

Marist Mission Today

Number 92

Marist Missionary Sisters

Spring 2023

Dear Partners in Mission,

At this time of year, Spring, we enjoy the splendor of God's creation, as trees sprout new leaves, flowers bloom, and animals & birds appear. It is a time to bring hope and new life to others wherever we are in the vineyard of the Lord and His Good Mother.



Sr. Helen
Muller SMSM

Since the SMSM beginnings in Peru in 1960, when we worked with the Marist Brothers teaching in their schools in Lima, the Sisters realized the urgent need for evangelization with the poor & the marginalized in other areas. Since then, the SMSM have extended our mission in pastoral ministry to families, justice & peace concerns, prison ministry, healthcare, youth ministry empowerment, the needs of children, migrants, and refugees, as well as concerns about climate change, and “care of our common home”.

In this issue you will read an account by Sr Gladys Enanoria of a recent response to the devastation caused by floods in Peru, as well as an update on the efforts of Bill Wade and the Sisters and volunteers here in Waltham, MA, in helping local people gain the computer skills needed for employment.

Our sisters in the three communities in Peru are responding creatively to the mandate of the congregation and the local church's needs. As Pope Francis stated in one of his letters, **"Jesus speaks in the silence of the mystery of the Eucharist and reminds us each time that following him means going out of ourselves and making our lives not something we 'possess' but a gift to Him and others.** Personally, I believe we are called to be in communion with the people and circumstances wherever we are sent.

United in prayer,
Sr. Helen Muller, SMSM, Regional Leader

A Call to Care for Our Common Home Amid Extreme Weather Change

*By Sr. Gladys Enanoria SMSM
Chulucanas, Piura, Peru*



Above: a mudslide in one of the parishes in our diocese of Chulucanas.

A powerful cyclone called “Yaku” unleashed torrential rains, battered hundreds of homes, caused major disruptions and devastation, and has generated a lot of pain and suffering in the lives of the people in the north of Peru.

Cyclone Yaku is an unusual phenomenon that has caused the rains to intensify in the north of the country. Officials say the havoc can be traced to unseasonably warm ocean temperatures off the Peruvian coast that generated intense rainstorms and has caused Peru to receive 10 times the normal amount of precipitation this rainy season. The people describe the condition as “the worst flooding in 20 years.” However, the Peruvian ministry of environment has described it as premature to attribute this to El Niño’s effects on climate change.

The cyclone has caused overflowing rivers, landslides, flooding of villages, and damage to crops, livestock and livelihoods.

Cyclone (cont.)

A barrage of deadly “huaicos,” (a term used to describe massive mudslides), swept away bridges, highways, and homes. Much infrastructure was affected: homes, educational centers, health establishments, and churches, as well as irrigation canals and roads. The death toll stands at 75 people, with an additional 263 injured and 20 missing

Meteorological reports say rainfall will continue to be at extreme levels in the next two weeks or until April. Authorities fear for more destruction to come especially because the people don't have the infrastructure to deal with prolonged rains. Also, there is the possible presence of diseases such as chikungunya, dengue and zika due to the proliferation of mosquitos.

The Diocese of Chulucanas, along with its CARITAS and the health area where I currently work, have been doing a number of activities to reach out to the affected areas and the people. The “Common pots” (*La olla comun*) was organized in the villages most affected. An urgent call for solidarity was made: a campaign called “together, we share better” was launched. Centers for collections or donations were identified, asking people to donate nonperishable food, clothing, water and tools needed.

In the midst of this extreme weather change, of desolation and destruction, of tragedy caused by climatic emergency, the church is doing its best to reach out to the people in need. We pray that more lives will be spared, that flood waters will recede soon, that people will not be indifferent to the call of Caring for our Common Home and to be generous to those in need.

Sr. Gladys Enanoria, smsm
Pastoral Center of Chulucanas, Piura
Peru, Latina America



Bishop Cristobal Mejia Corral with the military, preparing to bring supplies to people in remote areas



Sr. Gladys (left) with others collecting donations to be distributed.



Sr. Gladys Enanoria is originally from the Philippines. She served in Peru from 1998 to 2006 and returned in 2018.

“The Marist Skills for Life Computer-training Program Celebrates its 25th Year”



The Skills for Life computer-training program was started by Sr. Elizabeth Bonia in 1998 as an outreach program of the Marist Missionary Sisters of the North American Province to provide direct services to the economically disadvantaged in Waltham and neighboring towns in Massachusetts.

The program was designed specifically for those who did not have access to this technology and was provided free of charge to residents who wanted to learn about digital technologies.

At its founding the program was supported by the Bentley University Service Learning and Civic Engagement Center which supplied volunteer tutors and equipment for the classroom. Bentley students work closely with one or two program students to provide a comfortable, engaging, and lively environment for learning new skills.

Skills is directed by Sr. Joyce Ann Edelmann and taught by Bill Wade. Sr. Joyce Ann joined the program in 2013 after working as a missionary in Papua New Guinea and Bill was hired in 2007 after retiring from engineering. He brought his computer hardware and software experience into the classroom where he relaunched the program in an updated computer lab and with a new internet centered curriculum. Extensive use of cloud computing is made during the class as assignments are distributed by email and cloud based applications are used throughout the course.



Skills has served several hundred learners. In the beginning the learners were mostly immigrants needing to learn job skills and over time has evolved to include parents and grandparents seeking to better understand, and make proper use of this new technology that affects them and their children today.

Those who have gone before us...



Sister Agnes Anne Wilcox,
SMSM
Aug 17th, 1925 - Dec 11th,
2022
From: Quincy, MA
Missioned in: Samoa, Hawaii,
Jamaica, Alaska, New Zealand,
& USA



Sister Phyllis Doucet SMSM
Oct 30, 1936– Jan 11th, 2023
From: Cambridge, MA
Missioned in: Solomon Islands
(1962-82); USA (1982-2023)

The course is designed to introduce the learner to the PC, the Windows operating system, the mouse, the internet, email and the basics of word processing, spreadsheets, video calling and digital imaging. In addition "safe computing" practices are stressed throughout the program. The core goal is to give the learners a high level of comfort and confidence with the modern computing environment.

A note from the teacher:

Retirement for me has meant a widening of my social awareness. I have met people from many different backgrounds and cultures. Working on the Skills for Life Program has been the most rewarding experience of my life. - **Bill Wade**



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Contact: vocations@maristsmsm.org

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