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# Marianist Volunteer Program Peru "Sharing Learning Experiences"

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## **Chapter 7**

### **Marianist Volunteer Program Peru: Sharing learning experiences**

**Abstract:** This document explains the service mission of the Society of Mary in Lima, Peru, and identifies projects available for volunteers to do. It also points to the benefits of service. It explains many of the ways that people can volunteer to serve.

#### **FOUNDATION**

Since its beginnings, the "Society of Mary" (SM), a Catholic religious congregation, has been committed to education, formal and non-formal, recognizing the immense value it has on the development of people, particularly in the formation of Christian values, thus becoming an effective tool in the service of the Gospel.

Through their various educational, pastoral and social apostolic works, the Society of Mary in Peru seeks to promote and develop formative processes that help people to understand the realities in which they live and work; and to respond as "signs of time" in an authentic engagement with others, preferably with those who suffer poverty and exclusion.

We understand the volunteer program as a mutual benefiting process, where both volunteers and the people who participate in the experience share their knowledge and acquire new learning as a mutual enrichment. Seen this way, the learning process becomes a life experience that helps support learning beyond the volunteer experience.

#### **I. OBJECTIVES**

1. To contribute to the cultural, technical, social and faith enrichment of the volunteers, the organizations and the Peruvian populations involved.
2. To facilitate intercultural and experiential encounters among people from different countries, cultures, ages and experiences, that contribute to a better understanding of global social and cultural realities.
3. To collaborate with the Marianist mission as an evangelization and human development of people in poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability.
4. To strengthen the relationship of solidarity with others different than ourselves.

#### **II. MARIANISTS INSTITUTIONS WHERE ONE CAN BE A VOLUNTEER**

Volunteering can take place in any of the social or pastoral Marianists Works of Peru, located in Otuzco (La Libertad) and Callao (near Lima).

These Works are:

1. Asociación Chami Radio (CHR)
2. Asociación Marianista de Acción Social (AMAS)
3. Centro de Formación de Pastoral Rural “María Madre del Buen Consejo” (MMBC)
4. Centro “Hermano Thomas Helm” (CTH)

See information about each of these works in the *Information Sheet* attached

### **III. LENGTH OF PROGRAM**

The volunteer experience should last approximately one (1) year. Experience shows that in this time span it is more possible to achieve the proposed goals and make more sustainable y richer the experience. Only in very special cases should a period of less than 12 months and / or incomplete college be considered.

### **IV. MARIANIST VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Having completed college studies
2. Having an attitude of openness to new learning and enrichment by the culture and people of Peru. Be willing to contribute and learn from the experience.
3. Be very respectful and welcoming of people from other cultures.
4. Having a mid-level management of basic Spanish language.
5. Living and sharing the Marianist charisma y spirit.

### **V. Room and Board**

The local Marianist works will be responsible for arranging the appropriate places for room and board for volunteers. In Otuzco there is a Marianist rural pastoral Center (María de Buen Consejo) that can provide room and board to volunteers in exchange for a minimal payment for these services. In Callao there is no such center, but one can find nearby families safe to live with that welcome volunteers and provide food and shelter; the volunteer would assume the cost of these services. A pleasant and enriching cultural experience is the goal.

In order to have the financial resources for room and board, volunteers are encouraged to seek donations in their local parish

## **VI. LANGUAGE**

It is recommended to have at least a mid-level use of the local language (Spanish). It is considered very important that the volunteer have a local language tutor to improve their command of Spanish, so they can contribute and learn more from the enculturation experience.

## **VII. LOCAL SUPPORT**

All volunteers will be accompanied by a religious or lay Marianist, which will provide the support and advice needed to make the experience enriching.

## **VIII. PRINCIPAL VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS**

1. To collaborate with Marianist work activities where one is a volunteer, contributing from their professional talents and hobbies to the mission of the work, as well as to the communities and populations with which they are involved.
2. To fulfill with responsibility the tasks which they assume as part of their volunteer experience.
3. To participate in team meetings which involve their work, depending on the assumed responsibilities.
4. Participate in meetings of accompaniment which are coordinated with the person (religious or lay Marianist) that accompany their experience.
5. To prepare quarterly reports and a final evaluation of the experience and work.
6. To share the evaluation of their experience with the team where one has been a volunteer.
7. Upon his return to his country, present their experience to other college graduates in order to share with them their experience and motivate them for volunteer work in Peru (and also with his/her parish, if applicable).

## **IX. STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE EXPERIENCE**

1. A personal letter (email and hardcopy) requesting participation in the Marianist Volunteer Program in Peru, attaching personal information and indicating their skills (academic, technical and cultural), motivation, use of the local language and their ability to meet their expenses of room and board for the duration of the volunteer experience. The letter should be addressed to the Director where the volunteer will work, with copies to the Regional Superior in Peru. If the work is not yet defined, the letter should be sent to the Regional Marianist Superior in Peru.
2. Certification of college studies.
3. Letter of recommendation from a religious or lay Marianist of their country of origin

Lima, May 30, 2013

Office of Temporal Affairs

Society of Mary -Peruvian Region