

LINDA GUERRERO (PER)



I am Linda Guerrero Lanoyre. I was born in Lima, the sixth of seven siblings. Our parents brought us up to value the family. The challenges in my personal and family life equipped me with strength and courage to face and work through even the most painful situations that life can offer.

I am a technical nurse and worked for twelve years in various medical centres and also with private patients, aiming for a secure job which I achieved in 2000. One day, some of my work colleagues organised a rural outreach and asked me to go along in my capacity as nurse. We went to various places in the Huancavelica area, among them Lircay, the poorest region in central Perú: it was a gift to have my eyes opened to see the reality of the most deprived part of our country.

That experience conscientized me and I began to do more than attending to emergency cases, ready to share the gifts God had given me: organising outreach activities, looking for resources, inviting others to collaborate, encouraging children and adults with my guitar in hand, giving talks on health. Over the years I felt the desire to join a group that was more organised, and became a member of a lay missionary group (Laica Misionera Comboniana del Perú (LMC-Pe). That was a period of intense commitment along a path of service that spoke to me of justice, the dignity of the person, total availability, knowing the certainty of a Father/Mother who accompanies, nourishes, loves, asking me to love, and to love even more.

As I journeyed on, I felt the desire to keep search for something I couldn't actually name. I was being called to give more of myself, wanting to contribute to the building of a world of peace, of hope. My spiritual director encouraged me to get to know religious congregations and look for help in discerning my vocation. Among various congregations, I chose an RSCJ to accompany me, and in 2005 I had a live-in experience in the community of Bambamarca- Cajamarca.



Linda with her family

The moment of making a hard decision came, when I chose to pursue the desire to become a Religious of the Sacred Heart, even if my mother, whose health was failing, could not understand my choice. I entered the postulancy in 2006-2007, and then the noviceship in 2008. This period, which included living in very deprived areas like San Genaro-Chorillos, was marked by many ups and downs, crises and above all by learning, maturing, and growth. At some point, I needed to take some time outside the congregation as I tried to clarify my options and discerned what God wanted me to do.

I came back to the Society in 2011, first spending a "waiting" time in "Santa María"- Chalet for a year, until I was ready to join the Interprovincial Novitiate in Chile. In that year I had to allow myself to trust, letting myself be shaped and accompanied.

I went to the Interprovincial Novitiate in Chile - Reñaca Alto in March 2012 for two years, where I enjoyed a rich experience of intercultural formation, new experiences of learning and unlearning,

seeking to create community from very different perspectives. I had two years of clarifying and confirming my desire to commit myself totally, taking the responsibility for my option and identification with the Society. I was also able, at a distance, to heal my relationship with my mother before she died, and know she understood my discernment of my call. I was so thankful to the Lord for the gift of life that engenders life.



Linda at different moments of apostolic activity

Now I am in my second year of temporary vows, finishing my Bible Studies and training in Spiritual Direction & Accompaniment. At the same time I share in the service of the Province as a member of the Youth and Pastoral Team. I am also a member of the Communications team, and am responsible for *Chasqui*, the province newsletter, as well as for the provincial website and Facebook page. I also serve as the link for the International Website. I also am the pastoral coordinator of the *Institución Educativa Parroquial Gratuita Madre Admirable*, which has an enrolment of more than 1500 students across preschool, primary, secondary, special education and technical and vocational training. Located in El Agustino, an area mostly populated by people from the central mountain areas of Perú, the institution serves very poor people, many of whom are itinerant vendors and peddlers of car parts, and who are very much exposed to a culture of violence, stealing, and drug addiction.



Linda with other RSCJ

The Lord has gifted me with the possibility of serving Him through the use of the talents that He has given me to share, inviting me to live in complete openness and availability. Despite my limitations, I share in the desire to realize the vision of an RSCJ Society that is a sign of Hope in a world in turmoil; a Society that joins its voice with the cry for PEACE and JUSTICE, creating, humanising, trying to truly be "ONE HEART and ONE SOUL in the HEART OF JESUS."