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WALKING WITH GOD'S PEOPLE



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In a Church with less religious vocations every day, the need for the laity to assume a more active role in the world and in the church, becomes stronger and stronger.

2 The current circumstances demand of us, not only to kneel and pray waiting for the miracle to happen, but to Be the miracle.

There are many people in the world who need a helping hand, a consolation hug, to be heard, who need a smile or a piece of advice, who need a few words of encouragement, in other words, they need the love of God.

But this is not a task that we could or should do alone, it is necessary to have the support and guidance of the religious brothers and sisters, to carry out this great mission, together.

We are all Church, and all of us, in a synodal way, must build the Kingdom. Sodality implies dialogue, recognition,

and respect of one another despite the differences, it implies disposal for learning; and above all, conversion. Synodal attitude involves cultivating our sense of belonging and responsibility as part of a larger community, the Congregation, the Church, humanity. The Magisterium of the Church is headed not only to believers or Catholics, but to men and women of good will. Sodality means to walk together, to let ourselves be carried away by the Spirit, to collectively discern the will of our God at every circumstance of our lives and our history, is to read together the signs of the times and to act to transform the world according to the will of our God.

The edition of the Bulletin of the Branch will reach our communities when the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean had been held in its present phase between November 22 and 28 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Mexico City. The region will live days of intense sodality, propitious time

to feel for the People of God who walk in history.

Encouraged by the prophetic magisterium and testimony of Pope Francis, let us be ready to walk, let us assume the challenges that arise from the discernment and be available to the calls that the Spirit makes to our community, while we live hard and demanding times, let us encourage hope.

These days have also commemorated the fifty years of the first edition of the work of the Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez, titled Liberation Theology, perspectives (1971). Let us give thanks for his theoretical and logical service and remind us of our God's preference for the poor or forgotten by history, as Pope Francis calls them.

Like SS.CC. we are committed to this joint mission, where all the members of the three branches (Brothers, Sisters, and Laity) walk hand in hand to contemplate, live and proclaim the love of God.

The Path to the Synodal Way

What's the contribution to God's People's path in Latin America that the charism and testimony of SS.CC.'s laity should give?

From our SS.CC. education

Not long ago, with a group of classmates we were just talking, once again, about how the SS.CC. influenced and the breadth of mind of its priests in our integral formation as persons. We were taught to think with our heads. We received a luxurious religious education that, in addition, vaccinated us against the fanatical fundamentalisms that abound around the world.

The Sacred Hearts marked our lives. With them we discovered the mystery of Christ through prayer; the pleasure of sharing with others and, in a particular way, with those most in need; and the importance of proclaiming God's love to the world, to our own lives.

This is what, as SS.CC. lay people, we offer along our walk of the People of God in Latin America, with the satisfaction of contributing to the construction of the Kingdom of God here on Earth from wherever each of us find ourselves.

Miguel Cárcamo Romero

Grupo Maná Community - SS.CC. "Hector de Cardenas"

Lima, PERU SECTOR



Walking together

In recent times, the Héctor de Cárdenas SS.CC. Community has played a fundamental role in the life of the "comuneros" (the members of the community), offering a virtual space of welcome. Around the eucharist, we have accompanied ourselves during painful moments of loss and times of social and political conflicts, but we have also rejoiced in the good moments and hope. We have learned to put everything in God's hands, to be thankful for the good, and to let ourselves be guided during complex moments.

In these times, a new group has been born, made by "those who didn't have a group", with the common interest of sharing our experiences,

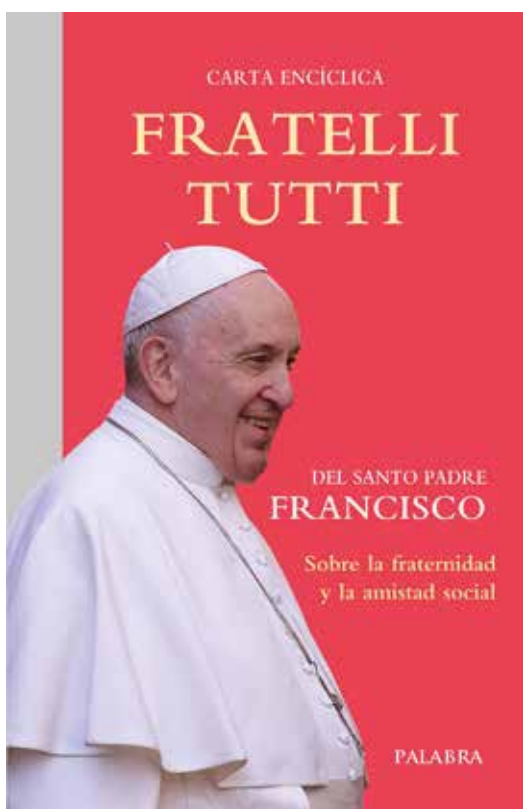


listening to each other, and recognizing Jesus in our lives. Therefore, we have called ourselves “Emmaus”, because our purpose is to walk together, to reflect about the great challenges of the world and to talk with Jesus, learning how to be his disciples. We have reflected on the existing violence in its structural, symbolic, physical, and psychological dimensions; in front of which we cannot remain silent and demands us participate more in citizen movements, because it is necessary to rebuild relationships based on the common good and trust. We are at a critical moment, in which the emergence of the pandemic has revealed deep inequalities in several issues.

From the charism of the Sacred Hearts, with plainness and family spirit, we choose to live together with one and other, in the places where we must be, building the foundations of a more solidary coexistence, supporting organized social movements, empowering people in the exercise of their rights, taking care of our planet. But that path implies listening, solidarity and action.

Veronica Alvarado

Emmaus Group – SS.CC. Community Hector de Cárdenas
Lima, PERU SECTOR



Forming committed young people

I started working at SS.CC. Recoleta school in 1986. From the first day, I felt that there was a special atmosphere that little by little I was getting to know. I learned to contemplate God’s love in everything around me, to live in the footsteps of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News.

We live in a completely convulsed world, especially in our country, where violence, corruption, health, political and social crisis are worrying. As Jesus disciples, we cannot be indifferent to these events that affect especially the most defenseless and unprotected people. Our mission must be focused on giving proposals that generate radical changes. As an educator, my commitment is to train children and young people who are convinced that the future of our country is in their hands, who are capable of being useful, of creating, of transforming, of being agents of change. May the values of respect, honesty, fortress, solidarity be their virtues, that will make them be at service of those most in need.

Pope Francis in his “Fratelli Tutti” encyclical tells us: *“No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together...”* This is how I feel my community, the place where we can share our concerns, set new challenges, and implement our projects for the benefit of the community.

From Yaoundé, Cameroon
Elizabeth Zapata

LEBAB Group – SS.CC. Community Hector of Cardenas
Lima, PERU SECTOR





Facing the challenge of the mission

In our Lay Community Nicolás Castel, we have reflected, at the beginning of the celebration of the first Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Assembly, on some issues that will be addressed there from the perspective “We are all Missionary Disciples Going Forth”. This phrase leads me to think of the beginnings of the spirit of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, in a moment like the French Revolution, men and women were carrying out the mission of evangelizing throughout the world.

Today, we the laity have taken steps, but we have concrete challenges to take on. One of them is to leave our comfort or habits to make possible the mission that, in these times, urges us to live. Another challenge is the mission of the laity in the Church, as we have understood lay people are salt and light of the world, and that we have an evangelizing role.

A contribution of the charism is to value the person. Men and women contributing to the same direction and having the same responsibilities. Being missionaries in the family, work, study, reality, and Church, is the greatest challenge; avoiding falling into activism, and without ceasing to live the experience of God from and with the other.

The contribution and testimony of laity from the Sacred Hearts charism is in strengthening community life. Faith is lived, shared, and strengthened in community; a place of fraternal interpellation, revision of our project of life and our concrete mission.

Nela Seminario

SS.CC. Community Nicolas Castel
Lima, PERU SECTOR

Welcoming Communities

The Sacred Hearts offer a way to feel accompanied in our project of life; whichever our calling is, there is a time and place for that answer to God: brothers, sisters, priests, and laity, all necessary to be part of a church that integrates and recognizes the importance of each member, to feel accepted from the simplicity of the community. It is through this experience of life that one then becomes reciprocal and develops a fraternal interest in the other, our capacity for wonder is sharpened, it turns to what surrounds him/her and surrounds us; we are living expectantly and committed to our society, because we believe that we are agents of change and soldiers of Christ.

The Sacred Hearts are a friendly welcome, where no one is perfect and where we are all called to be part of the Divine Plan, from a “fraternal correction” of our faults, and strengthening our virtues in Community.

We are all part of the Catholic Church, no matter our decisions, and choices. I consider it a real welcome, accepting our “human being”, knowing that we all have a mission from our vocation, work, and interests.

What the Sacred Hearts offer to the Church in these times, is to provide a place for each person’s call and to welcome it from God’s love to each one of its members, accompanying them in their process, in Community from Jesus and Mary Hearts.

With joy and transparency from what each person is, we welcome each other with our differences: social, economic and views. What unites us is that we are certain of the love that God has for each one of us and of how important it is to walk together.

Growing with Hope in the Spirit.

Sandra Romero

Community SS.CC. José Kuwae
Lima, PERU SECTOR

Open Communities

The social crisis that we have had to live in community because of the social isolation decreed at a global level, has marked a Before and an After in all our members, evidencing the need to walk together as a Church towards a common goal, evangelizing and being a witness to the teachings of God.

The experiences we shared as a community were very enriching, since, thanks to technology, we were able to shorten the distance that separates us, we were able to discern in a fraternal dialogue on the various topics discussed during our planned monthly meetings. One of the fruits that emerged from these working sessions was that of being able to participate as a community in the process of preparing for the next Ecclesial Assembly in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus contributing to the opinions of the laity being sent and channeled appropriately to the Preparatory Commission of the Assembly.

We are convinced that we have much to contribute for the benefit of the People of God, to whom we belong, and we will continue to work as Missionary Disciples Going Forth, united with the same motivation that impelled us to form the community to which we belong, guided by the Holy Spirit and the teachings left by our Lord Jesus, imitating him and striving to live our reality more coherently, eliminating our differences and seeking unity.

Emilia Maguiña

SS.CC. Community Mercy in Action

Lima, PERU SECTOR



Strength and solidarity



I was asked to write a text where, from the experience of our community, I would explain what contribution we could give to the Latin American Church. I kept thinking about what we had been living in these times of pandemic and this past Sunday (September 5th), in the Gospel of St. Mark, I heard the word “Effatha” (Open) was a passage from the Bible that made me think how closed we were to the cry of our sick brothers, for fear of the contagion of the virus, by locking ourselves, without listening their calling, marginalizing them from society. But in our meetings as a community we talked and discussed about it, we realized that in difficult times we tend to be weak at the circumstances, but that we should not be deaf to the needs of those who are our fellow human beings and we had to be, also, more supportive of them, strengthening our faith.

While we have all been affected by this illness, I believe that we could still carry our message of hope, our help with prayer, with economic solidarity, carrying the charism and spirituality of the SS.CC. where they needed us and that is what we had already been doing with the “Rosary of Waiting”, with food and economic assistance to families and the sick.

Mabel Enciso Arias

SS.CC. Community Marcel Tregouet

La Ensenada- Laderas Puente Piedra

Lima, PERU SECTOR

OTHER SECTORS



work, and in society in general. We are men and women of the Church in the service of the Kingdom and our greatest challenge will always be to be salt and light as much as needed. Certainly, it will be one more chance to better understand our identity, vocation, and mission in the Church. We are all Missionary Disciples Going Forth.

Health and peace!

To the Sacred Hearts, all honor and glory.

To be God's loving presence

The lay member of the Secular Branch of the Sacred Hearts is the Christian who embodies the characteristics of the charism of our Congregation, contemplating, living, and proclaiming the love of God incarnated in Jesus, living his spirituality, and sharing his mission. We are called to live our commitment, making ours the feelings of Jesus and Mary, to be the loving presence of God amid so many realities that cry out for love, compassion, and care. Through Eucharist and restorative adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we are nourished and strengthened spiritually to better serve and be leaven for the people of God.

This means that, from our baptismal vocation, as members of the same people, we are disciples of Jesus and living witness of the Gospel in the realities where we are; that is, in the family, at

Selma Perdigão

Father Eustáquio Community

Belo Horizonte -MG- SECTOR BRAZIL

Feeling with the People of God

In the light of the charism that summons us as a lay community, there are many challenges that we face, taking into account the current situation of the People of God who struggle to overcome injustices, disasters and pandemics, our testimony of being welcoming—as our founding fathers did from the first moment—must then be the greatest contribution that sprouts onto others; to see pain without passing by, to pray for the one who is far away and perhaps has lost faith.

Our congregational charism contributes from



being even more part of the feeling of the people, renewing itself in the midst of the resilience that begins to be engendered in our land, affected by fear and disease; it must also be given without measures and without limits, like the love of God who has incarnated in Jesus. Living in this way our sacred Hearts charism, the lay community is also invited to be a refuge of prayer for this people of which we are part, to live our reality as citizens, motivated by faith and hope, which is capable of enthusiast and enlivening a heart-to-heart relationship with our God. All of the above, moves us and invites us to walk as one, shoulder to shoulder in our Latin America, with our senses in the present and our hearts open; no one should be left out or feel alone. Feeling part of one nature and making them all part of it is, finally and without a doubt, our greatest contribution to the way as people of God.

Health and peace to our Latin America.

Daniela Palacios Roa

Lay Community Father Bruno Benati
Residence Mosquera, Cundinamarca – Pro
COLOMBIA sector

Working for social change

The Charism of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts is in the phrase: *“To Contemplate, Live and Proclaim the Compassionate Love of God In The World!”*; therefore, lay people’s testimony must be one of life, of service with love for fellow human beings, especially for brothers and sisters in need of solidarity, compassion and understanding and, above all, for those without the Spirit.

In this empty society, where the basic values of peaceful coexistence between brothers and sisters have disappeared, a society orphaned of the Divine presence, in their hearts; In the face of the imposition of new modern codes, I believe that the living presence of the example of the laity through its daily life adorned with simplicity, humility, the yearning for an existence without ties, solidarity, alien to the complicated pomposity to which the new modern lifestyle obliges, is imperative. with great faith in Jesus and Mary!

In addition, I propose that the contribution of the lay SS.CC. to the journey of the People of God in Latin America must be one of union at work and of being resolutely involved in a social change, through a life of prayer, and of an apostolic life with humanistic projection that leads to a change in the experiential conditions of its inhabitants, where there is a truly equitable standard of living in opportunities, which makes this thought “HOMO HOMINI LUPUS” disappear forever.

Mario Jimbo

Community Buena Madre
Cuenca – SECTOR ECUADOR



Living our lay spirituality

For me, the laity in general have not taken up for this reality: to live belonging to the Church and to engage in a dialogue with their faith and experience of life in all aspects: family, social, political, economic, cultural, etc. Baptism has not been taken as the fundamental sacrament that makes us all Church and not only think of a hierarchy or priests and religious.

Therefore, we as SS.CC. lay people, are called to live our spirituality, always and everywhere, to be sensitive to the problems of our day to day, to contemplate reality from a conciseness of equality, inclusion, respect and diversity of cultural expressions, to live as men and women of the Church, called to make decisions, to bear testimony to our priorities and to participate seriously in all areas, in the style of Jesus; to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom accompanied by concrete facts that allow the Spirit to continue to act in our present reality:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Lk 4:18-19)

It is time to act and consolidate an adult and responsible laity in Latin America, to be saints where we collaborate, to make our voice and vote known within the Church, to be leaders, opening paths from the family, social, and work environment; without fear of manifesting our SS.CC. spirituality, centered on merciful Love. To be committed to the transformation of history, attentive to the action of God like Mary, in a constant attitude of discernment, to denounce injustices and to offer any possible alternative to include the most disadvantaged, from our restorative vocation.

“Do not be afraid, always go forward, you cannot get hurt; will have scares, concerns, but in no way real impediments.” Good Mother

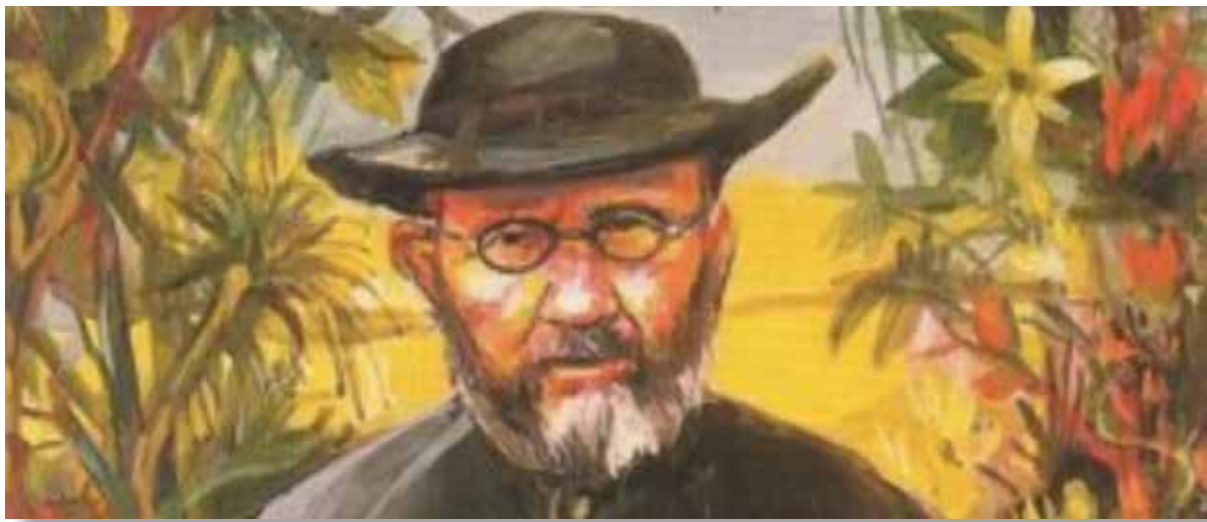
Lorena Martínez Mondragón
Comunidad “Siempre Unidas”
Tlaxcala – Pro sector MEXICO



To be testimonies of the Kingdom of God

The contribution of the committed laity of the Sacred Hearts Secular Branch in the path of the People of God in Latin America is to experience the Charism of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary: To contemplate, to live and proclaim the Merciful Love of God to all our brothers. Without distinction of creed, social position, ideologies, etc. in the places that each one develops. To be testimonies of the Kingdom of God, manifested in the way of living, of the commitment assumed, to work to be more just and more human, beginning at home, with the family—which the hardest because no one is a prophet in his land—at work, with friends, in the neighborhood, driving, traveling by bus, doing the shopping. Attentive to the social situations of the community, country, world, in unity with other people who fight for a world of justice, equity and brotherhood. Hence the importance of the contribution of the members of the Secular Branch to walk with the people of God, expanding the message of Jesus from the Gospel itself, without being only locked in the temples and parishes.

Myriam Comas de Gonzáles
Ignacio Barros Community
Asunción– PARAGUAY SECTOR



Towards ecclesial renewal

As Communities of the Secular Branch (Laity) of the SS.CC. in Concepción–Chile, we participated in the period of Listening and Preparation for the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Assembly. It was a very rich process, which allowed us to dialogue and share our observations and concerns about our Church and our beloved Secular Branch. As citizens of the world that we are, it was gratifying to note that the concerns most present in our communities were practically the same as those of other communities of our city not linked to the SS.CC., these being: the urgent need to move towards a welcoming, dialoguing, synodal church; clericalism as an obstacle to the development of this type of church; the great pain caused to the People of God by sexual abuse, power and knowledge exercised by priests and prelates of the Church; migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking, the main marginalized of today.

In relation to the question, we believe that it will emerge as a potential contribution to the walk of God's people by lay people and SS.CC. lay people, after having shared the period of listening and with the inspiration of "contemplating, living and announcing the love of God made flesh in the heart of Jesus", some ideas that are named below. First, the permanent prayer and reflection, individual and especially communal, on the global and local reality in the light of the Gospel, or what we call "reading of reality, discernment of the signs of the times". Based on the above, it follows the need to act accordingly,

committed to a culture of peace, kindness, and acceptance, writing, and sharing our reflections. Evangelization is another prioritized aspect, since the encounter with Jesus is the good news that liberates and humanizes us, and therefore it should be gratifying to communicate it, enhancing laity's formation in the community, both external and internal to the Secular Branch.

Finally, we think that we must move towards ecclesial renewal and return to the church of the first communities, where clergy and laity must go together and not in parallel. Go forward to new relationship with priests and SS.CC. religious, define needs for change, act with greater autonomy as lay people, incorporate renewed liturgical practices with greater lay participation and incorporate the women in decision-making roles. Finally, the call towards ecological integrity, being a critical community, denouncing environmental damage, waste of resources, consumerism, and practicing within our community life an attitude of respect and care for the work of God, inspired in *Laudato Si*.

Cinzia Gnudi

Pilgrim Community

Concepción – SECTOR CHILE

***The other communities with whom we shared the group work of the Listening period of the Ecclesial Assembly were: Hualpén, Camino and Sembradores.*

LET US MAKE A MESS!!!

SS.CC. Synod at Sight?



Daniel Gushiken

SS.CC. Community "Hector de Cardenas"

Last Saturday, October 9, the SS.CC. Secular Branch had the canonical visit of the provincial superior of the Andean Province of the Brothers (composed of Colombia, Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Peru), Fr. Hilvar Loyaga SS.CC. of Ecuador, accompanied by Fr. Franklin Astorga SS.CC., host of Peru. For the Secular Branch we were six lay people in person and another four virtually. It was an extremely pleasant and providential meeting. I had just met Hilvar and it was really a real pleasure, because of the immediate harmony of feeling like family, a classic characteristic in our Congregation.

We started the conversation by telling our story: how the Secular Branch was born in Peru from the first communities, a wonderful story that many already know; We remember the beginnings of the ELARS (Latin American Meetings of the Secular Branch), Hilvar reminded us of the presence that Manuel Lozano had in the General Chapter of 2018, something unprecedented in history, where three lay people SS.CC., with worldwide representation, participated in a chapter of Brothers and Sisters. Indeed, we were telling how the SS.CC. Secular Branch was entering the stage of the Congress, how we are building a place for the laity, encouraged by the Spirit and the charisms of our family.

Also, we shared that next month we celebrate 25 years since we made the first Promises: it was November 23, Good Mother's Day in 1996. These silver jubilee coincides with the celebration of the 1st Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean (from 21 to 28 November), which for us has been a time of active participation, in what has been the "time of listening", together with other lay people of the Table of Lay Movements (of which we are members with 13 other movements); also, sharing with other lay organizations of different charisms, thanks to the close coordination we have with the Episcopal Commission of Laity and Youth. An enriching event, of exchange in diversity.

This first ecclesial assembly confirms our synodal values and stimulates our lay vocation, the one that we have been germinating during this time, in a process of "less clericalism" towards more proactive and critical attitude in the Church, attentive to the call of God, building, pushing, approaching, inventing new spaces and places for the laity in the Church, in the Congregation. Today Pope Francis promotes sodality, taking up the values that Christ and the Spirit inspired the first communities (1 Cor 12). Hilvar pointed out that, coincidentally, while we were talking in Lima, in Rome the "Synod on Synodality" was opening, in a meeting with more than three thousand faithfuls, including delegates of the Episcopal Conferences, Cardinals, Bishops, priests, men and women religious, and laity, which will end in 2023.

Hilvar then called for reflection on the problems that afflict the Congregation like the decrease of vocations in the three branches and asked what we thought for the future, calling for a joint reflection of Laity, Brothers and Sisters... which led to a possible encounter between the SS.CC. of the three branches in several countries... an encounter with a flavor of a synod, together, as in the same boat, trusting in the Lord who calls us not to despair and to look with hope at the future. A craving for SS CC sodality remained in the air, where together we can breathe conversion and novelty, which may well be not only from the Andean province, but from the SS.CC. in Latin America.

From here, I make a call to embrace ourselves with sodality in all our countries, to become a pandemic among us and that we soon head towards a " SS.CC. Synod "



NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

Hector de Cardenas Community

The dynamics of the Héctor de Cárdenas community remain focused on the community Mass that had been every Sunday by Zoom, presided over by different Brothers ss.cc., and before which there is always a meeting of reflection with their advisor, Fr. Gastón Garatea. Of the eight reflection groups (small communities) that make up the Community, most are having meetings with increasing regularity. The newest of the groups, "Emmaus", formed during the pandemic, has taken advantage of the virtuality to include Giselle among its members (from Chile) and to ask Fr. Guillermo Rosas to advise them also from there. Several groups such as Pucllu, Maná or Lebab have begun to have face-to-face meetings in the local Community (rather hybrid meetings, with some members connected by Zoom); or they have decided on more frequent meetings, such as Wayki, which now meets biweekly. On Sunday, November 21, they had a virtual celebration with the Fr. Gaston for his 81 years. The community plans to celebrate its Christmas Mass in person on December 26 on the terrace of Juan Carlos' house. It will be the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that Gastón will preside over again.

12



Secular Community of Bethlehem

The time of pandemic has meant a period of trial and desert for the lay community, which had just added two new members at the end of 2019. In these two years, they have seen Pilar Maldonado leave for God's side; and they have also had to assimilate that, due to age and health, Blanca Pérez, Yolanda Hidalgo and Mery Ribeiro have definitively stopped attending. Feeling somewhat limited to virtuality, they stopped meeting for quite some time, but always tried to stay connected by phone, and some by WhatsApp. But difficult times pass and on November 16, birthday of the remembered Elsa Béjar, they had a first face-to-face meeting at Lida Solimano's house, to which they invited Cecilia Oblitas Béjar, Elsa's daughter; there they laughed and shared, paid tribute to Elsa's memory, commented on various topics and prayed together. They hope to have more regular meetings again and to have the presence of Mother Graciela again from next year, when they will resume their monthly meetings.



Nicolas Castel Community

The Community continues to meet virtually, with good attendance and participation, working on its schedule of issues. In September, they celebrated their 27th anniversary by thanking God for this Grace in prayer and sharing some videos (of singing, dancing or parody) that each had been prepared. In October they evaluated their personal and community life projects, sharing with freedom, depth, and availability. In November they talked about the Good Mother from the gender perspective and putting into context the cultural patterns of the time, in which Enriqueta Aymer was educated and trained, and how from her time in prison in the French Revolution her life experienced a point of rupture and conversion, moving from the "social life" of nobility to prayer and worship. Her personality, her deep faith and her leadership were highlighted, working on the question: What is the message to the woman of our time? Community members are doing well, although some have gone through health problems. Some work in person and others remotely. Always in the conversations is present their concern for the country and society. There is a lot of expectation for the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America, for which they worked through some notes and made their contribution. The next meeting will be in December to celebrate Christmas and offer the Lord everything he has experienced this year and ask him to renew his faith, hope and commitment to work for his Kingdom.



Nicolás Castel Community, Lima Perú

José Kuwae Community

Given the intense activity of their members, the JK have already become accustomed to a rather sui generis dynamic: they meet approximately every two months, but not on previously agreed dates or according to a precise frequency, but when one of the members summons the others, feeling the need for listening, support, the discernment and prayer of the community; in other words, when they ask for it, the community meets immediately (usually on the same day). On the other hand, each morning communicates through their WhatsApp group to ask each other how they are, and thus be accompanied and strengthen each other.



José Kuwae Community, Lima Perú

Father Eustachian Community

After a few months of very frequent meetings, the community has lowered the frequency a bit. Currently, they are meeting once a month, always virtually. Of course, the topics that were proposed and programmed at the beginning of the year continue to be worked on, very consistently. In their last meeting, they worked on the theme of death: what is the Christian vision of it, the different ways of processing it when it happens to someone close, the importance of preparing for that moment. Next month they will have their Christmas reunion together with the community Mercy in Action.



Father Eustachian Community, Lima Perú

Community Mercy in Action

The community maintains its rhythm of meetings, always virtual, although recently they have gone from their traditional Saturdays to Wednesdays, responding to the request of a member who is in a training process on the weekends. Their last two meetings were on the progress in the Latin American Ecclesial Assembly (with material provided by his advisor, Manuel) and on the value of the Eucharist in our lives (prepared by Claudia). At the end of the year, they will have their Christmas meeting with the Padre Eustaquio community.

Marcel Tregouet Community

In recent months, the Marcellin's have sought to restart face-to-face meetings and had a beautiful reunion at the home of Mabel and Sergio. However, since most of them have very intense pastoral responsibilities in the parish, it's difficult for them to meet again on weekends; and since the working hours and the presence to which several have returned do not allow them to meet in person on weekdays, they have decided that their next meeting will be virtual again. They hope to find a balance in this regard now that the pastoral care of the year is coming to an end.

Marcela de Taboada Community

This community has barely formalized its presence in the coordination of communities and will soon make, in a Mass, its commitment to the Community, but they have been meeting for two years in a process that has been accompanied by Sister Juanita Gomez. All of them belong to the pastoral team "Heart of Jesus" of parents of family of the Bethlehem School. There is also another community in formation, coming from the pastoral team "Heart of Mary", which is being prepared precisely by the nascent Community Marcela de Taboada.



Community Mercy in Action, Lima Perú



Marcel Tregouet Community, Lima Perú



Marcela de Taboada, SS.CC.

PROMISES CEREMONY AND MASS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECULAR BRANCH



Juan Carlos Townsend
Communauté ss.cc. “Héctor
de Cárdenas” – Groupe
Lebab

On Sunday, November 21, at noon and in the Chapel of the SS.CC. Sisters in Bethlehem, a very significant Eucharist was held for the SS.CC. Secular Branch in Peru. For the first time together in a long time, since the beginning of the pandemic, members of the different lay communities SS.CC. celebrated 25 years since the first group made its promises in a similar Eucharist in the Church of Recoleta (Plaza Francia), just on the day of the Good Mother, thus beginning the Peru Sector of the Secular Branch.



The celebration was very heartfelt. Franklin Astorga, animator of the Peru area of the Andean Province of the Brothers, presided over and José Serrand, advisor of the SS.CC: Secular Branch, concelebrated with him. Daniel Gushiken gave a beautiful testimony of these 25 years of walking as a sector.

But, in addition, that same day seven new members of the Secular Branch made their first promises. One of them was Sandra Romero, a member of the José Kuwae Community. The other six, from the Héctor de Cárdenas Community, although from different reflection groups: Rosa María Espinoza and

Fernando Moltaván, from the Prayer group. Roger Liy, from Maná. Vania Híjar, from Pucllu, and Verónica Alvarado and Giselle García-Hjarles, from Emmaus. Giselle, in addition, experienced a new situation: despite living in Chile, she participates in a Peruvian community and wanted to become part of the Secular Branch from the Peru Sector, so she made her first promises virtually, connecting from Santiago de Chile, accompanied in person by Claudia Metz (national coordinator in Chile of the secular branch), Mario Salas (religious advisor of the RS in Chile), and Guillermo Rosas (advisor of its reflection group). The new promises were received by Xavier Salinas, national coordinator of the sector, who was accompanied by Susana Villarreal, territory coordinator of the Sisters in Peru-Brazil-Mexico-Bolivia and Franklin Astorga, animator of the Peru area of the Andean Province of the Brothers.

The Eucharist was full of signs, such as the offering of Lorena Huaco, representing in an Inca-style tapestry the Secular Branch and the lay communities. After mass, there was a joyful agape in the gardens adjacent to the chapel.



THANKS

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