



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

September/October 2012

Volume 21 Number 4

**NEW AFFILIATE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR  
ANNOUNCED BY EMAIL JULY 30, 2012**

Ann Carr – Maryknoll Affiliate Board President

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new Affiliate Executive Coordinator, Bob Short. Bob is a longstanding member of the Boston Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter and will assume the Executive Coordinator role beginning September 2012. After careful review of several highly qualified applicants, the Search Committee recommended Bob for the position, and the Affiliate Board unanimously affirmed him. Bob comes to us with a rich and grounded history in mission and a longstanding commitment to the Maryknoll family.

Bob's journey with Maryknoll began in the 1980s as a lay missionary when he, his wife, and their two oldest children were sent to Bolivia. There he worked in leadership formation and the development of basic Christian communities. Next he was invited to serve on the Maryknoll Lay Missioners Leadership team, working in the U.S. for six years, first in formation, and then as program director. Following this, Bob and his family returned to Latin America to work in Ecuador. As in Bolivia, Bob lived and served in poor, working-class neighborhoods and, in this context, claims to have learned about the importance of community, of celebrating life simply but passionately, of not romanticizing the poor, of popular religiosity, faith and suffering, of living in tune with nature, and of living each day purposefully.

***"...mission is not just something we do but something that, hopefully, shapes our lives and maybe even changes the world" – Bob Short***

At the close of his Ecuador experience, Bob and his family returned to New England where Bob took a position with the Maryknoll Society's Vocation Recruitment Team. He worked on this team for approximately six years. At present, Bob is the Director of Mission/Pastoral Care for an assisted living organization in the Boston area. He recently served on the Society's Centennial Planning Committee 2011-2012 and is an active participant in the Boston Affiliate Chapter.

As he assumes his new role, Bob has expressed a desire to work closely with the Affiliate Board, Regional Coordinators, and all Affiliates in chapters. He believes it important to affirm the concept of Maryknoll Movement and to strengthen our relationships among all members of the Maryknoll family.



He values the importance of internal and external communication transparency, would like to explore ways of meaningfully growing Affiliate numbers with special outreach to youth, evaluate social media, and support our ongoing involvement with global justice, immigration, integrity of creation, and other issues. He ultimately hopes that the Affiliates might be a leaven that speaks a word of life—of community, action, spirituality, and

global vision—in a world where the poor continue to be marginalized and so many institutions have lost their credibility.

Bob begins a one-month training period in September. The Affiliate Board extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fred Goddard, our Executive Coordinator for the past 14 years, for his years of creative and dedicated service. We are also deeply grateful to Fred for his willingness to extend his time with us and offer training to Bob.

When asked what mission means to him, Bob offered the following reflection:

"From that first experience (of mission)...I have met people, listened to scripture, read books, walked along forest paths, seen expanses of oceans, fallen in love, cared for children, and looked into the faces of the poor. All these things and more have led me to believe that the notion of mission is not just something we do but something that, hopefully, shapes our lives and maybe even changes the world—if only just very little. I'm still learning what 'mission' means as well as how I might live it out personally. Nevertheless, I have come to know at a heart-and-head level (the heart probably the more reliable of the two) that we are all connected to each other, to the earth, and to/in God."

We are most excited to welcome Bob as our new Executive Coordinator. He brings to us many gifts, a long history of dedication to the Affiliates and wider Maryknoll family and a desire to walk with us as we begin the next twenty years of the Affiliate journey.

**MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES PARTNER TO DO MISSION**

**Theme**

The lead story for this issue is welcoming our new Executive Coordinator, Bob Short. His previous work in Ecuador and in the U.S. exemplifies partnering, the theme for this issue. We urge you to reflect on the articles in this issue as well as on your own Affiliate experience; we think you'll agree that we can't do mission in isolation.

**Prayers**

We are pleased to announce that Orbis Books has graciously extended permission for us to include occasional prayers from *A Maryknoll Book of Prayer* in *Not So Far Afield*. Don't forget that all Maryknoll Affiliates may purchase Orbis Books at a 40% discount!

**Next Issue**

The theme of the November/December 2012 NSFA issue is "Mission in the United States." We need articles about your or your chapter's mission work which is *not so far afield*. Please send these articles by mid September.

**Get Involved**

An ideal way to welcome Bob Short and to recognize Fred Goddard's years of service to the Affiliates would be to do your part to promote communication within the Affiliate Movement. The *Not So Far Afield* newsletter invites your service as a member of our editorial board. Contact Mary or Paula at [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org) if you think you could help edit, send an article, or share your ideas for future articles.

**Not So Far Afield** is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God's call to participate in Jesus' mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God's creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God's unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples.

Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service in more than 30 countries.

If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or call toll free 877-897-2386 or e-mail [inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org).

**MAKING PLANS FOR MAC 2014**

Albany, NY, Affiliate Chapter

We are excited to announce that we have begun to make plans for the Maryknoll Affiliates Conference 2014. MAC 2014 will be held at Stony Point Conference Center, the location of the 2011 Conference. The 2014 Conference will begin on Thursday evening, June 19, and will end at noon on Sunday, June 22.

Please mark your calendars now and begin to discuss among your chapter members the possibility of their attending; it would be great to have all of the Chapters represented. Keep looking for further announcements as our plans become solidified and as opportunities arise for your Chapter to become involved.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE PONDERES  
 WATER ISSUES**

About the same time you receive this issue of *Not So Far Afield*, the Western Region Maryknoll Affiliates will be meeting and reflecting on "Water: Sanctifier and Quencher." We encourage attendees to send us your reflections and recommended resources to include in our next issue of NSFA.

Great books and videos about water are suggested on the new Maryknoll Affiliate website; Use the following link: [Recommended Resources - Water](#). Or go to [MaryknollAffiliates.org](http://MaryknollAffiliates.org) and click on the [News and Information](#) tab, then [Resources - Global Concerns - The Environment](#).

Please share your recommendations or book reviews with other Maryknoll Affiliates on the web site, or offer them for publication in the NSFA.

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner  
 Lee Fermin Fred Goddard  
 Kris Neufeld Nick Petraglia  
 Penny Robinson

We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners as well as suggestions for articles. Articles are published in as timely a manner as possible and in conjunction with appropriate themes when applicable. All submissions are subject to editing.

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities or their members. Please send any letters to the editor, articles, photos or inquiries to the address below. You may also contact us if you no longer wish to receive Affiliate mailings, prefer to receive them by e-mail or read them on the web, or if you have changed your address.

Maryknoll Affiliates  
 PO Box 311 Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311  
 877-897-2386 [nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org)

*Interconnectedness promotes our local and national social justice goals.*

### FOX CITIES MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES PARTNER IN LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Kathleen (Kathie) Gribble – Fox Cities

Our local grass-roots social justice group, ESTHER, described as “Interfaith Communities United for Justice,” is, in turn, a member of WISDOM, which partners with the national Gamaliel Foundation. This inter-connectedness enables us to work at both state and national levels. Our Fox Cities Affiliates, all members of ESTHER, advocate on behalf of the poor, vulnerable, and at-risk individuals in central Wisconsin. This year, ESTHER was honored with the Wisconsin Martin Luther King Award.

ESTHER has addressed health care issues, workforce housing, immigration reform, transit system funding, and homelessness. Our current efforts are for prison reform (TIP –treatment instead of prison) and access to help for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas.

The Transportation Task Force worked with local legislators, Rep. Reid Ribble and Rep. Tom Petri, for a formula change in the Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill so that smaller transit systems can flex allocated funding for continued operations. Last year, the Congressmen had committed to solving our local Valley Transit System crisis at a public meeting organized by ESTHER. Maryknoll Affiliate Penny Robinson, secretary of ESTHER and chair of the Transportation Task Force, spoke at a press conference in Appleton on July 22, celebrating this change that saved our bus system.

Our Fox Cities Maryknoll Affiliates are members of the ESTHER Immigration Task Force. **Nancy Bourassa’s** short-term mission experience has helped her in chairing this task force. A member of St. Therese parish in Appleton, which serves Spanish-speaking immigrants, Nancy says the task force has:

- Presented “Know Your Rights” at churches along with an immigration attorney who works with ESTHER.
- Supported LUNA, a youth organization sponsored by ESTHER, which enabled Latino and non-Latino young people to complete a traveling art project—a mobile triptych mural that was displayed for Appleton’s Martin Luther King celebration in January and which travels among churches in communities of the Fox River Valley.
- Worked extensively to create good relationships between immigrants and the local police forces, and for passage of the Dream Act.
- Arranged gathering places for undocumented students to help them complete paperwork to apply for student loans, jobs, drivers’ licenses, and citizenship—opportunities given them recently by President Obama.

**Fr. Carl Meulemans, MM**, our Maryknoll Society connection, started the Fox Cities Affiliate group years ago when he assisted in a local parish. Carl lives in his family’s rural hometown, which has over twenty very large dairy farms. He has worked to establish a climate of welcome and outreach to immigrant workers, who comprise eighty percent of the dairy workforce. Carl is a spiritual resource and contact for the latest news from Maryknoll.

**Ed Kleckner**, retired city planner, and his wife, **Kathy**, partner with a Salesian Mission Orphanage in Cochabamba, Bolivia, managed by the Daughters of the Divine Savior. They are spiritual guardians of seven orphan girls and visit them twice a year. Ed and Fr. Carl garnered scholarship funds for the 13 young women students enrolled in the Casa San Miguel Education Program by giving mission talks at three parishes of the Green Bay Diocese through the Missionary Cooperation Appeal program.



Fox Cities Maryknoll Chapter at an ESTHER Immigration Task Force meeting

**Kathleen (Kathie) Gribble**, Fox Cities Maryknoll Affiliates Coordinator, Treasurer of ESTHER, and new Maryknoll Affiliate Board member, has partnered as facilitator of the Just-Faith Program, sponsor of Bread For the World legislative advocacy letter-writing, and representative of Heifer Project for St. Bernard Parish’s “JustChristmas” event. This annual event encourages alternative giving to a variety of local and global charities as Christmas gifts each year.

Partnering locally with ESTHER and globally with other organizations connects our Affiliate Chapter to a larger community beyond our local parishes. ESTHER crosses congregational lines to establish task forces and works through core teams for parish education about its efforts and for financial support of its programs. The Fox Cities Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter may meet as Maryknoll Affiliates only a few times a year, but we work with each other very often engaging in community activities and sharing our spiritual resources and lives as missionaries.



*We develop new partnerships as the need arises.*

**THE OPEN DOOR**

Paul Witte – Philadelphia

*I am a retired Maryknoll Lay Missioner working at an inner-city parish with immigrants. The New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia consists of people who have come together from different religious traditions to work for justice for undocumented immigrants. Cathi Tillman, in this story about an immigrant man, is a member of Mishkan Shalom Jewish Congregation in Philadelphia.*

**L**a Puerta Abierta (The Open Door) is a family counseling service in Philadelphia serving undocumented immigrants. I met its founder, Cathi Tillman, when she opened a small office in the community center where I work for Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. She knew me from our mutual involvement with the New Sanctuary Movement. Her concern for undocumented immigrants prompted her to ask me to work under her guidance to serve Spanish-speaking immigrants.

Cathi had developed a love for Latinos, due in part to the time she spent in Ecuador helping to develop family counseling there. She still travels there to be a consultant, but mostly she has her hands full in Philadelphia. She saw that I was experienced as a pastor, spoke Spanish, and was open to something new, as evidenced by my parish taking over running the community center from the Archdiocese. She came to me with a proposal to work with a 33-year old Honduran man. She said it would require my meeting with him an hour a week just to be a sounding board because he had just suffered a terrible trauma. Little did I know...!

On July 28, 2011, Alfredo (not his real name) was returning home from work at 2:00am. He had stopped by a 24-hour convenience store, a favorite spot of the numerous Hispanic men who lived in the area. Alfredo always got his checks cashed there and would then go another 4 blocks to his apartment which he shared with five undocumented workers. That night he did not make it home. He was on his bicycle when he was knocked down by a two-by-four. Someone jumped out from behind a tree with a gun pointed at Alfredo and demanded money. Alfredo gave him his wallet with his just-earned \$130, most of which he would have sent to his aunt who raised him and 11 of her own children, in Honduras.

As the thief was leaving, he fired his gun twice, striking Alfredo in the left thigh and the stomach. He was able to crawl into the street where the Philadelphia police picked him up and raced him to a hospital several blocks away.

Thirty-eight days later Alfredo was set on the street with a walker and told to go home. He couldn't speak English and had no ID and no insurance, so the hospital decided to dismiss him. There he was, his stomach and leg wounds still raw, on the street. He started to walk. He would go a few

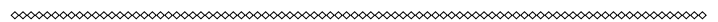
feet, then rest, and walk a few more feet, stopping on the way to beg water at a restaurant. He arrived at his apartment about 10 blocks away at 11:00 p.m. His friends saw him as he neared the apartment and they told him they thought he had gone to New York to pick apples as he had done before. They said that there was no longer any place for him to stay but they would talk to the landlord. Alfredo slept in a car for three nights until there was room.

I came into the picture four months after this incident. My task was to work with a makeshift team of social workers, immigrant advocates, student interns, churches, and La Puerta Abierta. Cathi coordinated the push to save Alfredo. It was a monumental struggle to get services for an undocumented immigrant who needed everything since he couldn't work. Today Alfredo is recuperating from a second operation for a massive hernia. His treatment for the gunshot wound was covered by special insurance for victims of violence, but getting the second operation required a hearing from a judge because of Alfredo's illegal status.

With the help of HIAS, the Jewish agency that aids immigrants, Alfredo is in line to receive a U Visa, the type of visa the U. S. gives to immigrants who have been the victims of crimes.

On the road ahead, Alfredo's complete recovery is still a ways off, but he has survived a long perilous trip. It is likely that he will get a second chance at life.

Philadelphians are increasingly aware of the contribution of undocumented immigrants to our society. That many people helped Alfredo is proof of their changing attitudes.



*We partner for fun and funds.*

**ROMEO**

Tom Sibley – Southwest Michigan Chapter

For the past six years, the West Michigan Maryknoll Affiliates have partnered with a local R.O.M.E.O. Group (Retired Old Men Eating Out) to put on a charity auction to benefit Casa Materna. Casa Materna is a residential program in Matagalpa City, Nicaragua, that ministers to high-risk pregnant women from the rural areas of northern Nicaragua.

One of the ROMEOs is an auctioneer; Mocha-N-Music, a friend's coffee shop, provides the location; and Affiliate members (although only two qualify as ROMEOs) help organize the event and find items to be auctioned.

The partnership has raised approximately \$2600 for Casa Materna since the Auction began in 2006.

Plans are underway for this year's event, which benefits four other charities ROMEO Members support, in addition to "our" charity.

*Affiliates recognize their partners in social justice.*

**NUNS ON THE BUS**

Jackie Maggiore – Milwaukee

Maryknoll Affiliates in Milwaukee, and many others concerned about social justice, hoped that the “Nuns on the Bus” would make a stop in or near Milwaukee. We knew their first and most important visit would be to the office of Congressman Paul Ryan in Janesville. Tuesday morning, June 19, they were “well-received” in a meeting with the congressman’s staff. They were greeted by hundreds of well-wishers who flooded the streets and sidewalks to greet them with signs and cheers of support. Banks of cameras provided local and national TV coverage. As they left, they were loudly cheered by shouts of “Thank you! Thank you!”

our downtown Capuchin parish ministry which serves 300-500 homeless and hungry people every day. Alice, a parishioner of St. Ben’s, visited with them there.

Their second gathering, a “friend-raiser,” was arranged on short notice at a retirement community. By 7:30pm, a large



Sister Simone Campbell speaks on behalf of all the nuns on the bus.

Their stop in Milwaukee was announced only a couple days before their arrival, but email notice traveled quickly. Several of our Affiliates, including **Alice Murray**, Fr. Gene Pocerich, and myself, were thrilled to be able to join the gathering that welcomed them.

Wherever the Sisters stopped, they visited ministry sites. In Milwaukee they dined with guests at St. Benedict the Moor,



Photos courtesy of Eleanor Swanson

room was quickly filled to capacity by an enthusiastic crowd of 200-plus cheering supporters. Sr. Simone had announced that this gathering of friends was not a press opportunity and asked that no reporters attend. She spoke candidly for at least 20 minutes, relating the story of the idea for the bus, the whole journey and its purpose, and their proposed itinerary. On visits with Catholic representatives, including Paul Ryan, Eric Cantor, and John Boehner, they emphasized that the budget Paul Ryan proposed does not correspond with Catholic Social Justice teaching.

She also shared behind-the-scene details of her Colbert Show appearance in which she was totally engaging, energetic, funny, bright, and spiritually profound. Each of the other Sisters traveling on the bus also spoke briefly on what experience had particularly touched them during that day’s travels.

The huge bus itself was breathtaking, as classy as a presidential campaign bus, and tremendously successful in attracting attention. The cadre of press traveling with them provided constant coverage of the significant social justice issues affecting budget decisions. What a success!



**SPIRITED CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA  
NEW REGION FORMED**

Fred Goddard – Maryknoll Affiliates Executive Coordinator

Thirty-four Maryknoll Missioners and Affiliates from the United States, El Salvador, Mexico, and Guatemala came together for the first Regional Meeting of Maryknoll Affiliates in Guatemala. The event was held from April 20 to 22 in the city of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Prior to the conference, participants were greeted and given a tour by students at the Monte Maria School. The Maryknoll Affiliates in Guatemala also provided an opportunity to visit the archaeological site of Iximche.

The first keynote speaker was Edwin Iván Norato García, a Mayan “priest” or wisdom figure who spoke about the Mayan culture and calendar and its significance for the people of Guatemala. The other speaker was Jorge Santos, from the International Center for the Investigation of Human Rights (CIIDH). He gave an analysis of the situation in Guatemala within the Central/Latin American and global contexts.

~~~~~  
**Participants...decided to form the Mesoamerica Region and elected Ceci Quijano and Ana Garces as the first Regional Co-coordinators.**  
 ~~~~~

The remainder of the time was spent looking at the needs and desires of the Maryknoll Affiliates in the region. Participants, themselves, decided to form the **Mesoamerica Region** and elected **Ceci Quijano** and **Ana Garces** as the first Regional Co-coordinators.

For those of you who enjoy reading in Spanish, the May/June issue of *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte* was a special edition devoted to the conference and is available on our website.

~~~~~

**REFLECTIONS ON THE REGIONAL AFFILIATE  
CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA—APRIL 2012**

Patrick Denevan – Portland Chapter

The Regional Affiliate Conference, “Erasing Borders in Latin America,” was held in Xela (Quetzaltenango), Guatemala, April 20-22, 2012. The conference subtitle was, “Seeking Bonds Guided by the Maryknoll Spirituality To Be Missioners in the 21st Century.” I believe both title goals were achieved. First of all, borders were broken down when Affiliates from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico came together for the first time to form the Mesoamerica Region of the Maryknoll Affiliates. Secondly, bonds were formed to guide the Affiliates with the spirituality of Maryknoll while serving as missioners in the 21st century.

Of the many wonderful aspects to the conference, I will limit my reflections to just three. They represent ways in which the spirit and work of Maryknoll are continuing in mission countries through the presence of Maryknoll Affiliates where the involvement of the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters is diminishing or has ceased. (Note that there is a strong presence of Maryknoll Lay Missioners in El Salvador.) My reflections center on the participation of Affiliates from Colegio Monte Maria in Guatemala City, from Zone 18 in Guatemala City, and from Mérida, México.

- Colegio Monte Maria is a school for primary through high school students in Guatemala City. Founded in 1953 by Maryknoll Sisters Martina Bridgeman and Regina Johnson (Sister Regina was the aunt of Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, a theologian at Fordham University.), the school was staffed by many Maryknoll Sisters over the years. In 2002 the administration was turned over completely to lay persons. The school continues to bear the original name, Monte Maria, combining “monte,” mount or knoll, and Mary. The spirit of Maryknoll is very evident in the activities of the current student body and among its graduates. A vibrant Affiliate group, which includes a section for young graduates, demonstrates that while the Sisters are no longer there, their mission spirit is alive, well, and growing.



Guatemala Affiliates welcome Fred Goddard.  
 Montemaria website: [www.colegiomontemaria.edu.gt](http://www.colegiomontemaria.edu.gt)

- Zone 18 is reputed to be among the most dangerous sections of Guatemala City, which is known for its crime and violence. The proliferation of guns, poverty, and the residues from years of civil war, military oppression, and genocide all contribute to the violence. Fr. Thomas Goeckler, MM, started Caminando por la Paz (Walking for Peace) in Zone 18 for youth in danger of drug addictions or involvement in gangs. Young people can come to this house to study, meet new friends,



and find ways to lead productive and useful lives. Fr. Tom had done similar work among gang members and youth in prisons in Honduras. Everyone was shocked when, on Thanksgiving Day in 2010, Fr. Tom died in his sleep. However, his work at Caminando por la Paz continues under the leadership of group of young men who worked closely with Fr. Tom and were inspired by his vision and energy. I was moved when they spoke so tenderly and reverently about Padre Tomás. Maryknoll Affiliate **Ron Covey** from Houston, Texas, is actively working to assist Caminando por la Paz and to raise funds to continue the program. Caminando por la Paz Newsletters are posted on the Affiliate web page. [Ron's email address: [rondero@gmail.com](mailto:rondero@gmail.com)]



Carlos (originally from Honduras), Odel, and son Kevin (originally from Nicaragua) now live at Caminando por la Paz.

- Mérida, in the state of Yucatán, México, has been a mission site for Maryknoll Fathers, Brothers and Sisters for many decades. Knowing that the Fathers would someday leave Mérida, Fr. John Martin, MM, founded the Santa Maria de Guadalupe Chapter of Maryknoll



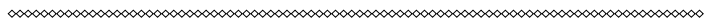
Fred Goddard and Mérida Affiliates, Ceci and Fina

Affiliates in 2006, with members from ages 25 to 85. An excellent article about the Mérida Affiliates appears in the July/August, 2011, issue of Maryknoll Magazine. In "Keeping Mission Intentions Alive," one member expressed Fr. Martin's vision succinctly: "...because of the love we have for the Society, we don't want Maryknoll's name to disappear from our city, neither Maryknoll's work, action or way of sharing the word of God." Also, Ceci Quijano said that the Affiliate group has expanded her global vision and nurtures her spirituality. Thus the Mérida Affiliates carry on the Maryknoll spirit.

A final observation: In the United States, Affiliate groups are called "Chapters." In Spanish the translation would be "capítulo," but that word describes a section of a book or a gathering of religious to decide on matters of importance. "Capítulo" doesn't fit the situation for Affiliate groups. The Mesoamerica Affiliate groups decided to call themselves "Comunidades Misioneras" (Missionary Communities). I think it is a wonderful name for such groups; it aptly describes the way Affiliates carry on the mission and spirit of the Maryknoll movement.



Mesoamerica Maryknoll Affiliates --- Comunidad Misionera



### Prayer for Missioners

*God help me to cross human-made borders  
to stand with your sons and daughters  
who live on the edge.*

*May everything I say and do help them realize  
how much you love, forgive, and care for them.*

--Father Joseph Veneroso, M.M.

From *A Maryknoll Book of Prayer*, p. 31.

**THE ROAD TO EMMAUS  
BY WAY OF HUEHUETENANGO, GUATEMALA—  
A LOOK AT GENDER EQUALITY AND EDUCATION  
RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN**

Patrick Denevan – Portland Chapter – Oaxaca, Mexico

In the Gospel of Luke 24:13–35 we read about two disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the death and resurrection of Jesus. While they were walking, Jesus himself joined them, but they did not recognize him. He explained many scriptures to them, and finally when he broke the bread and gave it to them, then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. They said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road...” Immediately they returned to Jerusalem and told the others what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. I believe I was part of an “Emmaus experience” as I traveled on a bus from Quetzaltenango to Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

I was travelling with my wife, **Mary**, and Liz Ramirez Caballero and her husband, Carlos Reyes Gonzalez on a bus going from Xela (Quetzaltenango) to Huehuetenango, Guatemala. We are the team of our Oaxaca Ecology Project and were on our way back to Mexico from the Mesoamerica Region Affiliate Conference. We were making the trip on a “chicken bus.” Nobody had any chickens with them on this trip, and the big cargo things are put on top of the bus. However, one man got on carrying a new windshield for his truck. Most of the buses are retired Blue Bird school buses from the US, painted and decorated in very bright colors, but I did see some new models.

A couple of “chicken” buses in the terminal at Huehuetenango, Guatemala



Photo courtesy of Patrick Denevan

The group of passengers was a contrast in class and cultures. I was sitting next to a young man who was entirely absorbed in sending and receiving messages on his Blackberry and having conversations on his cell phone. He also had a laptop computer. He was not interested in talking to me. Most of the other passengers were campesino men and women who spoke more often in their indigenous language than in Spanish. Mary and Liz were in the seat behind me and Carlos was across the aisle from them.

After a while into the trip, Mary noticed a small girl traveling alone standing in the aisle. She began to talk to her and found out that her name was Ericka and she was 10 years old. She was standing because she didn't have any money

to pay the fare to sit in a seat. Mary invited her to sit next to Carlos where there was a little more room. When the young man who collects the fares saw her sitting down, he came to make her pay, and Mary paid him the 10 Quetzales for her fare. Mary gave Ericka a piece of bread which she quickly ate. It was clear that she was still hungry, but she wouldn't take more bread. She was saving some bananas she had for her little sister.

Carlos began to talk to her and found out that she could not read or write. She explained that her father did not want to send her to school. The father has since abandoned the family. She had traveled to Xela to sell a necklace to help pay for an operation her mother needed.

We ended up giving her some money to help out. We gave her what remaining Guatemala Quetzales we had as well as some Mexican pesos. When we had a lay-over for a while in Huehuetango before heading for the Mexican border, Ericka ran home to give the money to her mother. She returned quickly and located our bus by its colors since she could not read the destination sign above the windshield. She gave us her mother's phone number before thanking us and getting off the bus. We have not been in contact with Ericka, but Liz and Carlos were going to be in touch with a mutual friend of ours Miguel, whom we know through Steve Barrett, an Affiliate who lives in Xela.

What does this trip have to do with the disciples walking to Emmaus? I believe that this chance meeting with 10-year-old Ericka on a bus in Guatemala was an “Emmaus experience” for me. On the one hand, it was just a brief encounter with a poor little Guatemalan girl. On the other hand it was for me an encounter with the Risen Jesus as He comes to us through our brothers and sisters, wherever we may be. The money we gave to Ericka was a very small amount compared to what she and her mother needed, but I believe the attention and concern we showed to her was what she appreciated most. The Gospel story of the disciples going to Emmaus does not tell us what the two disciples did with their lives after their meeting the Risen Jesus. But I'll bet they were never the same afterwards. I can say that Mary, Liz, Carlos, and I were moved by our meeting Ericka and learning more about her situation in life.

After returning to Oaxaca, Mary and I attended a workshop in a small pueblo put on by the Movement for Nonviolent Transformations, to which we belong. One of the small group activities was to discuss the 10 commandments of nonviolence. The leader passed out a sheet and asked each of us to read one of the commandments. Two of the women passed when it came their turn and in low voices said that they could not read. Both of them had the experience of their fathers not sending them to school because they were girls. Each had married quite young, and their lives now centered around their household work and raising their children. This incident reminded me of Ericka whose life is also limited by her inability to read. On a broader scale, these experiences of Ericka and the two Oaxacan women in the workshop



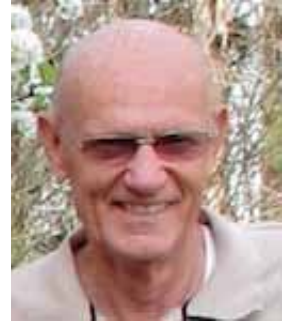
brought to mind the plight of many girls and women in the world who are denied access to educational opportunities just because they are female. Wherever there is patriarchy and machismo in social structures, we find discrimination against women. It is a global injustice which exists in almost all cultures and religions.

So what can we do about this? Maryknoll Affiliates are involved in many, many activities, projects, and works in building the Kingdom of God on this earth. Possibly we could add one more aspect to our work and do something to help a girl or woman to advance her education. Here in Oaxaca, Mary and I pay for tuition and buy supplies for two primary school students and provide assistance for a nursing student.

**MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER JOHN MEYER**

Co-coordinator, Phoenix Chapter

**J**ohn Meyer, who joined the Affiliate Board in April 2012 and is serving on the Executive Committee, is relatively new to the Maryknoll Affiliate movement. He and his wife, **Mary Ann**, started an Affiliate Chapter in Phoenix in 2008 and presently are its co-coordinators.



Born and raised in Milwaukee, John comes from a family of six siblings. After graduating from Marquette University, he worked a year for Price Waterhouse and Co., a CPA firm. During that time his heart felt deeply the call of President Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." For John that meant serving in the Peace Corps in Ecuador for two years, where he helped to establish credit unions throughout the country. Upon returning to the states, he made a retreat and responded to the Lord's invitation to "follow me." That initially meant for him to enter into Maryknoll and pursue studies towards the priesthood.

During his time in Maryknoll, John discerned a profound call to marriage and left Maryknoll after three years with a Master's Degree in Theology. He came to Phoenix, found a ministerial position as a parish Director of Religious Education, and married Mary Ann in Sedona, AZ. They were blessed with two wonderful children and now have five grandchildren. John served in parishes for eleven years doing all levels of Christian formation from "womb to tomb." He then accepted a position with the Diocese of Phoenix as Diocesan Director of Catechetical Ministry. While director, he was involved on regional, national, and international levels of Catechesis/Faith Formation. He served as director until his retirement.

John, also an ordained Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Phoenix. His current diaconal ministry is two-fold: ministering on a diocesan level in Ecumenism and Inter-religious Affairs and as a parish staff member serving in a variety of liturgical ministries, as a member of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, and as chaplain to the Men's Club.

Being a Maryknoll Affiliate is like "making a full circle" and "coming home." He recognizes that he was gifted with a wonderful formation process as a Maryknoll seminarian that prepared him well to serve for many years in the Diocese of Phoenix. While John physically left Maryknoll, in his heart he has been a "Maryknoller." His sister Maureen kept the connection real and vibrant as she lived out her vocation as a Maryknoll Sister for over fifty years, serving primarily in Tanzania and Kenya.

John looks forward to bringing his life and faith journey to serve the needs of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement and is humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to serve on its Board.

School year closing ceremony—Oaxaca, Mexico



Photo courtesy of Patrick Denevan

Another example is **Kitty and Roger Schiltz**, former Lay Missioners and affiliates in the Seattle chapter, who continue visits to the Benedictine Sisters' school in Chipole, Tanzania, East Africa. The school has 700 students, mostly girls, but now they have boys who are orphans due to AIDs. (Boys are deserving of education assistance, too, it's just that girls have been held back for so long.) Over the years they have seen their students study for careers in accounting, medicine, nursing, midwifery and teaching.

Photo courtesy of Kitty Schiltz



A group of girls in Chipole, Tanzania

I am sure that other Affiliates are doing similar work in their home towns or parishes in the US or when they volunteer in Asia, Africa or Latin America. We don't have to look far to find a deserving girl or woman who could use our help in some way to advance her education and quality of life. And in doing so, when we stop and look around, we just might find out that we are on the road to Emmaus and that our hearts are burning within us.



*JustFaith and Sabeel highlight new paths to social justice.*

### **BDS ISRAEL: THE LEGACY OF DR. KING AND MANDELA**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland OR

**W**e wanted to learn more when we heard of a talk about BDS by Omar Barghouti. BDS—Boycott, Divest, and Sanction—an international movement for justice for Palestinians, is rooted in the nonviolent methods of Martin Luther King and Gandhi. Our travel to Bethlehem with Maryknoll friends, talking with our friends in Sabeel, and our studies in JustFaith had all exposed us to the injustices in Israel/Palestine and to the methods of nonviolent resistance.

JustFaith is a 30-week program grounded in Catholic social teaching that brings together groups of parishioners to pray, study, and act for justice. We learned about civil rights campaigns, noted peace and justice efforts, and studied the nonviolence of Jesus. We also examined how our purchases and investments may further unjust systems. Sabeel North America describes itself as the Voice of Palestinian Christians and espouses a liberation theology and nonviolence.

Omar Barghouti's precisely worded presentation on BDS referred to the nonviolent campaigns of Martin Luther King, Jr., Desmond Tutu, Mandela, and Gandhi. Barghouti, an electrical engineering graduate from Columbia University, also offered his book, *BDS: Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*, for sale. About 100 people attended his presentation in St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle on January 5, 2012. Bishop Cabell Tennis, of the Reconciliation Center at St. Marks, introduced Mr. Barghouti, a Palestinian born in Bahrain, as the founding member of Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and the Palestinian Civil Society BDS Campaign – Israel.



Photo by Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss

Omar Barghouti and Huda Giddens, the organizer of his West Coast tour, with his book

Barghouti said the boycott campaigns were begun because of the violation of human rights and international law in Israel/Palestine. The 2005 BDS Call, signed by 173 Palestinian-related organizations, sought an end to the occupation of Palestine, an end to the apartheid legal and cultural system, and implementation of the right of return for all refugees.

Desmond Tutu characterized the subjection of Palestinians to an apartheid system in Israel as exercising a colonial mentality. During the South African struggle against apartheid in the 1980s, Mandela had instructed his people to "Decolonize your mind first." According to Barghouti, BDS is a statement that although Palestinian land, water, and movement in Israel and the West Bank may be controlled by Israel, their will and minds are resisting the colonization. He quoted a statement on the West Bank side of the Israeli "security wall" that says, "To Resist is to Exist."

Even within Israel, citizens of Palestinian descent whose families have lived there in peace for hundreds of years do not have the same rights as Jews. For example, they are not allowed to purchase land, yet a Jew who does not live in Israel may. A human rights group has also noted discrimination in educational opportunities.

U.N. Resolution 194 stipulates that refugees are to be allowed to return to their homes. Since Israel's founding, more than 500 Palestinian villages have been destroyed and the inhabitants forced to seek refuge. Palestinian refugees comprise 80 percent of the people in Gaza and 40 percent of those in the West Bank, and many more people now live in other countries.

Following Barghouti's talk, Nada Flia, a national BDS organizer, led a gathering of more than 30 groups from the Seattle area, including many local Palestinian, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious groups, as well as food co-ops. Barghouti applauded their nonviolent solidarity and stressed that the international BDS movement does not take a position on the one- or two-state solution for Israel/Palestine, nor on the bid for Palestinian statehood at the UN. He said that BDS involves individuals in the U.S and around the world who are making a moral decision that their purchases and investments do not support the violation of human rights and international law in Israel/Palestine.

The BDS organizers endorsed two Palestinian events. Israel Apartheid Week, February 26 to March 3, 2012, educates people about the apartheid system in Israel. Land Day, March 30, commemorates the killing of six unarmed Palestinians in 1976 by Israeli police during a peaceful demonstration in Israel proper against the taking of Palestinian lands within Israel.

Listening to Omar Barghouti, we have been motivated to work harder for justice, to encourage nonviolence as a way to address grievances, and to consider how to support the nonviolent Palestinian BDS movement.



**PARTNERSHIP IN SPIRIT**

Fred Goddard – Executive Coordinator

In June of this year, the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) held their international conference just north of Chicago with the theme “A Journey of Blessings.” **Tom and Florence McGuire** (Chicago Central) and I attend the conference with keynote speaker **Joyce Rupp, OSM**. Joyce helped us reflect on what it means to be journeying into the “unknown” as associates/affiliates, just as Moses led the Israelites into the land of the unknown. That journey is one we are on together and in partnership with NACAR and others involved in an associate-religious relationship.



Joyce Rupp, OSM

Photo courtesy of Joyce Rupp, OSM

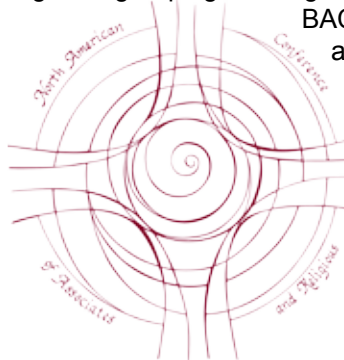
Many Maryknoll Affiliates might not even be aware of NACAR and that we are a member. NACAR, as articulated in the mission statement, “is a membership organization that acts as a catalyst to serve, empower and promote the Associate-Religious relationship.”

By being members of and partners with NACAR, we have learned how to develop many of our own structures, relationships, and resources. Primary among these has been our recently developed formation and renewal program, first emerging out of a NACAR sponsored workshop **Bob Doyle** (Chicago West) and I attended. NACAR has also helped us to articulate our own vision in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we have recognized our distinct but complementary vocation as Maryknoll Affiliates rooted in the same charism of the founders of Maryknoll, just as other associates have been doing with their respective religious communities.

More important are the partnerships NACAR helps to build between and among associates and religious. We have always considered the Maryknoll Affiliates to be a movement, and we are part of this wider movement of primarily lay people who want to live out the charism of the religious communities with which they have become connected in their daily lives. We are partners in the spirit of this new movement.

Not all of us will connect directly with NACAR (though anyone can become an individual member of NACAR). However, I would encourage you to find other associates in your area who can provide mutual support. There are, in fact, regional groupings throughout the United States, such as

BACAR in the San Francisco Bay area, and Midwest Kindred Spirits. For a full listing see the NACAR website at [nacar.org](http://nacar.org). You may also find more about this year’s conference on the NACAR website. You may contact the Executive Coordinator if you would like to borrow the DVD of Joyce Rupp’s talk.



**NEWS FROM THE KNOLL - A TIME OF JUBILEES**

Summer is always a time for jubilee celebrations at Maryknoll.

**Society Jubilee Weekend**

Thirty-five Maryknoll Priests and Brothers celebrated their anniversaries—25, 40, 50, 60, 65 years—the weekend of June 22-24, 2012.

**Lay Missioners Celebrate Anniversary and Jubilees**

On Friday, August 3, 2012, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, staff, friends, and family came together for a mass to celebrate the 37 years of Maryknoll Lay Missioners and the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful. At that mass, participants also celebrated the recommitment of Maryknoll Affiliates **Kurt and Anita Klueg** with



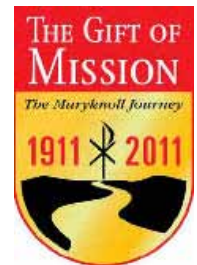
The Klueg family at their recommitment and sending

Photo by Fred Goddard

Maryknoll Lay Missioners. They will be returning to Kenya with their two daughters, **Rehema and Bethany**. That afternoon was the beginning of the annual Jubilee weekend and the celebrations of the classes of 1977, '87 and '97. The weekend concluded with a mass at which **Joe Regotti** made his recommitment to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

**Maryknoll Sisters Golden Jubilarians**

Maryknoll Sisters have several jubilee celebrations throughout the year, but there is always a special recognition of those celebrating 50 years. Gratitude was the theme of the Eucharist for our Golden Jubilee at Maryknoll on June 17, 2012. Former Maryknoll Affiliate Executive Co-coordinator Janet Srebalus MM was among the celebrants.



**100th Jubilee Celebrations**

September 28 – October 1, 2012: Joint Maryknoll Mission Symposium at Society & Congregation Centers. Speakers: Mr. Joseph Holland, Ms. Patricia Licuanan, Bishop Alvaro Ramazini, Ms. Ana Tibajuka, and others.

October 27, 2012: Maryknoll Sisters Multicultural Festival and Bazaar at the Maryknoll Sisters.

January 6, 2013: Closing Liturgy for the Public at the Maryknoll Sisters.



### What's Inside?

|                                                                                |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| New Affiliate Executive Coordinator .....                                      | 1  |
| Maryknoll Affiliates Partner to Do Mission .....                               | 2  |
| Making Plans for MAC 2014.....                                                 | 2  |
| Western Region Conference Ponders Water Issues .....                           | 2  |
| Fox Cities Maryknoll Affiliates Partner in Local Community Organizing .....    | 3  |
| The Open Door.....                                                             | 4  |
| ROMEO .....                                                                    | 4  |
| Nuns on the Bus .....                                                          | 5  |
| Spirited Conference in Guatemala .....                                         | 6  |
| Reflections on the Regional Affiliate Conference in Guatemala—April 2014 ..... | 6  |
| Prayer for Missioners.....                                                     | 7  |
| The Road to Emmaus by Way of Huehuetenango, Guatemala .....                    | 8  |
| Meet New Board Member John Meyer.....                                          | 9  |
| BDS Israel: The Legacy of Dr. King and Mandela .....                           | 10 |
| Partnership in Spirit .....                                                    | 11 |
| News from the Knoll - A Time of Jubilees .....                                 | 11 |

