



# FRIENDS

The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle

JANUARY 2024



## Sharing God's Love...

*Dear Friends,*

In the May issues of 'Friends' we introduced our newest member, Fr. Nilton Imán Chero, of the diocese of Chimbote, Peru. I have known Fr. Nilton since he was a seminarian. When I joined the St. James Society back in 2004 my first assignment was to San Luis Gonzaga parish in Chimbote, Peru. Nilton and several other seminarians were assigned to our parish for their pastoral placement, and I was present for his Ordination to Priesthood in 2008. So, I was especially delighted to welcome Fr. Nilton as a member of the St. James Society. He has been assigned to El Resucitado Parish, in the Diocese of Chosica, on the east side of Lima.

*Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.*





Coincidentally, I was the founding Pastor at El Resucitado back in 2006, so again I am delighted that Fr. Nilton is continuing the very important ministry and outreach there. The metropolitan Lima area currently has a population of some thirteen million people, and it is divided into five dioceses. The St. James Society maintains a presence in three of these dioceses: Carabayllo, Lurín, and Chosica. The parish of El Resucitado is located within the Diocese of Chosica.



Currently the parish has thirteen areas or communities where we celebrate Mass and the Sacraments. The population is somewhere in excess of 100,000 people, which is not unusual in a mission parish. In some of those areas we are fortunate to have proper church buildings, in others we continue to celebrate Mass on the street or in the local community center, if permission is given to us by the locally elected governing body. Fr. Nilton comes to us with a wealth of experience as a priest and missionary. He has a particular interest in youth ministry, and I know the youth at El Resucitado are delighted to have him minister among them. In this issue Fr. Nilton updates us on all that is going on in his new assignment:



**For** the past eleven months, I have been working at the Parish of El Resucitado in the Diocese of Chosica, Lima, Peru. It has been a very rewarding time for me because I am continually learning new things and experiencing new activities each day. I am busy visiting parish communities,





celebrating Masses and I also participate in numerous prayer groups. It is through all this work, that I feel and witness God's presence; His strong presence inspires me to continue moving steadily forward in mission work.

My priestly ministry continues to reinforce God's influence in our lives. He is showing me miraculous experiences, reflected in the joy of people's faces.

This strengthens my conviction to keep following Jesus on the path He has marked out for me and for all those around us, who contribute to the growth of His kingdom in the world. Throughout my mission work, I have accompanied many parishioners in various activities. I've been heavily involved (over the past eleven months) with our youth ministry.

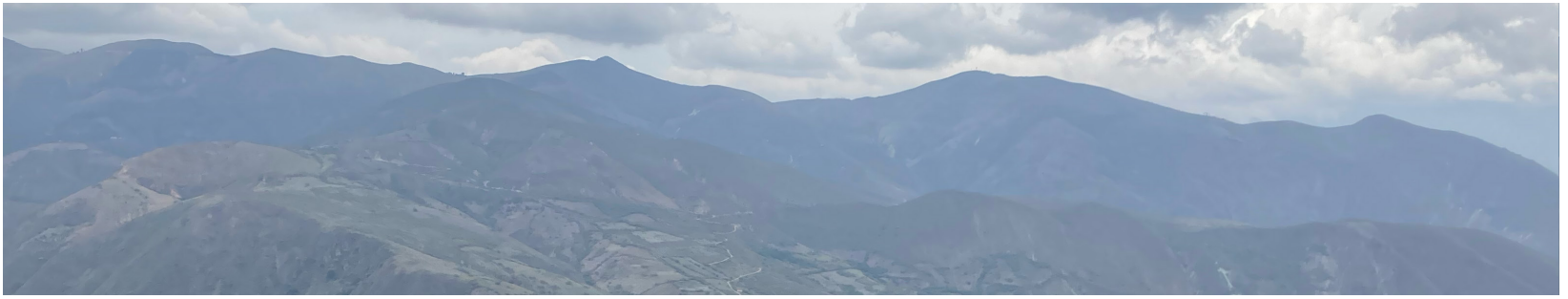


I really enjoy this work; we just concluded our busiest time of the year, in December. At El Resucitado, there were 130 young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Some of them also received the Sacrament of Baptism and their First Holy Communion. The First Holy Communion were celebrated on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is both a Holy Day and a civil holiday in Peru.



In 2024, I will continue to be involved with youth ministry and with their social and spiritual formation. These formation programs fully support our parish pastoral plan and help develop a strong firm base for our youth group. Part of the formation includes youth catechetical programs. We want to encourage our youth to take more leadership and responsibility with parish activities. They are, after all, the future of our Catholic Church!





While I focus on the youth, I also spend quite a bit of time with the adults too. I like to work with the adult formation programs, especially those adults who are learning to become catechists and will eventually help lead the parish catechesis programs. We are blessed here at El Resucitado to have so many energetic and dedicated volunteers! One of our recent celebrations was held on November 2, when we celebrated the First Anniversary of the “Club Adulto Mayor” (a group specifically for the seniors in our parish). We gathered together to mark this important anniversary. There is always so much to do in mission ministry! I am regularly visiting the sick at their homes and in the hospital. Each week, I go out to visit the sick and elderly in the parish to bring Holy Communion and celebrate the Sacrament of The Anointing of the Sick. Occasionally, I will hear them whisper a thank you prayer immediately after the

sacrament - *“Thank you, Lord, for sending this priest”*. Hearing such humble and grateful words from the sick, truly inspires and motivates me to continue serving God and working hard each day. God is inviting me to know Him and share His love and faith with others wherever I go. I would like to say thank you to God for the awesome privilege he has given me to serve Him in the mission. I also want to thank you, our benefactors, who continue to support the Society of St. James, which enables our mission priests to work and evangelize in Peru. Finally, I thank the Society of St. James for giving me the opportunity to continue my ministry and to write about my mission in this newsletter. ~ Fr. Nilton Imán Chero.

As we give thanks to God at this special time of year, for family and friends, let us give thanks especially for all that has been during 2023 and we look forward in hope to 2024.

*With Every Good Wish in Christ,*

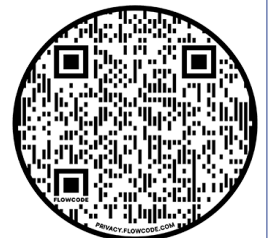
*Rev. David Costello, Director*



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