

St. John Vianney Outreach Ministries Santísimo Sacramento Parish Piura, Peru

FAMILY TO FAMILY PROGRAM



In 1993, Fr. Joseph Uhen, native of Milwaukee, who grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from the University of Notre Dame '80, felt the call to serve the poor in Piura, Peru. He has been the pastor and only priest at Santísimo Sacramento Parish in Piura since then, and serves 40,000 faithful in Piura and the surrounding villages.

This very poor desert region is approximately 600 miles north of Lima and 25 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Sixty-three per cent of the people of Piura live in poverty and 22% percent live in extreme poverty. One of the most important ministries to the poor developed by Fr. Joe is the **Family to Family Program**.

To date approximately 1404 needy Peruvian families are participating in this program, which helps provide food and other necessities to sponsored families. Most families live in bamboo houses with dirt floors, and many have no electricity or running water.

When a father or mother go out in the morning to look for work for the day, they are successful if they bring home around \$3.00-\$5.00. This

meager salary is enough to feed a family for part of the month, but does not cover it all. That's where the **Family To Family Program** comes in. By sponsoring a family for \$25 per month, or \$300 for the year, you provide a delivery of rice, beans, lentils, powdered or canned milk, oil and various other items which help to stretch the family grocery budget for a month.

In January of 2013, six SJV parishioners, led by Fr. Ken Knippel, traveled to Santísimo Sacramento Parish in Peru. They participated in the packing and delivery of the monthly food distributions and saw firsthand that every cent of your donation goes directly to the family you sponsor. They saw the difference this makes in their lives.



Should you decide that you would like to participate in this wonderful program, please complete the application and return it to the parish office. We ask that you make a commitment for one year. You may continue to sponsor your family for as long as you wish.

You will be able to develop a relationship with your Peruvian family via email through Santísimo Sacramento Parish. You can send your family photo and letters about your family. They will write back with details about their family. When we visited the villages we saw sponsors' family photos proudly hanging on the walls of the Peruvian homes.

Mother of the Redeemer Girls' Home

This is a home where girls can live until they are 18 years old. Some of the girls are orphans. Some of them have been brought here from the jungle or mountains for their personal safety by their parents. The girls are cared for by five Peruvian nuns. One of them, Sister Nelda, grew up in the girls' home herself.

The girls and Sisters live here full-time. There is a dorm for the girls, and a kitchen and dining room for their meals. There is a chapel for Mass and classrooms for their education. A volleyball court and gardens are outside. The girls love when missionaries come to visit and will usually put on a performance of song and dance.



You can participate in supporting the girls by "sponsoring an angel." A gift of \$100 goes into a fund that provides each girl with a gift for her birthday and for Christmas, and for other daily necessities.

Girls' Transitional Home

At age 18, girls leave Mother of the Redeemer Girls' Home and may go to live in this transitional home in the city of Piura. They may be working or attending school, and are helped to develop real world skills in preparation for independent living.

Mother of Good Counsel School

The K-12 school offers a challenging curriculum aimed at preparing future leaders for Peru. Yearly tuition and expenses per student are \$876.00 for kindergarten and elementary students, and \$884.00 for high school students. Classrooms (cost: \$4500) are added to the school as money becomes available. Donations are accepted to support the school and to provide scholarships for the students.

The school cherishes its relationship with its partners in the United States. A flag of the United States, made with the names of those who died on 9-11, hangs in the school. Each year on September 11 a memorial service is held there.

Women's Shelter

This residence offers a safe environment for abused women and their children. Assistance is provided for the process of reconciliation, if desired, or for establishing a separate home.

New Life Drug Rehab Center

The men's residential center offers therapy for recovery from drug and alcohol abuse through the 12-Step program. Residents may stay for up to one year, and may opt to participate in vocational training at the conclusion of the program.

Senior Center

The Senior Center provides a meeting space for seniors to get together for lunches, prayer groups, or to play games like bingo.

To learn more about Santísimo Sacramento, go to their website at <http://www.santisimo.org/>

Farmers

Santísimo Sacramento provides microloans to farmers in need. Rice farmers have formed a cooperative that has resulted in higher prices for their rice, improved farming and processing of the rice, and a market for their product in both South America and Asia. A \$1,000 donation will provide a loan for one farmer to plant and harvest his crop and earn future income for his family.

Santísimo Sacramento Medical Clinic

Within the Santísimo Sacramento church property a medical clinic offers general medical services, as well as care for pregnant women. Free medicines are dispensed to the poor. Occupational and physical therapy services as well as surgical facilities are available when medical missionaries visit.

Casa Construction

Since 1997, parish groups, individuals and families have come to Santísimo Sacramento Parish to share in the daily work for the poor. The parish staff is skilled in carpentry, and along with visiting missionaries, builds houses in the villages for the most needy. The cost to construct a bamboo home is \$550.



In-Home Tiendas

A "tienda" is an in-home store where staples are sold to neighbors in the community. The stores allow mothers to stay home with their families while earning a small income. Start-up cost for a tienda is \$300.

Los Ángeles Hospice

This home for terminally ill patients of limited financial resources was built by the family of Mark Redmond, whose construction company, Redmond Construction, built the Walgreens drugs stores. Mark received hospice care before his death from cancer, and asked his family to build a hospice in Piura after his death. The patients at Los Ángeles Hospice receive 24 hour/day care, and there are resources for the patients' families. A beautiful chapel is available for prayer and services, including funerals.

Santa Margarita Cemetery

In the past, when someone in the villages around the city of Piura died, the poor families often did not have enough money to pay for burial. The village as a whole would try to help: one family might sell a chicken and donate the money, another family another animal, and so on. Fr. Joe Uhen saw the need to help eliminate this financial stress at the time of such grief. The new Santa Margarita Cemetery opened earlier this year and serves the burial needs of the poor.

For questions about any of these ministries, please contact:

***Julie Beres (414) 333-6141,
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Parish Office at (262) 796-3940.***

Tax-deductible donations to any of the Santísimo Sacramento ministries may be made through Online Giving or checks made out to St. John Vianney Parish.