## **OUR LIFE IN HUAMALI**



This is the church of Huamali with 'La plaza' in front of the church. Behind the church is our house, not visible here. The lower photo shows a typical village street.



WRITTEN BY SR. MONIKA MROSEK

Dear Sisters and Friends,

I could not find a way to send you all our beautiful photos we took about our life and work in Huamali. So, I decided to send you some information about our life and mission work to share with you our experiences and life at the country side.

I traveled by bus from Lima to Huamali on Monday, January 22nd. The trip normally is about 6 hours, but ours lasted 9 hours because of some street work on the way. It exists also the possibility to fly from Lima to Jauja. (a flight of 55 min.) We had to cross the mountains, about 5000 m. altitude. Our village **Huamali** has an altitude of about 3050 m. There are some modern houses but most of them are build of adobe. People live with there animals in their houses. Men often work

in the nearby mines and come home only on weekends. Women work on the fields and take care of the children and animals. On the streets we often can see cows, donkeys and sheep. Not to forget the many dogs who belong to each house. Religious and social customs are very important and celebrated. On Feb. 2nd people cele-



brated 'La Virgen de la Candelaria" Women and men came with their colorful vestments to have a special Mass and after Mass they had a

procession and presented dances in front of the church in **Jauja**, this is the district city. Here in Huamali the people will celebrate pretty soon "Fiestas de Carnival" Also with Mass, and with parades, dancing, drinking and colorful masks and dresses. Family members who live in other cities come back to their home town for

this celebration. Here the pace of life goes much slower and people live connected with their families, their animals and with the nature.

## Now I want to tell you about our vacation program:

We, the Sisters in the community of Huamali—Maria Cristina, Renee, Marivel, Milvia (Maria Cristina's Sister and her husband Hianderry, and I hosted for about 25 days 65 to 75 children and we had different programs from Monday to Friday, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

The children had time for exercise and sport, the had a cooking program called 'Mini chef" and we made all kind of hand craft with them.

## The photos will speak more them my words:

During the exercise program the boys practiced soccer and the girls volley ball. These exercise covered the first 90 minutes. Then they had some re-

Here we see Sister Renee with the Altar girls and boys, resting after they planted 25 little pine trees.



freshments and Sr. Renee opened her little store for them, so the kids could buy some home made ice cream, jell-o gelatine, or cookies. Then we had a variety of different programs, you will find images captured in our photos.



With the altar girls and boys and with the kids of the vacation programs we had two projects to plant 85 pine trees. The theme was : "We plant Pine trees and we protect the nature and we care about to have water in the future."









Sr. Maria Cristina made with the girls beautiful dolls. The girls learnt to use the sewing machine. They have been very eager to finish their dolls and worked over time and also continued at home. Every girl finished her doll and gave her a name.

With Teacher Alfredo and with Milvia, Maria Cristina's sister - the boys and girls had every day sport and exercise activities. The boys liked to practice and to play soccer and the girls practiced volley ball., outside on a sport field.







The kids loved the cooking classes. They prepared: Tortilla Espanola, potato salad, fruit salad, vegetable salad, cookies, an orangecarrot cake, sandwiches, rice with vegetables and barbecue sticks.





Here we can see one of the proud Mini Chefs with his art work.

The girls are waiting to receive the recipe for their cookies.









We worked together to build a little dog puppet and we also decorated stockings to have Muppets.

It was amazing to see younger kids to learn how to sew and to experience their energy when they were working together. The last day of our vacation program was on Monday, February 13th. We ended with an exposition of all our art work and of some dishes at the market place. Parents, children, teachers and villagers could see and enjoy all the nice things, which the children had made during these weeks:

Dolls, puppets, Valentine cards, stones with painting, key chains, earrings and many photos of our activities. The kids also sold recipies, cookies, cake and barbecue sticks.

These weeks have been a wonderful experience for all of us. Now it was time to prepare the house for our visitors, Sr. Maria, Sr. Mary Francis, Sr. Liberata, Sr. Rosa, and the translators, Sr. Carmen and Sr. Bernita.

## These are the e-mail addresses of our Sisters in Peru:

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