

## **The Peruvian Journal** **September & October 2008**

By Sister Kathleen Neely

Location: Muquiyauyo, Huancayo, Peru

Hello to all. Hope your weather is as beautiful as ours here. The sun is warm in the day, but the weather is chilly at night.

Wanted to keep you all posted as to what Yuli, Sue and I are doing regarding our new mission here in Muquiyauyo following our first week here.

On Thursday, August 28, 2008, after a very meaningful and much appreciated blessing in our home in Callao by the Company of Angela, Sue, Yuli and I went to the bus station in Lima, accompanied by Carol Reamer (Toledo OSU) and friends. Our bus left for Jauja about 11:00 p.m.

We arrived in Jauja at 6:00 a.m., and went by taxi to The Sisters of Charity's home at their school San Vicente de Paul. The Sisters received us with a warm welcome and we rested in the morning because of the altitude. (Jauja is in the altitude of 3410 meters above sea level).

The following day we visited the little town of Muquiyauyo. The mayor and his council had indeed kept their word; for the space that the pastor of Jauja, Padre Enrique Tizon, had indicated for our home, was renovated very nicely. There is a small kitchen (but large enough for a small table and four chairs), main living room, bath, two bedrooms, and a small patio. We may be able to use another area beside the main room for a small chapel.

On Tuesday, September 2nd, we met the mayor, Señor José Salcedo Castillo and one of the council members, Señora Dora Ramos, who donated her stove to us. We thanked them for all they did to help make our home so comfortable.

The Sunday before this, August 31st, we went shopping for four beds and mattresses in Huancayo. After looking long and hard, we did find what we wanted and Father Enrique helped us take them to Muquiyauyo in his pick-up truck.

Fortunately, one of the church committees left a sofa and two chairs, and they were placed in our space for us to use.

In Muquiyauyo, there is water is only available from 6:00 a.m. to about noon. Therefore, we bought two large containers in which to store our water.

After experiencing the hospitality of the Sisters of Charity in Jauja, we officially moved to Muquiyauyo on Wednesday September 3rd. Sue, Yuli and I shared our first supper of avocado sandwiches, coffee and herb teas. The kitchen table we asked a carpenter there to build was not ready yet, so we ate on the lovely sofa and chairs. As I write these notes we are waiting for the table to arrive, but our stove is now up and running nicely.

A friend of the Sisters of Charity helped us put up some clothes lines in the small patio, which are serving us nicely.

On Monday, September 15th, at 5:00 p.m., the archbishop of Huancayo, Monseñor Pedro Barreto Jimeno, SJ, will come to Muquiyauyo to celebrate Mass and introduce us officially to the community with a small reception.

On Sundays, we understand, the catechists here have classes for First Communion from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and Confirmation classes from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will accompany them at this time.

Every day you are all in our prayers, as we know that we are in yours. Thank you once again for your support in every way. We continue to count on you!

With love and gratitude,

Sister Kathy