

# Peruvian Journal

## Dominga

The story of Dominga, a mother of seven, can hardly be told in a few paragraphs. You only have to know her children to really come to meet who Dominga was/is. "Was" because Dominga died in early July. "Is" because Dominga continues to live on in her children, who, in spite of great obstacles, still continue their mother's legacy of building community, being family and laughing heartily.

The associates accompanied the family during the wake and the trek to the cemetery. They sang the songs we had all sung together. One we especially remember: "Blessed are you, faithful woman, who knows how to plant justice and peace."

To say that Dominga will be remembered is to miss the point. *Dominga Sernaque: Presente!* (in the fullest sense of the Latino Word).

## Pilar

Only 24 and with four children, Pilar was the victim of a long history of abuse, a street culture, the lot of many women trapped in poverty.

Her cancer was discovered when it had already invaded her prematurely-aged body. Having learned of her condition, each of us searched for a way to accompany her in this mysterious journey of life to death, or was it death to life? Carol tried desperately to find remedies to soften her pain and discomfort. Sister Yuli provided opportunities for her small children. Sister Sue tried to encourage a continuance in school for her children, and all of us tried simply to remind the family that we cared.

From her wheelchair, Pilar watched the activities of our Independence Day celebrations in the neighborhood. Only a few days later she died.

## Theresa and Timmie

August was marked with the delightful visit of Theresa Butler and Timmie, her niece. Their visit was a peak moment for our associates in Carmen de La Legua and San

Miguel. We spent time sharing stories of how we see ourselves to be as associates, as women of Angela, as women committed to the Gospel. We learned from each other. We discovered the concerns that we have in common, and the things that make the Associate Call different in Peru and in the United States. We were energized by the sense of a shared and mutual commitment.

This was a "first" for us, that our associates could receive their missioning papers from the Directress of the Associate Call. And this, in the year we celebrate 50 years in Peru.

*Wishing you Peace,*

*Sisters Carol, Yuli, Kathy and Sue*



*Theresa Butler visits with Ursuline Sisters and Associates of San Miguel (top) and Callao (bottom).*