

**Connect2: Peru Short Talk**

*\*Note to speaker: Warmi Huasi is pronounced: 'wah-me wa-see'*

Good morning. Thank you Father for letting me speak today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm here to talk to you about 'Connect2: Peru', CAFOD's parish scheme. CAFOD have worked with partners in Peru for nearly 50 years. Now, through Connect2, we have an exciting opportunity to learn more about how CAFOD's local partners are working alongside two communities in Peru. Through Connect2, we will hear directly from these communities, as they share their lives, struggles and hopes with us. We will journey with them, through prayer, fundraising and exchanging messages.

[Pause]

Let me tell you a little about these communities. Adán lives in Cruz de Mayo, high in the snow-capped Andes. It is a vibrant rural community, full of colour and life. The community works together to protect their land. CAFOD's partner, CEAS, the Peruvian Church Social Action Commission, walks with them, providing support, advice and training, as they work to care for their land, and protect and manage their water sources and protect the beautiful Lake Parón.

Adán says: "I hope that you will learn about the good things and the challenges here. It helps us that these things are known about, not just in Peru, but in other countries too. The more we share between us about our highs and lows and our activities, you will learn about it too, and I hope we continue to make progress."

[Pause]

Meanwhile, some 8 hours away by bus, on the outskirts of the sprawling city of Lima, CAFOD's partner, Warmi Huasi\*, is helping children grow to their full potential, in a safe and nurturing environment. The children learn about their rights and take an active part in the well-being of their

neighbourhood. Milka is the Coordinator of Warmi Huasi. She says, "I am very excited and happy about this opportunity to share with you. I think this is something that is part of our nature as Peruvians, part of our tradition. We like to share, to tell our stories."

Milka adds, "I want to send my thanks and eternal affection to people in England and Wales, who live in solidarity with us. We may not know each other in person, but you hold us in your thoughts and prayers. We thank you for this. Through CAFOD, people here know that you are there, and they know of the affection with which you support our work here."

[Pause]

This is only the first step in our journey with the communities in Peru. Over the next three years, we will continue to learn more about the people, the work CAFOD's partners are doing, and we will be able to share stories about our parish life too.

[Pause]

Please do look at our parish notice board where you can see photographs, and learn more about the people in Cruz de Mayo and Lima. We will receive updates from our friends in Peru several times a year, which will also be displayed on our parish noticeboard. Thank you.

***Read this paragraph if you are recruiting a Connect2 volunteer:***

We are looking for volunteers who would be able to receive the Connect2 updates from CAFOD, and put them on our noticeboard. If you would be able to do this, please speak to me after Mass.