

## **Sisters In Peru Honored With Marie Chin Legacy Award For 2023**



*Peru Sisters, (clockwise from left) Roxana Contreras Novoa, Carmen Rosa Ccallomamani, Janet del Rosario Fernández Cardoza, Viviana Chique, Marilu Holguin Cruz, Estela Gómez (from Argentina), Vilma Alayo, Blanca Quintana, Maria Elena Anto Pasache, Mary Ellen (Marielena) McKenna, Nidia Hanacuni, Durlly Salazar.*

The Institute Leadership Team (ILT) honored the sisters in Peru with the 2023 Marie Chin Legacy Award. The award is named for the beloved former president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, a native of Jamaica, who was committed to the empowerment of women and children. The award has been given annually since 2017, honoring ministries that are meeting critical needs and concerns, especially those of women, children and migrants.

“Marie, as a tender and compassionate minister, would delight that her name and legacy award would be connected to your extraordinary ministries in your beloved country of Peru,” the ILT said announcing the honor.

The ILT expressed their deep gratitude to the sisters’ commitment to “work in communion with others who seek a more just and inclusive world (2023 Chapter Commitment),” citing their outreach to those in need from La Victoria and Condevilla (Lima) to Nuevo Chimbote (Ancash), from Chulucanas and Pacaipampa (Piura) to Chucuito (Puno).

“Through your tender care and prayers, the rich tapestry of Mercy in dear Peru supports those needing psychological care, physical therapy, education and vocational training, accompaniment of migrants, support for those traumatized by human trafficking, nursing care for the vulnerable elderly, nutrition, pastoral support, and building liturgical and catechetical space for local neighbours to gather and worship,” the letter said. “It is not possible to name here all the ways in which you serve those in need and tend to the spirit of encuentro. From our hearts, we thank God for you!”

The honor, which the ILT has committed to awarding for 25 years, comes with a \$25,000 grant to be shared among the various ministries in Peru. The ILT will present sisters there with a plaque of recognition. Previous winners of the Sister Marie Chin Legacy Award include Mercy Connections in Burlington, Vermont (2021), Casa Corazón de la Misericordia in San Pedro Sula, Honduras (2021), Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (2020), the Sisters of Mercy and Ministries of Guyana (2019), Casa de Misericordia of Laredo, Texas, and its executive director, Sister Rosemary Welsh (2018), and the Jamaican Community Ministries (2017).



*This article was first published in Mercy Now – the newsletter of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. For more information on the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, please visit their website <https://sistersofmercy.org/>*