

***A letter from Sister Immaculata***

That beautiful time of Thanksgiving is drawing near and so I sit down to reflect on what I am most thankful for in the year 2014. The Lord constantly showers us with His blessing: may He be praised!

This past year I had the wonderful gift of a visit to Boca Raton in the month of June. One evening I was invited to a dinner party at the home of Coach Currier, former P.E. Teacher at St. Joan of Arc. Dave and I ran summer camp for migrant children for several years back in the early 1980's. At the dinner were four of the first group of children to attend summer camp at S. Joan of Arc. What a joy to meet them and see how they have advanced in life. Dave also showed me a letter he had received from another camper who is now a very successful teacher in the Palm Beach Educational System in which he wrote of the positive influence these camps made in his life coming as he did from a poor, difficult home situation and he said, "You made a difference in my life". The letter was very moving.

And I thought, "how many people here in this place of poverty and violence could say to the people of St. Joan of Arc Parish and the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, "You make a difference in my life". These words could be written by the 200 children who get a nourishing dinner daily, are cared for and helped with their studies. The 40 special children who board their bus every morning to go joyfully to Santo Toribio School could say the same. So could the many students who attend schools, institutes and universities - an experience totally outside their possibilities were it not for St. Joan of Arc. And what the summer camp meant to the West Boca migrant children the library here at San Jose means to the children of this area with its books, educational games and summer Reading Programs.

This year Angelica, an almost completely deaf 15 year old came from the mountains when her mother died and is a scholarship student learning dressmaking at the Technical School which she loves. Recently the Rotary Club of USA came to Trujillo with hearing aids and Angelica and I were one of 500 in a line from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There were lots of staff and doctors. When the Dr. from New York fitted Angelica and she began to hear, she gave him a huge smile and he said, "I sense the Spirit of God in Angelica's smile". She is receiving speech therapy weekly at Santo Toribio.



Thank God for all the wonderful people in this world who make a difference in the lives of others including the poor women and teens with scholarships in our Technical School as well as the youth programs in the sierra and on the coast. May the Lord bless all of you who make these experiences happen. I often think, "What would I do without this aid?" And so in the name of all the people here who lives are different because of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Msgr. McGraw, The Ministry to the Good Shepherd and the countless parishioners who continue to support us, a heartfelt THANK YOU.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES.

Happy Thanksgiving Day to all of you,

*Sr. Immaculata Murphy*

## **God hears the cry of the poor**

When you receive this letter, we will all be moving into the holiday season. We are in a culture rigged to distract us from this God who "hears the cry of the poor." Thus it is so valuable to have friends who live amidst the poor, who listen, who hear, and who carry that message to our ears and hearts. From its beginning, the Ministry of the Good Shepherd has valued these messages from Immaculata Murphy, an Irish Mercy Sister, who moved to Peru to be part of an Irish/Peruvian community of Mercy Sisters. They live and work in areas of extreme poverty outside Trujillo and in the mountains in Mache. She has faithfully practiced breaking open Scripture with community leaders, catechists, and there comes forth inspired proposals: chapels, libraries, in home child care centers, transport for special children, adult vocational training, scholarships for little ones and for college students. An exciting new project related to the performing arts is being proposed. All of this requires money which we faithfully send thanks to your generosity.

Most recently, we were visited by two Peruvian Mercy Sisters. Sr. Erica is young, a teacher, made her final vows last October and she can dance!! Sr. Aurea was her formation director, a science and religion teacher and school administrator. They were here only briefly for a Mercy Order gathering, but they managed to delight the people at the International Festival and on Monday morning were able to speak to 8th graders at the school. We think some important connections were made.

As you approach Christmas this year, consider reading chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel -it is thrilling. Consider to whom the birth of Christ was first announced: poor, lowly shepherds, watching their flocks in the dark silence of night. Suddenly an angel appears "I bring you good news...great joy...for all the people..." God speaks to the poor and God hears the cry of the poor. And when we hear their cry and respond, we are acting like God. How thrilling is that!!

On behalf of all the members and friends of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd we wish you a blessed and joy filled Christmas and a good New Year.

## **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. In Peru the school year begins in February so January 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](mailto:csmanceri16@gmail.com) . All donations are tax deductible and 100% continues to support Sister's mission. Your donation in any amount is greatly appreciated.



### **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

### **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.