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It is with great joy and gratitude that we share the news of our lives and mission during the month of April.

OUR TRIP TO PUERTO RICO

By Zaida, csj

Gloria and I went to Puerto Rico to visit with Sister Rosa who is sharing life and ministry with the sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. We were there from the 13th to the 21st of April.



We are very grateful for the opportunity to know the people with whom Rosa shares her gifts as an educator together with our "Sister Cousins". We are very appreciative for the welcome we received and the generous hospitality and openness to give us the opportunity to visit not only Lajas where Sister Rosa works but also the city of San Juan, the Capital of Puerto Rico. We have been witnesses of the high esteem that the people have for the sisters for their work in the education of all their children.

We celebrated Holy Week with the people of Lajas sharing their religious fervor during these days which is very similar to our own religious customs. We felt that the liturgies, moments of reflection, the procession and other activities of those holy days were very profound.



We also visited many of the places where Rosa has her ministry. However, we were not able to see the students or the personnel of the Academy because these were holidays. We visited the museum of Lajas and there we met up with Fr. Angel, the pastor of Lajas, who was taking a few days of R & R. It was great seeing him again after our wonderful experience

during Holy Week in his parish. He was very kind to us, and you could tell, he has a lot of appreciation for the Sisters, Teresita and Rosa.



Visit to the museum and our meeting with the Pastor.

We could admire the beauty of Puerto Rico, the beaches on the Atlantic and Caribbean which surround the Island; Puerto Rico is known as the "Pearl of the Caribbean".



On the road to the mountainous, El Yunque with its lush vegetation and a beautiful waterfall.

We spent the last days of our visit in San Juan where the sisters have their Academy and a convent. The convent serves the sisters like our Center House in Lima. Sister Gloria Cruz is the Vicar of the Sisters of Brentwood and she accompanied us to visit some tourist places. In the photo, I am sitting next to Sisters, Gloria Cruz and Gloria Zapata and a Puerto Rican who never leaves that bench.



We saw the Wall that surrounds the city of San Juan since the time of the Conquest. It is a gran construction.



Sisters Teresita and Rosa will probably stay in Lajas until June, this year because they will close the Lajas' Academy in May. They will become part of the San Juan community and share their ministry in the Academy Santa Maria Reina. We accompany them with our prayers and our love during this time of transition in their mission.

VICEPROVINCIAL HOUSE SAN JOSÉ (Lima)

BY María Inés, csj

This month we celebrated three birthdays: Gloria Zapata, Robertina Espinoza and Maria Ines Gutierrez. We appreciate the opportunity to share the gift of their lives with them and thank God for them. We don't have a photo of Gloria's celebration because the photographer was absent.



We have had many special moments during the celebration of this Holy Week; there were moments of prayer and shared reflections. On Holy Thursday we had lunch in our beautiful garden patio, enjoying the sun and each other's company. We also received an Easter gift from Fr. Mesias.



Gloria and Zaida returned to Lima very happy with their visit with Rosa and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood in Puerto Rico. They told us about the beautiful hospitality they experienced during their time there. They also brought us some souvenirs from Puerto Rico.

Gloria and Maria Vasquez went to Chiclayo for their home visits on April 22nd; Gloria will be in Zaña until May 2nd and Maria will be between Chiclayo and Cayaltí until May 6th. We pray that everything goes well for them as they enjoy visiting with their families and friends.

Teresa was in Chincha most of the month of April where she shares community life with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. She also accompanied the Nuestra Señora de Fatima parish team working with the Family Catechism Program. After Holy Week, the team was invited to Piura, (in Northern Peru) to share on topics of Christian formation. Teresa and the team went by bus which took them about 22 hours. They left Chincha on the 22nd of April and arrived in Piura on the 25th. Teresa was very impressed with the team's dedication and the quality of their preparation for the workshop and their real desire to be of service to the participants of the parish in Piura. When she returned to Lima, she was very happy and in awe for the welcome they received, for their simplicity and for the participation of both her team and of the people who attended those days of formation. Soon, she will return to Chincha continue sharing life and ministry with Sisters Gloria Muchaypiña y María Chóquez. We pray that God will continue guiding them and fortifying this mission!!



Maritza is very happy to be back in the classroom again. She teaches religious education in two very different schools. She shares: "After four years, I am very happy to return to teaching. At first, it was very hard to adapt myself to the dynamics of in person classes; it takes a lot of energy. After two months, I realize what a great role a teacher has, especially

in our religion classes. I'm always thinking of how I can offer my students better opportunities to learn. I can see the differences in the two schools I teach in: Mercedes Indacochea is a more privileged school it is for both primary and secondary levels and is only for girls. The students get a lot of support from their parents and this helps a lot. Then the other school, is José de la Riva Agüero; it's small, and even though it is for both boys and girls, there is a greater number of boys. You can observe that there is an absence of family life, and the students come from poorer areas and besides that, the school is located in a zone where there is a lot of violence and delinquency. It is a real challenge to educate in this reality, but at the same time it is a great opportunity to be present in this sector. I ask for your prayers so that from our charism, I can share the message of the Great Love of God"



Robertina continues teaching at her school: Daniel Alcides Carrión. She is committed one hundred percent to the new teaching system put in by the education department and to the reality of her school where the classrooms are being completed and getting them ready for the students in a much safer situation. Consequently, the classes continue in the virtual mode until the building is ready for the students..

On April 30th we had a life giving and joyful zoom meeting with our sisters of Albany. St. Joseph was the principal figure in the sharing of each break-out group. It was a good way to continue to know each other and to strengthen our relationships as we journey together in our common project.

Lingering over breakfast on May 1st our conversation centered on the topic of our wonderful experience the day before. Many thanks to our organizing committee for offering us this beautiful experience!

Our prayer is that St. Joseph will continue to journey, as always, in silence and contemplation among us.

COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD (Canto Chico, Lima)

By Yolanda, csj

Through our connection and the generosity of the Christian Brothers, it became possible to rebuild Jorge's house. This was possible thanks to Brother Steve Casey who directs the Project to Build Houses for families located in the impoverished areas of San Juan de Lurigancho. Jorge lives on one of the Palao hills in the Canto Chico area. The poverty he

faces is not only economic but also existential for various reasons. Thank you Brother Steve!
United we are more!



Jorge's new house

Reunions that give life

Hanna from Ethiopia, and her daughter Betty, who have lived in Peru for 6 years and are accompanied by our Sister Anne, received a visit from Hanna's brother, Mule. He lives in the United States and came to meet and talk with his sister and niece. He expresses his gratitude for all the support and accompaniment our community gives his sister and niece.



From left to right: Betty, Mule and Hanna. In front of our house in Canto Chico

Stories that Touch Us

The following photo shows a young 22-year-old mother in a migrant situation, with a baby less than a year old. Suffering violence from her ex-partner and remaining homeless in Lima, she made the decision to return to her country on foot. Her decision made her more even more vulnerable than she already was, not only her, but also her baby. This young mother came to our house referred by a young girl, who also receives support from our CSJ projects.

Thanks to the various donations that we receive from different people and organizations, she were able to support her so that part of her journey would be by bus. We know that she is already in Venezuela. She travelled with little luggage and with dreams and longings difficult to be fulfilled.



Promoting food security is much more than giving food...

In our Congregational Chapters and Assemblies as CSJ sisters in Peru, we always keep in mind our preferential option for our dear neighbor, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable. The following photo shows a mother of a family, who is seriously affected in her mental health, as well as her three children who are in a situation of disability. Her husband and father of her three children sold candies on the street, but one day he disappeared and until now his whereabouts are unknown. This reality made her situation worse.

Thanks to the projects that we coordinate in Canto Chico, we can provide the family with ready-to-eat food. The family cannot cook or light a fire because they can be injured.



Connecting Two Realities

Connecting two realities, Brother Steve Casey (Christian Brothers), with a group of students from one of their schools in Chicago, visited one of our "Food Security" programs, led by a group of women "Las Luchadoras" who live and work in the hills of Canto Chico. The group of students showed simplicity, joy, availability, generosity and, above all, an attitude of immersion, in order to discover the reality in which our dear neighbors in this area live.

The students got involved in cleaning, cooking, and sports. It should be noted that these young people have to gather their own economic resources for their plane tickets and expenses in Peru and also have to be able to engage in work projects in the place where they arrive. Thank you for trusting in our projects Bro. Steve and thanks to your gifted group for their closeness with those they came to know!



Going up the hill, to go down and reach the group "Las Luchadoras"



Helping to prepare food



Helping to rebuild the cooking area used by the "Las Luchadoras"

There is a Time to Receive and a Time to Give!

Marian, a 12-year-old girl, arrived at our house. She is now in her first year of high school. During her time in elementary school, she came to our "Salón San José" to receive help with her math and English homework. Now Marian has come to offer her support to help boys and girls in first and second grade of elementary school with their homework. Welcome Marian!!



Marian talking with Sr. Anne about her interest in helping children



Marian teaching a 1st grade girl to write

Caring for our Common Home is a gift that is strengthened at home and reinforced at school. Our Sister Mary Luz, is developing strategies to care for our planet with her students at Fe y Alegría 32.



Where there is love, welcome and learning, IT IS WORTH COMING!

The children of Canto Chico are the happiest and most motivated to come to the "Salón San José" and receive help with their homework for the different courses they take at school. Check in time is 2:30 pm. At 2:00 pm children are already at our front door waiting to enter. It is this attitude that motivates and makes us happy to continue with the academic support that is so important to develop us as a country.



TRINITARIAN COMMUNITY (Tacna)

By María Elena, csj

In our Trinitarian community we are very happy and grateful for the presence of our Sister Doreen among us. She is sharing our life and ministry at Fe y Alegría 40 school. Also, Doreen is our English teacher for each one of us in the community and she is helping us a lot in our learning process .



Sister Doreen and students



Patricia (teacher) and Sisters Doreen y María Elena

Here in the first photo, Doreen is visiting high school freshmen. In the second photo, she is sharing her creativity and collaborating with the school's pastoral team. This second photo is from the morning of the Resurrection, when Patricia (teacher), Doreen and María Elena went to school very early to set the scene and communicate the good news of the Resurrection to the school community through a mural.

The celebration of Holy Week at the Fe y Alegría 40 school was held in each classroom and at the first hour of each day to reflect on and experience Easter as a family and educational community. It was a very special time, and this year, unlike last year which was a very difficult time during the pandemic, now life and joy are felt in the school environment thanks to the return to face-to-face education.

Also, during this time, as a community we have had a day and a night outing to Tacna beach. It was a good experience to spend the night on the coast of the Pacific Ocean and enjoy the fresh sea breeze and the gentle sound of the waves.



In the next two photos, Doreen and Pina are enjoying Peruvian soccer and at the same time each is knitting a nice sweater, already preparing for the intense cold of winter.



UNITED IN PRAYER

- ❖ We join in prayer for the critical situation between the countries of Ukraine and Russia so that peace may be found and the common good may prevail.
- ❖ So that the situations of many families will improve in the midst of the political and social crisis in our countries.