

Go out! With your sisters and with others, encounter the most vulnerable...in new and creative ways

After nearly 14 years in Riobamba, I felt a call to go elsewhere, to leave the securities and routines that had little by little settled in my life. Strengthened by this call from the chapter, I left for a new adventure of Providence in Santo Domingo de los Colorados.

My activities there are multiple. With Jhonny and Vanessa, I share an office where we offer treatment in alternative medicine in this region where it isn't very developed.

Through Sister Carmela, a Benedictine missionary, I discovered a center that welcomes girls from 0 – 18 years of age who have been taken from their families for various reasons: abuse, rape, severe malnutrition... I meet these girls on Monday mornings. Treatment with magnets and Bach flowers help a little to ease their deep wounds...

On Tuesdays I offer short massages to elderly persons in a retirement home. This attention is mostly an occasion to listen. Talking freely helps relieve some of the pain of loneliness, feeling abandoned.....

On Wednesday evenings I join a group of about 12, mostly women, to share the Word of God and life experiences.

On Thursday mornings, I'm off to the prison where the chaplain asked me to visit the woman's pavilion. There are about 80 of them; most are there for drug trafficking. They move forward...but they know how difficult it is to change their lives in their milieu. We celebrate the Word of God of Sunday with them. Encounters that invite me to change my attitude toward the other...

The down time in the office, the appointments not kept, the moments of doubt and questioning both in my professional work and in my various activities, become the time to deepen my desire to be close to the vulnerable. I try to choose trust and disponibility and I ask God: «If this project is according to Your Will, may it succeed, if not, lead me where You want so that I might be at the service of Your Kingdom».

Sœur Liliane Haas - Santo Domingo de los Colorados