

# PARROQUIA DE SANTA TERESA DE JESÚS

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Dear .....

July and August tend to be the coolest months of the year in Ecuador. At home in Scotland I hear that you are getting Ecuadorean temperatures and so enjoy them. The sun is a welcome stranger there.

## PANAMA – CANAL Y CORRUPTION

I was in Panama two weeks ago and I brought a camera with me to take photos to send to Donald John McPhee who was a constant visitor to Panama. The Atlantic Ocean is twenty odd feet higher than the Pacific so it was quite an engineering feat building a canal where ships had to go uphill to get to the other side. However, there is a lake in Panama at 26 feet higher than sea level which feeds the canal and the many locks. We see a ship passing. It has 2,400 cars on board— no toy.



**CORRUPTION** Panama is also associated with corruption. There are 120 banks there and they are not small cottage buildings but multi storied skyscrapers. There the corrupt store their ill-begotten gains in secret bank accounts. Recently a hacker opened all their accounts. The



rich of Ecuador had 35 million dollars of bribe money stored there!

## THE POOR ARE ALWAYS WITH US



Last week I visited Manta which over a year ago was victimised by a tremendous earthquake. The marks are still there. I had

received a donation from New York and added money which you contributed and was able to contribute to an Eventide Home which takes in old abandoned people to provide them with a more dignified death. Despite the chaos and crisis caused by the earthquake a group of 100+ keep the Home running, organising bingo's, 'whists' etc.

I was also able to contribute to a transitional Home for abused children and wives. It provides them with a temporary refuge till the problems are sorted out. Another admirable Project running on a shoe string. Kindness and goodness cannot be suppressed: two lay missionaries run the home and volunteer doctors and psychiatrists help out.

**PARISH LIFE** This parish is small and not so poor compared with parishes where I have been. I have four Sunday Masses; two baptisms today, two weddings yesterday, catechism for the kids and talks yesterday and today to parents and those preparing to be lay missionaries. It all falls into place and fills the day. No great pressure either.

