



# THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Receive a big strong hug from me, from Kathy and Sue!

Here our climate is very cold now that the rains have started. Truly here is like winter in spite of the fact that in Peru we are in the spring season. With spring come many kite flying contests that the schools in the area organize because of the strong winds at this time. In the school where I work we had a day of kites where all the children bring their kites to fly. I really enjoy watching each effort of the children to fly their kites. It reminded me a lot of my childhood. The children are happy to see their kites in the air, and others were very sad because they could not get their kites to fly. Really it was an afternoon of a lot of fun and at the end of which each child received a lollipop for his or her effort. Some of the moms were there and enjoyed the event as well.

The eighth of October was very special, as this was the day of the inauguration of our first four classrooms of our school, "Fe y Alegría," where I work. Many of the parents were present that day. And our Bishop, Pedro Barreto came and celebrated a para-liturgy with us. After the blessing of the classrooms and of the children there were typical dances, songs and poetry recited by the children of the school. Afterwards we shared a "Pachamanca," the typical food here. (The Pachamanca includes, lima beans, potatoes, a type of tamale, and meat which is all prepared in an underground oven.)

For the people of Huasquiche this symbolizes a great opportunity to have a school like Fe y Alegría for the education of their children. It is a school that is dedicated to education in values and leadership designed especially for the very poorest of the area.

I am very happy with my work. I enjoy seeing the children grow in autonomy and the ability to make decisions on their own. And they teach me as well to be more tolerant and patient.

One day when we were gathered in the circle (a practice typical of Montessori) I told them that that day was my Mother's birthday. I said that she lives in Lima and that I could not travel to be with her because I needed to be at school to teach them. One child said: "Teacher, you can

call your mother on the phone", and I said "yes, thank you John".

And another child stood up and said, "Teacher, my mother can take care of us so that you can go to visit your Mom."

And many other suggestions were offered to help me celebrate with my Mom. One child said we can share a soft drink. (The soft drinks were donations that were given the school and I was saving them for a special occasion). I laughed, but enjoyed their suggestions and their ability to think creatively to solve a problem, which was the distance between my Mother and me on her birthday.

I want to let you know that now in our house we have a water tank which means we can have water all day.

Our house is very small but very welcoming. We do not have a lot of comforts, but we have love to give and share. Little by little our house will grow.

Also, we are very happy that Rocio, a friend of ours for many years, has decided that she wants to be a part of our Ursuline community. She has been living with us during these months while she is working in a school in Masma. Truly for me this gives me much joy to know that Angela and our God are sending and gifting us with friends like Rocio. I dream that our community here will be a house of welcome where young people have a place to share, to be themselves, because this is what we hope for, that young women can give their "yes" to the experience of their daily lives, where their response can come from the depths of who they are, where they can express and announce and share their visions and dreams.

This time it was my turn to write, and for me this is always an opportunity to express what I feel and what I am living in this village and with our people.

Kathy, Sue, and I are getting to know each other and learning each day to live in community which is an opportunity to place our hope in mutual love.

I close with much love and affection.



Yuli