

PROJECT: TO WORK WITH SAN MATEO MISSION AND SCHOOL, LIMA, IN BUILDING NEW CLASSROOMS AND A MISSION CHURCH



San Mateo is a mission and school in the north east of Lima, on the edge of a shanty town.

EDUCATION AND CARE

San Mateo School provides education, nutrition and medical care for children from nearby shanty towns in north east Lima (Peru).

The school has approximately 250 pupils and seeks to offer them education with excellence. Most of the children come from poor areas round about. Besides formal subjects, it cares about the all round development of the children, and offers art, music, dancing, physical education, sport – not available in state schools – and the life of the school is centred in Christian faith and values in a family atmosphere.

The patio in the middle of the classrooms has plants and trees, and its beauty reminds the children of the need to care for the creation, and the beauty of Peru, one of the most beautiful and varied countries of the world.

School begins at 8am and finishes at 5pm. These long hours are important for families and enable mothers, many of whom are single, to find work without worrying about their children, knowing they are safe at school and cared for. (State schools run for only half the day and consequently many children are either home alone or on the streets.)

NUTRITION AND MEDICAL NEEDS

Because of poverty, many of the children arrive at school without breakfast, so one of our support projects is to provide them with both breakfast and lunch. This has had the added bonus of creating a family atmosphere as children and teachers sit down to eat together. A good diet is part of the health that we believe is vital for good learning; and besides this, each child receives regular check-ups from the diocesan doctor and medical team.

MISSION

The school is part of St Matthew's Mission and the priest, Padre Ruben, runs the mission church and offers pastoral care to the school, its children and families, and the school has a regular weekly Eucharist; and the life of the mission is like that of any normal parish.

The mission and school began in the year 2000 and work together to fulfil the Church's life, mission and ministry to the people of this poor urban area.

Education is one of the chief areas of mission of the Diocese of Peru and enables to Church to serve and reach out to the local population.

THE PROJECT – CHURCH AND CLASSROOMS

The mission has a piece of land adjacent to the school and aims to build a mission church – which will also be used as a chapel for the school – and two new classrooms. The classrooms will face onto the central school patio, and the chapel onto a public square.

The mission and school have started raising funds for the buildings but need the boost of help from their Christian partners.

We ask for your help with this project, to join with the mission and school in providing this urgent extension to its work. The classrooms will cost approximately US\$15,000 and the chapel US\$30,000.

The long term gain for the school is that it will enable the school to have more pupils and move towards greater financial sustainability – at present it breaks even.