

PERU COMMISSION REPORT

MAY 2020

Here is hoping that you are well and that the ravages of COVID 19 have not too adversely affected your immediate families, friends & communities. So far the parishes here in Dewsbury & Batley Carr have suffered but not overwhelmingly. People are being constructive even if now they are a little frustrated with everything & many express a desire to get back into their beloved churches. It has been tricky not being able to offer Mass publicly and



hope for the day soon when the churches can be open again.

Thanks to the work of Terry & his friends in the Diocese we may be able to make some progress as regards to the distribution of the funds available. I present here a brief summary of the situation in Perú & projects supported.

The funds we have to distribute are will go some way to help our friends in Lima. I have no doubt that those of us who can are finding other money to send to Perú to supplement that collected last Advent. We should be able to have another collection this coming Advent though I do not anticipate it will exceed that of 2019. People have been drained by the lockdown & may find it difficult to find funds for projects overseas.

The fundraising streams we had before were losing support & would not have been able to occur this year anyway due to social distancing. We may have thoughts about how to thank those people in Leeds who have given up so much of their time & effort to raise funds over the years.

I include photos from my time in Peru this year before the virus changed things.

THE SITUATION IN PERÚ

The situation in Perú varies over the vast nation. As ever it is affected by age, living conditions & economic status.

In Lima the lock down has been enforced by the police & military and has really affected the ability of people to work. The economy of many is in pieces, especially day labourers. The government is providing a meagre hand out to the poorest families but barely enough to keep the wolf from the door. It is being assumed by the medical teams in the hospitals that admissions are likely to be infected with coronavirus.



Outside of Lima the situation seems worse. Most if not all the best medical facilities are concentrated in the capital. In parts of the rainforest, life has been torrid. In Iquitos, hospital facilities were quickly overwhelmed and it seems that many were sent home without any treatment. A lot of people have died at home or even on the street

and the real toll of this health emergency may never be known. The price of medicines has shot up as some have tried to take advantage of the situation and money to buy food has been scarce. The local church has been involved in a successful scheme to provide oxygen for the hospitals as the bottling plants could not provide the gas to accommodate the need.

SISTER MILLIE

Sister Millie remains in Stella Maris. Flor & her erstwhile colleagues & neighbours have been given papers so that they cross the city to sit with her. Whilst it would seem that coronavirus has been kept out of the hospital, life will be especially disorientating for Millie at the moment as she & her friends & the hospital staff are required to wear masks & take extra care with regards to infection control.

Both Mgr Peter Rosser and myself visited Millie when we were in Lima this year. Sister Barbara & Sr. Anne Marie were due to fly out in March this year but had to change their plans. The flights have been held over until such time as it is safer to travel.

SIDA VIDA

Cathal has informed me that **Sida Vida** is distributing food to the very poor. In response to the fragile situation in Venezuela, Perú received a number of its destitute citizens fleeing over the border. Many have taken up residence in Lima and have operated as day workers, washing car windscreens and the like. With the coronavirus, much casual labour has been disrupted; the people are often without papers and in crowded accommodation.

Sida Vida got involved with them as a number of those who arrived in Lima were HIV positive & were without medicine. Cathal wrote to me to say that they were distributing S/.100 to one hundred of them. That is about £25 each making a contribution of roughly £2,500. It will be a little help for a little while. I think we should get some funding to them.

HANOPREM



Mgr. Peter Rosser visited Lima this February & did much to help **Hanoprem** seek a sure footing for the future. He arranged high-level meetings between Graciela, himself & officials in the various state departments who are associated with health care. Some institutions similar to Hanoprem enjoy a protected status, which allow them to be funded &

operated according to their individual management plan. This idea has long been mooted as an ideal & some progress towards this goal was made. However, the shutdown may not favour a resolution to this.

The six members of the Hanoprem family need security & loving care. This is not always a given & Peter worked hard to ensure that the care in Hanoprem provided by the carers continues to be of a high standard. The health of some of the family members is failing & so additional care may be required over time. Almost all of the day-to-day responsibility falls on the shoulders of Graciela. She is aware that the Perú Commission will not always be able to provide significant funding & so the need is great to make sure that the house is secure into the future.

THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



I am in regular contact with the University Students.

During lockdown they are studying online, timetables changed.

Perhaps some will have their studies extended a few months or a year.

Señora Carmen Alomía holds the money granted the students. I have

sanctioned some extra payments for those who have been struggling at home when their parents have no income at this time. In addition to these students, I try & support some other families who are struggling using gifts received for baptisms & other donations.

Those supported in their studies are listed below.

Regina	ALVEREZ
Estrella	SANTILLANA
Mariele Anggie	CANCHARI ERAZO

Joan	ORTIZ
Germayori	NAVARRO
Alex	NAVARRO
Alexis	ANDRADE

**Martin
Jhan Carlos**

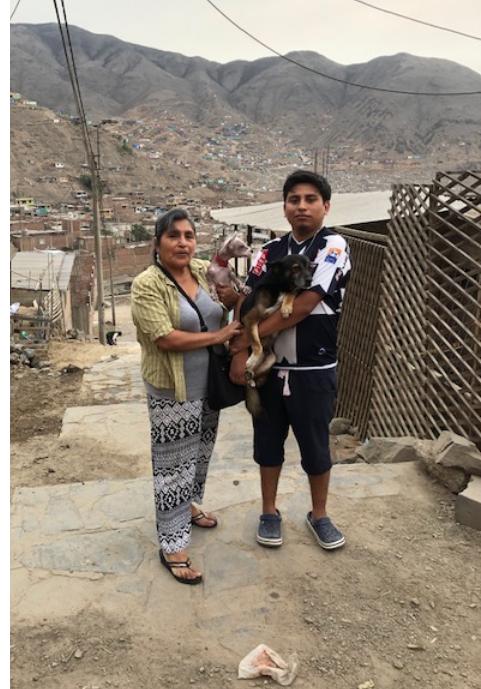
**BAZALAR
BAZAN ACUNA**

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

The Peru Commission funds to distribute stand around £19,000, including a small donation of charity vouchers recently added to the total.

This figure does not include £5,000 that has already been allocated to the nine students to cover them for the start of this academic year. They will need more support to complete the year. One thousand pounds each will not cover all their costs but will help them study as I hope an equal amount per person will help our family at Hanoprem.

The amount we have to distribute is reduced from last year when we had the advantage of a legacy.



Could I suggest the following allocation?

Sister Millie

- to help pay for her care & expenses of her visiting carers £ 3,000

Sida Vida

- for their fundamental work & funding the poorest £ 6,000

Hanoprem

- to help care for our family of six £ 6,000

University Students

- to help them complete the academic year £ 4,000

Total Distributed £19,000

Please give me your thoughts & hopefully we can get the money on the way to where it is needed soon.

Jonathan

Rev. Jonathan Hart