



December 2019

A NEW DAY IN TRUJILLO

It was understandable that many of us associated work among the poor in Alto Trujillo, and the mountain town of Mache with Sr. Immaculata Murphy. She came from Ireland and worked among us for 24 years. She had such a heart for justice, a passion for God's Word and such a bold vision for mobilizing leaders. Only gradually did we realize that she chose life in Peru as a humble member of a small Mercy community, some Peruvian, some Irish! - all Sisters -committed to serving the poor and bringing the 'reign of God' to life. Today, after Sr. Immaculata has returned to Ireland, we see more clearly this community of leaders who serve the poor with vigor AND vision. The Mercy Community rotates leadership, and their newly elected leader is Sr. Dora, who is Peruvian. She and Sr. Immaculata established a Mercy Convent in Mache in the 90's and worked there together for six years. One of the exciting developments in our Good Shepherd Board is the addition of Sr. Catalina (who joins us from Peru on Whatsapp) and Gissela Delgado, now a Boca resident who was born and raised in Trujillo. They give us rich connections with the people there.

Sr. Dora will coordinate the 20 Child Care Centers which we currently fund. We spent time with some of these Centers during our July visit. They are humble homes equipped with desks and chairs, books, maps and educational games. They offer after-school care, homework supervision, a hearty meal and library visits. We are seeking to support three new Care Centers next year, a marvelous investment for generous donors!

Sr. Juanita, a young, lively 70, active in prison ministry, who has the daunting assignment of covering most of Sr. Immaculata's responsibilities! Understand, they include liturgies, catechesis, transport to St. Torribio, Send a Child to School, the Library, special needs, scholarships and liaison with the "Jovenes" (young adults.) Sr. Juanita embraces her new work with gusto! She has the help of Ysela, the librarian, and Margaret, a pastoral assistant, whose salaries we are pleased to fund.

Two years ago, the Jovenes were able to convince the Sisters (and us) of the need for their own center. This Youth Performing Arts Center has two classrooms, kitchen and bathrooms, and boasts a spacious courtyard with an outdoor chess board used for live chess math lessons, as well as dance and drama performances. Now the youth are seeking more rooms for classes and retreats. Studies are underway as to the most feasible building plan - stay tuned!!

Sr. Angelica, who teaches religion full time in a local high school, is our liaison with CETPRO, the adult technical education center. We provide scholarships and fund psychologist services. We are helping prepare a room for childcare so mothers would be freer to study and learn.

Irish born, Sr. Catalina, a well-respected translator, is our liaison in Mache, high in the Andes. Gissela and I made a daytrip there in July, where we met her pastoral team and reviewed the wide range of programs the Mercy presence makes possible. There are 12 outlying villages that get regular visits and faith formation. Local schools depend on them for sacramental preparation of children. They work closely with municipal officials on community issues: education, climate change, special needs, even building a new church! Priests are scarce, so weekly liturgies are often celebrated by Sister and pastoral leaders. The Ministry gives supportive funding and some scholarships to promising students.

During my time in July I lived with the Sisters and observed first-hand the deep prayer life which is the foundation for their energy and commitment to serving the poor. I consistently affirmed our commitment to them and the programs we support. This relationship which began in the early 90's with Ed and Betty, Bill and Margarita, Jim and Nan, Mary, Helen and Jennie have endured to this day and produced such marvelous fruit. This is a great tribute to the generosity of you, our donors, and the faithfulness of a loving God. We are all blessed!

-Marjorie O'Sullivan

Does anyone remember the story of the Starfish? It seems a little girl walking on the Beach came upon thousands and thousands of Starfish that had been washed ashore during a storm. Repeatedly she picks one up, studies it briefly, and throws it back into the ocean. A bystander approaches her and says "What are you doing? You can't save all these Starfish. You can't even begin to make a difference!" The girl ponders for a moment, bends down, picks up another Starfish, tosses it back into the ocean and says, "I made a difference to that one." Those who witnessed this exchange joined in. Soon all of the Starfish were saved.

We in the Ministry Thank You all for your part (no matter how big or small) in helping the people of Alto Trujillo



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD....

Joseph was reminded by an angel of the prophecy that a child would be born to a virgin and named Emmanuel - God with US. Sr. Immaculata was fond of reminding all, "He pitched His tent among US". You might be inspired by reading Chapters 1 and 2 in Matthew and Luke; lots of angels!! Be sure we are blessed by your generous support. We wish you all a deep measure of that peace and joy proclaimed by the angels to "men of good will" which would surely be YOU!

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY!

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