



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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ENTERING INTO A TIME OF AFFILIATE TRANSITION

Ann Carr – Maryknoll Affiliate Board President

Now about eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.”

– Luke 9:28



Transfiguration is incessantly present to us and continues from age to age and in every moment and in every person. We are in process, changing through each choice we make, toward deeper union with and likeness with God. Transformation by love, of necessity, effects the sanctification of each one and of all...Will we recognize the opportunities? Will we see them as an invitation to be transformed through love into the likeness of Jesus? Can we believe that everything that happens to us can be a transformational gift? If so, we are at the heart of the Transfiguration mystery. We are at the core of what it means to be truly human and called to be holy.

—M Cutri, OCD, Radiance Within: The Transfiguration Mystery

As September drew to a close, our Affiliate community entered a time of transition. Transitions are often filled with uncertainty, questions, new visions, hopes for the future, and nostalgia for the past. We see things partially, as they dwell in both their light and shadows. Our grounding in Maryknoll reminds us that connecting our lives to mission necessitates that there will always be transition. Transitions can be difficult, but they can also be transformational.

A little over one year ago, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Maryknoll Affiliates, affirmed a new regional model through a process of Appreciative Inquiry, and invited one another to direct our communal energies in a more focused way in the priority areas of collaboration, multicultural diversity, youth, and formation.

We also learned that our long-time Executive Coordinator, Fred Goddard, would be leaving us to return to the Philippines. At this moment of transition, we offer our thanks and gratitude to Fred for his many years of dedication and service.

At the same time, we extend our warmest welcome to Bob Short, our new Executive Coordinator, a long-standing member of the Boston Chapter with many years of history with Maryknoll. We are most grateful to Bob that he has offered his yes to a new role in the Affiliates and look forward to the many gifts he will bring. The western Affiliates had the opportunity to meet Bob at their recent regional meeting and hopefully soon, many more of us will have the chance to meet and get to know him.

I hope we can honor the coming months as a period of transition for all of us. Certainly Bob will need the space, time, and support to learn the many operational duties of the Executive Coordinator, grow into his new role, and connect with this wonderful network of small mission communities which we call the Maryknoll Affiliates.

All of us who have begun to work with him have agreed that Bob's priority should be connecting at the grassroots level even as he learns the various operational tasks. Certain things may not happen in the same time frame, responsibilities for some activities may shift to other persons, others may become less emphasized and new priorities may emerge.

Not only Bob, but all of us will be entering a time of transition. In our current moment, so much is in flux and transition in the Affiliates, Maryknoll, our church, and the wider world and cosmos. May we all keep in mind that our pillar of community calls us to walk together. And may we have the courage to believe that “everything that happens to us can be a transformational gift.”

SMALL THING

Jesus, what you ask of us every day for us to bring to you are just simple acts of love done in the smallest thing.

—Father Michael D. Bassano, MM



From “A Maryknoll Book of Prayer,” p.62, with gratitude to Orbis Books, who have recently given NSFA permission to publish many of the prayers from this book.

This was the first time that I had seen the Affiliates treated as an essential partner among the four expressions of Maryknoll. It was a very proud moment for all of us to see Ann Carr on the leadership panel with the three entities giving final thoughts on the Symposium. - Bob Short

MISSION INTO THE FUTURE: A MARYKNOLL SYMPOSIUM

Bob Short and Ann Carr

Maryknoll brings to our table voices of a wounded planet and her marginalized peoples, particularly women and children, from many forgotten parts of the globe.

These words called us to prayer at the opening liturgy of the final symposium of the Congregation and Society centennial celebrations. Over 250 participants from the four Maryknoll expressions and beyond gathered in New York, where we were invited to reflect upon Maryknoll's contribution to mission over the past century and to "gain a sense of urgency in committing to and planning for greater collaboration among themselves both overseas and in the United States, with this symposium itself serving as a model and inspiration for such collaboration."

Throughout the symposium, those voices of wounded planet and marginalized peoples were brought to the table by each presenter and in each small group and plenary session that followed. It was done thoughtfully, enthusiastically and with a visible level of emerging Maryknoll community that embraced affiliates, sisters, lay missionaries, priests, brothers and others as a unified family inspired by the spirit of the founders.

Mission is hope in action and action in hope.

We reflected on Maryknoll's contribution to Mission over the past century and explored ways that the four expressions might meet the challenges ahead. How will we walk together and each respond from our own context and unique vocations? The presenters spoke easily and enthusiastically of Maryknollers' contributions over the last century. It was very telling that two, Patricia Licuanan, PhD., of the Philippines and Anna Tibaijuka, PhD., of Tanzania, were educated by Maryknoll Sisters. "There was something different..." they said, about how the Sisters taught and treated them, "...empowering us to be self-motivated, have a global critical perspective, and respect all of life." Other speakers also spoke of that 'something different about Maryknollers'—openness, understanding, easy comfort with another people in another land, and always being ready to "stick by their people."

The challenges ahead are daunting, but, thankfully, none of the speakers shied away from putting them on

the table: ecological breakdown, uneven globalization, violence, religious intolerance, poverty, negative ethnicity (mostly in Africa), church structures that do not bring hope but de-evangelization, growing individualism, secularism, materialism, and so many others. Joe Holland, the keynote presenter on Sunday morning, expanded this greatly by helping us see the broad, philosophical framework that has shaped our understanding of modern society. As the wisdom of the new cosmology emerges and our old understandings of the world break down, we find ourselves in the midst of huge paradigm shifts. The western colonial society which, as Joe stated, characterized modern industrial civilization (and for which Maryknoll's mission was previously designed), is dysfunctional and no longer culturally, economically or spiritually sustainable.

These challenges hopefully will not bring us to despair but inspire us to respond with clearer vision for our mission of the future. As Joanne Blaney quoted, "Mission is hope in action and action in hope." Joe Healey MM helped any of us who might think we are too small to make a difference to "think about being in a closed room with just one tiny mosquito." Bishop Ramazzini of Guatemala spoke of shadows and lights. The starting place in mission, he said, is to open our eyes and ears. It is, as Gustavo Gutierrez counseled, to look "face to face with the poor." Once that happens; once we look into their eyes (or each other's) it is very difficult to dismiss or otherwise walk away from what needs healing.

Several themes surfaced throughout the Symposium. Speakers and participants spoke of the need to respond to:

- Uneven globalization and increasing marginalization of the poor
- The oppression of women and their rising energy in post modern society
- The need for inter-religious dialogue in the face of increasing sectarian violence (Asia, Africa)
- Narco-trafficking fueled by drug use in the US and its impact upon Latin America
- The need for prophetic dialogue in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the US
- Growing secularization and the challenge to transpose the message of mission
- The importance of the MOGC and the opportunity for the Affiliates to strengthen collaboration
- The reminder that there are 23 Catholic churches and the opportunity to see the beautiful theology of the Eastern Catholic churches.

Perhaps the theme most often mentioned (and always celebrated) was collaboration—brothers/priests, sisters, lay missionaries, affiliates, employees, and others—coming together and collaborating as one family. It is how those outside Maryknoll see us. Sister Janice McLaughlin MM said it so clearly, "If we don't collaborate, we will die." The Symposium was truly an experience of the Maryknoll movement at its finest. It is our hope that we as Affiliates will deepen our commitment to mission and to walking with all members of our Maryknoll family into our next 100 years of mission.

**FIRST THOUGHTS -
SEPTEMBER 2012**

Bob Short -
Maryknoll Affiliates
Executive Coordinator



Bob Short's first day on the job found him at the Las Vegas Western Region Conference.

On the 1st of September, I started in the position of Affiliate Executive Coordinator. Previous escapades with Maryknoll have included work, with my family, in Bolivia and Ecuador; six years in Lay Missioner leadership; vocation/recruitment work; and, just last year, working on the Society's Centennial. I have been part of the Boston Affiliate Chapter since its inception. Seeing this, some might credibly surmise that 'this guy has some kind of weird Maryknoll addiction thing going on here.' In my defense, I simply cannot shake the notion that the mission and people of Maryknoll continue to move me to passion and compassion. As the latest expression within Maryknoll, the Affiliates join with the other entities, each in their unique vocation, to live out this mission.

While it's too early to make any cogent projections about Affiliate developments in the months to come, what is clear is that, unlike the very difficult state of affairs Barack Obama was confronted with when he first took office, thanks to the work and planning of Fred, the Board and so many others among you, the Maryknoll Affiliate house is in very good order. I'm very grateful. Like so many who have come to know him, it quickly becomes evident that Fred is a person who goes beyond what is asked of him. I've now come to see that the Affiliate Board members appear to be very much in that same mold. Given that their financial compensation is in all cases a multiple of zero, I have to suspect that other motivations are at play with Board members. Rumor has it that all this can be said of many other Affiliates as well.

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***Our sense of vocation is intimately linked to the people and things that move us to passion and compassion.***—John Neafsey, *A Sacred Voice Is Calling*  
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One happy realization for me is that the future of the Affiliates is not ever dependent upon one person. We are, all of us, a community (admittedly with loosely fixed parameters and perimeters) guided by the Maryknoll charism and forever looking to share a word of life with our fellow earthlings. I think it's honest to say that, in response to Walter Brueggemann's central question for Christians, we are people who do 'hear our sister crying,' wherever she might be in the world. The commitment and kind acceptance of affiliates very much helps to meliorate any neurotic Irish-

American flavored questioning and give confident hope to the this coordinator. Here are a few preliminary thoughts:

Priorities - the Affiliate Board discerns and sets direction for the wider Affiliate movement. As one Board member put it, "Discerning hopefully keeps us honest as we try to keep things organic and horizontal." The Board has identified four priorities for this coming year: 1. **Youth** (which I'm guessing includes anyone from 14 - 40), 2. **Diversity** (multiculturalism), 3. **Formation**, and 4. **Collaboration**. Those are substantial, challenging goals. Yet, in what might be characterized as the Maryknoll mystique, just putting ourselves on those four pathways should help us to better see the sunlight coming through the foliage.

Growth of the Movement - to continue to grow established and new chapters in breadth and depth. It is to know why a motivated person joins (or doesn't) the Affiliates; to know why s/he stays (or doesn't); to know what we can do to address all that. In this regard, a quote from Saint-Exupery comes to mind: "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

Spirit of Maryknoll - to stay aligned with the Maryknoll charism and continue to work with Maryknollers from all three entities and, whenever possible, with Maryknoll employees. At this juncture in history we need to straightforwardly ask ourselves what it means to be a part of a larger community and a Church which, by most assessments, are not experiencing their finest hour. We cannot know what's ahead. While that might not give us a warm feeling, perhaps there is something purifying in this. I've heard it repeated by some Maryknollers and others that, "The Affiliates are the future of Maryknoll." I'm not fully sure what that means, even on an intuitive level, but maybe, it can help all of us in Maryknoll to be more attentive, more creative and more focused on what is essential.

Media - to continue to work with Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss and Paula Schaffner to develop format and content of *Not So Far Afield*; with Ceci Quijano and Ana Garces and other Spanish speakers on *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*; and, with Lee Fermin and Kathie Gribble, on the Affiliate website that Fred has done so much to make an attractive and user friendly tool. For myself, I continue to search wily ways to perpetuate the shaky notion that I know as much as Fred in this arena.

Keeping (& expanding) perspective - Ann Carr's article on Entering into a Time of Affiliate Transition stirred up a lot for mind and imagination. She wrote of the inevitability of "uncertainty, questions, new visions, hopes for the future, and nostalgia for the past." A few sentences later she helped us to remember that, "Our grounding in Maryknoll reminds us that connecting our lives to mission necessitates that there will always be transition." I guess that could be classified as frightening and invigorating at the same time. Ultimately, I think we will see it as a blessed challenge if our home is with God. This is a much longer conversation, but during a time

of world flux and paradigmatic shifts, wherein several of our underlying assumptions about how we've organized reality no longer seem viable, we can hold out a vision that will help move us through our days with compassion, peace, conviction, and prophetic voice. I think that the vision we name (and live out) will have a good deal to do with whether or not we attract new affiliates (young and old) and how well we keep the spirit of Rogers, Walsh, and Price alive and well.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you again to Fred and Jet for their help, support and, mostly, because who they are and how they live their lives is a model that adds a strong measure of goodness and hope to our world. At this new moment in Maryknoll Affiliate history, I very much look forward to continuing this good work and, working with Regional Coordinators and the Board, to building new connections and service to all affiliates. The world needs our passion and compassion.

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Beth has been participating in the Control Arms Campaign as a representative of Pax Christi International, advocating for a robust and effective treaty. This article also appeared in local and international Pax Christi newsletters.

NO ARMS TRADE TREATY – YET!

Beth Begley – Subway Chapter

From July 2 to July 27, 2012, members of 120 missions to the UN met at the UN in New York to negotiate a final draft of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This will regulate international arms trade. At present there is no international treaty of any kind regulating trade in conventional weapons.

As with the treaties to ban land mines, and, more recently, cluster munitions, this treaty, the culmination of six years of preparation and negotiation, has strong grass roots support. Over 235 civil society advocates from six continents converged at the UN during the negotiations, each accredited by the U.N. Office of Disarmament Affairs through their NGO (Non Governmental Organization).

For some of the larger nations it was viewed merely as a trade treaty. But for other nations, and for civil society, it is also a moral document which must have reference to international human rights law and international criminal law in determining criteria for trade in conventional weapons, as well as transparency and clear delineation of scope, reporting, and accountability.

Although the deliberations came to a halt on the last day when the U.S. made it clear that it needs more time to review the text of the treaty, 90 nations signed a letter from Mexico to Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. It requested that the treaty be brought before the General Assembly when it

reconvenes in the fall. The proposed treaty language has been sent to the Secretary General by Chairman Maritan with his report of the negotiations.

The role of civil society and of Pax Christi on all levels amazed me. The Arms Control Coalition (3 staff and 3 interns) provided infrastructure—communication, clearing house for current information, convening planning and strategy meetings, copy machine, phones—and the campaigners went to work. There were regional groups: Wim Zwijnenburg of IKV-Pax Christi Netherlands was coordinator for the EU group.

There were issue groups: Jasmine Galace of Pax Christi Philippines who was representing IANSA was point person on violence against women and was one of three NGO representatives chosen to address the UN. There were inter-faith groups: As NY rep, I worked to help organize the inter-faith prayer service for the end of the conference. Fr. Paul Lansu of the PCI Secretariat and co-President Marie Dennis were present from the early days and worked on the inter-faith statement of support issued during the negotiations.



Photo courtesy of Beth Begley

Pax Christi and Maryknoll Affiliates are kindred spirits working together on the Control Arms Campaign. Pictured with Fr. Paul Lansu, the policy consultant at the Secretariat in Brussels (far left), the PCI delegation includes (l. to r.) Maryknoll Affiliates: Patrick Ryan – Goshen Chapter and Mary McDonald –Subway Chapter; friends of Maryknoll: Cheryl Morrissey, who volunteered recently in Guatemala with Ron Covey, and Madeline Labriola; and Beth Begley – New Jersey Chapter.

The site www.controlarms.org shows that very many Pax Christi organizations signed the interfaith statement, including PCUSA. We were also active in collecting individual signatures of support, over 186,000 worldwide. PC Metro participated in prayer vigils during negotiations.

This kind of focused, collaborative, effective advocacy—common ground for the common good—is a source of hope and a template for future efforts. Cesar Villanueva of Pax Christi Philippines best described it as ‘netweaving.’

We don't have an ATT yet, but we will.

LAS VEGAS WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE

**POST-CONFERENCE
AFFILIATE REFLECTIONS**

WHY WATER?

Evelyn Pua – Los Vegas Chapter

Lee and Punch Fermin, members of the Maryknoll Affiliates of Los Angeles, moved to Las Vegas in 2004, bringing with them the Maryknoll charism. My husband and I also moved to Las Vegas in 2004. Divine Providence? I would say, Yes! One day, we met at the office of the Director of Religious Education at our parish and were introduced by Fr. Francis. From that meeting our very active core group of six affiliates, with other members coming and going, has evolved.

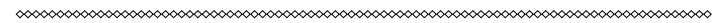
In January 2012, Lee told us that our chapter were to be hosts of the Maryknoll Affiliates Western Region Conference on August 31 – September 2, 2012. Our jaws dropped since we had a little over 6 months to plan everything. We were skeptical that we would be able to do this. Working as a team, meeting every month, then twice a month as it got closer—not counting the daily email exchanges, and pooling all our resources together, we were able to pull it off.



Water to bless Conference attendees.

Deciding on the theme of the conference was the easy part. Since Las Vegas is a desert city, water is a valuable and depleting resource. As we advanced in our planning, we came to realize that water is a depleting resource not just in Las Vegas but all over the world. We thought that discussing the spiritual significance of water and tying it in with our daily water consumption would enlighten us and inculcate in everyone a higher regard for water.

Therefore, after the conference, we expect everyone to share and spread the concept of the importance of water conservation, without sacrificing sanitation. It has been mutually agreed by all participants that every Friday, we, the Maryknoll Affiliates, will exert extra effort in observing water conservation measures.



FLOW RIVER FLOW

Kitty Schiltz - Seattle Chapter

The theme of the Conference was “Water—Sanctifier and Quencher,” and the conference helped me feel as if I was being quenched and sanctified. To think about water while being in the desert was life giving. Max Oliva, SJ and Rose Marie Cecchini, MM gave us spiritual and practical grounding in some of the facets of water—past, present and future.



Luxurious Las Vegas-style water gives food for thought.

I felt wrapped in luxury and care while staying at the Marriott and among the welcoming warmth of the Vegas Affiliates. There were challenging speakers and topics followed by discussions about things like the common good: how we might work together to ensure water rights for all, conserving water use at home, and working to be informed about keeping the water supply clean and replenished.

It was great being reunited with affiliate friends from past conferences and meeting new friends. To me, this is the best part of conferences: to receive renewed life from each other, learning about what is going on in the affiliates’ lives and world.

The days were full and almost felt like a retreat in a desert oasis. In addition to inspiring liturgy, there was great entertainment, too—listening to singer Leon C. Giliam, dancing, and singing. Lee Fermin and the Las Vegas Chapter accomplished a memorable and awesome gathering.

*** Seattle Chapter to host 2015 Western Region Conference! ***

FINDING RESPECT AND CAMARADERIE

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

Meeting an old friend, Paul Masson MM, in the airport and shortly thereafter getting picked up by affiliate Lee Fermin to take Paul and me to our conference meeting place, was a welcome sign to me of Maryknoll hospitality and camaraderie. A few minutes later, looking through Lee’s car windshield and seeing a very large sign on the back of the van in front of us that featured the picture of a voluptuous young woman whose entire outfit could easily have fit into a shot glass with the words, “I would love to meet you tonight” printed beside her, was a sure sign to me that I was in Las Vegas.

It is said that all is grace. Thankfully, it is not up to us to figure out precisely how. In several ways, finding grace in the seeming contradictions carried through during the days ahead. The theme of the conference was, “Water—Sanctifier and Quencher.” We all gathered in the middle of the Nevada desert at a luxurious casino hotel with two pools, artificial ponds and water sprinklers in every direction to keep the lush landscape green (in color). Inside, a very large casino was the central attraction.

On the other side of all this were we affiliates who gathered there that Labor Day weekend for the conference. I have to think that the themes we spoke of (the need to protect our environment, justice, care for the disenfranchised, the importance of prayer, etc.) and the way we related to each other with such respect and camaraderie were in clear contrast to most of what was going on in the hotel that weekend.

That’s not a statement about being better than anyone—there must be hundreds of contradictions in our own lives. It’s simply a statement of gratefulness for people who are truly trying to live in a way that respects all forms of life on planet earth, even those that fit in a shot glass.

MISSION SPIRIT AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Kevin Foy – Mission Promotion Coordinator

I am a mission educator for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Seattle, and I really appreciated reconnecting with many affiliates and meeting many more. I was struck by the sense of welcome and community among the group, as well as the genuine mission spirit embodied in the theme of “Water” and the group’s embrace of it. Everyone readily admitted where we have failed to act as stewards of this precious resource, and was eager to embrace more conscious practices going forward.

I think that this openness and willingness comes from a strong connection with the people of the world. The Maryknoll Affiliates that I meet care so much about being in relationship with people beyond our borders, and consistently push themselves to live up to the responsibilities that stem from those relationships. When we watched the video on how lack of access to water affects people around the world, I was struck by knowing people in this room who have served people facing similar issues. In fact, I had recently been with Houston Affiliate Ron Covey in Guatemala, where for months the community that he served had no running water.



Manny Hotchkiss, Ellie Hayes, Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, and Gabriela Maertens enjoy the camaraderie and opportunities to connect.

WE RESOLVE

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Affiliates from 13 chapters gathered in arid Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Western Region Maryknoll Affiliate Conference to contemplate “Water—Sanctifier and Quencher.” Inside a sumptuous casino/resort we drank from metal water bottles bearing the Affiliate logo, while outdoor temperatures over the Labor Day Weekend soared to nearly 100 degrees.

Indoors we heard from Fr. Max Oliva, SJ of the biblical treatment and spiritual symbolism of water. Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM told of the poisoning of aquifers by uranium mining on the Native People’s lands near Gallup, New Mexico, where she now works. [An article highlighting her work on environmental issues in New Mexico is planned for a future issue of *Not So Far Afield*. – Editors]

A video, “Water For All” (view at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBSI6Du2yhk>) and our prayer and discussions motivated us to be better informed and to affirm the resolution that:

“Every Friday Maryknoll Affiliates will make special efforts to be aware of and to conserve water to be in solidarity with those suffering a lack of water.”

FUN & GAMES IN LAS VEGAS

Paula Schaffner – California Central Coast Chapter

Can you imagine an event in Las Vegas without at least one game? Some serious-minded affiliates would have gladly done without games. In fact, my own husband groaned when it was announced we would be dividing into teams and competing to see who could create the longest line, using all the resources at hand. We would have about 10 minutes to construct these lines, and then they would be judged.

The teams quickly took up the challenge in a variety of ways. Some started creating a connected line of chairs laid on their sides; others had their team members lie on the floor, end-to-end. Some, including my team, used rolls of toilet paper, unrolling them the length of our ballroom-size meeting room. In fact, in our zeal to extend the line, our team accidentally opened an emergency door to the outside, causing an alarm to sound for the next five or so minutes. Others used men's belts, computer cords, scarves, whatever could be laid out to extend their line.

Then the judging began. Imagine our chagrin when several teams were given negative points for using scarce resources. Other similar rules were cited. We howled with indignation that no one told us these rules at the start of play. I think finally the team that had relied solely on their human resources had won by not breaking any unwritten rules. We weren't very happy to hear that, had we asked, the judges would have shared these rules with us!

What did we take away from this experience besides frustration? I think one point was that in mission situations, we can only guess at the "unwritten rules," or we should at least ask if our proposed plan would break such rules. We must think carefully about possible unintended effects our solution to some problem may have on the host population. Are we exhausting a scarce resource or setting off alarms that will cause friction for the very people we are trying to help?

To me, walking with the people we meet in mission is one way to avoid unintended side effects. If a solution comes from them and we merely help, we are much less likely to break cultural rules or unfairly tax their resources. And prayer—none of our teams remembered to pray together for guidance before jumping in with our solutions. And we call ourselves Maryknollers?



The next few articles show some of the ways U.S. Chapters and Affiliates are in Mission.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Kris Neufeld – NSFA Editorial Board, New Jersey Chapter

"We humans are social beings. We come into the world as the result of other's actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives when we do not benefit from others' activities. For this reason, it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationships with one another."—The Dalai Lama

"I'll say a prayer for you!"

How many times have all of us said this to people to comfort them, encourage them, let them know they are not alone. It sounds so great, but it is one of those stock phrases that, when used repeatedly, can lose its impact, much like the closing words of many phone conversations—"love ya" or the texters' "ty" and "yw." If we are honest with ourselves, most of us would have to admit that these assurances of prayer are often short-lived. Life is too full of distractions, other needs, more things to do.

However, we have a wonderful example of how the Seattle Affiliate Chapter is committed to praying for one another and for those on mission. They have a Prayer Partners list, which often becomes a two-way commitment. An affiliate promises to pray for a missionary on a given day and at a given time, and often, the missionary reciprocates in like manner.

Here is how Carolyn Creighton describes the process: "I simply make a list of the days of the week, headed by the person departing on mission. People in our chapter sign up for the day they want. Some prefer to have monthly dates, and so they are listed that way. However, obviously some monthly dates do not work perfectly...Everyone receives a copy of the completed list...When I was in Thailand, I would look at my list every morning before arising. I would pray for whomever was praying for me and was deeply comforted to know they were praying for me in return. A circle of prayer and love..."

Of course, not every chapter has someone on short-term mission, but every chapter knows a Maryknoller who would welcome this kind of support. In the Spirituality section of our Affiliate website, there is an additional opportunity to make a prayer commitment. Think of the power and energy of this kind of linking! Why not discuss this in your chapter?

AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONTINUES MARYKNOLL LEGACY IN GUATEMALA

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

Since “An Untimely death in Guatemala” appeared in the April/May 2011 *Not so Far Afield*, the greatest miracle at *Misionarios de Padre Tomas, Caminando Por La Paz* is that though it has not been easy, the program continues and is moving forward. Even now, two years after the death of Fr. Tomas Goekler MM, the leadership at the project home continues to grieve the loss of our founder. While some changes have been instituted, the program continues to adhere to the charisma of Maryknoll.

Large economic problems exist, especially for our educational program. The government here is reducing its aid to education, which is affecting the price of tuition, uniforms, school supplies, etc. The world’s economic crisis has taken its toll on donations at a time when much financial support was lost following the death of our founder. The same is true in Honduras: our sister program in San Pedro was much better established but suffers the same problems today.

Our support comes in many ways. A Houston Maryknoll Affiliate spends approximately two weeks a month on site and helps with all we do. We are grateful for the many friends in the U.S. who give us encouragement, prayer, and economic support, such as the folks at the Amistad Catholic Worker house in New Haven, Connecticut, the Missionary Sisters of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, and a group of Maryknoll Sisters at Maryknoll, New York, who pray for our continuing success at their weekly adoration service. In Guatemala City, among our local supporters was Father James Lynch MM (new Vicar General of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers), who when possible came to the house to offer sound advice and pray the Mass in our chapel. Student teachers from Monte Maria, a local Catholic girl’s school founded in the 1950s by Maryknoll Sisters, come to our home on Saturdays to teach English to students in our tutorial program.

Our greatest desire is to continue the Maryknoll charism in all that we do at the project home, as well as in our neighborhood presence. Our leadership are all active members of the Guatemala Maryknoll Affiliates Chapter. Feeling that spirituality is an important aspect of our being, besides weekly Mass attendance by all who live in the home, a local nun from Natividad de Maria Parish conducts our weekly Hora Santa (Holy Hour, a common practice in Central America).

The Struggle for Education and Water

We live among the poorest of the poor in Paridiso II, the most marginalized barrio of Guatemala City. Although Guatemala has public education, not all children are receiving an education. Some parents find the uniforms, books, and other school supplies way beyond their economic means. We help to provide education to as many children as possible in two ways: Although unable to provide tuition aid to all children, we offer a tutoring program open to all the neighborhood

children in our project home. This program is often their only possible education. Also, through the generous support of our friends, we provide tuition, uniforms, and school supplies for 20 individuals in grades K-12 and three older boys in college. (We require those who receive private school tuition to attend faithfully, in recognition of their supporters.)

This year our first supported student will graduate from high school. Mario Torres, who came with Father Tom to start the program will graduate college with the equivalent of a Bachelor of Science in Political Science when he completes a formal report on his practicum which was at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns this past summer.

We also offer basic community service. Among projects either recently completed or at least initiated are:

- Last year a group of students in Red Bank New Jersey held a drive and provided two very large suitcases full of tennis shoes which were distributed to neighborhood youth.



Photos courtesy of Ron Covey

- A soccer field will be leveled, drained and surfaced to provide a place for healthy diversion in Paridiso II. We are only waiting until there will be little or no rain to ruin our efforts. This project was also made possible by our wonderful friends in the U.S., this time with donations given in New Jersey in honor of a young soccer enthusiast who died in an unfortunate accident.

- We recognize that water problems are worldwide and growing. Last summer we went without running water coming to the house for six weeks. Previously going without water for



Digging the hole for a water retaining tank.

two days to a week or more had been the norm. In August we were visited by some wonderful folks with connections to Pax Christi. They held a

fund drive so we could install a retaining tank in our home and resolve our water problem. Now, when the need arises, instead of lugging water to our home, we can help our neighbors if they have no water.

Many projects of benefit to our neighbors would be possible if only the financial means and manpower were available. As we continue to strive to meet these needs, we want you to know that we welcome visitors to come at any time and to do whatever seems feasible at the time.

For further information about our program, to receive our email newsletter, or to visit, contact Ron Covey at srondero@gmail.com.

SEATTLE CHAPTER NUTURES
THE SEEDS OF MISSION

Edited by Paula Schaffner

“Veronica Holland, a Maryknoll Affiliate from Gig Harbor, Washington, studied Spanish at the Maryknoll Language Institute in January 2011. She volunteered [in various programs]. She called the experience so ‘enriching and transforming’ that she is considering longer term mission.” – Fr. Raymond Finch, MM, “Immersion in Mission,” Sept/Oct 2012, Maryknoll Magazine

Noting that Veronica is a Maryknoll Affiliate who answered the call to an extensive commitment as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, we wondered: What role did being an affiliate play? Did the Seattle Affiliate Chapter and all their Lay Missioners and short term mission work help her make the next step? What could we learn from them?

Veronica, currently involved in the Lay Missioner orientation, shared that, “While in Cochabamba, Bolivia, I volunteered in a variety of programs. We don’t realize how many opportunities we take for granted here. All the programs I worked with in Cochabamba were because NONE of the schools have free after-school programs. There is no health care available for seniors. There is limited social assistance for indigent terminally ill. There is no culture of adoption or foster care. I am afraid that is the news in most developing counties.”

“After going on (this first) immersion trip with my parish priest, I became familiar with the affiliate program and found a group of delightful people who shared my enthusiasm for overseas work. Before, I always felt that I was out of step with the rest of the world. Most of the Seattle Affiliates have served overseas in some capacity, and many continue to serve. They joyfully shared their projects and trials. The entire group participated in supporting each member who was overseas through emails and prayer trees, and they lived as a community by willingly participating at the meetings and local volunteer projects, as well as discussing and supporting national and international justice issues. I can attest that the prayers and support were felt during both my Hanoi and Bolivia volunteer trips.

“When I returned from each trip, the true interest, comments, and questions were encouraging. Each time, then, I committed for a few more months until I said, ‘Go for the Life...’ In October I will be starting the Lay Missioner Orientation program, which, hopefully, will result in a 3.5 year commitment. Tanzania is the country of choice.

“Off to a new adventure! Thank you, Maryknollers.”

COLLABORATION FOR PEACE

Celine Woznica – Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter has recently entered into collaboration with the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Chicago Regional Group. CPT partners with non-violent movements around the world, seeking to transform war and occupation, the lives of its own members and the wider Christian world through the non-violent power of God’s truth. The collaboration was facilitated through the association of former Maryknoll Lay Missioner Merwyn De Mello and Maryknoll Affiliate Kirstin DeMello with CPT. Merwyn and Kirstin joined the Chicago Maryknoll Affiliates earlier this year after moving to Chicago to continue their commitment to local peace promoting initiatives.

CPT places teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities confronting situations of lethal conflict. Teams are currently active in Colombia, Iraqi-Kurdistan, Palestine, and First Nations communities in Canada. These teams seek to follow God’s Spirit as it works through local peacemakers who risk injury and death by waging nonviolent direct action to confront systems of violence and oppression.

Recently, CPT reservists (short-term service) Peggy and John Holm from Lake Villa, IL, shared with the Chicago Affiliate Chapter their experience of a month’s service on the CPT team in Hebron, Palestine. Peggy and John’s testimony was deeply moving and an eye-opener for affiliates. They highlighted Palestinians’ day-to-day struggle for survival in the face of the Israeli government’s relentless strategy of seizure of their land, and the resultant destruction of homes and communities.

The Chicago Chapter has decided to support the efforts of the local CPT office, and especially Peggy and John Holm, through a variety of strategies. These will include seeking additional venues for Peggy and John to share their experience, sponsoring meal service to CPT candidates during training, organizing joint retreats with local CPTers, and promoting Affiliate participation in CPT’s short-term delegations. Read more about CPT at their website www.cpt.org.

More on the Holms’ experience in Hebron, the work of the Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine, and information on how to join a short-term delegation will be featured in a future *Not So Far Afield* issue.

This poem was shared with our Executive Coordinator, Bob Short, by the author, Monique Cerundolo, one of his fellow affiliates and also one of his fellow chaplains.

STAY WITH ME

Monique Cerundolo - Boston Chapter

*Stay with me
I am ailing, frightened and alone
Walk with me
As I tell you my story
Of joys and sorrows
Of proud moments
And times I now regret
Abide with me
In silence, without judgment
Companion me
Pace your step to mine
Walk slowly, tread gently
In the waters of my life
Be with me
A faithful presence
An open mind
A mirror and a well
See with me
What lies beneath
Behind, beyond
This particular place
Search with me
For a guiding hope
And the light
I can no longer see
Feel with me
The anger I may hide
The sadness I conceal
The uncertainty of my day
Hold for me
All that I give to you
In this brief
And graceful moment
Pray with me
To the Love that calls
Us both
To this room today*

Hospital Rounds, CPE, 12/5/09

NACC member Monique Cerundolo currently ministers as a chaplain at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and has been a Staff Chaplain for the past year and a half at Franciscan Hospital for Children, also in Boston. Her poem appeared in Vision, a serial publication of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in January/February of 2011.

NEWS FROM THE KNOLL

**MARYKNOLL SOCIETY:
NEW VICAR GENERAL**

Father James M. Lynch of Cleveland, the former Regional Superior of the Latin America Region, has been appointed to the position of Vicar General of the Maryknoll General Council. Father Lynch will serve on the four-man Maryknoll General Council, which leads more than 400 Maryknoll Society members who serve in 28 countries, into 2014.

We are thankful to Jim for stepping up to serve the Society in this capacity. We ask every Maryknoller to pray that the wisdom and grace of God will see us through these days of transition.
– Maryknoll, NY, October 8, 2012

MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS

During the MKLM Board of Directors’ 2012 meeting at Bethany, a reception was held one evening to welcome the 13 candidates preparing for a commitment to three and a half years of mission. Representatives of Congregation and Society Leadership Teams also participated. Among the 13 candidates is Veronica Holland, a Maryknoll Affiliate from the Seattle Chapter. [See page 10 for more about her transition from affiliate to lay missionary.]

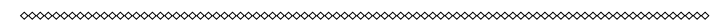
ORBIS BOOKS: GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SISTER WENDY’S BIBLE TREASURY

Combining stories from the Bible—from the majesty of Genesis to the mystery of Revelation—with some of the greatest artwork of all time, Sister Wendy, a Carmelite contemplative nun in Norfolk, England, has created a unique gift for anyone who enjoys a different perspective on the Bible and appreciates fine art.

VATICAN II – 50 PERSONAL STORIES

Celebrating the 50 year anniversary of Vatican II, co-editors William Madges and Michael J. Daley compiled reflections and personal assessments on Vatican II, exploring the meaning of the Council, its historic conclusions, and its tumultuous aftermath. Contributors include Francis Murphy, Francis Cardinal Arinze, Sister Joan Chittister, Martin E. Marty, and Michael Novak.



Fr. Thomas E. Danaher	8/13/2012
Fr. Jose A. Aramburu	8/18/2012
Sr. Mary Norbert McLaughlin	8/20/2012
Sr. Mary Shannon	10/1/2012

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