

continued from page 3

To say we were surprised when Lucila chimed in with a greeting in perfect English the first day of adult formation is an understatement - "Good afternoon everyone, my name is Lucila and I am a former member of El Centro del Muchacho Trabajador!" Because we invite former Center members and neighbors of Center members to attend our adult formation classes in the evenings, Lucila had heard about our offerings from a friend that currently attends the Center. Lucila says that coming to adult education gives her self esteem and the opportunity

to learn new skills that are valuable to her personal growth.

Lucila's reason that she comes back to the Center after so many years? The people. She says, "There's nowhere like here. The warmth, tenderness, and gathering of the family."

We're delighted Lucila is back with us, and are grateful for all of the people whose lives are touched by the Center and continue to be touched by this work, as they continue to touch ours.

Pastoral de la Mujer

An Opportunity for Women to Share Their Stories

Early this year, the WBC needed a space for women to come together and share their stories in solidarity, safety, and support. Due to recent Center surveys, we know that about 75% of Center women have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives, and 40% of our Center families are lead by single-mother households. In addition to our 'listening spaces' run by the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE) practicum students of psychology and our school psychologists, the Center is always striving to offer our families integral options for their empowerment.

In January, the pastoral team took on the mission of finding out how to best support our mothers. With the assistance of some local Sisters in the community and the pastoral team, the 'Women Sharing Their Stories' program took form. Every Saturday,



the mothers that can attend join in prayer, meditation, and sharing their stories. Lorena Pérez, the Pastoral Director of the Center, knows that many of these topics are sensitive

- which is why it is important to create a safe space for those seeking accompaniment, hope, and healing.

The average Saturday morning for 'Women Sharing Stories' begins at 9 AM with a stretch, a call to invite God into moving with us in our journeys, reflecting on the ways in which God has entered each of our lives, and using guided questions to begin sharing with one another. Knowing that this is a sacred and safe space, our mothers begin to open up to each other and find solidarity and strength in knowing they are not alone, they are supported, and they are loved.

Safe spaces are so crucial to our members as so many of those who come through the Center's doors every day have difficult pasts, live in unsafe neighborhoods, overcrowded spaces, and struggle every day to find a place that feels secure. We strive that every day, through programs like Pastoral de la Mujer, our members continue to feel at peace and at home in our space.

WBC NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SPRING 2019



A Letter from Padre Gustavo



Lent has arrived! It is a journey to walk with Jesus. This liturgical time of the Church invites us to internalize the message that the Lord brings us in his readings, in our prayer, and in the fasts to which he invites us. And

it is true that it asks us to deprive ourselves of some foods that we like, but the most important thing is the fasting that arises from love, compassion, and mercy. That is, the solidarity that puts us in tune with the human being, with their pains and hopes. God wants this Lent for us to walk alongside his Son Jesus, and to do so is to be close to the poorest in their needs. In Latin America, it is being very close to the Venezuelan people, the suffering they've experienced in their homeland, and also many who are migrating, who are in Ecuador, and especially those Venezuelans who are part of the WBC Family. They remind us that the human heart needs conversion and that grace we ask for all of us.

In Quito, we started the second semester of studies with great enthusiasm. Last month we had a beautiful retreat with the teachers and some managers to think about our work, our lives and what we are doing together at the Center. It was a time of great grace and communion. It is spirituality that moves our work and service to families. We allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit of God. The challenges we have are diverse and we

are committed to the help of all our friends and donors in continuing to build the future of this beautiful work. High school students, especially those in technical high school, are very happy with what they are learning. We are making history, because it is the first time that we will have a graduating high school class in 2021!

Juan Luis Moeira is a young Jesuit that I have assigned to help in the formation of children and young people. He is very happy to be part of the WBC team. From the pastoral department and, together with Caitlin McGuire and the volunteers, they work with the families to provide spaces for reflection and formation that are useful for their daily lives at home and at work. We continue our mass celebrations, mingas, and the solidarity meal on Saturdays. We recently had the visit of Spring Hill College, Salesium School, and Xavier High School who left very happy with their experience among us. We look forward, as well, to the 16 groups we will host this summer.

Walking in Lent is moving towards Easter. The joy of the resurrection is what moves our hearts. We want to thank you again for your presence and constant support. There is a lot of life here every day. We celebrate the joy, innocence and desire to learn from our Family of Families. Spring will come with Easter - our lives and the deep desire to walk in community will flourish. God bless you!

Gustavo Calderón, S.J.

Please mail contributions to

Center for Working Families.
12605 W. North Ave. #130
Brookfield, WI. 53005-4629

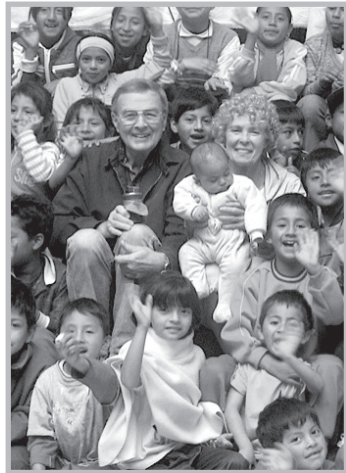
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Jim Parks, Board President C4WF: boardpres@c4wf.org



In Loving Memory of Jim Parks



Pat and Jim Parks with children at the Working Boys' Center

It is with heavy hearts to share with you that Jim Parks - loving husband to Pat Parks, devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and integral part of our family of families - passed away Thursday afternoon, March 14th.

accompany this apostolic work. Jim led by example and truly embodied generosity and commitment, giving of himself to support and empower the most vulnerable.

The services to honor and celebrate Jim's life were held at St. Mary's Visitation in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. If you would like to remember and commemorate the remarkable life of Jim, the family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Center for Working Families to support the mission in Ecuador. Your condolences are welcomed at the Parks family residence: 12750 Stephen Place, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

Please keep the Parks family in your thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time.

From the very early years of the

WBC, the Parks family has devoted their time, talent, and treasure to support and

Welcome to the Family, Jaime and Juan Luis!

We are blessed to welcome two new dynamic members to our Family of Families: Co-director, Jaime Sarmiento, and Pastoral Assistant, Juan Luis Moreira.

Jaime Sarmiento began with us in January and has a rich history of working with families and within non-profit organizations. As a graduate of the Jesuit school Fé y Alegría, Jaime received a scholarship where he went on to study business administration and management. He has used these skills and experience to work in strategic planning, institutional advancement, family dynamics, grant writing, and working in technology with children with disabilities.

Jaime comes to us with a breadth of experience and will work with us in strategic and operational planning, projects, and institutional support and formation. We look forward to Jaime's leadership, experience, and dedication as a part of our family!

Juan Luis Moreira is a Jesuit regent and comes to us from the coast of Ecuador, in Manta. As a child, Juan Luis was always deeply involved with his local church and loved the community that they formed. Before deciding to enter into the priesthood, Juan Luis worked in medicine and holistic therapy and wellness. After working in the field for about a decade, he decided to become a Jesuit.

Juan Luis, in this part of his formation, has been placed in the Pastoral department of the WBC. He works in spiritual journey classes with students, accompanies students, assists in celebrating masses, and has also worked to make the faith come alive for all of our members through his exuberant energy and contagious laugh.

We feel eternally grateful that Jaime and Juan Luis continue to add to this holy apostolate that works with and for the most vulnerable in Quito.



Juan Luis Moreira



Jaime Sarmiento

Prepare the Way of the Lord



Lent is a season for reflection and preparation - a time for self-examination leading up to the celebration of Easter. During these 40 days, we are to look inward and think about our life, the sacrifices God has made for us, and what we can do to be aware of these gifts. To delve into this appreciation, grow in understanding, and actively participate in the season of Lent, there needs to be an inner dialogue. Found in Joseph Tetlow, SJ's Lenten version of the Jesuit Daily Examen, *From Ashes to Glory*, we are led on a daily self-discovery to bring us closer to God:

I thank God. I say to the Lord: I am content with what I am and have. Thank you for stars and universes, for mountains and oceans. Thank you for health and home and work, for those I love and those who love me. Thank you that I know Jesus Christ and am his—for the Church, and sacraments, and hope in eternal life. And thank you for this day.

I ask for light. Let me see myself and my behavior the way the Holy Spirit has been seeing me, who am God's splendid creature,

adopted and "set free in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24)

I look for God in my life. I ask what I have done for love—love of God, of others, and of myself. If I have decided to change a habit or to grow a virtue, I give myself an account.

I face what's wrong. I accept responsibility for what I have done or not done, rejoicing in the good and repudiating the bad. I do not blame circumstances, upbringing, or others.

I determine what to do now. I see what I can do to love God better, grateful for what Jesus Christ is doing in me. I watch where the Spirit is leading me."

We are truly blessed with such incredible gifts and have the opportunity to share these gifts with others. As we continue on in this Lenten season and preparing for Jesus's great sacrifice and ultimate glory, may we, too, stand in solidarity with His offering. These actions may be small, gradual steps or they may be giant leaps. Maybe we dedicate 5 minutes every day to share five things we are grateful for. Or, instead of going out to eat, we stay in and donate the money we would have spent to help support those in need.

However this Lenten self-reflection manifests, let us remember to dig deeper, give more of ourselves, and follow the Spirit as we lovingly commit ourselves to God's appeal: "Return to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)
- by: Olivia Young

After 30 Years, Lucila Returns to our Family of Families



After 30 Years Lucila Comes Back to the Family of Families Lucila Amaguaña remembers when the Working Boys' Center in Cotacollao was under construction. In the 1980's, Lucila's family was a part of the Working Boys' Center. Upon graduating from basic adult education courses at the WBC, Lucila pursued a career working for the Center store, *Muebles y Más* as we now know it. During her time working at the Center, C4WF Board member and BVM Sister Judy Callahan taught Lucila English.

Lucila has broken the cycle of poverty for her family forever through her time as a member at the Center. Her daughters are now both professionals in education and in health, and Lucila continues to stay active in her community and works selling prepared food in various parts of Quito.

continued on next page