

THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

SIDE ONE

“And I shall always be in your midst...”

Perhaps never was it more felt than in those days of 27th and 28th of November, among all the Ursulines of Peru.

In May when we began the planning it seemed like such an exciting thing to bring together Ursulines and those who live the charism of Angela from all parts of Peru. Closer to the date it seemed an awesome task. But in the middle of the activities and celebrations on the 27th and 28th of November, we knew for certain that Angela’s words and her presence were very real among us.

It was a celebration of the diversity of ways the charism is lived. It was a celebration of relationships, long-standing, always supportive, and always open to something new as we came together in those days.

Saturday morning began with a gathering of Teachers from each of our schools. Saint Angela Merici school in Callao hosted this event. The patio of the school was transformed with the messages of Angela hanging from the balconies and with the image from the Convocation in July of 2010, adorning the wall. Our teachers received with pride the teachers from other schools. They admitted to me later that they were a bit afraid that the teachers from some of the other schools in better parts of Lima would inhibit them. But nothing of that came to be because the charism was so vibrant and living among us.

The presentations of that day challenged us to launch our beliefs, our programs, and our planning into the public sector. We cannot exclude ourselves from the reality that teachers in the public sector are experiencing




All of the sisters and associates from different groups.



the competition and the corruption. We cannot isolate our students from the very difficult reality that Peru is living. Rather we must with clarity and conviction present our values and our beliefs to the teachers and students of the public schools. We must offer healthy alternatives that are achievable in every sector.

We were also challenged by the second speaker, a sister from the French Canadian Union to live the invitation of Angela in our classrooms: live in harmony with one heart and one will. The invitation was extended also to respect each individual student, each person with the uniqueness with which they were gifted.

That afternoon the same patio of our school was alive with the youth gathering from our schools and our ministries. Accompanied by a music group they moved to dynamics, songs, and dances. And there was a time of reflection also, where each student was given a stone



on which they wrote a message for another student or youth that reflected the charism of Angela. The stones were placed together building a “tower impregnable”, something we are capable of when we truly work together. It was a lively afternoon.

And the climax was the following day when associates, sisters, and friends gathered to reflect on “Angela-Woman of Communion”. We were challenged to harmony, inclusion, and develop relationships of equity. We were invited to look towards “the other” and the others, who are most excluded in our society. We were invited to ongoing gatherings, reflections, discernment, so that the movements of the Spirit will continue to challenge us to go beyond ourselves and build relationships of peace and harmony in our communities, in our places of work and ministry.

We were lay and religious. We were daughters and sons of the original foundation and we were also daughters and sons of other Ursuline groups not founded by Angela, but carrying her spirit.

These gatherings were especially important for us. It was the first time we gathered together our associates from San Miguel with those from Callao, Carmen de la Legua. Our Callao associates opened their homes

to some from San Miguel. And some of the women who are just beginning to know Angela through us in Muquiyauyo also accompanied us for those days.

And on Saturday evening our associates from Callao shared with those from San Miguel an experience of getting to know another. In addition, to the presence of Angela in our midst, we also experienced Kathy, Lee, Betty, and Martha, along with all the other women who build relationships among us in Peru through the charism of Angela.

We regretted that Kathy could not be with us for these gatherings. The associates from San Miguel especially missed her presence. But all of us accompanied her with our prayers and love as she walked with her family in the journey of grieving the passing of her sister Mary Theresa.

And in this time of waiting and longing, of renewing our hope in the transformation of weapons into instruments of peace, we celebrate the God who lives among us always and who invites us to continue to build a world where such differences as those of the lion and lamb can be brought into a relationship of love and joy.

Peace to all of you in this holy time!

Yuli, Kathy, Sue

