

Visit to Peru



Mission Trip travelers

On July 19th, 2013, ten members of the St. Joan of Arc Youth Group left on a long-awaited Mission Trip to Peru to visit with Sr. Immaculata and experience the life of the people in Alto Trujillo. Along with Katherine Leach, our Youth Minister at St. Joan's, and organizer of the trip, there were two other chaperones. They were John Kennedy, father of one of the girls making the trip, and Caleb Kerins, a student at Nova Southeastern University. To say the trip had a profound effect on our youth is putting it mildly as you will understand for yourself as you read some of their reflections in this Newsletter.

Reflections by travelers

Emily Botta: For me, going to Peru was an eye-opener on many different things and we were all changed somehow by being there. Seeing where all the donations and money raised had gone to made the whole experience REAL. Once you see how much the groups there made of what they had, you learn how big a difference something small can make. Every little bit matters!

Rachel Garland: In Trujillo we visited 8 of the 20 Care Centers and the kids were so welcoming and happy to see us. We got to play with all of the them at a park. Being with those kids for most of the day changed my perspective on what matters and the true value of what I need. Also, that day opened me up to God. Throughout the trip I grew closer to God and the group.

Celli Horstman: There is nothing like being in a foreign country with people who are basically strangers. No other experience gives you the same insight and understanding of people as living in tight quarters or being squished onto public buses or being sleep deprived at 3,000 meters above sea level for twelve relentless days. Trips like this one is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Living and working with Sr. Immaculata gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to live in poverty. I am so thankful to Katherine Leach and St. Joan of Arc for giving me the opportunity to go on this adventure. It has given me a fresh pair of eyes and a new determination as I head off to college.

Courtney Kelly: Peru was the most powerful journey that I've been on! I experienced an overwhelming amount of love that I will always remember and cherish in my heart. We all think money can fix our problems, but I was wrong. Money can't fix anything if you don't have love. We are all brothers and sisters that need to love and help one another. I was able to see and experience true love and I have Peru to thank for that.

Leah Kennedy: Thanks to everyone so much for making this trip possible. It truly was a life-altering experience and I feel so



Walking around Alto Trujillo

fortunate that I was able to participate. After attending nine years of an extremely strict Catholic school and then switching to public high school, I was ready to disregard my faith. This trip, however, provided me with a refreshed understanding of what it means to be a Catholic. The Peruvians we met in Trujillo and Mache welcomed us in such a hospitable way, a way that I have never experienced in America. Although most of them didn't speak ten words of English, and our Spanish was mediocre at best, we were able to communicate, dance, and have an overall fantastic time. It was just so uplifting and inspiring. Two of their houses could fit in my bedroom alone yet they were still so grateful for what they had. I was struck by how impoverished and dangerous Alto Trujillo was and yet they were able to create such a sense of community because of their attitudes towards life and each other. As an American I was expecting to not

be liked that much, but they were all so incredibly thrilled to see a group of young Americans visiting their country. They have inspired me to have a completely different outlook on life. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and if I could, I would go back every summer, someday maybe to stay.

Robby Morin: Our trip to Peru was a very eye opening experience. It shocked me to see the poverty people live in and it really made me appreciative of all the blessings and opportunities I live with.



Welcome to Alto Trujillo



Sister working on projects

Ministry of the Good Shepherd

Ann McCormack: It is one thing to talk about the great things the church does, but it is another to actually see it. Throughout my Catholic education in elementary school I would be required to learn commandments, study bible verses but I have never been this close to my faith. Although teaching helps, I believe it is something that is experienced. I never thought much of putting my money in the donation basket, all I knew was that it helped in some way. Now I know it helps kids such as a boy named William studying in a Library that St. Joan of Arc funds. It provides a church so that a whole bunch of wonderful teens can have their youth group Mass in instead of getting involved in gangs and it gives kids schools and day-cares in which they receive education previously out of reach. The church does wonderful things. I always took that for granted until those kids made me smile and I made them smile and I finally knew what solidarity meant. Trips like this give the world community meaning and I wish to always be part of this community.

Andrew Mon: It was a truly life-changing and rewarding experience. Being able to see how the other half lives is an opportunity everyone should have, as it entirely reworks your mind to focus more on others rather than yourself. This was an unforgettable experience and it was all possible



thanks to all of the generous parishioners who funded this trip for us. This trip has essentially given me a more selfless perspective on life and has allowed me to stop and appreciate the luxuries that we take for granted.

Once again we thank those of you who support the Ministry of the Good Shepherd and Sr. Immaculata and the Sisters of Mercy. As our expenses have risen here in the States so do Sisters in Peru. We are grateful for your generosity and again remind you that 100% of your donations go directly to help the children in Peru.

How it dawned on us by Marjorie O'Sullivan

A story is told of an Orthodox rabbi instructing his students on prayers at dawn. "How can we tell," he asked "When dawn has come?" "When we can tell an apple from a pear?" said one. "No" said the rabbi. "When you can tell a sheep from a goat?" said another. "No" said the rabbi. It is when you can look at another human being and see a sister or a brother. If you cannot see this sister or brother -dawn has not come. You are still in the dark." It is this recognition of solidarity with those who struggle and suffer which marks the active, alive Christian. This sense of solidarity led Immaculata Murphy to "pitch her tent" among the poor in Alto Trujillo and inspires members of the Ministry to raise funds for the work. It draws us to regularly visit these "sisters and brothers." A web of friendship and generosity and gratitude is wonderfully woven with each move we make-each move you make. It dawns in our hearts and we see the light!

Coming October 20th, our Winter Annual Fundraising event: The International Festival held at Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic Church. If you would like to be part of this amazing cause, please contact Cristy Manceri at csmanceri@bellsouth.net for more information.

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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