

URSULINES' 50 YEARS IN PERU REAPS GRATEFUL HEARTS

The love that the people of Callao and San Miguel, Peru, have for the Ursulines of Louisville was enthusiastically on display amid celebrations and gatherings during trips by a handful of sisters in late Fall 2015.



1- Ursuline Sisters and Associates in Callao. 2-Students from Santa Angela Merici School. 3-Sister Kathy Neely. 4-Sister Martha Staarman meets school children. 5-Festive dancers Sister Yuli Oncihuay (far left) and Sister Sue Scharfenberger (far right). 6-Sister Lee Kirchner (center) and Sister Janet Marie Peterworth (right) with a friend of the Ursulines.

CALLAO, PERU

The milestone sparking the trip to South America was the 50th anniversary of Santa Angela Merici School in Callao. Student-teacher performances, a play and a parade were among the many encounters the sisters experienced as part of a sincere demonstration of the community's gratitude and love.

The contingent of Ursuline Sisters from Louisville and Toledo, OH, as well as Ursuline friends Maria Scharfenberger and her daughter Fernanda, traveled to the country in October where three Louisville Ursulines and one from Toledo continue to minister.

The sisters traveling to visit with Ursuline Sisters Kathy Neely, Sue Scharfenberger and Yuli Oncihuay (all of Louisville) and Toledo Ursuline Sister Carol Reamer,

included Sisters Janet Marie Peterworth, Agnes Coveney, Lee Kirchner and Martha Staarman.

They began their journey in Callao, outside of Lima, where festivities included a showcase of song and dance performed by school children, a play about St. Angela Merici and a parade followed by a picnic. Ursuline President Sister Janet Marie said of the experience, "As Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.'"

A meeting with Ursuline Associates of Callao was also a highlight. "So many said what Angela meant to them and how the Ursulines have influenced them and taught them how to be better and prayerful women leaders," Sister Janet Marie shared in an email message. "After dinner there was 'mucho' dancing and laughing."

SAN MIGUEL

While a few of the travelers to Peru returned to the States, others continued on to San Miguel where Sister Kathy directs Center Santa Angela Merici, a rehabilitation center for those with physical challenges. Sister Agnes commented on this leg of the trip. "In the days there, we met and spoke with many of the catechists, the associates, the Comunidad Angelina, as well as the priests and parishioners who helped build up the faith and life of San Miguel and other mountain towns and villages. The people expressed deep gratitude to Sister Kathy for her presence and ministry there now and for all of the Ursuline Sisters who have lived and worked in San Miguel over the years."

Once home, Sister Lee expressed a deep appreciation for the opportunity to visit a country where she has roots, as she was one of the first Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to Peru, along with Sister Martha Staarman.

From Sister Lee: "This thank you has been in my heart since I have returned from 'my home away from home.' Your affirming wishes and prayers added to the peaceful, inspiring and grateful time shared with hundreds of our Peruvian families. The following is a squinting glimpse of the happiness and blessings full of gratitude.



1 - Sister Lee Kirchner reunites with former youth group members.
2 - Sisters Kathy Neely, Lee Kirchner, Agnes Coveney and others in San Miguel.

Sister Yuli Celebrates Her *20th Jubilee*



Sister Yuli Oncihuay arrived in Louisville in March from the Ursuline mission in Callao, Peru. For about a year, she will be living at the Motherhouse while learning English and visiting with her sisters and their places of ministry. Her visit sparked an idea – celebrate her 20 years as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. [Traditionally the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have celebrated jubilees of 25, 50, 60, 75 and 80.]

Sister Yuli entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1996. "I was attracted to the Ursulines by the way they lived in community, their hospitality, their service and dedication to others, and also their work for justice and peace," she recalled. [The Ursulines had arrived in Peru in 1964.]

After formation into the Ursulines with Sister Sue Scharfenberger and the other Sisters in Callao at that time, Sister Yuli made final profession there in 2005. She came to Louisville in early spring from her ministry as a kindergarten teacher at Colegio Parroquial Santa Angela Merici, the school founded by the Sisters in 1965.

"It gives me joy to be a part of this great community, the diversity of the Sisters and their going to Peru, leaving their footprints as 'Angela Peregrina.' Also the life of the children, women and youth who seek ways of knowing themselves and realizing their potential as people gives me joy."

Sister Yuli sees her visit as a chance to deepen her relationships in the congregation and a chance to reflect- an opportunity for peace and quiet, not often found while involved in her teaching ministry. *Bienvenida y felicidades, Sister Yuli!*