

25 YEARS OF PASSION IN THE MISSIONS SECTOR...

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary – Peru

-Ana María Vilca Mamani, snjm

In 1960, Pope John XXIII asked religious communities to minister in Latin America. SNJMs responded to this call in 1961 when three Sisters from California arrived in Arequipa and we started a school and a clinic. In 1981, we founded another mission in La Curva, where Yenny and I lived. After 30 years in Peru, our sisters had to close the two missions. During those years, there was not permission from the congregation to receive Peruvian women who were asking to enter.

But, the seeds were planted, and God made them grow. Here we are, examples that the Spirit always works miracles in our lives and in the life of our SNJM congregation. In 2003, two missionary sisters from Brazil and I were sent to start a new mission in Lima. Now, there are four SNJM sisters living in Lima, three of whom are Peruvian ... thanks be to God. Our community is revitalized with the presence of over 20 associates.

Our passion, which is "to liberate life that is threatened," motivates us. We fulfill this through collaboration with our brothers and sisters in various forms of educational and pastoral ministry among boys, girls, women and men - at the Maria Rosa Center; at the diocesan and parochial levels, in a shelter, jail; and through spiritual accompaniment in homes and in various groups.

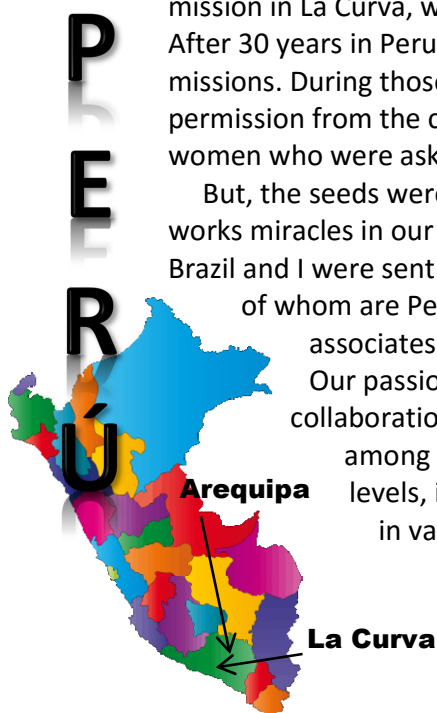
We have full confidence in the future; our charism is alive. We believe that God continues to call people to the religious life and we want to put our energy into receiving and accompanying new candidates for our SNJM family.



Lourdes

Yenny

Ana María



New mission in Peru

-Jacqueline Aubry, snjm

On February 15, 2003, after 2 years of discernment, the Missions Sector opened a new mission in Peru. I had the privilege of being part of the first group with Ana Maria Vilca Mamani and Françoise Trottier. Having spent a few months to study and learn the language, I was able to take an introductory course on the reality of this nation with an emphasis on the political, sociological, and ecclesial reality. Over and above these benefits, during the sessions of the Justice and Truth Commission, we heard the testimonies of the victims of the *Shining Path* dating back to the years between 1980 and 2000. I was most impressed by the resiliency of this population in the aftermath of these events which have left lasting scars among the population - more specifically with the women who are still suffering. I was able to witness



Ana María Vilca Mamani, Françoise
Trottier and Jacqueline Aubry

this suffering while I was visiting a Refuge Home for assaulted women who were an inspiration because they modeled the commitment and courage of the people struggling for a just Peruvian society. You will have figured out yourself that I also include our SNJM sisters who are still present in that country.

Françoise Trottier on the other hand, became involved in a Center called 'Yancana Huasy' which offered help in health issues as well as support and encouragement to children and adolescents with physical and mental handicaps. In addition to working on schedules for home visits with a multidisciplinary team, she met the mothers of the children; with them she could develop appropriate solutions to their numerous problems. Françoise always considered it a great privilege to be able to share so closely the lives of such courageous women. She felt the same about her responsibility in the accompaniment of the young Peruvian SNJMs in initial formation with the support of the Conference of Religious in Peru which is both well-structured and life-giving.

My Life in the Lima, Peru Mission

-Yenny Chipana Lima, snjm

My arrival to the community of the SNJM Sisters in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru in 2004 provided many experiences. It was the first time that I had left my family and I decided to start my journey with SNJMs. I began my ministry in the parish as a volunteer in the social service sector, visiting families that requested assistance. I also volunteered with Caritas Chosica accompanying families starting the communal vegetable garden project. It was a very gratifying experience in my life that continued to help me establish myself.

My formation at CONFER strengthened my call to religious life with the passion of the Missions Sector "to liberate life that is threatened."



Yenny with Dayron

There, I experienced the poverty of the people every day, which made me feel God's call to serve and to give of myself with gratitude. For that reason, I gave the best of myself ministering in different areas of the public sector even though, on some occasions, the demands were stressful.

In 2014, together with my previous co-workers from the municipality, we started a family advocacy project called "Living in my Family" where we offer professional services to the community in defense of the rights of the people. It is a place where families can come and receive free guidance in different areas - psychological, legal and social. At the same time, we offer services to local boys and girls who come each Saturday to enjoy educational games.

In March of 2016, committed to the passion of the Missions Sector, I took my final vows, giving myself to God. My journey as an SNJM Sister offers me many opportunities in life to continue serving the people of God and, together with them, to take on new challenges.



Mother's Day Celebration



An Invitation to a New Mission *-Brigid Baumann, snjm*

Receiving an invitation from the Sector to participate in a new mission in Lima, Peru, was a challenge. Psychologically I had closed myself to Peru, but felt I should enter into personal discernment about God's new call, feeling a tug in my heart, remembering the Peruvian friends I still held dear. I joined the new mission in January of 2004, quite chagrined at the vastness of San Juan de Lurigancho. Finding my way in this totally different environment from rural La Curva was a shock, but the pastor was very open to my beginning a library for the children and working with the women. Thus began the evolution of the Marie Rose Women's Center.

During the eleven years of my presence, I was warmly accepted and challenged to begin new programs addressing our area's needs. My faith was deepened by the courageous women and young



people who participated. The major purpose was to assist women to gain their capacity to serve others. Their fortitude, fidelity, and openness encouraged me. A new SNJM member, Lourdes, called us to continued expansion of services. Several others have become program coordinators and Associates in our community. Their strength and fidelity continue to inspire me to participate in our mission in Peru. We are prayerfully bonded and remain present to each other thanks to current technology.



Women's activity



Coordinators : Assoc. Nieves, Elvira and Rosa

Homework in the Library



Maura with Coordinator Oliva

10 years in Lima, Peru

- Marjorie Moffatt, snjm

During my service in Labrador, I joined the Missions Sector. Arriving in Peru in 2006, for a period of probation, learning the language and culture, I was touched by the people's helpfulness, patience, and appreciation of the presence of sisters among them. The pastor suggested I support the 12 step groups, in any way I could. Little did I know that this call would keep coming from the Peruvians themselves, even to this day. Many have come to me for spiritual guidance in the 12 steps, prayer accompaniment with the bible, and then a Centering prayer group in our house.

Another call was to accompany a group of associates with long-time SNJM Associate Luisa Broggi. With a small group of women, using the Congregational Guidelines, we set up a beginner's program. Now we have 20 associates and 5 candidates.

When our residence in San Hilarión was officially designated as our SNJM house of formation for new vowed members, as a member of the formation team, I taught our three SNJM legacies: the vows, constitutions, and history.

Last year, the John XXIII Pontifical Theological Institute

asked me teach pastoral liturgy in a 5-year formation program for lay people. How meaningful it is to return to formal teaching at my age!

It is evident to me that others before me have sown our SNJM seeds here in Peru. What a great gift the new SNJM members have been, who, alongside the associates and other volunteers, live out our SNJM spirituality and our charism united in ministry with the people of Peru.

2014 Prayer group: Oscar, Jenny, Flora, Marjorie, Teresa, Rosa, Braulio, Nancy, Victoria, Andrea, Julio.



Mary Ondreyco and Yenny Chipana

Lots of Changes in my Experience of Peru

-Mary Ondreyco, snjm

During the 1980's I ministered with other SNJM sisters in a southern province of Peru in the Tambo Valley. It was a rural area and there were no cell phones or World Wide Web to keep us all connected. When I returned to Peru 20 years later in 2010 I joined our SNJM sisters in an urban area in the outskirts of Lima. What a difference in geography, climate and number of people! A major **change** in the intervening 20 years was the development of the global communication network allowing all to keep in touch with SNJM community, family members and support networks throughout the world. The warmth, openness and simplicity of the Peruvian people and their love of life and celebration remained the same. The **SNJM Associate program** and the **Marie Rose Center** were new

realities for me. In addition to being part of those programs, I assisted with the SNJM Formation Team, and continue this ministry by SKYPE and yearly visits since returning to California in 2012. It has been a joy to walk with Yenny Chipana and Lourdes Quintana during their years of Temporary Profession. As **SNJMs** look to the future, I believe the Peruvian SNJM sisters and the committed SNJM associates will discern together what will be the SNJM future in Peru. I am very grateful for my past and present Peruvian experiences, for many enduring friendships and for the opportunity to share in the life and spirit of our Peruvian sisters and associates in Lima Peru.

Marie Rose Center (CMR) – Project of the SNJM Sisters – Peru

-Lourdes Quintana, snjm



In 2008, thanks to Sr. Brigid's invitation, and the call to continue in religious life, I began my relationship with the SNJM community in Lima, Peru. As a volunteer in the CMR's alternative education program for youth and adults (IRFA), my first impression was to be amazed at seeing a more person-oriented ministry, and especially feeling an openness to develop the call within myself and to observe that response among my colleagues there. "I have come to cast fire on the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled" Lk. 12:49. That is what the CMR means to me - a fire that desires to be kindled, especially through the comprehensive formation of women and children through the CMR's various programs. These include: the Library and Didactic Playroom, IRFA: Alternative Education under the auspices of, the Fe y Alegría Radio Institute, Early Stimulation, Sewing and Crocheting, MUJAVE: Young Women Striving for a Successful Life, ESPERE Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, and inter-community connections in Mano de Dios-Lima, Cusco, Abancay, and Ayacucho. We want to creatively respond to the needs of others in solidarity and in accordance to our call, wherever life is threatened. Lk. 4, 18-20



Alternate education : IRFA



new hall in Mano de Dios



Coordinator Rosa, Library



Left: Coordinator Rosalia , IRFA



Mano de Dios in the hills



We appreciate the years during which Josée and her expertise in technology made this publication possible.

We miss her terribly and pray to her as we complete this issue.

We send God's consolation to her family and colleagues at the General Administration

and to all the sisters and associates who knew and loved her.

Intermission Committee: Agnes Hoy (BR), Marjorie Moffatt (PE), Jo'Ann De Quattro (US-ON), Hélène Harvey (Mtl), Yvonne Massicotte (MB), Josée Lareau (GA), Miquelina Silva (MS).