

**HOLY CROSS IN THE PRELATURE
OF JULI (PUNO) PERU
AN AUXILIARY AND
COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE**

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The French Revolution left France with many needs especially in the rural areas like the diocese of LeMans. The Catholic Church had been responsible for most of the educational system in France prior to the revolution. Many parishes had been without recognized priests for years and the parish schools had been closed or abandoned. It was in this context that Holy Cross was born. In the priest retreat of 1818 the bishop of LeMans and the diocesan clergy asked Jacques Dujarie, a diocesan priest ordained in the midst of the revolution, to organize a group of brothers to teach young boys in parish schools, a group that they hoped would be similar to the Sisters of Providence that he had organized in 1806 to teach young girls. Although in delicate health Dujarie accepted the challenge and began a group with 4 young men in 1820. They were called the Brothers of Saint Joseph. The brothers went out alone or in groups of two to administer and teach in the parish schools. They were to be auxiliaries to the parish priests. During the early 1830s Basil Moreau was also encouraged by the Bishop of LeMans to organize a group of auxiliary priests who were to give missions in the parishes which would provide the needed education in the faith to the rural parishes that for years had not had much education in the faith. It was Basil Moreau who in 1835 would unite these two groups into the Association or Institute of Holy Cross. In 1838 he would also organize a group of pious women whom he dreamed would one day become educators too and thus form part of the Association of Holy Cross as religious sisters who would like the brothers and priests do auxiliary work in education. This dream was realized in 1841 when Leocadie Gascoin joined the group. Moreau sent Leocadie and three other women to the Good Shepherd Monastery in Le Mans which he had founded in 1833 to do their novitiate. Moreau was always trying to respond to felt needs. In 1840 he sent a group of brothers with a priest to Algiers in Africa to administer a school there. In 1841 he sent a group to the diocese of Vincennes in Indiana on the frontier of the USA to help out with educational needs. In both cases brothers had been invited by the local bishop but Moreau insisted on sending a priest too to care for the spiritual needs of the brothers. Within two years he also sent a group of sisters to Indiana where they would be recognized as religious sisters by the local bishop. The Holy Cross family in Indiana received vocations immediately and began to respond to the felt needs in that area of the USA at the same time as they began to build their own school in South Bend. The auxiliary and collaborative charisma was very much alive!!

THE MOVE EAST AND SOUTH

Years later in 1933 the brothers and priests would go East in the USA. The brothers would staff two parish schools, Coyle High School in Taunton MA and Vincentian Institute in Albany NY and the priests would do mission band ministry in the East similar to the original idea of Moreau in founding the priests society. They then founded two colleges to respond to the needs for higher education among the immigrant populations in Brockton Ma and in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Moreau at the beginning of Holy Cross had also wanted his priests to teach in higher education and had sent some of his first group to Paris to study at his own expense since the Bishop was against the idea. In 1963 part of this group that had gone East and now formed the Eastern province of Priests and Brothers responded to the needs in the Latin American Church. At the request of Pope John XXIII to all the religious communities in the USA and Canada, George DePrizio, the Provincial superior at that time, sent three priests to Peru to open a new mission in Cartavio, a sugar plantation on the northern coast of Peru near the city of Trujillo. The community accepted the large rural parish there

with the hope that from there they would be able to spread out in order to serve other needs in the Diocese of Trujillo as auxiliaries. After 10 years of ministry there, the small group moved to Chimbote in 1974 and later to Lima in 1976. In both places the community took on parishes and from there responded to auxiliary needs in the diocese- education in the public school system, prison ministry, human rights and justice ministry, social communication ministry, rural parish ministry in Chimbote and administration of a Fe y Alegria school in Lima which is part of the Jesuit operated school system for the poor. Once again Holy Cross kept alive the charisma of responding to actual needs in each place of ministry in collaboration with other religious and laity as was the original vision of Basil Moreau.

In 1980 The Apostolic Administrator of the Prelature of Juli, Alberto Koenigsteht of the Maryknoll Priests and Brothers, invited Diego Irrarrazaval to come to the Prelature of Juli as director of the Institute for Aymaran Studies located in Chucuito, a town about 10 miles outside the large city of Puno on the road to Bolivia along the shores of Lake Titicaca at 12000 feet. The Prelature of Juli had been established in 1957 when the diocese of Puno had been divided into three ecclesiastical identities. Newly established were the Prelature of Ayaviri with a population of 147,927 quechuas in the northern part of the diocese and the Prelature of Juli with a population of 407,183 aymarans in the southern part around Lake Titicaca. The Puno diocese and the Prelature of Juli overlapped the same geographical area somewhat since the division of the original Puno diocese was made on the basis of culture and language. The newly formed Prelature of Juli included all the rural communities and towns around Lake Titicaca that spoke aymara and the now smaller Puno diocese remained with a catholic population of 353,468 which included all the quechua speaking communities and towns as well as the bilingual city of Puno. The Maryknoll Society which had been ministering in the Puno diocese since 1943 was entrusted with the administration and staffing of the newly founded Prelature of Juli which consisted of 21 very extensive parishes. In 1980 the Prelature already had 23 years of existence and history. The new prelates had participated in Vatican II and had been encouraged by the conference of Latin-American bishops in Medellin in 1968 to renew their pastoral endeavors in the region especially making a preferential option for the poor. One of their first steps was to unite pastoral ministry in the Andean area among themselves by forming the Andean Pastoral Institute (IPA) to help them coordinate their efforts and activities. During the mid 1970s the Peruvian bishops' conference also attempted a regional planning strategy to unite neighboring dioceses throughout the country. In most areas of Peru this pastoral division lasted very few years but most of the dioceses in the Southern Andes decided to continue this pastoral coordination. They established a yearly assembly of the bishops, priests, religious and laity to reflect together and coordinate pastoral ministry in order to respond to the felt needs of the people. In 1978 the bishops of the southern Andes published a pastoral letter entitled "Accompanying Our People" which presented to Peru the suffering of the Andean quechua and aymaran people during this difficult time of a military dictatorship in Peru. Later on in the mid-eighties they would publish other letters on the problem of land ownership in the region and on the problem of terrorism and violence in Peru and their effect on the Andean poor. These letters were signed by the bishops of the local Andean churches after broad consultation with the religious and laity of their dioceses during the yearly assemblies convoked by IPA.

In 1974 the prelature of Juli had opened the Institute for Aymaran Studies (IDEA) to promote the integral human development of the aymaran people, encourage a scientific and missionary methodology, study the aymaran culture in order to help in the evangelization of the aymaran people, and also provide the study of the aymaran language for non-Andean pastoral agents and for aymarans who wanted to learn to read and write their own language since aymara is principally an oral language. IDEA also helped CEPLAY, a bolivian church group, to translate part of the Bible and the official sacramental ritual books into aymara. Two thirds of the aymaran people live in Bolivia around the Bolivian half of lake Titicaca, the highest lake in the world. The first directors of IDEA had been Maryknoll priests. In 1979 there was a robbery in one of the two colonial

churches in Chucuito where the Maryknoll pastoral team also served the parish. Some of the influential town people in Chucuito accused the priests of being part of the robbery of colonial paintings. This was not an uncommon accusation throughout the years. After many attempts at dialogue with them the priests finally decided to abandon the parish in protest of the false accusations. This decision also affected the directorship of the institute for aymaran studies (IDEA) which was located in the parish. It was in this difficult situation that Diego was invited to assume the directorship of IDEA and also ministry in the Chucuito parish.

DIEGO IRARRAZAVAL

Diego Irarrazaval is Chilean born, a graduate of the Holy Cross St. George School in Santiago and a member of the District of Chile. Because of his commitment to the poor along with other Holy Cross religious during the government of Salvador Allende (1970-1973) he was forced to flee Chile during 1974 after the Pinochet military coup in September 1973. He was able to escape capture thanks especially to the help of the embassy of Panama. After a year of study in Chicago he came to Peru in 1976 and lived with the Holy Cross community in Chimbote. His ministry involved traveling from Chimbote to Lima each month for two weeks to work at the Bartolome de Las Casas Institute. While in Chimbote he published a book on Popular religiosity in 1978 based on interviews with people in Chimbote on their religious practices and ways of living their faith. During that time he also traveled several times to Puno invited to give classes at the School for Religious Studies for teachers there and to participate in the yearly IPA assemblies. He was thus very well known in the Southern Andes Church. While still in Chile Diego had decided to remain a permanent deacon in the community and while in Chimbote had served as deacon in the two Holy Cross parishes there. He was thus invited to become the new Director of IDEA and at the same time serve as deacon in the priestless parish of Chucuito. In 1981 the community approved the move of Diego from Chimbote to the Prelature of Juli with the hope of being able to provide other Holy Cross Religious to the Prelature in the future since the Bishop was also asking Holy Cross for more religious for the Prelature which was very short on priests. Most of the 21 extensive parishes in the prelature did not have a permanent priest. During his first three years there Diego lived in the minor seminary in the town of Ilave and traveled each day to Chucuito - a distance of about 25 miles - in the small Volkswagen bug that he had been given by the Prelature for his ministry. In 1984 he decided that there was a need for priestly ministry in Chucuito and petitioned for ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained on August 18, 1984 in Chucuito. Most of the 10 Holy Cross men religious in Peru at that time participated as well as a delegation of Holy Cross religious from Chile, some of his family from Chile, and delegations of friends from the Holy Cross parishes in Chimbote and Canto Grande in Lima. His ordination and fiesta were in true Andean style with lots of music and dancing and food and beer for the more than 800 people participating.

TOM SHEA

Since his arrival in Cartavio in 1968 Tom Shea from the Eastern province of Priests and Brothers had been involved in education in the public school system. When he moved to Chimbote in 1974 he continued to teach religion since he had obtained a permanent position in the Peruvian educational system. He was also interested in ministering in a rural parish similar to Cartavio. There was a need for church personnel in the rural valley of Macate, some 100 miles from Chimbote by truck. Since there was no possibility of teaching in Macate, Tom lived in Chimbote and taught religion in the public high schools there and traveled by truck on weekends with a pastoral team composed of some Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and lay people, to minister to the rural Macate parish. When he went on sabbatical in 1981 the Macate ministry was handed over to a diocesan priest who was interested in continuing the mission there. Both Tom and the Sisters were moving on to new ministry. On Tom's return from sabbatical in 1982, Diego had already been

assigned to the Prelature of Juli but there was an urgent need in the Chimbote parish since more Holy Cross personnel had been assigned to the Canto Grande parish in Lima. So Tom stayed on there for three more years until Dan Panchot the district superior at the time offered to move from Lima to take on the Chimbote parish so that Tom could join Diego in the Prelature of Juli. Tom had visited Diego in the Prelature in the fall of 1982 and was interested in the possibilities of mission there. He arrived in Chucuito in August 1985 and immediately began to discern his new ministry. The Apostolic Administrator wanted Tom to continue in education with his permanent teaching job and there was also a need in the mobile team for the training of lay leaders. Tom was interested in both but knew that teaching classes at school would hamper his time possibilities for other ministries. In talking about this the prelate mentioned that he wanted to open a diocesan office for Christian education (ODEC) in the prelature rather than depend on the existing office in the diocese of Puno. So Tom began checking out the possibilities of maintaining his permanent teaching position by working in this new office for religious education. The ODEC offices in Peru coordinate the teaching of religion in the public school system. They also prepare the teachers for religion classes in the government schools and present them to the government for approval and appointment. Thanks to the offer of Alan Garcia, the President of Peru at that time, Alberto K. the prelate received two teaching positions for the new office created by the ministry of education in Peru and Tom got the job as the first Director of the ODEC JULI. At the same time he began to work on the mobile team for training lay pastoral agents in the prelature with Marcos Asqui, a layman who was the director of the mobile team and Mercy sister Barbara Cavanaugh and her group of lay women for evangelization.

AUXILIARIES FROM CHUCUITO

Diego who had been pastor of the Chucuito parish during these years since his ordination, Tom, mercy sisters Debora Watson and Martha Larsen and layman Marcos Asqui formed the parish pastoral team. Since 1979 the prelature had been organized into parish pastoral teams and specialized ministry teams. If there was a priest in the parish he was part of the team but not necessarily the coordinator of the team. The church in the southern Andes in general was organized in this circular fashion which did not always gain acceptance from the more hierarchical model of church leadership in other parts of Peru. The Chucuito parish team had monthly meetings to plan the parish ministry. Marcos, Tom and Diego were all involved in other specialized ministries as well as the parish team. The two sisters worked mostly in the rural communities located on the peninsula across from the town of Chucuito. Because of the poor road conditions and lack of a parish car they traveled to the peninsula in small boats and walked to the different communities located there. Chucuito founded by the Spanish in 1564 and famous for being the town where the Spanish hoarded their gold had a population of about 10000 people. The parish was divided into three zones-the town and 5 rural communities located along the main highway; the peninsula where about 18 rural communities were located, and two communities located on the upper hills behind the town. To get to these last two communities one had to first go into the city of Puno and take another road up to them- about a one hour trip by car.

In 1987 the Prelature began to question the necessity for the mobile team established in 1979 and suggested that the formation for training lay leaders could be done more easily by each pastoral team. Besides Tom had come to realize that the need to speak aymara was a necessity for this ministry. Although he and Sister Barbara had studied aymara they were not fluent enough to teach in that language. The mobile team thus organized a workshop to enable the prelature members to reflect on the different models of church, the role of the lay leader in each model and the possibility for new lay ministries in each model. After much discussion in the Prelature, common guidelines were set down for the formation and training of lay pastoral agents for all the parishes and that left each parish free to run their own program. The parishes who needed assistance could continue to ask for help from the mobile team which at this point was down to the person of Marcos Asqui who

had been running the program since its founding in 1979. Sister Barbara had left the team to dedicate more time for her small group of women to train women as pastoral agents and Tom had left the team to devote his time to the newly organized ODEC office of which he was the director and for ministry on the parish team.

When Tom had arrived in 1985 Diego had been living for more than a year with a family on the outskirts of the town of Chucuito. He and Tom looked for housing nearby. They first found a small house near the family where Diego had been living but that did not work out since the couple who owned it was not in agreement about renting the place. Finally in January 1986 another couple offered to rent their house in the rural community of Cusipata which was about a two mile walk from the town of Chucuito and Diego and Tom moved in. That house which would be their home until the year 2001 was noted for its hospitality. Many of the guests were international and national people who gave or attended courses at the nearby prelature owned retreat house. They usually visited for the evening meal invited by Diego who also gave talks or participated in those meetings. There were lively discussions on the current issues of the world and the Church especially in the southern Andes. Diego and Tom also invited lay and religious friends from the Prelature and the southern Andes churches to dine with them and often to play cards. Some spent the night. The house was small but with a big heart. Diego was noted for his Andean breakfast of quinoa and canihua grains. The outhouse was famous for its tight quarters. One of the district superiors often commented that his knees got cold because they hung out the door. If a guest stayed for more than two nights they discovered that the menu was limited to an avocado dish prepared by Tom or grilled cheese prepared on a kerosene room heater by Diego. Water was put in the house in 1988, electricity in 1990 and a shower was added in 1994 to make it a five star hotel for visitors!!

Beside the pastoral commitments already mentioned, Tom and Diego both taught at the pre seminary program in Ilave and at the major regional seminary in the city of Juliaca about 40 miles from Chucuito and Tom was spiritual director at the seminary too. Diego also was often invited to give talks both on the national and international level which was part of the service that IDEA offered to other churches. He traveled often to Lima, to Brazil and Bolivia and from time to time to countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. He also wrote articles for several international and national theological magazines. Tom accompanied the parish youth group and helped to establish the international agrarian youth movement (JARC) in the prelature. Diego worked with the newly formed Vicariate for peace in the midst of terrorist actions in the Puno area. There was nightly bombing in Puno by the terrorist groups during these years. The radio tower of Onda Azul, the Puno diocesan radio station where Diego had a weekly radio program was bombed during 1988. The institute for agricultural studies in the Prelature of Ayaviri was attacked and burned by the terrorists in 1989. The terrorists also invaded the town of Moho in the prelature of Juli in 1991. The prelature organized workshops on peace and promoted youth festivals with songs for peace. During the years of drought the parish also participated in the distribution of food to the communities most affected and collaborated in the potato seed lending program of the prelature.

Both Tom and Diego were active in the local conference for religious in the prelature. Diego was one of the priest consultants for the Bishop of Juli. He also participated in reunions of CELAM (The Episcopal conference of Latin-American bishops) in Medellin Columbia and in the theological meetings in preparation for the Latin-American bishops conference in Santo Domingo in 1992.

.COLLABORATION AND GROW

In 1985 Tom had been appointed Director of Vocations for the Peru district and a member of the district council. The vocation team in coordination with the district superior decided to invite the other provinces of the congregation and the three Holy Cross Sisters communities to consider ministering in collaboration with the Holy Cross men in Peru. The Superior General of the Sisters of Holy Cross responded. The sisters of the Holy Cross who had been ministering in Brazil since

1947 had previously come to minister in Chimbote in November 1982. Sister Frances Savoie and Marguerite Gravel along with Sister Lyette Finnerty and the assistant superior general Laura Therrien came to visit the Prelature of Juli in June of 1986. Tom showed them some of the apostolic possibilities near Chucuito and they spoke with the Vicar General of the Prelature. (Alberto K. the prelate who had invited Diego and Tom to the prelature had died that previous February in a tragic car accident.) After returning to Canada they decided to open a mission within the larger parish of Acora which has 90 farming communities, was without a priest and was the neighboring parish to Chucuito. Marguerite, Frances and Lyette arrived in Lima to study Spanish in April 1987 and arrived in the prelature in October of the same year. They took up temporary residency with mercy sister Barbara Cavanaugh in her house in Acora. In early 1988 they moved to a rented house in the rural community of Paracota about three miles outside of the town of Acora on the way to Chucuito. They participated on the Acora parish team. Although ministering on different parish teams the Holy Cross religious shared life through regular gatherings on community and liturgical feast days, days of reflection and planning ministry and collaboration together within the Prelature. Shortly after their arrival Marguerite moved to the Canto Grande parish in Lima to open another mission for the sisters there and Marie Pilon arrived to minister as a nurse in Acora after having finished language studies in Lima.

During these same years many religious from the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers arrived in groups of four or five to get to know the holy Cross mission in Peru. They always visited the mission in the Prelature of Juli for a few days. At the same time the men and women of Holy Cross began a collaborative vocation program in the Prelature. Jorge Mallea who was a student at the diocesan seminary in Juliaca asked to join Holy Cross in September 1987 after having spent two seminary pastoral experiences both in the Chucuito parish and on the mobile pastoral team for training lay leaders with tom. During those experiences he lived with Tom and Diego in Cusipata. He received permission from the diocesan seminary team to transfer to Holy Cross as a postulant in March 1988. Jorge made his novitiate in Chile in 1989 pronounced his first vows in 1990, his final vows in 1993 and was ordained the first Peruvian and aymaran Holy Cross priest on November 11, 1994. Many other Andean men and women followed Jorge in joining Holy Cross. The collaborative vocation ministry in Chucuito each year had a large number of participants. Many of these continued on to final vows in Holy Cross such as Fidel Ticona, Saturnina Mamani, Marcelina Quispe, and Hermelinda Chura. During these years the diocesan seminarians like Jorge often had short term or long term pastoral experience in the parish and lived with Tom and Diego. Once Holy Cross began their formation program the young postulants and professed spent summers in Chucuito collaborating with the parish team in the summer school programs or studying at the School for Religious studies in Puno where Tom, Diego and Frances taught.

The apostolic Administrator Alberto K died in a tragic car accident in February 1986 shortly after tom arrived in the Prelature and after having gotten permission to open the ODEC office with Tom as the first director. Miguel Briggs a Maryknoll priest was named the interim diocesan administrator of the prelature. In January 1990 Raimundo Reveredo, a Peruvian Vincentian priest was named Bishop. Raimundo had worked previously in Spain, Lima and Chile. To say the least he was lost in the Peruvian Andes and life in the prelature was difficult both for him and for others especially since he found it hard to appreciate the aymaran culture, their expression of faith and way of life. There was a lack of energy and enthusiasm in the prelature and many of the foreign born religious began to leave during the early years of the 90s. Among them were the mercy sisters Martha Larsen, Debora Watson and Margaret Milne, all of whom had ministered at that time on the Chucuito parish team for many years and Maryknoll sister Jaruko Doi who worked on the IDEA specialized team with Diego, diocesan priest Domingo Llanque and laymen Santiago Mendoza and Juan Mallea. These years were also difficult due to the expansion of the terrorist movement in the southern Andes and the tensions felt by the pastoral agents. Despite this difficult situation Jim Phalan, a young religious from the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, arrived in

Chucuito in 1991 for his deaconate experience. Jim ministered together with the mercy sisters in the parish spending much time with the farming communities on the peninsula. He also taught classes on spirituality at the major seminary in Juliaca. Jim was ordained in Chucuito in February 1992 in the midst of the Holy Cross Assembly held in Chucuito that year with a joyful Andean celebration and fiesta. He continued to minister in Chucuito parish for two more years, acting as pastor for one of them while Tom who had been named pastor in place of Diego in 1991 was on a sabbatical year during 1993 and helping out while Diego was on sabbatical in Brazil for six months in 1992. In 1994 he was assigned to Lima for formation work with the postulant program and for Work with the recently reorganized Family Rosary office.

The pastoral teams in the Prelature of Juli were formed by the Bishop and his pastoral council. No religious community had their own parish. The parish teams were composed of religious and lay pastoral agents and with priests when there was one available. The Chucuito parish team was composed of several lay people plus the Holy Cross men and the mercy sisters. When the mercy sisters left the parish team in 1994, Maryknoll sister Maureen Hanahoe and the Holy Cross sisters petitioned to the Bishop to become members of the Chucuito parish team. Sisters Raquel Laramie, Blanche Lemarre and Marie Pilon thus began to collaborate in the Chucuito parish apostolate with Diego and Tom. Sister Frances Savoie had been collaborating with Tom on the ODEC pastoral team since her arrival in 1987. The ODEC team was also composed of sisters from different religious communities. Sister Carmen Carrion from the sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Moho, Sister Maria Gabriela Hurtado of the Dominican sisters of the Presentation in Yunguyo, layman Rodolfo Cutipa, diocesan priest Narciso Valencia, and other laymen who collaborated with the team from time to time. The ODEC team organized workshops throughout the whole prelature for the religious training of the grade school teachers in the more than 1000 grade schools in the prelature. Each grade school teacher taught religion in the government school system. The team would often travel for hours to get to a school only to find that the teachers had not been informed of the workshop by the educational authorities. But usually they were most welcomed by the teachers in these distant communities even in the areas where the terrorists had great influence. By car it took about 10 hours to go from one end of the prelature to the other. They also organized twice a year workshops of several days for high school religion teachers. In each government high school there were specialized teachers for religion. These programs especially emphasized formation in Bible Studies, a participative methodology to unite faith and actual life problems, and self esteem. They also collaborated with the other ODEC offices from the neighboring prelatures and diocese in developing new religion high school curricula and texts which were more adapted to the needs and culture of the Andean people.

YEARS OF PAIN

During these early years of Holy Cross presence in the Prelature of Juli there had been several accidents. In 1988 Frances Savoie survived the crash of an Aeroperu plane as it failed to rise after takeoff in Juliaca airport. From among the many dead and injured and burned, Frances walked away with only a shoulder sprain. But the traumatic experience later forced her to take some time off to deal with the trauma. During that same year Tom was driving a Volkswagen bug with Jim Mulligan, provincial of the English speaking Canadian province who was visiting the district in the front seat and Richard Renshaw of the same province, director of the district formation program in Lima, and Juan Mallea, brother of postulant Jorge Mallea in the back seat. They were on their way back from a visit to Jorge Mallea's family early on a dark cloudy night in May when they ran into the back of a large truck parked in the middle of the highway without any lights on. Tom had extensive scalp injuries. Jim had a dislocated hip and severe leg and foot injury. Jim had to be flown back to Canada to treat his bone injuries. In August 1992 Paul Farber from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre PA who had just accepted to be in charge of the recently organized Peru Solidarity committee in the eastern province of Priests and Brothers was visiting Peru to see firsthand the work there.

While visiting Chucuito with the assistant provincial Jim Preskenis for a few days he had severe altitude sickness which was complicated by his blood pressure illness and medicines that he was taking for his blood pressure. While going to the airport to fly to Cuzco he died suddenly sitting in the front seat of the car from an aneurism in his brain. Shocked by this sudden death, Tom and Jim Phalan and Jorge Izaguirre, a newly professed at the time, who were in the car with the two guests, arranged for the body to be flown back to Lima where it would be sent on to the USA for burial. Shortly after that the ODEC team while driving to a workshop with teachers in the distant town of Huacullani hit and killed a 5 year old girl who while walking alone had suddenly jumped out onto the main highway in front of the car on her way to school. In 1993 armed robbers entered the sisters house in the rural community of Paracacota while Marie Pilon and Lyette Finnerty were at home one June night. The robbers forced the sisters to lie face down on the floor while they robbed the community car and other electrical appliances. In August of the same year, armed robbers also stole the ODEC car while Jim Phalan was using it in the town of Chucuito after returning from the fiesta for the perpetual vows of Marie Pilon in Acora that same afternoon. In April 1994 Marcos Asqui who was a young married layman and coordinator of the Chucuito parish team died suddenly due to an accident that he had suffered during 1993 causing pancreas complications. His death was a great loss to his family, to the parish team and to the entire prelature where he was an active participant. The Chucuito parish team later dedicated the parish hall in his name.

Besides ministry on the parish team Diego continued during all these years since his arrival in 1981 as the Director of IDEA. IDEA offered workshops and published a magazine four times a year on the aymaran culture. Diego was active in the founding of the ecumenical group for Andean theology and was a member of the third world theologians. In recognition of his capacities he was often invited to other countries of Latin America as well as to Europe, Asia and Africa to give talks on Aymaran Cosmovision, Andean Culture, Andean Theology, Inculturation, Gender Issues, Ecumenism, etc. and to participate in theological programs. He was invited often to participate in meetings of the Peruvian Religious Conference (CONFER) and the Latin American Religious Conference (CLAR) with talks on Inculturation and Globalization and its effects on religious life today. He wrote a book in 1992 entitled "Tradicion y Futuro Andino" and in 1993 "Rito y Pensar Cristiano". In later years he also wrote "Inculturación y Amanecer Eclesial en América Latina", "Teología y Fe del Pueblo", "Audacia Evangelizadora", "Jesús Jovial", and "Raíces de la Esperanza". All these years both he and Tom had taught each summer in the Specialized School for Religious Education in Puno, a school dedicated to the formation of lay religion teachers. Diego taught Popular and Andean Religious Practices and Faith and Tom taught Bible Studies, Evangelization in Latin America and popular methodology. They also both gave talks and retreats to the lay groups in the prelature. Diego participated with talks in the IPA program for new members in the Andes. Diego also accompanied a group of professional lay people in the prelature. Tom and Frances with the ODEC team attempted to form a group of teachers in the national movement of Christian teachers. Sister Marie Pilon, a nurse, on her arrival in the Prelature in 1988 had begun to offer medical service in her home in the farming communities where she lived and was much sought after for health problems in the local farming community. Lyette and Raquel both worked with the women's coordination in the Prelature.

The sisters also began their formation program during these years. The postulant year was held in their house in Paracacota. In 1993 Saturnina Mamani, Emerita Quispe and Marcelina Quispe entered as their first postulants. The sisters developed a project for a common novitiate in Lima together with the sisters of the Holy Cross who were ministering in Chimbote and in Lima. These three postulants went to the collaborative novitiate in March 1995 with Noyli Rios, a novice for the sisters of the Holy Cross from Chimbote. Lyette Finnerty was to be the first mistress of novices but she was elected superior General of her congregation at an extraordinary general chapter in 1995 and had to return to Canada. Raymonde Maisonneuve replaced her as mistress of novices on the novitiate team with Sister Eleanor Snyder of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

YEARS OF CHANGE

As Holy Cross continued to serve in collaboration on the parish team in Chucuito parish and to offer their auxiliary services in ODEC and IDEA and in other areas of life in the prelature of Juli and in the South Andean church organized in IPA, there were significant changes in the Andes and in Peru. After the capture of Abimael Guzman, the terrorist leader of the shining Path in September 1992, tourists had returned to Puno and there were better roads and many more cars and buses making travel less burdensome. It was possible to get to the peninsula side of the parish by car now and on a better road making it a lot easier for organizing sacramental preparations in the rural communities of the parish located there and for the ODEC team to get to visit the schools off the main road.

In 1992 the Chucuito parish was lucky to get accepted in the Partnerschaft program which unites parishes in Peru with parishes in the diocese of Freiberg in Germany. The sister parish in Germany was St Hedwig's in Karlsruhe. In 1994 the pastor Bruno Hill and the lay head of the parish council and One World Committee, Bridgette Beer came to Peru for a visit to their sister parish in Chucuito. They invited Tom and the lay coordinator of the parish team Estanislao Cruz to visit their parish in Germany in 1995. The next year Bridgette returned to Chucuito for a visit with her husband. Other members of the parish team were later invited to visit in Germany. These included sisters Frances and Blanche and mercy sister Carmen Rosa Ccallomamani and layman Roberto Ari. The Partnerschaft program was a spiritual and cultural union of parishes as well as a financial help to the parish in Peru. The Koch foundation from the USA and Adveniat from Germany also helped both the parish and the specialized programs financially.

In 1997 the men's' congregation began the Pastoral Institute for Family Ministry, one of the new ministries of the recently reorganized Family Rosary Crusade. In the Chucuito parish Blanche Lemarre had already been collaborating with Family Rosary in the Juli Prelature for several years. She organized poetry and drawing competitions in the schools to promote interest in Mary and the rosary. With the new Pastoral Institute she began a program for married couples in the parish and Tom began a program with some of the religion teachers in ODEC to reflect on family violence among themselves and to offer workshops in the schools on the same theme with junior and senior high school students as well as with teachers and parent organizations.

Alison Mahoney from the English Canadian province came to minister in the Prelature of Juli and on the Chucuito parish team in September 1997. Alberto had formerly ministered for about 25 years in the indigenous diocese of Chiapas in Mexico. He started a new ministry in collaboration with the Holy Cross sisters in the town of Plateria which was located between Chucuito and Acora parishes near where the sisters lived in the Mocachi farming community. He also reached out to the distant rural communities on the peninsula and in the upper parts of the Chucuito parish. Alison also began to teach English and French formally in the University of Puno programs. He was often invited by the universities in Puno and in La Paz Bolivia to give talks on his experience in the diocese of Chiapas. He participated in a meeting on indigenous people organized by Maryknoll in Chile. At one point he was invited to minister in the neighboring parish of Acora but the local Holy Cross community felt that the community was not in condition to accept such a big commitment at that moment. He collaborated with Blanche in the parish family program and also helped to organize one of the summer programs for the young Peruvian religious in Acora in 1999. In September 1999 Fidel Ticona from Ilave was assigned to the Prelature of Juli as deacon to the Chucuito parish. Fidel had joined the vocation program back in 1990, had participated in the formation programs in Lima and in Chile, and had professed perpetual vows and was ordained to the diaconate in Lima in February 1999. Fidel worked closely with Alison in the parish. He also joined the pastoral team at

the University in Puno organizing retreats and confirmation programs with the university students. He was ordained priest on February 5, 2000 at the Chucuito parish with a two day Andean fiesta.

In June 1999 Bishop Raimondo Reveredo retired due to health problems in the altitude and the diocesan priest Pedro Siguayro was named interim diocesan administrator. Shortly after his appointment there arose some accusations against one of the laymen on the ODEC team. After a brief investigation by the prelature no proof was found for the accusations although the suspicions continued. After over a year of suspicions and tension between the ODEC team and the prelature administration the layman involved agreed to renounce his position on the team. Tom and Frances also renounced their positions partly in solidarity with the lay collaborator whom they felt had not been given a fair opportunity to defend himself against the accusations. In April 2001 Tom received his official pension after more than thirty years in the public school system first as teacher in Cartavio and Chimbote and later as founder and first director of the ODEC JULI. After their retirement both Tom and Frances began to minister with the projects of the Holy Cross Family Ministry programs. Tom formed a new team with laymen Wilber Mamani and Percy Malaga to offer programs on family violence in the public school system with students, parents and teachers and also with other institutions. There was a great demand for the program throughout the prelature as well as the neighboring dioceses in Puno. This new team also began to coordinate a specialized school in family counseling for an ecumenical group in Lima. They offered a one year program of study at a distance with the possibility of specialized courses when the basic program was finished. The Peruvian ministry of education offered an official diploma on completing the studies. During 2001 more than 200 students participated in this program. The team also offered programs on violence for women with the help of Marleni Cespedes. Longer workshops on Self Parenting Difficult Childhoods, Men and Women United against Violence, Twelve Steps to Forgiveness, and Personality in the Eneagram were also organized both in the Prelature and by invitation to other diocese such as La Paz Bolivia, Tacna and Ilo on the southern Peruvian coast, and the jungle Prelature of Puerto Maldonado. Another part of this program with Juan Mallea was to visit and accompany people in the Chucuito parish with health problems. This later service was part of a larger program to train lay people for the task of preparing their own people for the sacraments in the farming communities of the parish and for becoming extraordinary lay ministers of the sacraments in the absence of a priest. Frances also formed a team to work mainly in grades schools in the parish with workshops on the theme of family. Her team had a local radio program on family issues. Fidel also started a program for the youth and women's groups in the parish with workshops on leadership and self esteem and the possibility of weekend retreats. He also organized a computer program for the town and a new youth dance group for the annual town fiesta in October.

In September 1999 there were 4 religious men in the small house in Cusipata. The district superior Arthur Colgan and his council thought that a new house was needed. After much disagreement about the move and also about the location and style of the new dwelling, the four religious finally decided to build a new house on prelature land up behind the parish buildings in Chucuito. The district council approved the plan and the group, by then down to three (Fidel, Tom and Diego), moved into the new house although it was still not fully finished in December 2000. Alison had returned to Canada in May 2000 to take up a new ministry of Justice and peace coordinator with the general administration and in collaboration with the 3 sisters' congregations.

In 2000 Diego became pastor of the Chucuito parish again when Tom finished his term of 9 years as pastor. Layman Roberto Ari replaced Estanislao Cruz who had completed six years of service as coordinator of the parish team. Blanche left the parish team to go to Lima to prepare herself to become the new mistress of novices for her congregation there. The collaborative novitiate project of the sisters' congregations was to end in March 2001. Raquel went to Tacna to open a new mission for the sisters there. In their place Evelyn Boucher arrived to work in the Family Rosary office and Lillian Mercier arrived to teach English in the parish and help out with the parish choir.

Diego had been elected as president of the Third world Theologians in 2001 and enjoyed a sabbatical year in Chile and in Jerusalem during 2002.

During all these years Tom, Diego and Fidel had served the Holy Cross community on the district council as well as in other areas. Diego had been responsible for three years for the post final vow formation program. Tom had taught the history of Holy Cross at the Latin-American inter district novitiate in Lima and at the brothers novitiate in Santarem, Brazil as well as to the sisters novices in Lima. He was also the writer of the history of the Peru mission and responsible for the district Archives as well as the director of the district vocation program both nationally and locally in Puno. As director of justice and peace in the Peru district Tom attended the international Holy Cross meeting in Dhaka Bangladesh in November 2003. He visited the sister parish in Karlsruhe on his return trip. Fidel became vocation director for the district in 2001 replacing Tom in Puno and Jorge Mallea as district director. The young Peruvian religious had several pastoral experiences in the Prelature during the summers. Fidel and Jorge Mallea were in charge of the program in the Chucuito parish in 2003. Also the Latin-American inter district novitiate program located in Lima since the year 2001 sent novices during the month of June each year to collaborate in the Prelature for their pastoral experience. Several of the novices taught in the public high schools in the Chucuito area and helped out in the parish.

THE MOVE

During these later years there was a move among the Holy Cross men to put more emphasis on Holy Cross Institutions. The relationship with the Prelature of Juli was more a commitment to auxiliary service in the Prelature. The Chucuito parish was not a Holy Cross parish but rather a place where Holy Cross religious collaborated with lay people and other religious on a pastoral team. In the Prelature of Juli all the teams were organized that way. No congregation had their own parishes and there was much collaboration among the religious and lay people as part of a local church and much collaboration between the local churches in the Southern Andes through the pastoral coordination of IPA. At the same time, some of the young Peruvians had left the congregation. With personnel problems it became more difficult to staff the commitments in Lima, Chimbote and in the Prelature of Juli. The district chapter of 2003 voted to close the mission in Chimbote if it was not possible to provide a local community of three religious for 2004. Diego and Tom realized that they were going to have problems with forming a community of three also since Fidel was to be assigned in 2004 to Lima to prepare himself for formation ministry. In November 2003 the district council suddenly announced that both Chimbote and the mission in the Prelature of Juli would be closed in March 2004. In the same month a new mission would be opened in Tacna on the southern coast of Peru among the Andean people who had migrated there during recent years. Since there had been little or no dialogue in the community on the closing of the mission in the prelature of Juli and since the departure would cause serious difficulties for the Prelature which had only 5 diocesan priests, 4 Maryknoll priests and 1 Benedictine priest at its service at that time both Tom and Diego protested the decision to both the district council and to the provincial council. Both petitions were denied. In March 2004 Tom left the Prelature of Juli to form part of the new Holy Cross parish team in Viñani, a poor urban barrio on the outskirts of the city of Tacna recently populated mostly by Andean migrant families. Fidel left Chucuito at the same time to go to Lima to begin his studies in formation. Diego asked to stay in Chucuito until the end of May to fulfill the community contract which stated that 6 months notice should be given to the prelature in case of a decision to abandon the prelature. At the end of May he then returned to the district of Chile after almost thirty years of ministry in Peru. The official departure was celebrated in Chucuito on April 18, 2004 in the presence of the Bishop of Juli, Elio Perez Tapia who had been named Bishop of Juli in June 2001 and the district superior Bill Persia as well as Diego, Fidel, Tom, Jorge Mallea, the Holy Cross sisters and the many friends of Holy Cross from Chucuito parish, the Juli Prelature, and from other south Andean pastoral teams. Thus came to a close the years of auxiliary and

collaborative ministry in the Prelature of Juli and in the South Andean Church for the Holy Cross men. Today the sisters of Holy Cross ever faithful to the vision of the founder of Holy Cross still continue to carry the torch of auxiliary and collaborative service in the Prelature of Juli and in the south Andes church.

RESOURCES:

Puno House Chronicles 1985-2004

NOTICIAS CSC 1990-2004