In March, Sisters Mary Murray and Margaret Palliser traveled to Lima Peru to be present for the celebration honoring Sr. Maureen Robinson whose 32 years of ministry to and with the people of Pamplona will be ending in a few months when she returns to the United States.

The March 11 celebration began with a special Mass in the parish church of Niño Jesús (“The Child Jesus”) which was the first church built in Pamplona. The celebrant, Fr. Alberto Osorio (who was born and raised in the parish) retold the story of the famous “invasion” of a dusty hill outside of Lima on Christmas Eve of 1954, when thousands of poor families took possession of this barren desert area which soon became known as Ciudad de Dios. Fr. Alberto traced the history of the development of the area and highlighted the critical role that Sr. Maureen has played in that growth. He reminded the community that it is impossible to tell the history of “City of God” without the story of Sr. Maureen’s contributions in bringing better health care to its families. Through her untiring efforts, the clinic’s “Well Baby” program was created and has flourished for more than 25 years, serving the women and children of Pamplona. During the Presentation of the Gifts, a cuadro was presented, a wonderful reminder of the bonds that have been forged between the women of Pamplona and our Congregation. Following the Mass, a reception was held during which a beautiful group of teenagers surprised Sr. Maureen by performing Peruvian folk dances in her

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honor. Every one of the dancers had been part of the “Well Baby” program when they were infants! After the many testimonials and expressions of gratitude given by doctors, nurses, staff members and patients from the clinic, Sr. Mary brought the greetings and good wishes of the Congregation to the people assembled there:

“The Sisters and Associates of the Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary feel so blessed that Madre Maureen has been with the Maryknoll Sisters and with you, the people of Pamplona, for the past 32 years. Our congregation has been in full support and in solidarity with you and Madre Maureen.

“Many changes have happened in these years. The Well Baby Clinic has helped so many mothers and babies. The Health Clinic, the meal program, the visits to the sick in Pamplona, trips to the hospital when needed, and so much more….You have all shared in Madre Maureen’s great love for you. It is her love, her goodness and her generosity that we celebrate tonight. Through her, the Dominican Sisters have grown to know and love the people of Pamplona. You are in our heart. We will never forget what Madre’s presence here has meant, and we will never forget you. Madre, may your good works continue to bear fruit for generations to come! Dios les bendiga! Que Dios bendiga el pueblo de Pamplona.”