

# THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

By Kathleen Neely, osu

## Remembering a Christian Woman of Service in San Miguel



On March 24th a faithful friend of the Church and of San Miguel left us abruptly. Maria Antonieta Montenegro Alvarado, O Ñaña, as she was affectionately named, was called home to God as she lay in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital in Cajamarca.

On March 20th, the Sunday before her death, she faithfully prepared the words of the Responsorial Psalm on the banner in our church. The next day her family accompanied her to the hospital, where she was to have surgery to remove two small tumors in her nose that impeded her breathing. The physician told her and her family that he could not operate because her heart was not strong enough. During this time, all the priests, religious and lay ministers in all of the parishes of the Diocese of Cajamarca were gathered in the Annual Diocesan Assembly. We took turns visiting with her. It was an honor for me personally to have this time with Ñaña, since we Ursulines had worked closely together with her on many different commissions during our 20 years in San Miguel.

Ñaña was famous for her artful decorations of the church and for preparing the statues for the processions for the many fiestas. She used long pieces of colorful materials for these decorations. On the day of her Funeral Mass, from 8:00am till the Mass at 11:00am, members of the Parish Council and many friends decorated the church with all of the many baskets of flowers that she received. They used one of the long white pieces of materials that she used so lavishly in her decorations to make pleats around the table on which the coffin would be placed. This had never been done in the church before, but for Ñaña there were no limits. Even the long red carpet that

was used only for weddings and for the main fiesta for St. Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of the province of San Miguel, was extended to receive her body. The carpet was covered with petals from her many flowers.

Besides giving her service to the Church so freely, she was a history teacher in the high school for 25 years. All of her students, old and young who could attend, came to her Mass. Ñaña had been a member of the choir for many years. She made ponchos of the different liturgical colors for the singers. On the day of her Mass, the choir wore her white ponchos as they sang her favorite hymns.

*Ñaña, thank you!*

*Rest in the Peace and in the Love of our God.*

## A Visit to Callao

After the burial of Ñaña, I spent some days in Lima with Carol. During this time, the Ursulines of The Roman Union gave Carol nine free tickets to Swan Lake, the most popular of the Russian ballets by Tchaikovsky, arranged by the Municipal Ballet of Lima and performed in the auditorium of Santa Ursula School in Lima. We enjoyed the use of the tickets, as did some of our Associates and their grandchildren. We thought how much Sue and Yuli in Muquiyauyo also would have enjoyed this classic ballet.

## Elections 2011 in Peru

On Sunday, April 10th, Peru held its Presidential and Congressional elections. Of eleven presidential candidates, two received the most votes, Señor Ollanta Humala (31.2 %) and Señora Keiko Fujimori (23.3%). Señor Humala is a former military officer of the Army and Señora Fujimori is the daughter of one of the former presidents of Peru, Señor Alberto Fujimori. On Sunday, June 5th, there will be a Second Round for the Peruvian people to elect one of these two candidates, who will be President for the next five years. We ask your continued prayers for the best possible outcome of this Second Round and for the future of Peru. Thank you.