

## July 23, 2010 - Spain – Volunteers from the Valencia Province in Mexico and Peru



**(ANS – Valencia)** – Eight volunteers from the province of Valencia, Spain, are at present in Mexico and Peru taking part in the activities of Salesian International Volunteers (VIS). During July and August they will be helping those most in need cooperating in the educational and pastoral work of the youth centers and summer schools.

Mari Luz Rubio and Paula Barceló from the Don Bosco Salesian center in Alicante, Oscar Cuenca from Cartagena, and Dolores Lopez from Cabezo de Torres have been working side by side in the oratories in Guasave and Huatabampo, Mexico, since July 6.

Then José Gomez from the Salesian School for Environmental Education in Godelleta, Francisco Rodriguez from the Don Bosco Salesian center in Alicante, and Jesus Hurtado from Ibi, accompanied by Fr. Santiago Arribas, SDB, have been offering their services since July 3 in the school at the Bosconia Salesian center in Piura, Peru. All the volunteers will be returning from Mexico and Peru on August 16.

The experience of international voluntary service which these young people are now having is the conclusion of a previous process of formation. Once they return home they will continue to collaborate in the Salesian mission as part of the projects of the NGO Jóvenes y Desarrollo (JyD) and to spread the word about solidarity and cooperation in the places from which they come and encourage involvement and the taking up of new challenges.

The departure ceremony was held on June 19 in the Salesian house in Godelleta, within a Mass at which the provincial, Fr. Juan Bosco Sancho, presided. Also present were Fr. Antonio Echeto, provincial treasurer, and Fr. Fernando Miranda, delegate for youth ministry, and family and friends of the volunteers.

The coordinator of JyD in Valencia, Isabel Sabater, said: "It was very moving to hear the volunteers one by one in front of their families and friends explain why they had decided to become volunteers and have this experience."

The aim of VIS is to offer significant experiences of social commitment, which assist in the personal growth and maturity of the young people and at the same time promote Salesian voluntary service in the countries of the South, solidarity, and commitment on behalf of the more disadvantaged.