

Dear friends,

A small note to share with you the terrible moments we are currently living in Peru. You might have already seen in the news that we have been affected by the El Niño phenomenon, where by increased temperatures of sea water have condensed, forming clouds that have been displaced by the winds towards coastal cities bringing heavy rain in the Northern regions of Tumbes, Piura.

In the last days the cities of Lambayeque and Libertad have been the most affected. However, yesterday and today there were rains in the centre of Lima and Ica. In the case of Lima, it was especially in north Lima. Most coastal cities are not prepared for rain of such magnitude and for the increased water levels of the rivers. As a result, Lima has collapsed.

Classes in universities and schools have been suspended in Lima and Callao, food has started to become scarce, coupled with lack of drinking water as result of contamination with mud in dams that supply water to the city of Lima. In San Benito the school has flooded and is badly affected due to its precarious infrastructure.

Today it has been very difficult to cross the Chillón river by the new bridge that leads to San Benito [from Central Lima]. Several roads have been damaged, affecting the transport of passengers and also of food. In my whole life I can't remember anything similar (in the 80's there was a very strong Niño) but there wasn't the huge amount of images and videos that thanks to the cell phones we have today.

There is a great deal of drama and painful stories, there is also responses of solidarity from civil society and the government to support the victims, however, this also calls to attention the lack of prevention and preparedness from central, regional and local government as well as the population to these types of situations.

We did not know how to take care our rivers, watersheds and valleys, and have altered the environment with our rubbish and little respect for nature.

We have complicated times ahead and difficult weeks for reconstruction, according to predictions from experts. We hope rain will stop. The temperature is terrible these days. We have reached temperatures of 33 degrees in Lima.

I ask for your prayers for these lands.

Un abrazo fuerte
(A strong hug)

Milka

Prayer of intercession

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Peru as they struggle with extreme weather conditions. Comfort and protect those affected by floods. May the Holy Spirit inspire communities to hold onto hope for the goodness of creation.

Lord, in your mercy