



Feed a Person for \$50 a Year in Alto Cayma

The Parish of “Blessed Therese of Calcutta”, which is run by the Missionary Society of St. Paul, is found on the outskirts of the city of Arequipa, Peru, at an altitude of 8,858 feet above sea level. The area itself is called “Alto Cayma”, and is made up of 25 settlements and 9 mountain villages totaling a population of around 32,000 people altogether.

Most of the people are immigrants coming down from mountain villages scattered all over the Andes Mountains from the north to the south of the country. The people are mostly Quechua Indian descendents, and their economic condition ranges from poor to very poor. Though some of the people are educated and some are even professionals, the vast majority have had very little education and some can even be considered illiterate. Very few people have had vocational training, so most of them hire out as day laborers. They find work an average of 3 to 4 days a week and earn from \$2.00 to \$5.00 a day, barely enough to enable their family to survive another day. As a result of this economic situation, there are a great number of people who are either undernourished or malnourished. Those who suffer most are the children and the elderly.

To counter this situation the Parish has organized 2 kitchens that are presently serving 650 people each day. The kitchen gets support in the form of a ton of food every month from the Prescott School in Arequipa. This very important support equates to food for 10 days every month, with the exception of January through March when the students go on vacation. The people themselves also contribute s/.1.00 (one Peruvian Sol, or around 30 U.S. cents) towards the cost of their daily meal. This is as a general rule, but there are exceptions. Around 100 people, most of whom are very old people with grandchildren they are caring for, pay nothing at all. Another 60, most of whom have very large families, pay just half a Peruvian Sol (around 15 U.S. cents). The money contributed by the people helps to buy meat and vegetables from the market every Saturday. Support is needed so that more people may be included in the food program. Out of the 32,000 population in the area at least 5,000 are in need of food. If support is not given to extend the food program many people will still not have their daily bread secured.

Between the food which is donated and the contributions of the people themselves, the cost of the food itself is basically covered. That leaves the cost of the cooks’ wages, fuel for the stoves, and fuel for the van which delivers the food to be paid out of parish funds which could otherwise be used for additional worthwhile purposes. These costs work out to an average of \$50.00 per year per person included in the program.

The Parish of “Blessed Therese of Calcutta” is inviting generous people who have the means to do so to make a one-time donation of \$50.00 to complete the funding of one person’s meals for a whole year. Procedures for making the donations are available locally.

Thank you in the name of all the poor who depend on the Parish Kitchen. May the Almighty God richly bless you and all your loved ones.

United in one mission of service,



Other help that is being given to the community by the "Parish of St. Therese of Calcutta"

A Child Care Center for a 100 children from months old to 5 years. The children receive attention from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm. The program includes all the day's nutrition, medical care, education, an early stimulation program, some clothing and lots of love.

Care for the Elderly. At present we are attending around 130 elderly people with visits by volunteers, a daily meal, medical care, and whatever is needed. The Parish is also helping around 20 of the elderly with the washing of cloths. Every Friday they have a meeting to which around 60 attend regularly.

A Medical Center that has been inaugurated 4 years ago and up to date has almost 7,500 medical histories and over 28,000 visits.

A Knitting Workshop giving training and sale possibility to an important number of women to support their families. So far over a 100 women have been trained.

A Handmade Cards Workshop in which a group of young women are being trained in various techniques to produce and sell cards.

A new Wood Working Workshop has just been organized for boys giving them training and hopefully an opportunity for a better future.

There is also a Computer Center with 12 computers to give the community an opportunity to learn and be introduced to technology.

A Child Sponsorship program in coordination with CFCA (Christian foundation for Children and the Aging) in which at present there are 295 children sponsored. Children are supported with a daily meal, education, medical care, clothing and other needs.

A second Child and Elderly Sponsorship program called "Acercándonos" (coming together) is presently sponsoring 59 children and 45 elderly. Especially in the case of the elderly, the

program provides access to medical care and medications besides a whole variety of other needs.

Volunteers come to the Parish to support the various programs that exist. They may be individual volunteers as they may come as an organization, such as University teachers and students, Medical organizations, Churches, Rotary International, and other groups.