

# JPIC Notes

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## **WHY DIDN'T WE DO WHAT HE TOLD US TO? RACISM IN THE CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Sister Anita Baird, DHM, will be coming to the Notre Dame Center in Chardon, OH for a presentation on racism in the Catholic Church and religious life. SND USA and the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland are co-sponsoring this event.

Sr. Anita speaks on racial justice around the country and has served in many roles in the Archdiocese of Chicago, including the first African American to serve as Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of Chicago, and the founding director of the Archdiocese's Office for Racial Justice. She has served in leadership in her congregation as Regional Superior, Provincial Councilor and US Provincial. Sr. Anita has served as a leader in the National Black Sisters' Conference.



The SND USA Corporate Stance Against Racism and the Ursuline Anti-Racism Statement calls us to continue to build awareness around the realities of racism and learn more about the role of the Church and communities of women religious in the oppression of Black people, Indigenous people and People of Color. Our statements also ask us to discern the role of religious congregations in atonement and reparations. This event will help us take some first steps in a deeper understanding of this call.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm EDT. This time was chosen based on Sr. Anita's availability. There will be in-person and virtual options and it will be recorded, so that those who may not be able to attend can view it at a later time.



**Visit our website and learn more about the SND USA Corporate Stance Against Racism Action Plan.**

**Registration is Required.  
Click Here to Request  
Registration Link**

Spring 2023

## Notre Dame in Peru

The Sisters of Notre Dame continue to find ways to celebrate the global presence and impact of their ministry. Two sisters from SND USA, Sr. Marie Manning and Sr. Mary Dean Pfahler visited the ND mission in Peru. They shared time and ministry with Brazilian Notre Dame sisters, Sr. Adelia, Sr. Lourdes, and Sr. Mirian in Salaverry, which is a port town in the region of La Libertad.

Sr. Lourdes and Sr. Mirian are involved with an international organization called Pastoral da Crianca. This organization trains and empowers women to become leaders in their communities. These leaders help pregnant women and children ages 0-6, who live in poverty, have access to the health and well-being resources they need. Sr. Marie helped by making balloon animals for the children and Sr. Mary Dean was asked to offer a reflection on Mary, as her visit was during Advent.



From left to right, Sr. Lourdes, Sr. Maria Adelia, Sr. Mirian, and Sr. Mary Dean



Sr. Adelia is the coordinator of ODUICAL, the organization of Catholic universities for Latin America and the Caribbean, for the Catholic University of Trujillo. She is also the coordinator of the Peruvian University Network. At the University, Sr. Marie and Sr. Mary Dean assisted faculty and staff in strengthening their English skills especially in grammar, writing and conversation.

In addition to the work each day, the sisters also enjoyed learning more about the local culture, enjoying the foods, festivals and activities of the area.



Left: Sr. Marie Manning enjoys Acapulco Playa scenic beach with two of her "students".

Right: Sr. Mary Dean experiences a street procession in Salaverry leading up to the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"My month at our SND mission in Peru was a fabulous experience, but there's no place like home...snow and all. Please pray for our Brazilian SND missionaries in Peru who are so generously sharing God's goodness and provident care."

~Sr. Marie

"This immersion experience is teaching me that all is sacred and reveals the invisible God who wants to be in relationship with all of creation. Incarnation means more than taking on a body; it includes taking on a culture with its language, music, and familiar sights and sounds. This Jesus did." ~ Sr. Mary Dean

## Finding Friends at the Border

In mid-January, Ann Clark, one of the co-directors of the JPIC office, joined several sisters on a border experience through an organization called, Border Compassion.

Founded by Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSJ, Border Compassion organizes crossover experiences at the Calexico, California/Mexicali, Mexico border.

From left: Sr. Kelley Rush, Sr. Val Roxburgh, Sr. Kaitlin Morse, Sr. Judeen Julier, Sr. Paulyne Tubick and Ann Clark



Once we arrived at the shelter in Mexicali, Mexico, we were greeted by those people who are trying to apply for asylum and enter the U. S. legally. These folks have had to make this their home, some for over 18 months, some just arriving the previous day. There were women, and children from 2 months old to those in their teens. The men were out working and the women stayed at the shelter caring for the children, cooking and attending to daily tasks.

Women and children stay in the rooms of the old hotel which has been turned into the shelter called, Cobina Posade del Migrante, two miles from the border. Two to three families stay in the rooms that measure about 10 x 12. The men sleep outside in tents in the courtyard area. Another part of the courtyard serves as the play space for the children and this area must also be set up and torn down with tables and chairs for mealtimes.

There is a kitchen area where three meals are prepared each day for the 300 people living at Cobina. Each time Sr. Suzanne crosses over, she brings people to help and offer care and compassion. Tasks include shopping for food, playing, doing crafts and activities with the children, serving lunch and just being present. While we were there we played games, beaded bracelets and folded paper airplanes with the children, sorted and distributed clothing and served lunch.

We met with many of the people staying at the shelter and these are some of the stories we heard. It was a day of profound and humbling experiences, and some fun, too!

One young man was trying to get to the United States to connect with family in California. Tricked by a Coyote, (a person who smuggles people into the United States), he did not realize or understand the process for claiming asylum and was taken advantage by the Coyote who promised he could get this young man to California to be with his relatives. He was leaving Guatemala because of the threat of violence against him.



A mother was traveling with her five children, fleeing from another part of Mexico because her oldest son who is 15 was threatened with death by gangs. Her four other children range in age from early teens to 6 years old. Her young son was not feeling well, and he looked so uncomfortable. There are no places to watch television, lounge on a couch or have a comfortable place to rest. There is concrete and there are plastic folding chairs.



A young man from El Salvador was threatened by gangs because he helped identify his attackers. Afterward, he was targeted by the cartel, threatened with murder and had his home bombed. He was robbed in Mexico and his phone with the proof of these crimes was stolen.

