

Peruvian Journal

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends:

In Callao, we have just finished celebrating the feast of Saint Angela. We gathered with our associates from Carmen de la Legua and some from the Company of Angela (a group of younger women who are also living the charism and spirit of Saint Angela). The spirit of Angela is alive in these women, and their care for each other reflects what it seems Angela desired in forming the first Company, a group of caring women whose example for living in harmony has the power to change and transform the world. There were 27 celebrating together. But far more important than the numbers was their spirit of one heart.

Mixed in with our fiestas and celebrations are also the sadness and tragedies that come from the cycle of life. In a part of our barrio in Carmen de la Legua, we are experiencing a number of deaths among the fairly young. Their illnesses are mostly leukemia and lung disease. Perhaps with the first deaths no one took note. But more and more it seems that several factories surrounding that part of our neighborhood are emitting toxic elements in the air which could be responsible for the illnesses. Last year, complaints were made to the mayor concerning the evident responsibility of the factories, but thus far nothing has been done. A seven-year-old lawsuit is said to have gotten lost in a stack of papers while the companies continue to exploit their workers. Tragically, the young and old continue to die of diseases that could have been prevented.

It is our hope that perhaps a group of students can take on this cause, make it more public, and attract attention to this growing health problem.

SAINT ANGELA MERICI SCHOOL

Last year, we added on a new classroom to the school, and this year we plan to add another, which will allow us to expand our computer curriculum, and help us make room for a dance workshop.

This year, for the school's anniversary, we produced a short video set to the Beatles' song, *All You Need is Love*. Responding to the theme of the year, our English department took the initiative to teach everyone the



song, and some alumni came to film the students in action with the song. You may see it on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P9DfaxnMac>.

SAN MIGUEL

The rehabilitation center is now open and ready to serve some of the most needy in the province of San Miguel. Sister Kathy is working hard to hire personnel to staff the programs that are needed so badly: speech therapy, psychological assessment and treatment, and physical therapy. Contacts have been made with friends in Callao and other areas hoping to recruit university students in these specialties for the center.

The associates in San Miguel did a marvelous job sponsoring the Christmas celebrations. This was no small feat. It involved decorating the church with an almost life-like image of the nativity scene, preparing the liturgy, practicing the offering dance with the children, contracting the band for the accompanying procession throughout the town, and much more.

URSULINES AS SISTERS

In November, we travelled to Chiclayo to celebrate with our Ursuline Sisters from Chatham, Ontario, their 50 years in Peru. Over the years we have been very connected to

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the Ursulines in Chiclayo. They have stayed at our house many times while passing through Lima on their way to Canada, or on their way to Chiclayo. Similarly, we have visited them with family and friends on our way to San Miguel. But our connections go much deeper than simply visiting. We have shared with them our vision for our work with women. We have supported each other with workshops, retreats, and other experiences.

Part of their celebration involved a workshop with Ivone Gebara, the Brazilian eco-feminist theologian. Her topic was “The Search for Freedom from a Feminist and Cosmic Perspective.” We were able to invite four of our associates from Callao and four from San Miguel to be with us in Chiclayo during those days. The energy that surged from that group of more than 100 women was very enriching, life-giving and deeply loving. These are the experiences of hope that we need to keep alive. We hope to share her message with our associates who were not able to participate.

As the universe invites us into 2013 with new energies, we hold each of you in our hearts with love and care.

Kathy, Yuli, Sue, and Carol

