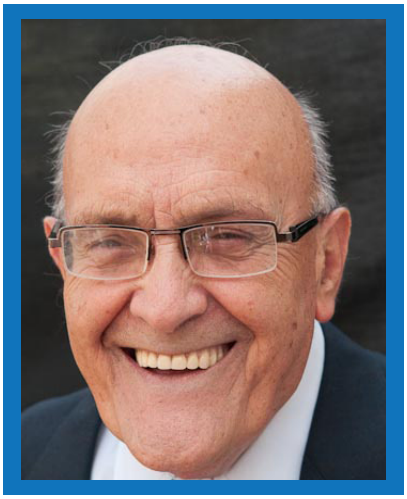
Mensajera DE LA RECONCILIACIÓN

March - April 2012 I Volume 01 No. 02

The Newsletter of the Betania Foundation



Words of the President of the **Betania Foundation**

Geo Bianchini Giani

On the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the Betania Foundation, I wish to share with you that His Excellency Bishop Juan Jose Bernal, the spiritual director of the Servant of God Maria Esperanza, was a key figure in the creation of the foundation. His Excellency had already known Mrs. Maria Esperanza for some time and noticed that many people followed her, and advised her to create a foundation to give support to the Church with the goal of evangelizing.

On March 25, 1976, our Lady appeared to Maria Esperanza and then His Excellency gave permission to impart the sacraments in Betania to those who lived nearby.

PAGE 02

During Holy Week Pilgrims Participated with the Betania Foundation

Since Thursday, April 5, 2012 the Sanctuary of Our Lady Reconciler of all Peoples was visited by crowds of pilgrims, who experienced Easter accompanying the Lord; visiting his Mother, the Virgin Mary; and participating in Mass, the rosary and meditations.

The Betania Foundation took part in such religious activities at the shrine, as well as those that were organized privately: the celebration of the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet, the Stations of the Cross, praises to our Lord, rosaries, the choir singing, and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, to mention a few.

Additionally, the Youth Department of the Betania Foundation – inviting people to learn more about their Church and remind them of the public life of Jesus – organized talks and a play. The talks covered topics on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the play represented the most striking passages of the life of Jesus.

PAGE 02

On April 19 the Betania Foundation **Celebrated Its 33rd Anniversary and the Betania Choir Its 31st**

April 19th is an important date for the members of the Betania Foundation and the Communities of Betania. That is why the current President of the Betania Foundation, Mr. Geo Bianchini, invited the members of Betania to accompany him for Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Church Santa Ana, to thank the Lord for another anniversary of the Betania Foundation and the Betania Choir, in addition to the birthday celebration of the choir leader, Maria Auxiliadora Bianchini de Leon.

2nd Apparition
August 22, 1976
1:30 p.m.

Excerpt of a message of our Lady given to Mrs. Maria Esperanza de Bianchini

Little daughter, when all men on earth come to carry their cross with love, there shall be no more pain or weeping, for they shall live rising each day with my Beloved Son in a constant and lively: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
My little daughter, I wish for you to make them feel the worth of prayer and the importance of my new apparition as Reconciler of Peoples.

The apparition of the Virgin on March 25, 1976 along with the apparitions in 1984, at Betania were declared as authentic, of supernatural character, and of divine origin by His Excellency Bishop Pio Bello Ricardo in his Pastoral Letter published on November 21, 1987.

To the left, His Excellency Monsignor Juan Jose Bernal, the spiritual director of the Servant Maria Esperanza de Bianchini, to the right of Mrs. Bianchini

Words of the President of the **Betania Foundation**

Geo Bianchini Giani

The Servant of God, through the counsel of her spiritual guide and a message she received from heaven to create a group of people to cooperate with the Church, founded the "Betania Foundation Civil Association" on April 19, 1979, at the Ave Maria residence, in La Lagunita, Caracas. The Betania Foundation was established as a civil association with a social, non-profit and non-political organization.

This is why every year we celebrate the beginning of a group of souls that came together to serve the Church and the Lord. My call is to be prepared, because everyone will have to be a herald of the Word of God. This April 19th, as every year, was celebrated by going to Church, giving thanks to the Lord, with a Mass in which the Betania Choir sang, and sharing fellowship among members of the foundation.

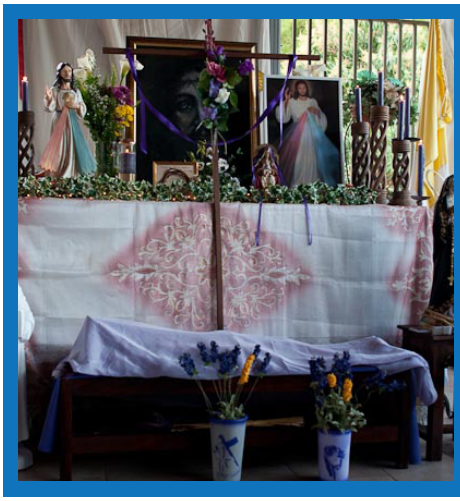
I invite all members of the Betania Communities to join us to celebrate next April 19th, to thank our Lord and the Blessed Virgin for this gift.

During Holy Week Pilgrims Participated with the Betania Foundation

Some of the foreign pilgrims who had the opportunity to be part of these activities were Mrs. Patricia Cancelo and Ms. Julia Dover, both from Argentina; and the young Ryan Terrill, from the United States.

According to Ryan, each of the activities in which he participated had a great influence in his spiritual life, helping to strengthen it. He considered that the most memorable part of Easter was the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord in the midst of the candlelight, ¨When the choir sang and we were meditating on how Jesus sacrificed himself for us, I felt the presence of the Lord.¨

Meanwhile Julia said she felt happy, and felt a greater commitment with the Lord to speak to the young people about him and about the importance of the spiritual life. She also stated that one of the most emotional moments for her was that of the Washing of the Feet.



Adoration of Jesus in the Holy Sepulcher

Theatrical Play ¨The Passion¨

An Interview With Maria Auxiliadora Bianchini Leon

The Story of The Birth of The Betania Choir

Since I was a baby I loved to sing. I remember when my parents sang to me and I tried to hum along with the songs. As I grew up, I came to love music even more. By the age of four I played the piano and I would ask all the house guests to sit and hear me play and sing. I spent day and night singing, dreaming of becoming a singer.

My parents, the Servant of God Maria Esperanza de Bianchini and Mr. Geo Bianchini, were among my promoters. I remember when guests would come, they would ask us to pray with them, and then to sing and dance for them. My mom called me "my little golden voice" and sometimes "my little musician." She also told me that my mission was to evangelize through music.

My parents knew that we [their children] loved music, this is why they would buy us manuals to learn how to play different instruments, and that is how some of us learned to play the cuatro [Venezuelan small guitar of four strings].

An Interview With Maria Auxiliadora Bianchini Leon
The Story of The Birth of The Betania Choir

When our knowledge of music grew a bit we formed a singing group among our siblings, and we would go to Churches to sing on some Sundays during Mass. We also attended some programs in Italy where we sang as a family.

Almost before finishing High School I enlisted myself in the Jose Lorenzo Llamozas Conservatory in Caracas, but I had to leave because I did not have enough time to study. Throughout my youth I and some of my siblings became members of the Choirs of the Pompei School, the Teaching Experimental Institute, the Folklore Society, and the Venezuela Choir, and we participated in some competitions.

When I graduated from High School, I entered the Juan Jose Landaeta Conservatory in 1980, and I graduated in October 1990. Here, I met Professor Lucia Guitlitz and Professor Angel Sauce, who taught me excellent music techniques. While in the Conservatory I participated as a member of the Venezuela Choir for seven years, and worked at the Opera Workshop.

After a while, my mom told me about her idea of forming a choir and it began to sound uplifting, so on the day of my birthday, April 19, 1981, the Betania Choir was founded. The choir began with my sisters and brother, and some friends. Today it is much bigger because more members have joined us.

Every day I thank God for giving me the opportunity of working and serving him in what I enjoy. I am happy for the gift He has given me which is the gift of music, and for being able to evangelize through it. I feel a great commitment, responsibility, and a spirit of humility and service towards everyone who approaches us.

When we sing the Lord works through us and thus grace reaches the people. We are an instrument and we must be humble so the grace can work through us. We have the responsibility of being humble and working with perseverance in order to bear fruits.

What the Betania Choir wishes for is to love and serve the Lord. Our goal is to give honor and glory to God, to our Church, and to serve all those who need us in order to win souls for God through song, love and an example of a united family.

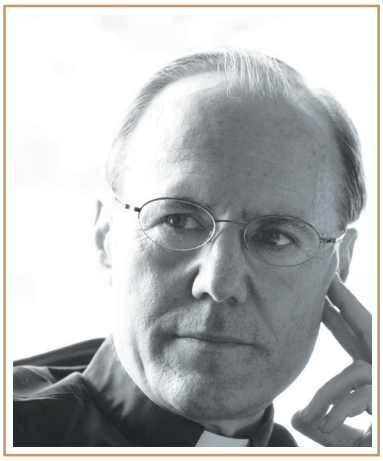
Music is a gift from God because joy and hope, in their essence, are expressed through it; one does not need a language to touch the souls. My mom told me: “Music is the language of God; it is the favorite art of God.” So anyone who wishes to sing and belong to the Betania Choir first needs to love God and then needs to earnestly want to learn how to sing.
With love,

Maria Auxiliadora Bianchini de Leon
Leader of the Betania Choir

Youth from the Claret School **confirmed their love for God**

On Sunday, April 29th over 100 young students of the Claret School reaffirmed their commitment to the Lord while doing their Confirmation, which was imparted by His Excellency, Bishop Fernando Castro. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Angel Bombin and Father Eugenio Ortega, and the celebration was accompanied by the singing of the Betania Choir, allowing the people to become more involved in such an important event. The Betania Foundation, inviting the youth to pray the rosary and see the great graces it brings, gave them a package with a rosary, the steps of how to pray it, and a prayer card of our Lady under the title of Virgin Reconciler of all Peoples.

Words of the Vice-Postulator
Report from my visit to Betania



Dear Friends of Betania,

I would like to share with you a little report from my visit to Betania this past March. I was fortunate enough to be there on March 25 for the 36th anniversary of the Virgin Mary's first visit to Betania. It was also the feast of the Annunciation. The Betania Foundation was present, as always, and also the leaders of Betania XIV and the latest Betania Community, Betania XVII. We were also blessed with the presence of a wonderful priest from Detroit named Fr. Paul Ballien. As on all of these great Marian feasts, many devout Venezuelans filled the outdoor chapel and surrounding grounds of the sanctuary on the evening before the feast for an all-night vigil. This vigil was a continuum of Masses, Holy Hours, rosaries, and festive singing led by the priests and faithful who came for this special occasion.

The highpoint was the 10:00 AM Mass on March 25 celebrated at the main altar, in front of the grotto, by Msgr. Freddy Fuenmayer, the Bishop of Los Teques. The entire plaza was filled with people who held umbrellas to shelter themselves from the rain. The Betania Choir huddled under the roof of the chapel near the altar and sang for the Mass. It was the largest crowd I have ever seen in Betania. This is another sign that devotion to our Lady, Reconciler of all Peoples and Nations, is not diminishing, but only growing stronger.

May the Virgin of Betania gain for us the family healing and fraternal unity the world so desperately needs.

God bless you all,
Pd. Tim

Words of the Founder

In the month of Mary
Ode to the Holy Rosary

Children, let us sing to the Holy Rosary given to us by Mary, Our Mother, to save us Sing:
O Blessed Rosary, O sweet word that brings echoes of hope and consolation to the ears of the believers!
O Blessed Rosary, you are a delightful garden, a place where those who can feel you with devotion make our spirits rest!
O Blessed Rosary, our soul smiles in such a way, and you inebriate us with excitement with the fragrance of roses that fall upon the world to save us through you!
O Blessed Rosary! The beautiful prayer in which the loving Heart of a Mother gave everything for her children was fashioned in you: Hail Mary.
O Blessed Rosary, there is no more practical or more effective devotion than that of your beads!
The well-known song says: ¨You are ladders to heaven for the good souls, you are mystical roses that keep the perfume, the music and the tenderness of heaven, you are light filled with softness and grace that appear in the dark path of our lives. Yes, blessed Rosary, you are a Rosary with polished ivory or rough wood beads, but you are still the Rosary, your purpose is the same in the soul of the believing creature! O Blessed Rosary, you lift our burden, you give us confidence and fortitude, you sweeten our tears, you multiply our joys, and you penetrate our hearts with constant charity so we come to forgive our brothers forever. You are the remedy for what could be wrong and for the miseries that could abide in our souls. You are the perennial fountain of the sweet smile of Mary, Our Heavenly Mother! ¨
O Blessed Rosary, Our Lady chose you to hand on her name, this wonderful title in which the repentant sinner has been purified!
O Mary, Mother of the Rosary, your Immaculate Heart was been given to us so we could invoke you: ¨LONG LIVE THE ROSARY OF MARY! ¨

Excerpt from a letter of the Servant of God Maria Esperanza addressed to her spiritual children in Venezuela. Rome, August 15, 1972.

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MARIA ESPERANZA

Merciful Father, You blessed Maria Esperanza with an abundance of spiritual gifts for the consolation of your people. She served You as wife, mother, and missionary to promote the unity of the family and the reconciliation of all peoples. You enabled her to be the central figure in the manifestations of the Virgin Mary, under the title of Reconciler of all Peoples and Nations, in Betania. Grant us the grace to follow her example of humility, hope, and unconditional love.

Through the intercession of your servant, Maria Esperanza, we pray for the healing and reconciliation of our families, and for the fraternal unity of the entire human family.

Especially, we beseech You to grant us the favors we now request (mention your intentions here) through the merits and prayers of your servant. Likewise, we humbly implore that she be inscribed in the Church's catalogue of saints, as a universal model of the beatitudes.

We pray all this according to your holy will, cherished by your servant until the end, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

With the ecclesiastical approval of Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski of Metuchen, New Jersey, December 4, 2009

For more information or to report a miracle go to: www.mariaesperanza.org and/or www.betania.org.ve

Chronological data
on Mrs. Maria Esperanza

• She was born on November 22, 1928 in Barrancas, Bolivar State, Venezuela

• In September, 1954 she entered the Convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Merida to make an attempt as a religious, but she was revealed that her mission was to sanctify herself in the world as a wife and mother

• On December 8, 1956 she married Mr. Geo Bianchini Giani in the Chapel of the Choir of the Immaculate Conception, in the Basilica of St. Peter, in Rome, Italy

• In the period from October 1957 to March 1965 she had seven Children; six girls and a boy

• On March 25, 1976 in Finca Betania she saw the Virgin for the First time in the place, under the title of Mary, Virgin and Mother, Reconciler of all Peoples and Nations

• In 1991 she began her apostolic missions. On October 22, 1991 she made her first national visit to the State of Zulia, Venezuela, and on April 23, 1993 she went on her first international mission to Lowell, Massachusetts, USA

• On August 7, 2004 she passed away in Long Beach Island, New Jersey, USA

• On January 31, 2010 in the United States, New Jersey, Metuchen the Cause of her Beatification and Canonization was opened

Spiritual Maxims of Maria Esperanza de Bianchini

I congratulate singers! You have the honor to sing to God: "Glory be to God in the highest and peace to men of good will! Hosanna, hosanna! Blessed He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Betania XVII was born in Houma, Louisiana, USA

Our Lady called me [Mr. Allan Weilert] to Betania in 1995 via the Spirit Daily website, operated by Michael H. Brown. After reading the informative article about Betania and now Servant of God Maria Esperanza, I told my mom, "We have to go there!" Two months later, we crossed the "bridge to Heaven" and experienced a week of many wonderful blessings at this Church-approved apparition site.

Our first pilgrimage of thirteen persons upon arrival at the grotto were amazed to immediately witness a billowy, white column of cloud approximately six feet by 2 feet hovering some 3 feet off the ground, just to the left of our Lady's statue. Falling from this cloud was a substance completely unknown to us that the people who had gathered there called "escarcha", "glitter" in English; after several minutes, the cloud slowly faded away. This glitter, silver-colored metallic-like, which we learned was a sign of our Lady's presence, covered us as well as the ground around us.

The famous blue butterfly came to visit us, also that trip, as we prayed in the grotto. "Look! The blue butterfly!" I exclaimed as a dinner-plate sized sign of the presence of the Virgin wafted by me into the jungle. Upon reflection on this divine encounter, I was impressed that although it was good for us to journey to Venezuela, we didn't have to go all that way to be with our Lady since she is very much present at every Holy Mass. How often have I searched for God somewhere out there only to hear his "still small voice" within my heart?

Another feature of our first pilgrimage to Betania were astounding physical and spiritual healings that we witnessed with our own eyes at the grotto, including remarkable instantaneous healings of a woman who had fractured both patellae (kneecaps) and a boy of seven years suffering from congenital paralysis in his legs. Little wonder our Lady calls Betania: "The new Lourdes!" Fifteen trips later, I still find myself irresistibly drawn to the palpable, sweet presence of our Lady, Virgin and Mother, Reconciler of Peoples and Nations. Words cannot describe the inestimable graces that have flowed into my life from praying at the grotto, meeting Servant of God Maria Esperanza, and her beautiful family. I thank the good Lord for bringing me there so many times and for all the generous blessings bestowed so abundantly on the pilgrims. Betania XVII was formed at the initiative of Mr. Geo Bianchini and his daughter Coromoto Bianchini de Marrero on March 27, 2012. We are humbled, honored and so pleased to joyously bring the spirituality of reconciliation and unity to Houma, Louisiana, [USA] and to spread devotion to Servant of God Maria Esperanza.

Betania XVII meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 in my free clinic, Divine Mercy Community Clinic, 1013 Barrow Street, Houma. Everyone is welcome to join us for prayer, reflection, and communal sharing. For more information, call 985/217-6726.

Betania III (Long Beach Island, NJ – USA)

Betania III is privileged to use the "Our Lady of the Pines" Church in Manahawkin, NJ for our monthly Mass. In June we will celebrate the second anniversary of using the Church. The pastor, Msgr. Ken Tuzeneu knew and administered to Maria Esperanza at times during her residency on Long Beach Island.

We are preparing for the first combination Betania III and the Spanish Community Mass to be held on May 20th. Father Timothy Byerley will celebrate the Mass along with Father Roberto Padilla. There will also be a May Crowning of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the Mass. We are hoping for an attendance of over 250 people. Pictures will follow in future newsletters.

Bob Dodds
Betania III Coordinator

Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry – **Betania XVI (May, 2012)**

Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry holds monthly retreats that seek to bring a message of hope to others, and to bring about healing and reconciliation. About fifteen years ago, this ministry was founded by Debbie Pryor and Vanessa Keck. It has evolved and presently monthly retreats are held that feature well-known speakers and priests who are faithful to the Church and preach the Truth taught by Jesus.

Our affiliation with Betania and Maria Esperanza began when the Holy Spirit put a small spark of interest into Debbie's heart. Debbie had a nominal knowledge of Maria Esperanza, and her message of hope and love. With just this small inspiration, Debbie contacted Fr. Timothy Byerley and the Holy Spirit began to work. Fr. Tim readily agreed to come to Vandalia [Illinois, EE.UU.] last November and give a retreat about Maria Esperanza. Through prayer, it was discerned that thirteen family members and friends would also come from Venezuela to attend our retreat.

If you have had first-hand knowledge of the Bianchini family, you can imagine what a joyful and blessed time was in store. The love of Christ was present from the first moment they arrived, and their peace and joy continue in our hearts. We were able to host Geo, the patriarch of the family; daughters Maria Coromoto and her husband Carlos, Maria Gracia and Samir, and Maria Auxiliadora; son Giovanni and Anabella; and their dear friends. We were blessed throughout the weekend with their witness and their insights. It was a special blessing to have the singing and concert the Betania choir performed.

By the end of the weekend, Debbie and Vanessa were moved to ask Senor Geo if OSMM could become a Betania community. After discerning his decision, Senor Geo welcomed OSMM with open arms.

OSMM opened their own retreat center, "The Refuge of the Remnant" in April 2012. In our center, we proudly display a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother that Senor Geo presented Debbie and Vanessa when they visited Betania. It was a statue personally owned by Maria Esperanza.

Since November 2011, OSMM has had many blessings and consolations. We have designed and built a new 4800 square foot facility in less than four months. In April, we held our first two retreats. We have continued to share and spread the message of hope and love that Maria Esperanza brought to the world.

CHURCH

From March 23rd to the 29th
Benedict XVI visited Latin America

Last March Pope Benedict XVI made an apostolic trip to Mexico and the Republic of Cuba. His Holiness visited the soil of Latin American encouraging and lifting the faith, hope and charity of the people.
Joy, excitement and the warmth of the priests, the consecrated and faithful laity present in each public activity were the main features of each day shared with the Pope. Great spiritual fruits were harvested in these countries where there were moments of grace that revitalized the Church.
As the Supreme Pontiff stated, "in spirit, I wish to embrace the entire continent, inviting everyone to live together in hope and the concrete engagement to walk united towards a better future . . . . This Visit to Mexico and to Cuba has had, thanks be to God, the desired pastoral success. May the Mexican and Cuban peoples draw from it abundant fruits to build a future of peace and of fraternity in ecclesial communion and evangelical courage."*
Part of the route taken by the Pope in Mexico was the celebration of Holy Mass at the Bicentennial Park in the city of Leon and the Vespers with the Bishops of Mexico and Latin America in the Cathedral of the Blessed Mother of the Light.

While in Cuba, Mass was held on the occasion of the 400 anniversary of the discovery of our Lady of Charity, in Antonio Maceo's Square in Santiago de Cuba, a visit to the Shrine of the Virgin took place, as well as an outdoor Mass in the Plaza of the Revolution.

** Vatican (2012). Audiences. 4 April 2012. Retrieved on 05-01-2012 from http://www.vatican.va*

CHURCH

Reminder

As part of the declaration of the Year of Faith promulgated by His Holiness Benedict XVI, which starts on October 11, 2012, and ends on November 24, 2013, we invite all our readers to continue studying the uplifting Catechism of the Catholic Church. Then we will be following the inspiration the Holy Father has had "to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of faith" (Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, no. 4).

AGENDA

Concerts of the Betania Choir

Place: Church Holy Family of Nazareth. La Tahona
Date: June 19, 2012
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Detail: Confirmation of the youth of the Los Arcos High School

Place: Cathedral of Caracas
Date: July 8, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Detail: Priestly Ordination with His Eminence Jorge Cardinal Urosa

Events

Place: *Los Campitos* School, *Los Samanes* Institute
Date: Wednesday, May 30
Detail: The Betania Foundation will give a talk to sixteen teachers who assist needy children

Place: Finca Betania
Date: Saturday, June 23
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Details: II Day of ophthalmologic health service. One hundred pairs of eye-glasses will be donated, glasses and frames. People will be attended by six ophthalmologists and by Foem laboratory personnel

Place: Los Arcos High School
Date: June 12, 2012
Detail: The Betania Foundation will give a talk to the youth of the Los Arcos High School for their Confirmation

Trips

Place: Denmark. Sankt Knud Lavars Hus, Haraldsted
Date: July 19-22, 2012
Retreat: Coram Christo (In the presence of Christ)
Subject: The Divine Mercy of Jesus leads us to the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist
Details: A retreat for the youth

Place: Israel and Italy
Date: September 10-24, 2012
Details: Pilgrimage organized by the Betania Foundation departing from Caracas, Venezuela
Information: Contact Maria Coromoto Bianchini Marrero and/or Rosa Maria Fajardo as soon as possible

Place: Vandalia, IL; New Brunswick, NJ; Long Island, NY; USA
Date: October 26 to November 3, 2012
Details: Annual Conference of Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry and the Community of Betania XVI. Meeting with the youth of Rutgers University. Meeting with Betania XIII.
Information: Contact Maria Coromoto Bianchini Marrero

Informative Table

Edition: The Bianchini Family and the Betania Foundation
Design: Kyra Camero and Pedro Jaime Bianchini
Photography: The Bianchini Family and the Betania Foundation

Research: The Bianchini Family and the Betania Foundation
Acknowledgments to: Fr. Timothy Byerley
Additional information: www.betania.org.ve and/or www.mariaesperanza.org
Suggestions and/or comments: corom3@gmail.com