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After hearing of your rough winter, I can imagine how you are all welcoming the warmth and beauty of spring!

Presently we are keeping Carol's mother, Clair Rita Reamer, close in our prayers. She is very ill and Carol is with her and their family at this time.

As I am writing this article, I read in the news of the tragic deaths of the president of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife and most of the leaders of his country on Saturday April 10th in the terrible plane crash that killed 97 persons. We have priests from Poland working with us in our Deanery. We extend our prayers and condolences to them and to their people.

Here in Muquiyauyo, among the preparations and traditions of Holy Week, the four of us in our Ursuline Community accompanied a family of two...a mother and her eight year old son. After the death of her husband, "Maria" began to drink. She accepted jobs the people would give her, mainly working in the fields. Her son began not going to school in order to accompany and to help her.

At this time in her life, she is among the poorest of the poor. They have no electricity or water in the home that a family has allowed them use. The director and the teachers in the boy's school were all willing to "go above and beyond the call of duty" for him. If he returned to school they would provide his school uniform, his notebooks, even his meals. Several times his mother and he agreed to this, but then he simply "didn't show." He could be seen beside his mother with the rest of the folks harvesting carrots and washing them before they were sent to the markets of Lima.

Often at night our door bell would ring and there they would be.

On one of those evenings we warmed up the rest of our supper, and Maria and her son ate every morsel. Maria has two older daughters who have families. I went with Maria's older daughter to Huancayo and to Jauja looking for an "Alcoholics Anonymous" group that could help her and we found one very near us in Jauja. The group was ready to help Maria work towards her cure, but then, suddenly we heard that Maria and Juan went off to Lima. I wish I had a happy ending for this story, but I am afraid to say that we have not heard anything. **We keep Maria and Juan in our prayers and we ask you to do the same.** Juan is a boy with a striking personality that melts your heart easily. Thanks for those prayers. There is always hope.

Presently we are also starting our Family Catechism classes for the children in the First Communion group this year. Next week the teams of Guides and Animators in the three towns in which we are working will go to the grade schools to invite the students to participate. This program also involves the parents. Since many of them work all day in the fields, it is a challenge for them to participate, but fortunately most do.

Oh, by the way, I almost forgot to mention the two new additions to our home...two very active kittens very close to being full grown cats. Almost every family has cats because of the animals that are attracted to the produce in the fields. Our "working cats" take a lot of time to play and they give us plenty of laughs at the end of the day.

Good bye for now. One of our four will continue this saga next month!

May the blessings of our resurrected Christ be with each and every one.