries in Alto Trujillo, Peru. I made this trip in order to deliver a gift of financial support from our parish Mission Sunday collection and also to learn from, socialize with and pray with the people of the Good Shepherd Ministries. What a time of spiritual blessings this pilgrimage was for me! I learned about the difficult living conditions with which the people struggle each day: desert dust and dirt everywhere, no roads, sewage or potable water, poverty, hunger and few opportunities for employment. I also learned that In the midst of this multi-troubled world, Sr. Immaculata and her co-workers provide help and create hope for thousands of people.



Among the ministries that are sponsored by the Good Shepherd are schools, day-care centers, religious education programs, chapels, spiritual guidance and parish leadership formation. The pictures you see accompanying this reflection tell the story far better than my words. These ministry programs assist people in learning valuable trades and furthering their education in order to gradually improve their lives and futures. Repeatedly, as I visited the different ministries I was impressed with their quality and the deep Christian faith that permeates all aspects of their activities. Adults study scripture and share their faith, youth and children learn the truths of our faith and how to pray and live as disciples of Jesus. Whether in homes, classrooms, workrooms, bakeries, parish centers or community sites, Good Shepherd programs feed the body, the mind and the spirit!

My faith was strengthened by my visit with "Madre Immaculata" of Alto Trujillo, the title the children have given her as they tug on her habit to receive a hug and kiss from their spiritual mother. I am grateful that as a parish we have the opportunity to support financially and with our prayers the miracles that God works through the Good Shepherd Ministries. As Christians who have the ability to help, it is a blessing for us to live out the Beatitudes of Jesus. We have the opportunity to extend ourselves in love for others and in that sacrificial giving grow in virtue and grace ourselves. It is a privilege for us to support the vision and missionary zeal of Madre Immaculata who inspired and taught us here at Saint Joan of Arc from our beginning through 1984. Her ministry continues and we can be a part of it. Please keep in mind our Annual Spaghetti Dinner for hunger on Saturday, April 16, 2011, sponsored by our parish International Mission of Friendship. All proceeds will support Good Shepherd Ministries.

May God bless the people of Alto Trujillo, the Good Shepherd Ministries and Saint Joan of Arc as we journey in faith and solidarity during these Holy Seasons of Advent and Christmas.

- Msgr. Michael D. McGraw





Dear St. Joan of Arc Parishioners:

Greetings from Peru. Recently we were blessed with a four day visit from Msgr. McGraw who, with his ability to speak Spanish and his easy way of relating to all kinds of people, endeared himself to all. He visited the length and breadth of our huge Human Settlement of 63,000 residents and even made the trip to our mission in the Andes mountains, not really a very pleasant ride.

He also brought us the good news that St. Joan of Arc had contributed \$5,000 to our mission from the Mission Sunday collection. We here on the Peru Mission want you to know how grateful we are for this donation. There are so many needs here. May He who said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters that you do unto me", bless you abundantly.

Gratefully,
Sister Immaculata Murphy

