NOTICIERO DE JUNIO – 2019

Dear Sisters,

The events that we have lived during this month of June have brought us to remember the words that Jesus spoke: “I have come that you may have life: Life in abundance”. We have lived, life giving moments while we accompanied our dear Sister Marie Schuh as she said her good-byes to Peru: to her many friends and co-workers, companions on the journey. Each encounter was filled with love, with sorrow but with much gratitude. Jesus told us to look at our present experiences in another manner, not only from the pain it might give us but also from the life that may come from it.

We have also experienced life in abundance during our visits as VPLT to our local communities, sharing and being witnesses of how our Sisters accompany the dear neighbor; those who suffer illnesses, loneliness, old age, and always with empathy and solidarity according to each person’s needs trying to find concrete ways of assistance; giving them of our time, praying with them, offering them material help, when it is available, etc. We learn from Jesus, our teacher, the meaning of life in abundance: it is giving of ourselves with love, without measure and without expecting to receive a recompense in return.

We greet our Sisters in the USA for your celebration of the 4th of July. May God bless you for looking for the common good and because of all those initiatives you Foster and seek the plenitud and dignity of life for all.

With love,

Gloria, Zaida and Maritza

VPLT VISITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We are very grateful for the time we spend sharing with el Pequeño Proyecto (Las Brisas), Gran Amor de Dios (Canto Chico) and San José (Jesús María) communities. From July 4th to 7th, we will visit with Zaida in Tacna.
MARÍA SCHUH’S FAREWELL

In the San Hilarión Chapel, San Juan de Lurigancho (By Yolanda, csj)

Encounters, memories, gratitude, recognition, shared life, mixed feelings, happiness, joy, sorrow, farewells; as the saying goes, in order to have encounters there have to be farewells. That’s the way it was for our Sister Maria Schuh when she met once again with her very close friends, her pals. From San Hilarion, who waited for her to be able to spend some beautiful moments on June 9th.

Enrique Iglesias sings, “Three thousand years can go by, but I will never forget”. The same could be said about Maria’s friendships. After 25 years they continue to remember and love her. What a blessing!

Thanks to Maria’s experience of God; she healed, welcomed, made them happy, included them all.

These are qualities that always accompany her. No one was denied a place at the table or was left without her smile. Maria Schuh gathered them and listened to them and now has experienced what she sowed.
Maria’s friends accompanied in the Mass with the songs and hymns and they gave her a standing ovation, recognizing what she meant to them. This is a testimony that makes us proud and at the same time invites us to humility and to a welcoming spirit. THANK YOU, MARIA

Your friends sang to you, blessings, to you, Maria; until we meet again!

“Farewell, in the Center House”

On June 23rd, we had a special Eucharistic celebration in the Center House with Frs.: Jorge Álvarez, Juan Dumont and Pepe concelebrating. As a special gesture, they asked Maria to sit with them at the altar during the liturgy.
Enjoying a delicious dinner. (Photos)

During the afternoon, many of Maria’s friends gathered to celebrate her. There were about 100 friends who came from all over: San Hilarión, Tate, Arequipa, Pastoral agents from the prison, neighbors and friends from Lima. (photos of the gathering).

Power Point, gathering and Maria receiving a special missioning blessing.

Pastoral Agents from Prison ministry  Zapata family with Schuh  Friends from Arequipa

Guille and Coro Rubina with María Schuh  Manuel, friend from Tate  Luis Alberto, Schuh’s student
Sharing refreshments and Maria, dancing with her Friends in different parts of the house.

Maria, those of us who have known you during your 40 years in Peru say to you: Thank you; we love you very much; we’ll miss you; we will accompany you wherever you go and we will be waiting for your next visit. Farewell! We’ll see you soon!

We will finish with this blessing for Maria:

May all the roads you come to show you the way...
May you hold gratitude in your heart,
for all the precious good memories of life.
May every gift of God grow in you
and help you to you to bring joy
to the hearts of all the ones you love;
May the strength of God sustain you,
May the eyes of God look upon you,
May the ears of God listen to you,
May the Word of God speak to you,
May the hand of God protect you,
and until we meet again,
May God hold all of us in the palm of his hand.

NEWS FROM CASA VICEPROVINCIAL SAN JOSÉ (JESÚS MARÍA)

Sister Margaret Murphy from Albany left Lima for her vacation. We wish her a happy time with her family and the Sisters of her Province.

We had a Eucharistic celebration on the 23rd of June to bid Maria Schuh Farewell and to thank her for her for her 40 years of presence with us in this Vice Province as she returns to Albany. We will miss her and always remember her. Maria accompanied the concelebrant priests at the altar during the liturgy.
Sister María Vásquez has added two more reflection communities to her ministry in San Hilarión, San Juan de Lurigancho. We accompany her with our prayers for her ministry.

Ruth has moved her psychology office to another location so as to continue her attention to the people of Carapongo. Mauricia helped her make the move and now they are fixing up the office; at the same time, Ruth is attending to the people who need her help.

**NEWS FROM GRAN AMOR DE DIOS COMMUNITY (CANTO CHICO)**

**Formation**

Our Sister Anne Davis returned from Chicago after participating in the leadership program. She shared how the experience was special because of everything she learned about leadership and because of the relationships that were created with the other Sisters. Now, she can put to good use all that she has learned: in the service to the dear neighbor and in community. We are happy for everything that Anne learned!
Anne commented to the children that there was a Sister in her leadership program who was very interested in them and she had great love for math. Because of this, she was motivated to send them prizes (candy) to encourage their dedication and effort. Undoubtedly, this helps the children have more motivation and continue to strive in their studies.

**Sala San José: Remedial Help**

- Joshua, being tested for his knowledge of the multiplication tables
- Studying to be able to solve math problems

These children received prizes for their dedication and effort in learning math.
These Venezuelan children are learning by playing, here, pictured with the Sala San José collaborators, who with joy and generosity, motivate the children to learn.

Ministry for the accompaniment of Ethiopian refugees:

Hannah, Ashanafy and Betty are grateful to our Sisters of St. Joseph from Canada: Mary y Ruth. They are working a lot.

Anniversaries:
San Antonio School of Canto Chico is where many of our children attending Sala San José study. They celebrated one more year of service to the children and adolescents. The majority of our children participated by dancing at the fiesta.

In the photo, a proud father is showing off his two children.

Fe y Alegría Nº 32 School, where our Sister María Elena ministers, celebrated its 39th anniversary. Parents, students, alumni and faculty spent Saturday and Sunday (June 29th and 30th) celebrating in some athletic activities such as: football and
volleyball, games and music. The parents played against each other in competition. Some of the students also danced their traditional dances, and of course there was delicious traditional food offered. These activities helped to encourage and strengthen relationships among the participants and visitors.

Sister María Elena and her group helped out in the diverse activities encouraging the participants to support a fund raiser so that the students could enjoy a school trip.

Our Parish, San Pablo of Canto Chico, celebrated its 49th Anniversary on the 29th of June. Our Pastor Fr. Álvaro, in his homily, invited us to live our faith and vocation with joy and hope; and to always remember, in a special way, those who are most vulnerable.
Ministers in the “San Pablo” Chapel
As Sisters of St. Joseph, Fr. Alvaro, our Pastor, invited us to help him by celebrating a para-liturgy on Sundays and on some days of the week.

"I feel profoundly blessed, happy and fortunate because I have the opportunity to prepare the celebration of the Word in our parish chapel and can share my reflection with my brothers and sisters who come every Sunday to meet with their God who loves them. I feel happy because I can affirm the loving presence of God in them. As a Sister of St. Joseph, together with my community, we believe that this is God’s grace given to us". (Yolanda, CSJ)

NEWS FROM THE PEQUEÑO PROYECTO COMMUNITY (BRISAS)

After two months, Mary Luz returned to Brisas. She suffered the loss of her mother, Sra. Maria Encarnacion, who adopted her and who passed away on June 20th. She had gone to Cusco for the funeral and to be with her family. We accompany her with our love and prayers during this time of mourning. Be at peace dear Sister!
Dear Sisters I write to you to thank you for your prayers, your love, and you company in these difficult moments. For sure, it is so hard for me to lose my two mothers; they are no longer with me physically. But, I won't lose hope; hope is the last to go. I will continue to hold them in my heart with the memory of their lives; I trust that they will continue to guide me with their love, from their new home. Even though I must shed tears; many hours, days, years. But I also know that I am being accompanied by you, my Sisters.

With love, Your Sister, Mary Luz.

Pentecost Vigil and Gloria’s and Zaida’s Visit
One June 8th, we had a prayer for the vigil of Pentecost in the Chapel of Las Brisas. Gloria and Zaida were there with us because they were visiting our community. The people who are preparing to receive the Sacraments in the Christian Initiation program were also in attendance. Their sharing and participation in the vigil was very special and we really felt that the Holy Spirit was gifting us with so many graces. We also prayed for religious vocations. Hopefully, there will be more women who want to be Sisters of St. Joseph. We will continue to pray for that intention!

Celebration of Corpus Cristi
We had the parish celebration of Corpus Cristi on June 30th. All the groups of the parish collaborated to make the “alfombras” (Street rugs made with flower petals)
La misión

* Agripina continues to enjoy her ministry as a teacher in Fe y Alegría No 5 School. She says that the students are very lively but they are learning important values. It is fun to teach, but education also has many challenges!

* Mary Luz and Maritza continue their studies for a Masters; sometimes they spend a lot of time doing their homework, especially at night. But they are almost finished.

Visiting the Sick

"I have known Sra. Melania since last year. She never missed a Sunday Mass and she always put something into the collection basket like the widow in the Gospel. Since February, her health began to declined considerably but her faith has increased. Now, she waits for us every Sunday in her house to receive the Eucharist, always with a smile and praying constantly. A few weeks ago, she was hospitalized in emergency. She had suffered a stroke. Even though we cannot hear her now, the expression in her eyes reflects her great love of God. We pray for her so that she can feel God’s great love during this time of fragility. We will always remember her because of her great faith. We can see it reflected in her eyes like in the photo. Our prayers are for you, dear Melania. Thank you for teaching us to trust in God always." (Maritza, CSJ)
Community Recreation
* At last we can take advantage of the June 29th holiday to go out and celebrate Pins's (Agripina) birthday. In spite of the fact that we live near Chorrillos (beaches) we didn't realize that they were celebrating their big day, St. Peter. We came upon the student's parade, a varied comercial sector and many fun activities. We enjoyed delicious food, and we took a boat ride in the bay. We appreciate this opportunity to celebrate this day together, and also to be able to mingle with the people of Chorrillos and to celebrate St. Peter, fisherman. Now we know that for next year, it's very worthwhile to go to this celebration. You are all invited!

NEWS FROM THE TRINITARIAN COMMUNITY (Tacna)

Educational workshop
“The theme of the workshop, was to fortify the identity of Fe y Alegría School and to deepen the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the school”. All the members of the institution were required to attend: Primary, Secondary, and Teachers. In the framework of the 30 years of institutional life, the workshop did a historical time line of the last 30 years, recalling the creation and development of the school. Each member was situated according to the year they arrived and they were asked to share about their experiences of that time, including some interesting memories, some of them added many humorous moments.

The conclusions arrived at were: after the sharing and reflection we realized that they were coincidental with the desire to make the relationships among the members of the educational community more fraternal and to continue their commitment with passion and dedication, qualities which have characterized the school since its beginning.
Visit from Fe y Alegría N°51 of Ilo
We offered our congratulations to Fe y Alegría No 51 from Ilo for the occasion when the Ministry of Education presented them with the land they have finally succeeded in acquiring for the construction of their school. Southern Peru Cooper Mining Company has contracted a company to build the school. For this ceremony, the Vice Minister of Education and the Director of Infrastructure for the Ministry were present. Fe y Alegría was represented by Lala Romero and two other members of the Central Office in Lima.

Representing our school in Tacna, we sent a delegation, including the Mayor of the Primary Grades, Noelia Ramos, with her father, Sr. Baldomero Ramos and Sister Zaida. During the refreshments time, Lala introduced Sister Zaida to the Vice Minister who listened attentively to Zaida, telling him of our own need to amplify our infrastructure in order to adequately serve our growing student population. We already have plans for the improvement of our infrastructure but need more. Let us continue to keep hoping for this assistance.

Interview between the Director of Fe y Alegría and the Director of UGEL
Lala Romero, National Director of Fe y Alegria, was warmly received by the Director of Ugel of Tacna (local directory of education) for their meeting. In addition to Lala, the Director's Team and Sister Zaida and accompanying Lala were Hisela anad Mireya from the Central Office. Lala confirmed the intention of Fe y Alegria to continue to collaborate with quality public education, not only in our schools but also in all public education in the country, because we need it.
The director of UGEL expressed her gratitude for the invitation to the meeting with UGELs from Tacna, Arequipa and Ilo, which took place in May at our Fe y Alegria School. She mentioned that our teachers could help with an in-service for other teachers, given their preparation, and for which we could present a Project to UGEL for their recognition and certification.

Later, back in our school, LaLa met with the school’s directory and Zaida touching on various topics: pedagogical business, counseling, and she wanted to hear more about our plan for acquiring assistance for the amplification of the infrastructure of the school. Lala congratulated our teachers for the way they have applied the new focus on education. She encouraged them to continue giving a good education to their students. She mentioned that the Catholic University has offered more full scholarships to our Fe y Alegria students and she said, it would be an excellent opportunity for a student to take advantage of this offer.

**Retreat for Students of 5th Year High School,**

1. The graduating class has chosen the name “Maria Vasquez Morales” as their patron. The retreat program was prepared by the psychology department team, Sister Zaida, their homeroom teachers and the volunteers. To accomplish this work, they went to the diocesan retreat house, “Nuestra señora del Rosario” which has recently been remodeled. Now, it has a spacious auditorium on the third floor and an equally spacious Chapel, and they have added more rest rooms. There are also more comfortable sleeping accommodations. The students enjoyed and appreciated the place, the food and above all, the topics that had been so carefully prepared. Their participation was very good and the sharing of their experiences was progressively more profound. We will continue to accompany them.

**UNITED IN PRAYER FOR:**
* Venezuelan families and those from other parts of the world who are suffering.
* Sra. Maria Encarnacion, Mary Luz’ adoptive mother. May she rest in peace.
We thank God for the life of our Sisters and the Familia de San José-Chile - JULIO

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