

Sister Martin de Porres (Marty) Kimpel, SSND
70 Year Jubilee!



*We are sent to make Christ visible
by our very being."*

YAS N.4

With Mary I have reflected in my heart on these years of my life. I strove to make Jesus visible and rejoiced in the way the people made Jesus visible to me. Jesus went before me into the desert (literally) where I was sent, privileged to have so many exciting experiences.

It all began with my loving parents, Gordon and Beatrice Kimpel. I was born in Oct. 23, 1932, into a fantastic family of six girls and two boys. In school I was educated completely by SSNDs, grades 1 to 13. I was especially touched by my Grade 6 & 7 teacher, Sister Alfreda Arnold, who died of cancer at the age of 33. My sister, Helen received her name, Alfreda, two years before I received the name "Martin de Porres" (Marty), my patron, long before living in Peru.

Eight years teaching at St. John's School, Kitchener gave me a good preparation in school and church work to begin my life-time mission work of 55 years in South America – Bolivia (9 yrs.), Peru (37yrs.) Paraguay (9yrs.) which continually showed me God's Presence in each instance. Community, both Notre Dame and basic Christian people, made it possible to reach out, giving and receiving, through the most difficult times of the study of foreign languages (Spanish, Aymara, Quechua, Guarani), revolutions, high

altitude, terrorism, floods, political unrest, climate warming, women's struggles, unjust structures-wages, strikes, marches for necessities and so it goes.

I'm grateful to God also for all the wonderful opportunities to share my life and proclaim the Good News to such loveable, unselfish people, the poor and marginalized. We were EDUCATORS responding to various needs. It was a real diversity of ministries and specific services, particularly for the enablement of persons, for children and adults especially women in every area, teaching them literacy skills, catechesis for families, fighting for Shalom values, soup kitchens, Health Clinic, marches, midwifery, visiting to campo areas, study clubs, and SSND Formation.

I may not forget the opportunities I was privileged to participate in: The Conferences among all Latin American SSNDs, follow up on Vatican II, classes in Liberation Theology with Gustavo Gutierrez, guiding volunteers from Germany prepared by our Sisters in Germany, in a word, we accompanied the Church from Basic Communities to the Pope and Bishops of our Church.

We were blessed with the union of SSND in Latin America which covered from time-to-time 15

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countries in South America and the final gathering together of the Spanish-speaking Sisters forming a District in 2000 and later accepting the formation of one solo Province of Latin America with Argentina and Brazil in 2012.

With Pope Francis (a South American Pope) we were joined in many of his dreams for a BETTER WORLD and it all began before I returned to Canada. Some including a variety of groups working for caretaking and protection of the environment - ecologically, political system that shares wealth and services, nonviolence in our responses to conflict, re equal values especially for the women, respect for all peoples (racism), fresh water, adequate health care, in a world of JUSTICE with PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE.

“We foster intercultural living by embracing an awareness of our own culture and celebrating the diversity of cultures we encounter.”

Community Goal 2020, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada

