



THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

Dear Sisters and Friends,

How are all of you there? As you see, it has been awhile since I have written in the Peruvian Journal, and at last it is my turn.

Here in Jauja it is very cold and it is raining. Truly the people wait with much joy for the rains, as it is so important for their crops.

What they are planting now are potatoes, carrots, lima beans, and artichoke for their own consumption but also to sell in the markets. Truly the work of the farmer is very difficult because from early morning until late in the afternoon or evening they are in the fields. This, what I am writing, is just a little bit of the reality of the people in the village where we live.

Each of us is finishing our pastoral work for the year. Two weeks ago there were 41 youth who were confirmed. It was a beautiful celebration. Afterwards we shared hot chocolate with the parents of the youth. It was a great moment to share with the parents and take pictures as a remembrance. Personally, it brought to mind some nice times of my own confirmation.

First communion will be coming up late November and early December in several of the villages. First it is in Muqui where there are 6 children, then in Muquiyauyo where there are 52 children and in Huaripampa where there are 8 children.

Some of the youth recently confirmed continue to meet. They hope to create workshops to learn to play the guitar, have time for sports and games, and learn to make things that they can later teach to small children in preparation for Christmas. The youth seem to have a lot of interest in doing things for others and for sharing among themselves.

It is the practice in our area to have many contests among schools. Recently the children who are in pre-school or kindergarten participated in a theatre contest where they were accompanied by their parents. It was an all day event at a school about an hour from mine, and my students came in fourth place. It was a good experience for them.

We are also finishing the school year on the 17th of December but teachers have to continue to come to school until just before Christmas. Truthfully, I am ready for vacation. We usually go to Lima during the summer months

for retreat, rest, and to take advantage of the courses that are offered.

Among other activities before the 17th of December is the celebration of the 475 years of the foundation of the Ursuline Congregation, the Company of St. Ursula. We will be having a gathering of teachers who work in Ursuline Schools or who are connected with Ursulines in some way on the 27th of November. That same afternoon we will host a gathering of youth who also are involved with Ursulines and the spirit of Angela.

On the 28th of November we will have an all-day gathering with Ursulines and Associates from the different Ursuline congregations, ending with the Eucharist with family and friends. How wonderful it will be to be together as sisters!

We will be connected with all of you because we know that you also will be celebrating together with us.

May the Ursuline Congregation live long and well! And may all be for the glory of God!

It is wonderful to have known Ursulines and to be a part of them. I know that there is still much to do, to be, and to make happen in our church, the people of God.

I want to close sharing the words of a song that I like very much.

*"Prophesy, my people! Prophesy once more!
May your voice be an echo of love for all the peoples in
oppression.
Prophesy from right here! Denounce without fear!
Valiently announce with Simplicity and courage
Prophesy from right here where things are planned, where
things mount up, where there is competition, where peoples are
plundered
From there, From there,
Let the voice of God be heard, the God of your ancestors, the
God of Love,
Of compassion and mercy. The God of women, of the poor!
Prophesy my people
It is time to go out, it is time to stand up.
Prophesy one more time!"*

To all I wish a very Happy Thanksgiving, with much love and affection,

~Yuli