



FRIENDS

The Missionary Society of St. James
the Apostle

October 2024



With God All Things Are Possible...

Dear Friends,

In this issue we hear from Fr. Nilton Imán Chero, from the parish of El Resucitado, in the Diocese of Chosica, in Lima, Peru. Fr. Nilton works with Fr. Melchor, who featured in last month's newsletter, and he continues to tell us of the good work they are doing in that parish:

We believe that our Church is called to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned us, as his disciples of today: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 19: 20-21). Empowered by that Spirit, we continue Jesus' ministry. This Gospel passage is our light and guide, by which we strive to live and serve the Lord, in both word and deed in our parish of El Resucitado.

Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.

This year, in addition to the daily Mass and other sacraments, we are also engaged in various ministries and parish activities. One of our primary programs, which runs five days a week, is the Elderly Program in the parish, where the elderly come and participate in a number of engaging activities such as: crochet, arts and crafts, and even some physical fitness activities. These activities are always followed by a nourishing meal. Sister Mary coordinates the elderly program, with the help of some parishioners.



We have approximately fifty-five elderly who attend these activities in both the El Salvador Community and the Buen Pastor Community, in our parish. There are thirty-eight elderly at El Salvador and there are seventeen elderly at the Buen Pastor Community. Some of them are married couples such as Nicomedes and Aniceta, who recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. This couple has three daughters, who all work during the day. So, once Nicomedes and Aniceta heard about our Parish activities for the elderly, they eagerly joined us, as an alternative to remaining in their home, alone. One day the elderly group from our parish received an invitation from the Diocese of Chosica to participate in an elderly event on Saturday, August 24, 2024. I cannot begin to describe how each of them prepared for that occasion! They spent nearly a month practicing a traditional Peruvian Andes dance. Their commitment and their enthusiasm, each day, touched my heart. Life in Peru is particularly challenging for the elderly and it is wonderful to see them using and developing their skills and socializing.



Our response to elderly loneliness and inactivity is to provide access to engaging programs making it easier for the elderly to get out and socialize, to eat a healthy meal and also develop their skills and abilities, which will help keep their minds and bodies sharp.

We are also quite busy and involved with the youth of the parish whom we continue to invite and engage in Catholic formation. We are trying to make them aware of the role they have in the life of the Church. We discuss, teach and reflect with them on the reality of human existence, how they as youth are to live and how their call and mission is to be the light and salt of the earth for their communities. Youth participation in our parish is improving. This year, we have 238 young people who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.



The Elderly Group with Bishop Jorge, of Chosica

On a monthly basis, we host a youth gathering and we regularly have one hundred youth who attend these monthly sessions. Some of the youth programs are targeted specifically for those who will be catechists in their own communities. Therefore, we provide these young people with Catholic formation so they can be successful in their role as catechists. Fifty new youth catechists have joined the program this year and they are preparing candidates for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in their own communities. Typically, formation takes place on Saturday and Sunday. We are more determined than ever to promote youth catechists since we see this as a significant part of the future growth of our parish.



Fr. Nilton with the Catechists



Finally, I would like to give an update on the feeding program at our parish. We understand that the basic human need for food must be met before children can study catechesis or be attentive at school. This is why we have opened a third feeding program, where we provide lunch for around thirty-two children, five days a week. This is necessary and helpful for the children since their parents are working all day and they might not otherwise receive a nourishing meal. We are fortunate to have two parishioners who volunteer their time to prepare these lunches. Sister Diana, of the Congregation of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, and I coordinate the day to day logistics for this comedor. The children are divided into two groups: one group attends school in the afternoons, between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM. They come to the comedor for lunch at Noon, before school begins. The second group of children have morning class which runs between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM so they join us for a healthy lunch immediately after school. This latter group of children includes a family of five brothers whose father died last year. Their mother is working very hard each day to provide for her family. She is grateful that her children can go to school and receive a healthy meal each day at our comedor. This particular mother continually expresses her appreciation to us and she gives thanks to God for providing help for her children. She is an example of strength and faith for us all. In addition to providing the meals for the children, we also provide school supplies for them, at the beginning of each school year. By the grace of God and the generosity of the Benefactors of the St. James Society, we are able to provide these services to our brothers and sisters, who are in the greatest need in our parish. With God, all things are possible.

~ Fr. Nilton Imán Chero



With Every Good Wish in Christ,

Rev. David Costello, Director



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