



them. The best part of it all was their incredible laughs!

*Estudios* is the hardest part of my day, but if I remind myself that I get to play, it somehow makes it all better. I no longer retreat to my computer for comfort. I play! It is easy to run away to my room and only come out when needed, but that isn't why I am here. I am here to love and show these youth what love is. I realize more than ever that my six months here are very short. I complain about missing people, but it's only for six months that I will be missing my family, my fiancé and my friends. I will miss these kids for the rest of my life.

I am learning many lessons that I wouldn't learn anywhere else in the world. I was placed in Hogar Casa Main in Santa Cruz, Bolivia for a reason. I will never

know the exact reason, but I know that I am doing what the Lord has asked of me. The Lord works in very mysterious ways, and I am watching his blessings in front of me every day. Every time I have a problem with a girl I remind myself that she was placed here for a specific purpose, and it might be for me to help her or her to help me. Every laugh and giggle brings me that much closer to God. After being here at the Hogar, I will never again forget to play!

After a month long formation with VIDES, Thea Ricchiuto was sent as Salesian Lay Missioner to Bolivia in mid-January 2011.

