



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



What do you know about human trafficking? Is it happening around you or in your country? There are so many questions to ask. Our Congregational Chapter has

stressed this problem as something we should address in our work to serve across our borders. Do you think it is realistic?

Our previous regional animator, Sister Liette Finnerty, had asked us to address this problem. A group of associates and I had accepted enthusiastically. A woman religious from another congregation came to help us in our formation. Sister Lia had given us all the necessary materials and she had also prepared support materials to spread the message.

At one parish, ten groups of parents of children attending one primary (1,000 pupils) and three secondary schools were made aware of this issue. At another parish, eight secondary schools were visited and were provided the information; in total, we attended ninety-three classes and the students as well as the staff had shown interest and were collaborating during these sessions.

They all already had some knowledge about the aspects of this awful reality: the recruitment, transfer, transportation, harboring, coercion, abduction, fraud... These are just some of the practices used by the traffickers.

During our presentation we used a twenty-minute video showing a concrete and at the same time frequent example: a young woman of seventeen consents to having sex with her loved one and, upon his insistence, she later accepts to do 'what the hotel guests will ask of you'... sex. Her lover then takes her to a brothel without her accepting the 'job'.

The discussions we had with students and parents clearly accentuated prevention. Between 2008 and 2014, there were 2,685 registered victims in Peru only: 9% were minors and 86% of these were girls. In the case of adults, 98% are women. The sentence for various kinds of human trafficking in Peru varies between twelve and twenty years in prison. In special cases, it can be up to twenty-five years.

The ultimate goal of a trafficker is the money.

As a congregation, let's be vigilant in this new form of slavery and let's keep working along with the Risen One informing the public about this social problem.

Elena López and Celina Martel, CSC

Canto Grande, November 2017

A SPECIAL VISIT TO HOLY CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

On a very windy November morning, our car just happened to pull into the parking lot of the Holy Cross Early Childhood Center. As we looked into the back seat there were three baskets filled with school supplies to be delivered to the Center.

Approaching the front door and ringing the doorbell we were greeted by one of the teachers. Coming out of the classrooms from different directions the children were directed to sit on the floor in front of us. The baskets were placed on the floor in front of them and each child was asked to pull an item from the basket – wide-eyed and smiles on their faces, they had paints and brushes, sidewalk chalk and holders, crayons, construction paper, glue sticks, jump ropes, notebooks for the teachers and many more items that could be used either outside or in their classrooms.

Our thanks to the Director and the teachers for a warm welcome and letting us take up some of their time.

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PERPETUAL VOWS OF Sisters Élodie Guiré et Jacqueline Kaboré

There is a proverb that assures us *"That the eve of a celebration declares the beauty of the morrow!"* The ceremony and the feast that followed after the Mass were indeed delightful! That being because during the weeks prior, the lay parish council (CPL) in collaboration with the sisters saw to the preparation and organization of the event. Several commissions gathered by experienced people guaranteed that all would be well.

On the evening of September 15, our sisters and the parishioners experienced a time of prayer and of recollection. Meaningful reflections, hymns, and blessings permitted the assembly to anticipate the sacred moment of Elodie's and Jacqueline's final commitments to the following of Christ, in Holy Cross.

On September 16, the invited guests faced heavy rainfall and accompanied Jacqueline and Elodie on this special day. Two bishops (Msgr. Leopold and Msgr. Kontiebo from Tenkodogo), twenty or so priests, and forty or so religious men and women, some participants from Sikasso, and of Yako, Sister Elodie's birthplace, and of Poutenga, birthplace of Sister Jacqueline, and parishioners of several dioceses also honored this celebration.

For the dinner, the guests savored a delicious meal prepared by the commission in charge of the catering. Sisters of our community saw to the decorations of the reception hall and to the serving of the food.

All this to say that the feast was splendid! We felt the presence of the sisters throughout the Congregation, having received messages from so many. Our thanks to all who accompanied us during this event. We were in communion with the sisters of the Region of Haiti and of Sister Ninive who pronounced her perpetual vows on the very same day. This celebration united us as our hearts were beating in unison. May this union of hearts continue to beat day after day.
In gratitude,
Marie Claude, CSC



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