Dear Sisters:

Advent, a time of confident waiting for the redeemer’s arrival! We live this disposition of soul within the context of deep concern. The daily news shows us the harsh reality experienced by many sisters and brothers in their hard struggle for life in our country and neighboring countries. This reality compels us to be awake, alert, and with sleeves rolled up, as we mission as Sisters of St. Joseph. May The Lord, when he comes, find us living in total giving of self in loving service to the dear neighbor without distinction, totally for love of Him.

With love,
Gloria, Zaida, and Maritza

TRAVELS, Welcome Sisters!

- Rosa Orellana will arrive on December 12 to visit us and participate in the 2020 Assembly.
- The Sisters Robertina Espinoza and María Dolores Muñoz will be with us from December 29 to January 28, 2020. They will also participate in the 2020 Assembly.
- From December 13 to 23, Sr. María Vásquez will be in Tacna to participate in the activities of the promotion that bears her name at the Fe y Alegría 40 School.
- On December 27, our sisters Sally, María Inés and Zaida will arrive in Lima. So we can be all together Sally’s farewell party.

We hold all our travelers in prayer.

Meeting with Local House Treasurers

We began the month with the annual meeting of house treasurers and the vice province Leadership Team at the Center House in Lima. We reviewed expenses for the present year and factors to consider for the coming year. Proposed budgets for the new fiscal year were presented and feedback shared. We thanked the treasurers for assuming this responsibility and for the service they provide to the community.
Celebrating Betty’s 90th Birthday

With great joy we celebrated Betty’s 90 years of life, most of which were spent here in Peru. We celebrated Mass together at the Dominican chapel of the Colegio de Jesus. After Mass we had a festive dinner followed by an afternoon of fun which included frog-shaped piñata. And of course, we all danced a bit with our Queen of the birthday celebration!

Celebrating Thanksgiving  Thanks Sisters!

What a joy to have Chizuru, Sally, Sarah, Jennifer, Carol, and Jeanne Marie visit Peru. They thanked us for our hospitality with specially prepared and traditional feast of Thanksgiving, complete with cranberry sauce and fresh baked pies. We thank God for the gracious presence of our sisters. We learned more about each other as we shared stories and dreams. We said good bye early morning December 2 as they returned to the US. We look forward to return visits.
NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD (CANTO CHICO)

As a community, we welcomed our Sisters who visited us from the United States: Chizuru, Sarah, Jennifer, Sally, Carol and Jeanne Marie. They lives reflect much joy and delight in community.

We share moments not only with our Sisters, but also with the Sacramentine Fathers, the missionary Sisters of the Gospel and the Maryknoll community. We made a pilgrimage to the St. Rose of Quvis Shrine to refresh ourselves with the faith and tradition of our St. Rose of Lima,

Celebrating a beautiful Eucharist

Sharing an amicable cup of coffee sweetened by God’s Unifying Love.
We shared a day of consciousness-raising to care for our common home. We invited our neighbors to compare a green parkland full of flowers with an abandoned and barren area. Taking time to explore, they, of course, promised to take care of the parks so that they remain life giving spaces for all.

Our living spaces are also friendly and fun. Thanks to the fluid translation of Anne and Jeanne Marie, we could understand one another!

Every morning we prayed in three languages: Japanese, Spanish and English.
Thanks again, Anne, for surfing between languages. You are an example of motivation! Truly, there is no age limit to learning.

Sister Maria Elena enjoys meeting with her students in the Fe y Alegría School #32 in San Juan de Lurigancho.

As the Community of the Great Love of God, we are accompanying our migrant brothers and sisters from Venezuela and refugees from Colombia. We also provide volunteer service at the "San José" Refuge Shelter as needed coordination and as counselors.

**NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY “The Little Design” (BRISAS)**

We had big dreams at the beginning of the year but God has given a different path to each of us. So we share these experiences and pray: May the Lord bless those groups that each has supported, and those for whom, for reasons of other commitments, we are not supporting fully.

One of our joys that we share as a community is to watch the plants growing in our small garden. Like the plants, each of us is seeing growth in our small responsibilities: Maritza, in the company of Panchita, Donna and Benita is bringing Communion to the sick. Mary Luz continues to help the children in their studies. It is a joy to see how faithfully they come to receive their classes. Agripina is rising early from Monday to Saturday to teach and support the students of Fe y Alegría # 5.
**Support for two Venezuelan families**

With the help of our Congregation and the Vice Province, we are supporting two Venezuelan families going through very difficult situations, out of work and have children to feed and sustain. We provide them with basic necessities such as food and personal care.

**Youth Ministry**

The fourth and fifth grade high school students of the Fe y Alegría School #5 had a service project assigned to them. Seeing that they needed support in designing and carrying it out we (Srs. Mary Lux Maritza, and Agripina plus 2 psychologists Milagros and Cinthya) designed an 8 week course to prepare the service students to carry out planned visits to poor families. To motivate them we gave each student a bracelet which said: “Count on me”. For us it was an opportunity to share our charism, the charism of the founder of Fe y Alegría, and issues of leadership and solidarity with the dear neighbor.

After the preparation experience the students decided to support some families and children in need in the Canto Chico area for social action. Thus, students were organized to collect donations, passed through the classrooms to collect money and bought groceries. Finally, on Saturday, November 2, they offered recreational activities for the children of Canto Chico. That same day, they visited some families and deliver the food baskets they had prepared.

For those that persevered throughout the project it was very significant as their first experience in social action. They expressed joy in helping and cheering the children, sadness over the reality in which some poor families live. One of them said she would return at Christmas with her family to visit an old woman who lived alone.
Together with the Pastoral team Sr. Agripina continues to promote and accompany young people in social and recreational actions.

Visit of our Sister Novices
With great joy and anticipation we received our Sisters Chizuru, Sarah, Jennifer, Sally, Carol and Jeanne Marie. We are very happy to have them among us as we share special moments at lunch and table games. We promise them are prayers for them, their dreams and projects as they continue discovering God’s love and guidance personally and with their companions.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY “HOLY TRINITY” (Tacna)
After weeks away the community was together again. María Inés and Sally returned to Tacna on November 8 and Zaida on November 21. It was good to be home and a community again. Immediately we smoothly entered the rhythm and direction of daily school activities: preparations for events and accompaniment of teachers, psychologists, students, fathers and mothers in a variety of situations.
School Activities
La Pastoral Juvenil a cargo de la Voluntaria Cati Bruno, con el apoyo de Zaida y Sally, está terminando su semestre. Los y las estudiantes han visitado el Hogar de Ancianos/as de las Hermanitas de los Pobres. Su propósito fue hacer entrevistas con cada residente para conocer algo de su historia y tomar su foto. Ahora están preparando una ficha para colocar en la puerta de cada habitación de los y las que han sido entrevistados. La esperanza es ir una vez más al Hogar para un último encuentro y colgar los afiches preparados para adornar sus dormitorios.

In late November the new Board of Directors of AMAPFA (Parents Association) was elected. The swearing in took place on December 1st. We hope the new board will well serve the parents, the entire of “Fe y Alegría” family.

On November 28 we had a visit from the Coordinator of “Education for Work” of the Central Office of Fe y Alegría. It was a very pleasant meeting and an enthusiastic look at the future of the School with more emphasis on training future workers.

November 29 we celebrated with professor Agusto Flores his 25 years Teaching on the primary school level with the a school-wide Mass, a special program, followed by a toast and lunch.

Other Activities:
On November 16, the Confer-Tacna meeting was held at the “Hogar de Belén” de Moquegua. Arriving on a very rugged track, we could see the damage caused by the flooding in the summer of this year. The hospitality of the Sisters of the Home was
very special and we enjoyed our time together. On December 14 we will have our last meeting of the year and say goodbye to two congregations withdrawing from the Diocese of Tacna for lack of sisters. It is a growing reality for congregations in Peru.

María Inés has faithfully accompanied a neighbor who suffered from cancer. On November 28, Ms. Milagros went to heaven after a long time of suffering that has been relieved by the visits of María Inés. May she rest in peace.

We celebrated Thanksgiving with a delicious lunch at the invitation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross to ourselves and the Sister of Maryknoll. It was a very pleasant moment where we enjoyed the company as well as the food.

As a local community we support the “Kawsay” Network (religious against human trafficking) and the “Santa Rosa” Shelter that the Scalabrinian (Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo) Fathers have. We buy blankets, sheets, and other needs to deliver to migrants who continue to arrive in Tacna from Venezuela, Colombia, and others returning from Chile because of the difficult situation there.

También, tenemos la esperanza como grupo de presentar talleres de concientización en la Universidad Nacional “Jorge Basadre Grohmann” y el Instituto Superior Pedagógico.

The most remarkable event for us was the visit of the four novices accompanied by one of the co-directors. It was a visit full of life and joy with discoveries of the reality of the school, the city, and the sharing of stories. Having them among us was a blessing and we thank Sisters Marie Jeanne and Carol for including Tacna in their itinerary.

**Sharing the Achievements of present school year**

Amid much excitement and chatter, students from all sections of primary and secondary school, exhibited, in different disciplines, the materials and products of their learning. Very encouraging was the good group of parents who attended this event. The student Carlos Uruchi won first place in the regional painting contest.
Three of the 5th year students entered the National University in this first phase of admission. First grade children already read fluently. The work our teachers do with their students is admirable. We are happy with and for all the triumphs this event displays!

WE JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER

- For the health of Gloria Zapata’s cousin Carmen.
- For the health of Martha, sister of Dolo.
- For all migrant families in their multiple needs.
- For the Congregational Leadership Teams so that our good God may strengthen them in their love for all the service in favor of the Congregation.
- For the eternal rest of Mr. Juan, father of María Araya, member of the Family of San José de Chile (Talca).

We give thanks for the life of sisters and Family of San José-Chile - DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Anita Morales (FSJ-Chile)
01 María Elena Baeza (FSJ-Chile)
07 Margarita Villena (FSJ-Chile)
08 María Vásquez
21 Zaida Pérez
24 Francine Costello (H)
26 César Rodríguez (FSJ-Chile)