



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES



OCTOBER 2019

Living Radical Hospitality

by Sheila Ann Dougherty

“Are you able to see with Martha that “dear guest” you serve is Christ?

How far and wide do you cast the net of “we”?

Does your net extend to your family, your tribe, your people, your nation?

Who lies outside of the boundaries of your net?

Where do you draw the line between “me and you,” “us and them,” “we and they”?

Consider this question and reflect long on its implications, because wherever we mark the boundaries of our nets, we mark the BOUNDARIES OF OUR COMPASSION.

“Contemplating Christ” by Vincent Pizzuto

**Do you have a story to share
about radical hospitality?**

Email your story to:

jane@dubuquepresentations.org



¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

Only God Makes Possible These Miracles

Early in February of this year, I had the opportunity to meet Beldy Chinchila, thanks to his neighbor, Osman Cari (Mery's brother). Beldy told me his story and asked for help with his legal papers. He was born in Saladillo, Gran Chaco, Tarija. By the age of two, he had lost both parents and had little or no remembrance of them. He had one brother, Doni, a year older than he, who died in his early 20's leaving Beldy alone in the world. Beldy was raised by neighbors who had several sons of their own, who didn't appreciate having him join the family. Somehow he managed and even though he did not have the opportunity to go to school, he left them at 17 to join the military. His military card was the only legal document he possessed when I met him in his 70th year.



Sister Suzanne Takes, Candelaria and Beldy

We made several visits to the city and filled out endless papers over a period of seven months. All through the lengthy process, he kept up his good spirits with a ready smile and a heart of gratitude. His wife, Candelaria, accompanied him through every step. In the meantime, while sharing, we became good friends, visiting their home and the fields of oregano that he and his wife tend for the owner. Incidentally, Candelaria and I were born the same year, just one month apart.

Finally the day came and the paperwork was finished! Imagine after 70 years what a great moment! That day, we sat in the office from 1 to 4 p.m. working through the final papers and signatures, even though the office was to close at 3:30 p.m. I sat there with them answering questions, praying and trusting, saying to myself, "Only God makes possible these miracles." When we left the office, Beldy proudly held his first birth certificate, hardly able to believe it was really true. The next step was to apply for a Bolivian identity card giving him the legal right to health and social benefits, voting, etc. At present, he is eagerly awaiting his first social security check, which amounts to a little over a dollar a day.

Beldy counts among his many blessings his beautiful wife of 50 some years and their nine children, all adults now.

Hermanas Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes, Mery Cari Paz and Marge Healy



Megan Ruiz, Executive Director
email directorlantern@gmail.com
phone 563.557.7134

address
 Schmid Innovation Center
 900 Jackson Street, Suite LL5-1
 Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Sharing Immigrant Success Stories

At our second Lighting the Lantern dinner, two students shared their stories. When Julia Theisen went through the citizenship process, even as a native English speaker, the process was “inhumane”—but she had found a warm community while studying for citizenship at the Presentation Lantern Center. “The Lantern Center was the complete opposite of what I experienced in the immigration system,” she said.

Presentation Lantern Center founder Sister Corine Murray introduced our second speaker, Dora Serna. Sister Corine shared how Dora’s improved English skills made all the difference in the world in giving birth to her children. In Dora’s first experience giving birth, she was ill-equipped to express her needs. By the time she gave birth to her second child, “Dora had a voice,” said Sister Corine.

Dora spoke about how the Lantern Center helped her whole family. “The Lantern changed four lives,” she said. Holding up a lantern, she urged others to spread the lantern’s light, in the spirit of Nano Nagle. “The light is with me all the time,” she said.

Attendees weren’t the only people inspired by these immigrant stories. A photographer and reporter from the Telegraph Herald covered the event, and we were the lead story in the Telegraph Herald the next morning. We appreciate everything that allows us to spread the lantern light further in the tri-states!



Our newest citizen Agustin celebrates with his family and tutor, Felicia Carner.



Presentation Lantern Center Megan Ruiz, director, Sister Corine Murray, founder, and a student enjoy the Lighting the Lantern dinner on September 29 to benefit the Presentation Lantern Center.



Our latest student to pass his citizenship test, Pedro Crispin de Jesus, is thrilled to learn of his success!