



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sisters celebrate 50 years of joyful witness in Peru

A mission of hope, love and solidarity

Halifax, NS, September 26, 2018 — On October 4, 1968 the Sisters of Charity Halifax began a mission of evangelization and solidarity with the people of Peru that would span the communities of La Victoria in Chiclayo, Cajamarca, Lima and Ilo. 50 years later, the Sisters could have never imagined the jubilation and excitement leading up to the golden celebration for October 13, 2018.

The Sisters of Charity Halifax's mission was in response to Pope (Saint) John XXIII's request to serve and evangelize the Global South. Priests from the Archdiocese of Halifax - Yarmouth, as well as priests and lay missionaries from the Scarborough Foreign Missions Society, joined the Sisters as they spread the charism of charity to the Peruvian people. The Sister's mission in Peru included 38 people with 19 Sisters, 7 Halifax priests, 1 Oblate priest, 3 Scarboro priests, and 8 lay Scarboro missionaries.

The mission provided life-enriching experiences to all who served. "I experienced joyful witness as I never envisioned I would", recalls Sister Cecilia Hudec, SC, missioned 11 years in Peru spanning 1979 to 1990. "The most profound experience of the mission were the relationships I created with the Peruvian people, especially as I witnessed their unwavering love of God" Hudec adds.

Father James (Jim) Richards, Parish Priest of St. Peter Roman Catholic Church in Dartmouth, NS, joined the Sisters mission in the years 1973 to 1978. "From learning a new language, building churches, and being present as Peruvians worshipped, nosotros acompañamos (we accompanied in Spanish) the Peruvians in their faith journey", reminisces Richards. "I had a sense of adventure and an almost romanticized vision of being a missionary priest. The opportunity to serve in Peru has had an extraordinary impact on my life's ministry, central to my baptismal and priestly vocation", says Richards.

The 50th anniversary celebration is in San Jose Obrero Church, La Victoria on Saturday, October 13, 2018. Many Sisters who served on the mission will celebrate with friends, family, Peruvian friends and parishioners from the four areas in Peru where the Sisters served. For more information, visit schalifax.ca or see the Sisters of Charity Halifax [Facebook](#) page.

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ABOUT THE SISTERS OF CHARITY HALIFAX: The Sisters of Charity Halifax is a congregation of Catholic women religious with a mission to give joyful witness to love: the love of God, of one another, and of all persons. The Sisters have ministered in education, health care, and social services in Canada, USA, Bermuda, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Africa since 1849. The Sisters of Charity Halifax founded the Halifax Infirmary and Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, N.S., the first degree-granting institute for women in the Commonwealth. Learn more at schalifax.ca.

Media Contacts

Peru

Catherine Conroy, SC - Sisters of Charity - Halifax
kconroycaridad@gmail.com / 011 51 857 269 7640

Gladys Fernandez, Chair – 50th Anniversary Committee
fglady29@gmail.com / 011 51 944 605 835

Canada

Angela Rafuse, MBA
Executive Director, Sisters of Charity - Halifax
arafuse@schalifax.ca / 902 457 3549