

Ursuline Sisters celebrate 40 years of ministry in Peru

LOUISVILLE, Ky., (Aug. 1, 2004) – In 1964, the Pope called upon religious communities to minister to people in Latin America. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville responded by sending four sisters to Callao, in Peru. Two sisters worked at the Navy school there, while the other two traveled to a poor area to found a school and perform parish work. In 1987, the Peru ministry expanded to the mountains of San Miguel, where Ursuline Sisters began working with the peasant farmers.

Now in it's 40th year, the Ursuline Sisters' Peru Mission is still involved in education, but also helps women, men and children with a variety of programs that build self-esteem, enhance spiritual growth and teach communication and leadership skills. The Ursuline Sisters in Peru train catechists and provide classes for skill development in areas such as sewing, natural healing, care of the earth and computers. The sisters also oversee the philosophy and education at St. Angela Merici School in Callao.

“We’re proud to have been involved in sharing faith and building community with so many people in Peru in the last 40 years,” said Sister Sue Scharfenberger, a member of the Ursuline Leadership Team who ministers in Peru. “We believe we have been mutually enriched as we’ve shared in mission with the Peruvian people.”

Today, five Ursuline Sisters – three Americans and two native Peruvians – minister in Callao and San Miguel. Another sister from the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo is involved in the mission as well.

To celebrate and give thanks for the 40th anniversary of the Ursuline Sisters' Peru Mission, the sisters held a special ceremony Aug. 1 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in the Ursuline Motherhouse. Following the ceremony to renew the sisters' commitment to the Peru Mission was a procession, refreshments and entertainment.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Peru mission.



The St. Rita Hispanic Choir sang for the 40th anniversary celebration at a ceremony in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.



After a ceremony in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, those participating in the 40th anniversary celebration of the Ursuline Sisters' ministry in Peru processed to the grotto for additional prayers.