

# Peruvian Journal

Earlier in September we celebrated spring. The mornings were a bit sunnier, and the temperature warmed up some. All of that, however, was a deception. Winter just refuses to leave. Every time we get a bit of sun and think that spring is finally here, the afternoon turns back its pages to winter.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING – A SOCIAL CONCERN ~ WORLDWIDE

Around the middle of September, we celebrated the International Day against Human Trafficking to express opposition to the trafficking of human persons. This was the first

time that Peru has officially recognized the date in any graphical way. We were only a few (approximately 100) persons gathered in front of the Ministry of Justice to begin a walk to raise awareness regarding the problem of trafficking in Peru. A few years ago an article in one of the major newspapers demonstrated the problem of trafficking, focusing mostly on women and children who were taken from several parts of the sierra and the jungle and sold into trafficking outside the country. What we are discovering now, just a few years later, is that the problem has grown more locally. That is to say, the young men and women and children are not always taken out of the country, but rather are sold into areas, especially of the jungle, for sexual or work purposes. The mines are good targets for trafficking.

The walk gathered momentum as we headed toward



*Ursuline Sisters in Louisville, in solidarity with their sisters thousands of miles away in Peru, hold signs on the International Day against Human Trafficking to raise the public's awareness of the issue.*

one of the principal plazas in the heart of Lima where information was offered in the form of Power Point and theatrical presentations, song and speakers addressing some of the aspects of the issue.

## SAINT ANGELA MERICI SCHOOL

The class of 1988 organized what has become an annual event of gathering all of the former students for an evening of music, sharing and celebrating. One of their big projects this year was to build a grotto for the statue of St. Angela. We had had a statue of Angela that was too big for the grotto. The statue had been donated by another graduating class. So now, we have a beautiful grotto and a lovely statue to place there.

The gathering of the former students is always one of the activities to prepare us for the anniversary celebration. This year we took as our theme, "Walking with Angela, let's affirm our faith NOW," so the anniversary celebration consisted in the students, after investigation



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of various personalities whose lives witnessed to faith, choosing someone who inspired them in their faith, and presenting the message of that person to the audience. Again, our students and teachers reflected all the creativity they have in their beings to represent Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Theresa of Calcutta, Saint Angela, and even the Ursuline Sisters.

Yuli's preschoolers, along with their parents, presented Maria Montessori, a woman whose concern for persons with special needs and whose belief in the value of every individual opened up possibilities for learning for the very young.

## SAN MIGUEL

If we thought that Kathy was knee deep in concern for the building of the center for persons with special abilities, you should see her now, moving beyond building to putting into full operation the Rehabilitation Center with physical therapy.

Sue had the privilege of being in San Miguel when the therapists arrived on October 6 to begin work with the people with special needs, Monday through Friday. They were greeted warmly by our friends and neighbors who came in wheelchairs, walking with canes, or being carried in the arms of their parents. Most arrived in "moto-taxis" as that is the best way to defend oneself, when the hills of San Miguel present a challenge and difficulty even for the most able-bodied.

The reception for the therapists and the "opening" of the center began with an activity where the participants painted on a large linoleum sheet "what makes them happy." The end product was a very creative and colorful collage that will find its place in the center.

During Sue's visit in San Miguel, the Ursuline



Associates had their annual retreat. About 22 associates participated, reflecting together on Angela's Radical Gospel Vision: Expanding the Circle.

We are accompanying our sisters at the Motherhouse as they go through yet another transition with the shifting of rooms and spaces. The "circle" holds us together in loving energy, and gives us the strength for the challenges that life places on our journey.

*To all of you, Peace!*

*Kathy, Yuli, Carol, Sue*