



THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

Finally, the rains have stopped, and while we are enjoying a beautiful sun, we are also experiencing freezing mornings and evenings. But during the day we bask in a warm beaming sun, and a glorious blue sky. The climate changes are such that now the government offices are instructing people to use sombreros/hats ALWAYS because of the intensity of the sun's rays. Some schools have started including hats as part of the school uniform.

The Political Scene

Battles for the next elections stir the political waters. While part of Alan Garcia's political platform was to remove the corruption in society in general, all of us knew that more and "other" corruption was infiltrating the present system in power. This topic is occupying our newspapers, and obviously, has become the concern of political battles on all sides.

In part an explanation is found in the aggressive invitations to inversion in the local economy offered to private business. So facilitating the entrance of new companies or bargaining the safety measures is an easy way for government officials to fill their pockets, and of course little pain is suffered on the part of the companies.

One of the gross effects of this is the contamination caused by the mining companies. Their benefits are bargained at the price of destroying the environment and endangering the health of the people, especially the children. (We have referred often to this topic, as one of the mines affected is very near us, and so is the resulting pollution of the waters and the air.)

The elections this year concern the local mayors. But these elections have a powerful effect on the presidential elections which will be held next year

Visitors

We just said good-bye to two visitors. A very dear friend since the beginnings of our presence in Carmen de la Legua, and her son, who is among the first

graduates of our school in Callao, came for a very short visit. Dominga is now 78 years old but as determined and sharp as she was when she first started working with Martha, Lee, and Father Mike. Getting in and out of cars or buses was no easy task but there was never a doubt in her mind that she would do it. Her son, Javier, graduated from Saint Angela Merici School and has been a teacher there for several years. Javier is one of those wonderful success stories. Through high school and after, he was very active in the parish. He became involved in the carpentry workshop and through his work there has continued first as a teacher's aid and later as part of the administrative team. Javier recently completed his studies in the university and is now helping both his wife and his son in the same educational path.

Needless to say their visit was a real treasure for all of us.

And what about us?

Yuli is finally moving into the new classroom that has been in construction for several months. Until now her classroom has been separated from the rest and she has been "borrowing" space in the meantime from another school. Needless to say she is delighted with the move, and will now be able to organize the multitude of material that she has collected

We continue to accompany Carol from a distance as she brings closure to the material aspects of her Mom's death. The on-going journey of remembering, being grateful for her Mom's presence, and settling into a new and different way of relating as family is still to be realized.

Kathy left this evening to travel to Lima, and then to San Miguel to visit the associates there. We try to make at least two visits there a year to support and encourage the associates in their living of the charism.

Hopefully we will be seeing many of you this summer. Until then, Peace! With many blessings!

Yuli, Rocio, Kathy, Sue