



March 2020

President's Corner

2020 is certainly shaping up to be an exciting, developmental year for the Ministry of the Good Shepherd! As the new President of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to be a part of this most special ministry at such a wonderful time.

A couple of the things that we are excited about:

1. Three additional Child Care Centers are opening in March, at the start of the school year. These Centers provide so much for the students in the community. We recently added more protein and fruit to the meals at the Centers, providing an even more nutritional meal for the students.
2. We are currently reviewing plans for the construction of a Youth Worship building on the grounds of the Youth Center. This addition is going to provide space for spiritual and faith formation activities, such as retreats, sacramental preparation and parental training. The Youth Center has quickly become a much-loved and much-used space for the people of Alto Trujillo, and this new building will enable the Sisters of Mercy to increase their support of the community. As we continue with the development of this project, additional details will be shared.

On behalf of the Board, and the Sisters of Mercy in Peru, I want to thank you for your support of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd. We couldn't do it without you!

Cordially,

Marie Parker



PLEASE JOIN US for our ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER (Supporting the Mercy Mission in Alto Trujillo, PERU)

Saturday, April 4th from 5-8PM at Mercy Center, Adults: \$12, Children: \$6

Tickets can be purchased in the Parish Office, or after all the Masses on Saturday, March 28th or Sunday, March 29th

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Cristy Manceri 561-251-1733 or Betty Heemskerk 561-391-4426

JOIN US for a wonderful meal, fellowship, music and some fun raffles, which helps us raise the funds necessary to help children of extremely poor families in Peru get to school. Your support provides uniforms, shoes, backpacks and basic supplies. Helping fund after-school programs and facilities means children can do homework and be safe off the dangerous streets, and also brings the Good News of the Gospel to families in remote locations. The Sisters have literally moved up the mountain, transforming lives as they go. It is a privilege to be able to assist them in their work.

HOW GOD PROVIDES

I used to wonder how women religious missionaries managed to live and work. They were not “salaried”; usually they earned nothing! How did they cover room and board? And how could they fund their many projects and programs for the poor when they were essentially poor themselves?

Over time I learned the answer. US! Or more broadly, the almsgiving of large supportive groups of people who give faithfully and generously.

The Ministry of the Good Shepherd exists to raise funds for the work of a missionary community of Mercy Sisters – some Irish, some Peruvian – who serve the poor in an impoverished area of Trujillo in north coastal Peru and in a mountain village called Mache.

How they came to be there is a marvelous example of the mysterious ways of God.

In the early 60’s an elderly priest in Cork, Ireland announced that he felt called to go as a missionary to Lima, Peru. Everyone told him “forget it, you are ill, you are too old.” But he went anyway. About three weeks later, he died! The funeral was in Lima and of course, the bishop of Cork came and there he met the bishop of Trujillo who persuaded him to come up the coast and see this area of extreme poverty called Alto Trujillo. The Irish bishop was so moved by this experience that when he returned to Ireland, he established a Cork Diocesan Mission to Trujillo. Over the years, Ireland sent priests and brothers and orders of women religious and generous funds into the area. They built schools, churches, homes, clinics. Today in a sandy square in Alto, there is a large stone Celtic Cross honoring that Cork Mission.

Fast forward to the 90’s, when our Sister Immaculata, herself part of a Mercy Irish mission to Boca Raton, was selected Mother Superior of the Cork Mercy Community. For six years, she had travelled widely: Africa, Philippines, and South America as part of her duties; then, she was free to choose where she would go next. She chose an established, vibrant Mercy community, Irish/Peruvian- fruit of that previously mentioned Cork Diocesan Mission! She took a crash course in Spanish and joined the Mercy community in Alto, Trujillo. And this is where we come in!

Sr. Immaculata is a passionate lover of the Word of God and an educated Scripture scholar. In Peru, she embraced the model of “base communities” where people meet in small groups, bring their needs and struggles to the Word of God, and receive direction for action. These meetings yielded creative solutions: after-school care in homes, transport for Special Children, basic provision of shoes, clothes, etc. for poor street children so they could attend free public school, a library, university scholarships, a church at San Jose parish, an adult technical school, a Youth Center. These were marvelous ideas, but would require substantial funds to implement, so Sister turned to her friends at St. Joan of Arc in Boca Raton. Needless to say, people have been more than generous, and Foundations like The Father’s Table have given substantial grants.

We manage to thrive with an all volunteer staff, so 99% of funds go to the work of the Sisters in Peru. Members of the Board visit every year to see how the projects are going. This summer will be my 16th visit and I am offering a free ticket to one or two persons who would like to accompany me. The first-hand experience of the community life there is rich and unforgettable. Interested persons could approach me at the Spaghetti Dinner or give me a call (561-213-6214).

It is a blessing to be part of how God provides, yes?

- Marjorie O’Sullivan

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY!

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