

WELCOME to a new column in *Partners* magazine! The Jesuit International Missions Update will keep friends, family, and benefactors advised of the ongoing ministry and service by Jesuits throughout the world.

The news of the January 27th earthquake in India raised great concern for the safety of all people there along with the Jesuits and lay persons in service present in India. News quickly reached the United States that the Jesuits throughout Patna, Delhi, and Nepal were safe and en route to aid in the rescue efforts and care for those hit hardest by the earthquake and its aftershocks. Jesuit communities have opened their doors to welcome those displaced and are working to provide pastoral care to those who have lost loved ones.

The generous outpouring of prayerful and financial support is gratefully appreciated by all Jesuits in India.

Here are reflections from Jim Collins, SJ, from his recent experience serving with the Jesuits to the people of Peru. Jim is in the regency stage of Jesuit formation and is currently assigned to Loyola Academy.

Next Issue:
50 years in Nepal

Reflections of Peru

by Jim Collins



Jim Collins, SJ, and Edú Aquino in Tacna, Peru

I RECENTLY returned from two and a half years working as a Jesuit Regent in Tacna Peru. During my exit interview with the Peruvian

Provincial, Ernesto Cavassa, SJ, I thanked him for the warm reception that I continuously received during my time working in the Peruvian Province. I am grateful for the enriching experience and I know that it is integral in my own formation as a Jesuit.

The reason I asked to go to Peru for Jesuit regency was because I had such a positive experience there in the summer of 1995 when my Novitiate class visited to study Spanish for six weeks. The young Peruvian Jesuits patiently helped us with our flawed Spanish, brought us to their apostolates and laughed and joked with us. They were accommodating.

I was deeply affected by the living testimonies of the Chicago Province men who have been so dedicated to the works of the Peruvian Province for many years. Peruvian Jesuits really respect and appreciate the North American Jesuits here. For this reason I am fortunate to have been there working among my Jesuit heroes.

While the country slowly develops economically, the Peruvian Province is quite “cutting edge” in some of its works. For example, the Jesuit community of six where I lived supports nine different Jesuit sponsored works in and around Tacna. I feel that they represent the Jesuit community of the future; a few men animating and forming many lay collaborators for the Greater Glory of God.

“Hermandad” is a good word to describe the relationship between the Chicago and Peruvian provinces and their donors. It is indeed brotherly—equally capable family members unselfishly sharing financial and human resources in both directions for the greater good of God’s international family. The generous donors are key in this relationship. We share this responsibility with each of them and we are





Jim Collins, SJ, and the Pozi-Mamani family in Tacna, Peru

grateful for their collaboration. In this way, we are truly working as partners.

Last summer I was very pleased to play host to the Chicago and Detroit Novices who were visiting Peru to study Spanish just as I had. I hope that they were able to recognize and appreciate the riches of this poor country and gained an appreciation for our partners in the Peruvian Province. And maybe, one of them will go back for his regular assignment, just as I did. ■

Jim Collins is a Regent just returned from two and one-half years working in Peru. He is currently continuing his Regency working in Campus Ministry at Loyola Academy High School in Wilmette.



Jesuit Companions Marsha and Don Heidkamp with Jim Collins, SJ

