



MSSP Generalate
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Missionary Society of St Paul

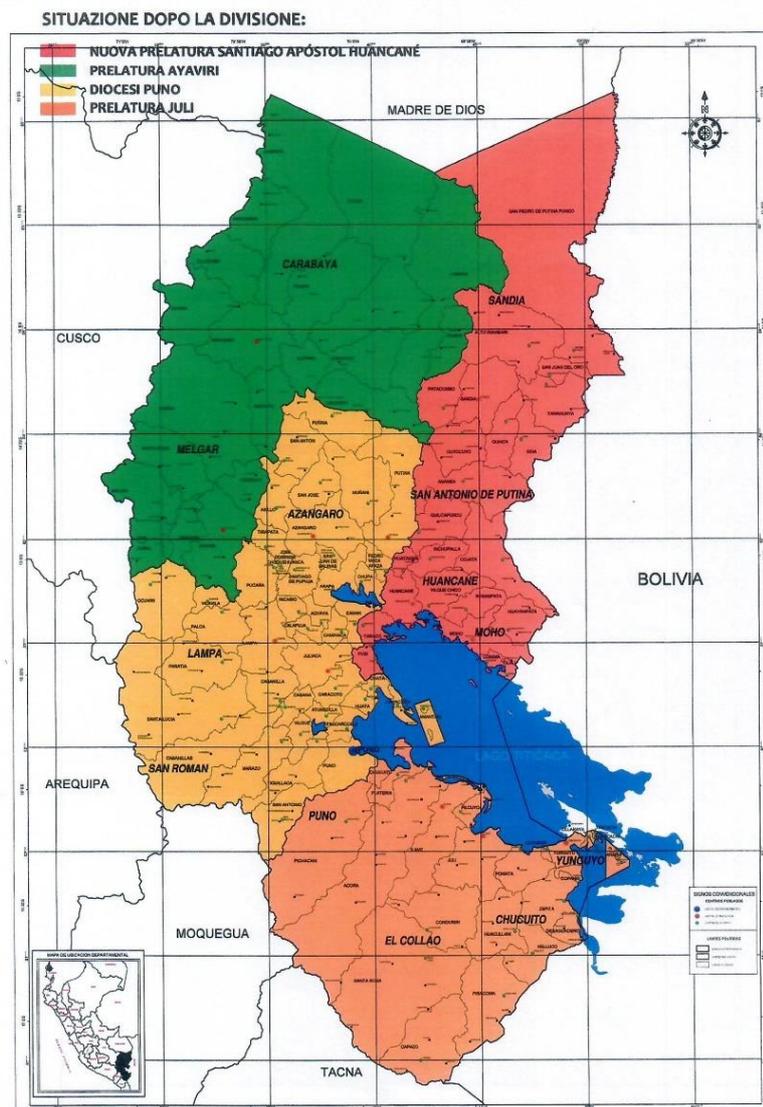
5th April, 2019

Dear Brothers in Christ,

May the Lord's grace be with you all.

As MSSP, after receiving the news regarding the entrustment of the Prelature of Huancané to our pastoral care, and the nomination of Fr. Giovanni Cefai mssp as its first bishop, a lot of work has been put into motion. I have been in contact with Fr. Giovanni, and he is overwhelmed by the support he received from the MSSP brothers and the laity. Moreover, he assured me that the hierarchy in Peru is also very appreciative of this step that we as MSSP are taking and in particular confident that Fr. Giovanni will be doing a good job. So, my request from you is to keep this pastoral venture in your prayers, that the Lord will give us the grace to be true shepherds of this community.

Speaking about the Church in Huancané let me share with you some more information. The Prelature is located to the furthest south of Peru, borders with Bolivia, on the high planes of Puno where the famous Lake Titicaca resides. It is about 5hrs drive from our parishes in Arequipa. At an altitude of 4000m above sea level, it is not a place for the faint hearted, and the most populated parts of the Diocese are found along the edge of this same lake. However, geographically speaking, the region extends towards the east over all the



mountain range of the Andes, towards the Madre de Dios Selva area (amazon). It is predominantly an Aymara culture and the elderly still speak their native language. Due to the extent of the region and the physical separation from its original prelature of Juli, a pastoral need was felt for a long time to give the local community more spiritual care. In cases such as these Missionary congregations are approached to take on the responsibility.

Back to our reality, these last days have been quite hectic for our brothers in Peru, and particularly for Fr Giovanni. This endeavor is quite daunting both for us as MSSP and for him, yet we trust that God's providence is infinitely bigger than the risks we take. Some emerging practical details are the following:

- The **Episcopal Consecration** will be held in Arequipa's cathedral on **Saturday 22nd June, 2019**.
- On the **30th of June, 2019** (*MSSP Foundation Day*) there will be the **Episcopal Installation in Huancané**.

In the meantime, Fr. Giovanni will be busy with a lot of details to supervise, but many of which will be taken care of by the lay teams who have already got organized and rose up for the occasion. Our mission of Peru is blessed with such people. Giovanni will also be looking for his new attires locally and finalizing his coat of arms! Most importantly, he will be sparing a week for his much needed, and canonically requested, spiritual retreat.

Here I am including a note that Fr. Giovanni wished to share with you all.

My dear brothers

I would like to thank you for sharing so much joy with me since the announcement on Wednesday. Thanks for your prayers, love and support. This is not MINE but OURS. God bless you all.

I would like also to inform you that the Episcopal Consecration will be held on Saturday 22nd June at the Cathedral of Arequipa at 10.00 am. While the installation as a bishop of Huancané will be held on Sunday 30th June at noon at Huancané Church (future Cathedral). While you are all invited, I can understand that many cannot make it, but please say a prayer for me before and during that time. Thanks a million.

Fr Giovanni

That is all for the time being.

Blessings



Fr Mark Grima mssp

Superior General

