

Remembering Peggy Nolan, BVM - One Of Our Family

Back in 1981 a group of BVM sisters came to Quito to join Sisters Miguel and Cindy, BVM at the Working Boys' Center. One of them was Peggy Nolan, BVM. Little did we know how much Peggy would come to mean to our



Sister Peggy served at the Working Boys' Center from 1981-1985. As a BVM nun, she continued her support of the WBC throughout her life. She poses with other BVM sisters at a WBC reunion in Quito, Ecuador.

family. She brought with her an indomitable spirit, a great sense of humor, and a unique love for this "family of families."

Peggy taught music to the kids in two languages. She played with them, prayed with them and helped them to understand that we should be concerned with doing what God wants with our lives. She was an example of that herself. She lived and died loving others as Jesus did. We're sure that since her passing on October 18, 2011, from her vantage point in heaven, Peggy can see that she achieved her goal with the kids. The kids she knew are all grown up now, and they're good family persons who have embraced the message she gave them. They live for others and try to do what God wants them to do with their lives. So they all say, "Thanks, Sister Peggy and may you be with God for all eternity. By the way, put in a good word for us, if you will."



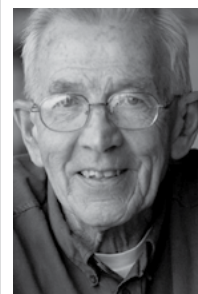
THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

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Padre's Message

DEAR FOLKS



Let's all thank God for this new year in which to live it up as the early heroes of this third millennium after Christ was born. May God blast us free from piddling goals to fight about and fling us into all the fun things that could make historic headlines out of God's goals on earth.

An example, right here in our centerfold, is the small but big enough explosion out of misery's death grip by the Chica family starring daughter Evelyn. You'll be able to recognize your donated money's power highlighted in the story.

Also in this issue is the little old lady whom we

all sometimes make ourselves feel good pitying. In this version, she's a new member of the Center who never learned to read or write or manage money that has to be counted. Her name, Maria Aurora Monte, can be translated: "mary dawn on the mountain." She can boast of seventy-four years of total hardship behind her. She still has a few years left to show us how the best diamonds are formed under the hardest pressure. She's showing her whole family the way up and far, far away from despair.

We can see that we're here because God loves us to love each other.

Love,
John J. Halligan, S.J.
John Halligan, S.J.

A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS

Grandma Maria Aurora Monte (Mary Dawn on the Mountain) lived seventy four years on the side of Chimborazo mountain, pasturing animals and raising corn, potatoes and fruits in seasons when it rained. Some members of the family are still there, ten hours into the mountains after a long truck ride out of Quito. But about eight months ago, two of Maria Aurora's grandchildren were orphaned and she was left to care for them. So she decided to bite the bullet and join her daughter, Lucinda in Quito.

Lucinda had come to Quito and headed for the hillside because she knew how to survive there. She and her family had joined other adventurers like themselves working most of the twenty four hours each day making bricks. You can imagine it if you try: mostly dirt, some cement and water, mixed

and poured into forms by hand to dry before stacking high in the kilns along with cut wood to be fired for days at high heat. You could also imagine, very incorrectly, that the family is now out of the Chimborazo frying pan and into the Quito fire. But not so.

Someone told them about the Working Boys' Center. Mary Dawn knew a good thing when she saw it. So the whole family joined up and began accepting all the challenges, the biggest one being going to school. Although Mary Dawn and Lucinda leave home each afternoon at 3:00 in order to make the 5:00 class, they never miss. And recently, when Mary Dawn had to return to Chimborazo on a mission to bring some more animals back with her, she asked if she could take along a little homework to be doing while



Maria proudly displays her animals that she brought with her from her farm in the Chimborazo area.



At 74 years old, Maria is learning to read and write through the adult literacy program, working with WBC volunteer, Liska Clasen.

absent so she wouldn't get behind the rest of the class. I'm sure you'll enjoy the accompanying photos of Mary Dawn at home with her animals and at the Center as the star pupil.



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WBC U.S. Development Office
Jane Pruh, Executive Director
Phone: 414-248-6171
Email: jane.pruh@workingboyscenter.org

Family Unity International Office
Patricia Parks, President
Phone: 262-797-8988
Email: pparks@wi.rr.com

Family Unity International, Inc.
12750 Stephen Place
Elm Grove, WI 53122



They wanted something better for their daughter

One Sunday afternoon recently, we had a good time at Evelyn Chica's housewarming party. Like thousands of others, many years ago they finished their formation and left to catch up on dreams of prosperity.

A few days later, a conversation about the housewarming with Wilson set us adrift through some of his memories of life before the family came to the Center. Wilson and his young wife, Beatriz, were very poorly paid overseers on a farm three hours on a bus from Quito. The salary was mostly food, a place in which to live and very little cash to spend. Beatriz and Wilson, scrimping and saving, had put the oldest boy, Einstein, through grammar school. Einstein was ready for high school. But kid sister, Evelyn, was also ready for first grade. They couldn't pay for both. The sad and happy decision was to proudly put Einstein in high school and put off school for Evelyn until whenever, however, if ever.

Beatriz was so distraught about no school for Evelyn that a friend, who had a friend who heard something about the Working Boys' Center, had no trouble convincing her to risk a trip to Quito to check it out. She came home from the trip to the Center all fired up to tell Wilson about a place that offered meals every day and education for everybody in the family, including Evelyn and Einstein too, without any money payments if the family would keep some crazy but easy enough rules about taking daily showers, making budgets, saving monthly in a bank, learning a trade, sharing housework and planning a future in work gangs building each other's private houses on land purchased with savings... and keep God's commandments.

Beatriz had been to the Center, felt its power



Wilson and Beatriz Chica relocated their family to Quito for an opportunity to give their entire family a new lease on life. The WBC provided an education that the Chica family could not afford on their own.

and wanted it for Evelyn. They prayed for light and migrated to Quito. The new life in Quito was a frighteningly intense process of survival. Get and pay loans. Find odd jobs. Start a bank account with ridiculously tiny deposits. Keep all the rules of the Center family. Wilson studied metal-mechanics at the Center's night school. Beatriz learned industrial sewing. They calmed the kids' fears of this new way of life.

How did they all stay that very tough course into the uncharted, poor people's future? Wilson says that the courageous and honest steps people take out of misery have nothing in common with any series of lucky breaks. He says that God's providence, faith and the Working Boys' Center, are not three lucky breaks.

Wilson and Beatriz have always used every bit of themselves to serve and become better able to serve more. While they were creating and raising the family God gave them, they also finished grammar school in the Center and they learned and used new work skills to leave poverty behind for themselves and their descendants.

Thanks to the Center's programs, Evelyn could



Thanks for the WBC technical education program, Evelyn earned a degree in cosmetology and now runs her own beauty salon.

graduate in Cosmetology and go on from success to success in that field. Never did she separate herself from the family even when it was very down and she was going up. At every step of her way, she helped the rest and had special care for her kid sister, Veronica, who is a person with special needs. Veronica is a very competent assistant in Evelyn's

very classy beauty salon. Einstein was able to become an accomplished master metal-mechanic.

These last few years he and his young family are enjoying a work contract in Spain. But he has never left the family needing whatever he could give. The youngest boy, Kevin, is working, finishing high school and seriously thinking about going to college for some as yet undefined hot-shot career. He's confidently weighing options in his wide and open world. Probably all the grandchildren, and not only Evelyn's kids, will tease about their old folks once being poor, whatever that is. Hopefully, they'll copy Evelyn's example of telling needy folks about us.

Words can't describe our joy at being part of the lives of the families in the Working Boys' Center. They are awfully good to us. Who else would let us in on their discoveries of God's ways?

Where Is She Today?

Evelyn is married to a great guy, father of their two boys. He works for the government and she runs her own beauty salon. They just moved into a very attractive, three-bedroom home they are buying with payments. Their two boys are in a good school close by. Evelyn's husband and kids tease her about her mysterious past in the Working Boys' Center where the families are all very poor. She tells all the poor people she knows about the Center. Twice each month, Evelyn interrupts her busy schedule to bring an assortment of refreshments to the kids at school recess in Working Boys' Center Number One. She's keeping a long ago promise she made to herself, when she was a member and some of her classmates didn't have something hidden away like she and the other kids did to eat at recess. This gives her opportunities to drop into our metal-mechanic shop run by her father, Wilson Chica.



Evelyn and her family celebrate their move into their new three-bedroom home with a housewarming party. Despite her success, Evelyn continues to help those who came from similar situations that she grew up in.