

A Mural of Faith

Art in the Light of Christ

By Arturo Vonn Hartung





The Mural

The theme is the loving sacrifice of salvation in Christ through the will of God, expressed in the life and devotions of Santa Rosa de Lima.



Central is the Crucifixion and death of Jesus
with signs of His triumph over death
through His Resurrection.



The composition is circular, reminding us of the cyclical nature of earth, the seasons and the seemingly endless repetition of history.

The work is prophetic in that it breaks with the Spanish Colonial Tradition from the 14th century onward, of placing the sun to the right, and the moon to the left of Christ.



I break with that tradition anticipating the end of colonialism
and paint Earth in place of the sun, further signifying a new paradigm
and the awakening of a New Conscience...

that Earth is not just a planet we live on, but a Sacred Delicate Community
of all life and people and our Destiny,
through free will
to EITHER build and sustain OR diminish and destroy.



The Saints rise with Jesus' saving grace

Mary, his young Mother and young John at ground level
who represent His base, His following.
Mary Magdalene and Mary, Mother of Andrew and John.
The criminal who believed with his empty cross
and St. Stephen, our First Martyr.



This convection of grace
through the laws
given to Moses
in the Ten Commandments

and the scrolls
of the prophets,
which anticipate
the coming of the Messiah
and the kingdom of God
on Earth.





Above the Cross are symbols of the Resurrection,
the Lily, the Rose,
the thorns of which bud into flowers.

The upward sweep of Christ's spirit in the form of His chalice
transforms into doves and into the starry sky
which reach to the ends of the universe.



The Kingdom of God
rains down on His people
through the Old and New Testaments,

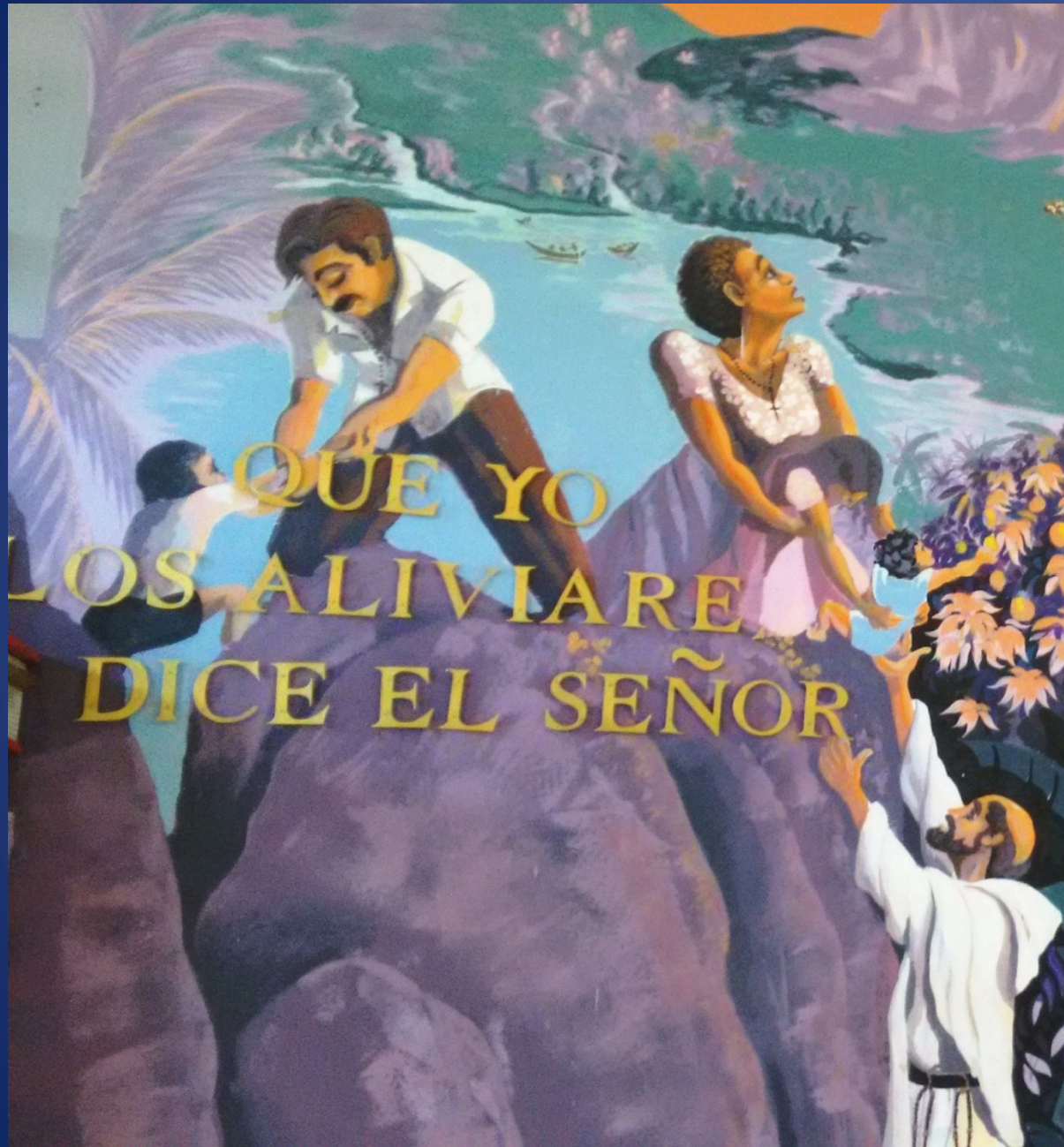
Noah and his saving of life in The Ark



The Dominican Missionary
who brings the Light of Truth
over sea and land
to the New World
(Mark 16)



The promise of Jesus
“Come unto me all of you who toil and labor
and I will give you rest”
(Matthew 11)



We see those
who do His will
and bring His teachings
to future generations
into the church,

symbolized by the priest
who receives the child
today.



The statue of Santa Rosa
in her garden of flowers
showing her love
for all of God's creation.



On the other side is the thief who scoffed,
symbolizing the sinful world.

He still operates today through deception,
violence, drugs and the love of money,
GREED!

His cross becomes the mast
of the Ship of Fools
whose captain's compass is CHANCE,
symbolized by the roulette wheel.



We see various other signs of sin

Devastation of nature by rapacious
predatory materialism,
where sand castles are built
with the sacred sand of our beaches

And deforestation
leaves a devastated landscape
in which only goats remain!

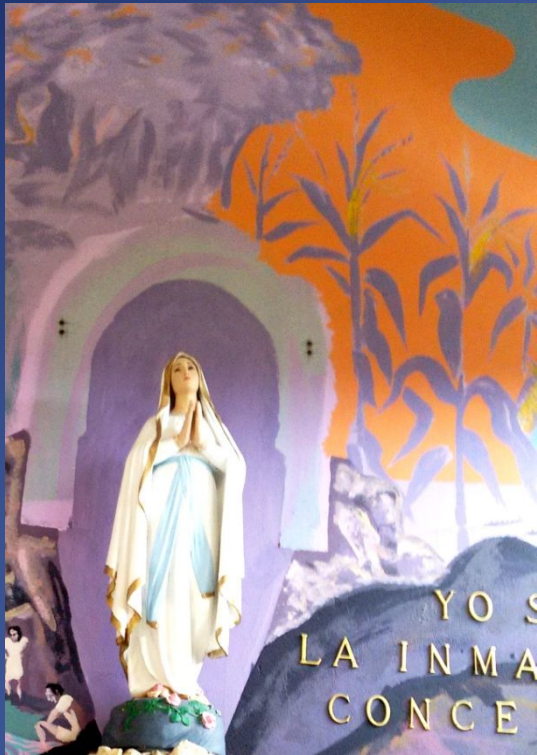


And sins of Vanity, Lust and Lies....



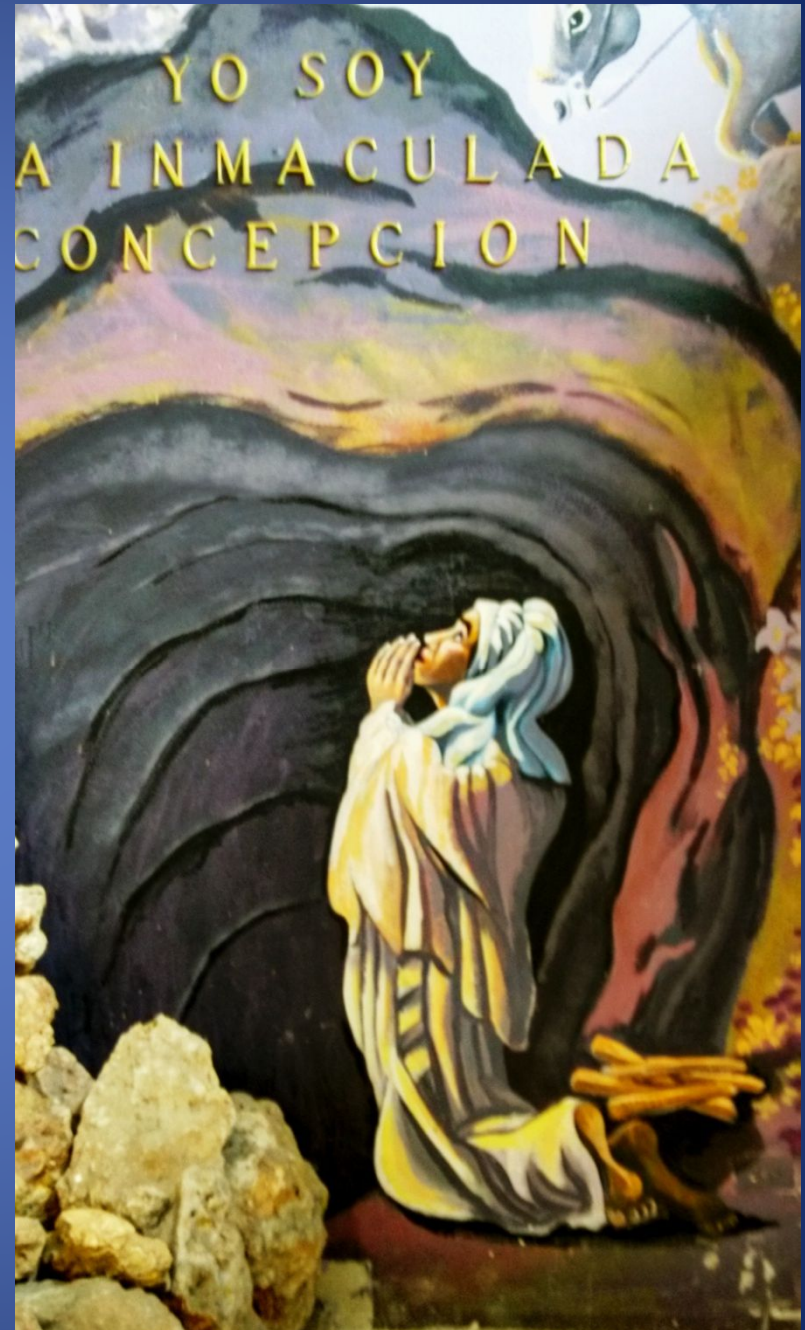
But along with this negativity
we see the ocean waters
which brought us the Word of God,

The saving waters of Baptism
seen in the baptism of Jesus Himself,



and the miraculous waters
of Lourdes
revealed to St. Bernadette
by the Virgin Mary

"I am the Immaculate Conception".





And FINALLY,
the Parable of the Sower

Some "seeds fell on good soil
and brought forth grain"
[Matthew 13]



With St. Martin de Porres,
fellow saint and friend of Santa Rosa,
on the path of sacrifice, service and devotion.

He is flanked by the wheat of the bread of the Eucharist
fed by the water of baptism and the sacred blood of
martyrs, grown in the fertile ground of Christ's Church.



On this path Jesus rides the humble donkey
to His trial, crucifixion and death
which through His Resurrection has won us
Redemption and Salvation...
Thanks be to God...
Amen!