



My Time in Peru

Early on the morning of July 21 I arrived back in Ft. Lauderdale after seven intense days in Alto Trujillo with Sister Immaculata. One week earlier she was there at the Trujillo Airport to warmly greet me and guide us to a taxi. Off we went to the convent, newly built in a rough, rugged neighborhood of dirt roads and lots of brown sand. Amidst tightly packed adobe homes, street food carts and small storefronts the convent stands out: red brick, three stories tall, a beautiful chapel, brand new kitchen and a central atrium open to the sky and lots of bedrooms. It is home to Immaculata, Dora, Angelica, Erica and Calixta. Sr. Catalina who serves in the mountain town of Mache was visiting. These Sisters of Mercy - Peruvian and Irish - live by their choice - with the people.

Alto Trujillo is a long, sloped, swath of dusty brown sands and home to over 82,000 people who migrated down from the mountains and away from natural disasters. It has evolved into a "municipality", gradually deserving more and more services - electricity, water, sewers and pipes and public transport. But it is still designated an area of extreme poverty; at the fringes, families live in thatch palm shacks on the sand.

The Diocese of Trujillo has divided Alto into two church parishes, each with several smaller pastoral centers. Immaculata works in San Jose (built by Good Shepherd) and Fr. Aitor is official pastor. Jesus Solidarity is the other parish, currently without a pastor. Sr. Dora directs Lady of Mercy pastoral center in this parish. Sisters Erica and Angelica teach religion in the public schools; Sr. Calixta runs a large Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program. Their lives are full of service and challenge! What is ever amazing is how the Sisters create arrangements and programs to support and enrich the people -to honor their dignity. There are the after school Care Centers serving over one hundred children, a bustling, well organized Library, an adult technical school (CETPRO), the new Young Adult Center (where Mary Zuluaga's kids played outdoor live chess!!) and a vibrant catechesis program where children are taught by committed young adults who are also university scholarship recipients! The children, learn about their faith and receive a roll and a porridge drink that might just be their "daily bread."

Woven into these larger programs are interventions helping specific young people to overcome disabilities and tragic misfortunes. Your generous donations are translated here into ongoing works of hope filled actions that make life wholesome, fruitful and blessed. For us to be a part of this is a precious blessing.

Sister Immaculata is eighty two, post quadruple by pass and walks with a cane; yet she ably coordinates San Jose parish - liturgies, catechesis, sacraments, scholarships, care of the poor, the disabled, uneducated. She lives the Mercy Charism and you and I would be hard pressed to keep up with her! She would say her secret is fervent daily prayer, morning and night, and devotion to the Word..."I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

It would take too long to describe the many vivid experiences that made up this visit. More will be revealed during the September visit of Sisters Immaculata and Catalina. Be assured that the Sisters and the whole community keeps you with deep gratitude in their hearts and prayers.

Marjorie O'Sullivan



Summer 2018

SAVE THE DATE!

September 15 & 16

SISTER IMMACULATA and SISTER CATALINA WIMS are coming to Boca to speak at all the Masses at St. Joan of Arc about the Mercy Mission in Alto Trujillo, Peru. There is ALWAYS a financial need in Alto Trujillo, one of the poorest areas of the World.

The Mercy Mission has always gratefully, and humbly, received support from all of us for the last 26 Year's. This has enabled the creation of many necessary Programs and has kept them running- i.e. Day Care Centers, Send a Child to School and College Scholarships as well as aiding many handicapped children. Much of what the Sisters do would not be possible without your support.

There will be a Reception in Immaculata Center after the 4:30 Mass on Saturday September 15. COME JOIN US for coffee and light snacks and meet the Sisters and learn even more about the Mission. We are also planning some smaller, more intimate, gatherings. If you would be interested in being on a Contact List to meet with them in a smaller group, you can contact any one of us listed below (or watch the Bulletin for further updates).

Marjorie O'Sullivan- mab395@bellsouth.net, Betty Heemskerk- bettyheemskerk1942@gmail.com

Marie Parker- marie7143@att.net



CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY!!!

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

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