

SISTER CATHERINE MCNAMEE VISITS OUR DIOCESE
(AN INTERVIEW FOR THE DIOCESAN PAPER)
(APRIL 18, 2010)

Sister Catherine McNamee, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is visiting our diocese to share with sisters, associates and other neighbors the effects of the earthquake of February 27. She had lived here for almost six years, a member of San Sebastián Parish and a teacher at the Catholic University of Maule (UCM).



Sister Cathy (sic) said that the situation in the south-central region of the country had a very profound impact on the people of the US: “What occurred there is a tremendous disaster,” was how early news report described the trauma and destruction experienced by the people in Talca and the surrounding area.” About two hours after the major quake (3:30 am in St. Louis, Missouri) she received a call from S. Elena Smits who warned her that at daybreak she would be hearing of this earthquake in Talca so wanted to assure her that none of their neighbors had suffered personal injuries, at least as far as they had discovered at that point. From what those in the U.S. could see on the TV throughout the day, however, once could be led to expect even worse news in the days ahead. Sister Catherine’s first concern, therefore and that of all the other sisters in the U. S. (and Perú) was to learn more about the condition of members of the Familia de San José and other neighbors and friends in both Talca and Curepto.

Since she arrived here a few days ago, Sister Cathy has seen the devastating effects of the earthquake in the downtown area of Talca and in the oldest barrios with many adobe houses.

On Saturday, April 17, she and Elena paid a visit to Curepto where the destruction was even greater. In all these regional contacts they have been accompanying the members of the Familia de San José, assessing their needs and encouraging them in their efforts to assist their friends and neighbors in these days of trauma and stress.

As the interview drew to a close, Sister Catherine McNamee offered a special greeting to all the people of the diocese whom she will be visiting until April 28: “My fondest wishes and deepest concern for my Chilean family. I’m a North American, but I feel Chilean in my heart. I want to send a special message to all those who are suffering the loss of family members, homes and history. I share your pain and your loss; but take heart! because out of all this suffering we are going to experience another resurrection of Chile, of your families and of your cities and towns.”

Sister Catherine is a member of the Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She is the liaison to the St. Paul Province in Minnesota and to the Congregational Mission in Chile, as well as to all the lay associates (Familia de San José) of the Congregation and to the five universities sponsored by the CSJ’s in the U.S.