

## Sister Marise Nicaragua



**My experience as a missionary for the past forty-five years in Latin America has enriched me. The people are very open and receiving. My approach and attitude is one of walking with them. I am their friend and listener, but I am not their savior. I also encourage their becoming empowered to take leadership in their communities.**

**It is very heartwarming to see the young people from our parish school, Saint Rose Lima, make their way in the world. One of our students is now a surgeon in Puerto Cabezas. Several are doctors in various parts of the country. Another is a medical student in his first year of internship. Many are certified teachers in grade and high school levels. One is the coordinator for the local extension of URACCAN – a university of the Atlantic Coast.**

**Living in community with other sisters and praying together has strengthened me as I work among the poor. I can't get too discouraged. In the end it is God's work and I am a collaborator in it. I have found that the people in the rural areas have a very profound faith and trust in God although they may be visited only once a year by a priest. During the rest of the year they are led by a trained delegate or catechist who is an instructor of baptism and matrimony. I help with the catechetical coordination of 55 rural communities that are part of our parish. Forty-five years of missionary work has transformed and blessed my life.**