



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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## WIDENING VISIONS: SHARING LAUDATO SI' AT A DIOCESAN GATHERING

John Moritz – Northeast Florida Chapter

Since the sharing last year by Maryknoll Mission Educator Matt Rouso on “Laudato Si,” our Affiliate community in Northeast Florida has had the opportunity to reflect on what the encyclical letter of Pope Francis is teaching us and calling us to. In a local social and economic environment that is substantially sustained by the use of fossil fuels and where many people are biblical literalists, the development of ecological awareness is both delicate and challenging.

In preparation for the congress, we assembled packets of information material provided by the Maryknoll USMEA (mission education). Fr. Ed Shellito, MM, gave us wonderful support and participated in the event with us. This was a first for us in that, rather than our Affiliate community supporting the Fathers and Brothers’ program, they supported us in our effort—great collaboration.

The congress was held on a Friday evening and Saturday. We engaged many people in conversation as they passed through the display area. The overwhelming response, when asked if they were familiar with the encyclical, was “No, I’ve never heard of it.” A few people had negative reactions, and a few people had read it. We distributed 75 packets of information to those interested in learning more about the encyclical. Included in the packets were the Affiliate brochure and a locally prepared invitation with Affiliate meeting information.

I feel that using the theme was a more effective way of engaging people in a non-invasive and non-threatening manner. We learned a lot about people’s perceptions and attitudes toward Pope Francis and his writings. Even our tiny steps are steps.



SE Florida Chapter Affiliate Mary Williams at the Maryknoll table.

In the context of the Eucharistic Congress sponsored by the Diocese of St. Augustine, an event at which we had the invitation to promote Maryknoll, we chose to use the encyclical as an entry point to conversation. Rather than enter into the cause-effect political debate, we chose to approach the encyclical from the spiritual dimension of the letter. Pope Francis connects the transcendent with the temporal in Eucharist and reminds us that care for our common home is not an ancillary but essential part of Christian Life.




John Moritz discusses *Laudato Si'* with an interested attendee.

**MARCHES ARE IN THE AIR**

Spring weather and ongoing challenges have us anxious and on the move. Where are you going? The Albany Affiliates are helping college students process their immersion trips. The Los Angeles Affiliates march for peace and for the homeless. Many other Affiliates and Maryknollers have marched and are advocating for science, for the environment, and for action on climate change. John Moritz and the NE Florida Affiliates are helping many Catholics to become aware of Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si’*.

Bob Short and the Guatemala Affiliates remind us that our Maryknoll charism leads us to Buen Vivir and a better connection with the environment. Bob says, “The everyday faith commitment of Maryknoll Affiliates who continue to ‘show up’ in the way they live and speak up to confront the voices of nationalistic empire that appear to be getting louder each day” are a sign of hope.

Tell us about your challenges, your hopes, and what you’re doing: [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org). 

**ABUNDANT GENEROSITY**

David Schaffner – Affiliate Board Chair

As I report on the state of Affiliate finances, I must mention your generous response to our recent appeal for Peruvian Flood Relief. In a short time, over \$5,500 was contributed—thank you for

*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 around the world. 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 e-mail him at [rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).



your *abundant generosity* in support of our Peruvian Affiliate sisters and brothers who were caught up in this natural disaster of unimaginable proportions. You helped fund a team that has travelled to the Department of Ancash to assist where much of the devastation occurred.

Here at home, our Affiliate appeal year runs from November 1 to October 31. We are responsible for our operating budget: travel, computer/technology, and office expenses. In recent years we have made or exceeded our fund raising goals, and that has allowed us to provide travel grants to Affiliates from around the world to attend MAC2017, to be hosted by the Guatemala chapter this November.

At this time, about half way into our appeal, we have received \$10,000 toward our \$22,000 budget goal. This is somewhat less than where we have been in recent years at this time. While I am confident that by November we will have met goal, at the same time it is important for all of us who have not already contributed to Affiliate operating budget, to put the Affiliate appeal on our “to-do” list.

Thank you for your past and future support. Having served since 2009, this is my last report to you as Finance Committee Chair. Long-time Affiliate Manny Hotchkiss, Portland Chapter, is joining the board at our spring meeting and will assume Finance Committee Chair responsibilities. We welcome Manny and thank him for joining us. 

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson  
David Stocker

We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners, as well as suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. We publish articles as appropriate in conjunction with issue themes.

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

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.

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## BUEN VIVIR THROUGH MARYKNOLL

Lizbeth del Rosario Gramajo Bauer –  
MAC 2017 Organizing Committee

Maryknoll is a movement that began over 100 years ago in the US and has since developed its missionary work throughout the world. This movement is made up of four expressions: Maryknoll Society of Priests and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Maryknoll Affiliates. Even though the four expressions evolved at different moments in history and with specific mission focuses, we ask the question, what unites us?

Yes, from the beginning, each of the four expressions has felt called to:

- Live the charism of mission
- Cross borders
- Make God's love visible
- Opt for the most needy
- Be compassionate
- Work for peace and justice for the whole of creation.

Maryknoll is not just a movement but also a large family, and just as with any large family, its diversity does not prevent it from being united in love and respect. With this in mind, MAC 2017—the Maryknoll Affiliates Conference—is an invitation to strengthen and unify this diversity and look for other, more efficient ways to be united.

The theme that has been chosen for the MAC conference is BUEN VIVIR: *Harmony between People and Nature*. This theme calls us to be in harmony with the indigenous peoples of Latin America and the whole world. 'Sumak

Kawsay,' a Quechua word that means *live well and in harmony*, is an invitation to the abundant life we are called to live.

The concept of BUEN VIVIR—*Harmonious Living* has many similarities with the missionary charism of Maryknoll. We are invited to move out of ourselves and be open to the diversity around us.

Father James Walsh, one of the founders of the Maryknoll Society, said: *"May the missionary spirit be enkindled today in the hearts of all the faithful..."*

And Mother Mary Joseph, the founder of the Maryknoll Sisters Congregation added, *"We know that God is everywhere: mountain tops, the depths of the earth and the sea. God is in us and the marvel of it all is that we realize it so little. If we did realize it, we would be overwhelmed..."*

Since its origins, the Maryknoll family has felt called to open itself to diversity and accept the gift of mission and to promote the dignity of life, and seek harmony for all of humanity.

We invite our Maryknoll family of every continent to 'cross borders' and participate in the next Maryknoll Affiliates Conference, which will be celebrated in Guatemala from November 9 – 12, 2017.



If you can join us, please complete the registration form found at the Guatemala Chapter web site: <http://afiliadosmaryknoll.wixsite.com/guate>.



**FROM THE DESK OF...**

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

About every other edition, the co-editors of NSFA ask me (I kiddingly claim with some arm-twisting going on) to consider writing an article. Sometimes they suggest a theme and provide leading questions to do so. Here are the fluffy-soft questions they came up with this time: What signs of hope do you see among us? How have we been connecting with the rest of Maryknoll? What is our biggest challenge? All any of us would need to effectively address these questions is a lifetime plus a few more weeks. Of course, these are very worthy questions for where we find ourselves today. With that in mind, and with unawareness of my limitations, some thought on those questions follows.

***Affiliates are a sign of Hope in a world that badly needs it.*** So much about the response to this question depends on how well, how deeply we see the reality in front of us. For me, most of the hope is not contained in structures or numbers, but in Affiliates themselves. Here are four examples:

- The incredibly organized, insightful, and caring work the Guatemala Planning Committee is doing to make MAC2017 a moving and meaningful experience for everyone.
- The magnificent dedication of the Peruvian Affiliates (six chapters total in Lima and Arequipa) to reach out to their compatriots dealing with the disastrous floods and landslides. Accompanying that is the wonderful show of solidarity from Affiliates throughout the world who have sent prayers and well over \$5,000 in financial aid.
- The everyday faith commitment of Maryknoll Affiliates who continue to “show up” in the way they live and speak up to confront the voices of nationalistic empire that appear to be getting louder each day.
- The Affiliate newsletters—*NSFA* & *NTLH*—that provide a very valuable medium to echo those Affiliate commitments. I honestly haven’t seen two newsletters that capture the spirit and life experience of its members so poignantly.

***Affiliates are connecting well to Maryknoll.*** For approximately two years now, Affiliates have been part of the Joint Meeting of Leadership (JML) wherein the leadership of the four expressions within Maryknoll come together every other month in a collaborative effort to share our respective initiatives/issues and, wherever possible suggest initiatives that we can undertake together. This is another step towards



deeper collaboration. Still, as with the hopeful signs above, perhaps the most consequential connections happen whenever Affiliates and other Maryknollers come together (retreats, protests, mission education, mission actions) wherever they find themselves. Life unfolds and is most nourished within those relational contexts. In talking about mission, a fellow classmate once said to me: “*Life is not about feeding people. Life is about eating with people.*”

***The Maryknoll Affiliates do have challenges.*** In the outside world the challenges are legion. To name a few—nationalism, secularism, materialism, power politics over Gospel vision (Blessed are the...), technology, globalization, climate change at an inflection point—outpacing human adaptability, aligning Jesus’ message with empire thinking (supply-side Jesus), and external vs. internal messaging. Within Maryknoll and the Church, the challenges are also significant. Some are: aging, shrinking numbers, youth’s seeming disenchantment with religion, long-term commitments, authority, and working out of a dying model (paradigm). All this said, perhaps the biggest challenge for all of us will always be to trust that Love will ‘win out’ in the end—even if we can’t be sure when that will be. James Finley, who works with Richard Rohr, once said this:

*If we are absolutely grounded in the absolute love of God that protects us from nothing even as it sustains us in all things, then we can face all things with courage and tenderness and touch the hurting places in others and in ourselves with love.*



## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Santa Orlando – Albany Chapter

I have been working on answering that question my whole life. Perhaps that is what enticed me to become involved with the Maryknoll Affiliate pilot of the same name: *Quo Vadis, Where Are You Going?* Maryknoll Affiliate Executive Coordinator Bob Short, board member Bill Murphy, and Greater Boston Affiliate Kathy Morrison met to write the draft of this pilot program after learning that, according to some sources, over two million people go on immersion trips each year. How are these cross-cultural experiences affecting their lives? What impact, if any, will their experiences have on decisions they make later in life? What kinds of jobs they will take; how will they view and treat those who look and act differently based on culture, race, and/or socio-economical differences? Where is God in all of this? These questions became the basis of the pilot program.

My decision to become involved was based on my own personal transformation after experiencing and being touched by the Guatemalan people. I decided to reach out and try to make connections with local colleges that have immersion service programs. I connected with Siena College, a Franciscan liberal arts college in Latham, NY, with about 3,000 students.

The Siena group that we connected with sends students to Haiti, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and St. Francis Inn, a homeless shelter/soup kitchen in Philadelphia, PA. Currently, Siena does not offer a follow-up/debriefing session for returning students; As such, they were receptive to our offer to present our pilot to their students. The program would allow students to remember what experiences touched them and tell their stories to others who were not on that immersion trip but who could understand based upon their own life experiences. Students would be encouraged to “dare to dream,” to reflect on how

they have been changed and how their life’s “plan” may in fact now be altered. With the hope of inviting the students to look deeper into their experiences, our role was to listen, offer examples from our own experiences, and pose multiple questions.

So, how did it go? What did we learn? We learned that the students were in fact enthralled by their experiences. They all planned on returning or taking another service trip. Although their previous life experiences were different, they learned to look beyond the lack of material comforts to truly see the people. They were touched by the children and by the role reversal.

Now they were the other—outsiders—and needed to learn how to navigate the landscape. They found it hard to make others understand why they went—not for a class grade, not for a free ride, not for research, but just for the experience.

As facilitators of this pilot, We all believe the program has merit. Returnees from immersion trips need a forum in which to process their many experiences. Pilot run #1 taught us that although there will be commonalities in all cross-cultural experiences, our

program may have to be tailored to various age groups and to groups with varying previous life experiences. Those that are in the first half of life will perceive things differently than those in the second half of life. Our program must be fluid and adaptable, based upon the audience; Nevertheless, the message and format will remain the same.

We are going forward; this is one way Affiliates can live the Action Pillar to keep the spirit of mission alive.



Affiliate Kathy Morrison (right) chats with a participant.

# Quo Vadis?



Students reflect on their immersion experiences.



**PALM SUNDAY PEACE PARADE ADDRESSES HOMELESSNESS**

Los Angeles Chapter

Local churches and community advocates took to the streets for a Palm Sunday Peace Parade of about 225 community members, including five Maryknoll Affiliates and eight Maryknoll Sisters. The Los Angeles Maryknoll Affiliates and several other organizations sponsored the Pasadena Palm Sunday Peace Parade. The parade marchers first gathered at the Reformation Lutheran Church where they listened to brief inspirational words from community members before parading to Paseo Colorado. They went out with “palm branches in one hand and peace signs in the other” in a Palm Sunday-style celebration of peace.



Parade attendees included Maryknollers. Back row: Sr. Maureen Gunning, Sr. Kathryn Shannon, Sr. Joy, Sr. Pat Conroy, Richard Perez; front row: Lucy Schaul, Kathee Hennigan Bautista

The first family-friendly Palm Sunday Peace Parade in 2003 was in response to the war in Iraq. The yearly parade has continued for more than a decade, promoting peace for just one day and bringing a community together to help tackle important societal issues.

*Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where everyone’s emotions are riding high with hopes, soon leads to the drama of overturning the money changers and crying over Jerusalem—a totally unexpected way to peace.*

—Dr. Jill Shook

Parade organizer Dr. Jill Shook said of the theme for 2017: “We’re committed in every way we can to end homelessness in Pasadena. We’re really happy this year that we are able to get all of these people to commit to ending homelessness and ensuring affordable housing for everybody in this city.”

With the aim of not only raising homelessness awareness, but also ending it entirely, the march calls for rent stabilization and an increase in accessory dwelling units (“granny flats”), as well as policies like Housing First that can end chronic homelessness.



Two of the Maryknoll Sisters, and another sister who lives with them while studying, held one of the houses the LA Chapter made in readiness for the parade.

This year’s Parade featured Dorothy Edwards, a formerly homeless woman who now serves on the board of directors for Housing Works, a program that provides permanent supportive housing and services to the chronically homeless. Edwards, who now lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Pasadena with her dog, Gunner, said:

*When I was homeless, I felt that I was in a subculture and I always wanted to be a part of my community. Even though I didn’t have anything to offer and no stability or anything, it was*

*something that I eventually strived for because I knew that I was not going to be out there forever on my own on the streets. I feel great that I am able to give back to the community that helped me so much.*



*The Palm Sunday Peace Parade was a joyous event of community building surrounding a serious need in our community. Information was shared that challenge us to consider how we can make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors.*

*We made small houses to carry in the Palm Sunday Peace Parade.*

*— Kathee Hennigan Bautista*

*I feel that it was not enough to parade down to the public square at the Paseo Colorado to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless. Therefore I plan to follow up those actions by attending the next meeting of Greater Pasadena Affordable Housing Group on May 6th, and plan to invite the LA Affiliates to join me this time if they can. Our regional coordinator Hugh Menton forwarded to me further information on another group working on Measure H, the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative. They are already sifting through eligible strategies which they will recommend to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for funding in June 2017. I am looking for tangible ways that I and the Affiliates can help and participate in solving this daunting issue of Homelessness.—Tim Moffett*



*The peace march we joined last Palm Sunday is personal to me being a senior citizen now. As Maryknoll Affiliates, we stand in solidarity with the homeless and those on the brink of being homeless. Affordable housing is very important for those who are on a fixed income. We become the voice of those who could not speak for themselves, giving them hope. Easter is about hope and restoring our human dignity; affordable housing is a human right.*

*—Richard Perez*

Details on the Palm Sunday Peace Parade were reported at [PasadenaNow.com](http://PasadenaNow.com). For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceParades/>.

### LAUDATO SI' AND WATER\*

Flavio Rocha – Maryknoll Lay Missioner, Brazil

*The word “water” is cited forty-seven times in Pope Francis’ encyclical, **Laudato Si’**. This demonstrates the great value and concern Pope Francis places on water as a sacred and essential part of life.*

**T**hough water is essential to life, we take it for granted when we reach for a glass of water. Most humans will perish after three days without drinking water. It is so central to maintaining life on our planet that, at times throughout history, water has been used as a tool in military confrontations and has been the source of regional and local conflicts and transboundary disputes.

Pope Francis identifies key problems related to water:

- the lack of access to clean drinking water [28];
- the challenges for food production due to droughts and disparities in water availability and “water poverty” [28];
- the continued prevalence of water-related diseases afflicting the poor [29];
- the contamination of groundwater [29];
- the trend toward privatization and commodification of a resource which is a “basic and universal human right” [30].

“Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use,” Pope Francis says. “Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people and species; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century.” [31]

**Thirst has no competitor.** Yet, in a world where the majority of people live in cities, we are losing touch with nature and its cycle. As a result, our perception

**HAVE YOU READ LAUDATO SI'?**

*It's available for free download at ~*

<http://laudatosi.com/watch>

\* In honor of World Water Day, March 22, Flavio Rocha examined the lessons about water that Pope Francis offers in *Laudato Si'*, the encyclical which is subtitled “On Care For Our Common Home.” His complete article, of which this is an abridgment, was published by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (<http://maryknollogc.org/article/laudato-si-and-water>).

of the value of water and the care for water in our daily lives is losing connection with reality.

At a restaurant for lunch in New York City on a hot summer day, the waiter asks for your drink order. The only thing you desire is a glass of cool water, which the waiter promptly brings for the whole table. When the bill comes, there is no charge for the water. This is not a surprise, as in the US and some other countries, restaurants customarily provide free tap water.

You finish your lunch and go a theater to see a play. You have a water bottle in your backpack, and you know that many places in the US have security guards who check bags for dangerous items, which typically include liquids. Surprisingly, the usher tells you that New York laws allow people to carry water bottles in public places. Had your water bottle been empty, you could have filled it with tap water, as the City of New York pays upstate farmers to preserve land around sources of water in order to provide chemical-free tap water for people in the city.



**Outside the US, it is different.** Chances are you will find that water is valued differently, either because water is not treated for human consumption or because it is more profitable for businesses to sell mineral water. One could spend five to ten dollars a day just on bottled water to stay hydrated. As more cities around the world authorize the privatization of water, access to clean drinking water is becoming more difficult and more expensive.

In their book, *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, Canadians Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke were some of the first to examine the effects of globalization on the world's water supply. They conclude that wars of the future will be fought over water, not oil. Corporate giants such as Vivendi, which supplies water-related services to 110 million people in more than 100 countries, and corrupt governments will vie for control of a dwindling safe water supply, prompting protests and revolutions from citizens fighting for their right to survive.



**The privatization of water is not new.** Communities all over the world—France, the US, Brazil, Honduras, Argentina, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Sudan, South Sudan, Egypt and many other countries—have been organizing to resist water privatization. A well-known struggle involving water happened in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 2000, when dozens of people died while protesting against water privatization. That protest became known as the “Water War.”

In France, cities are taking back the administration of water distribution after communities objected to the high prices charged by private companies. In the US, non-government organizations in Michigan, California, and Oregon have pursued legal battles against companies like Nestlé when they attempted to secure ownership to sources of water in their municipalities.

How did multinational corporations take over a necessity for life on our planet? One answer can be found in World Bank documents. This financial institution has lobbied for changes in international law related to water ownership and the reclassification of water as a commodity to be commercialized.

**Water is sacred.** In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis names the disparities in access, quality, and use of water between the wealthier, industrialized countries and poorer countries as moral, ethical issues.



He calls us to protect the sacredness of water, the element used in the sacrament of Baptism to symbolize the grace of God which cleanses us and give us life. Pope Francis makes clear the need for unrestricted access to water to be a right for all people. Water should not be an instrument of suffering

for anyone, especially marginalized members of society. “Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.” [30]



**MINING BAN IN EL SALVADOR**

Since we are looking forward to the 2017MAC in Guatemala, which is offering a post conference trip to El Salvador, anything Salvadoran catches our eye. The Catholic News Service and other publications recently announced that a law passed in 2017 phases out all mining for metals in that Central American country. Last year the Salvadoran government won a \$300 million lawsuit brought against it by a unit of a Canadian-Australian mining giant, Oceana Gold. The government had denied mining permits to a new project; the company then sued for lost profits. Activists reported that recent deaths were related to disputes over mining and that mining operations have caused water and soil contamination. Demonstrations, a petition signed by 30,000 people, and advocacy by the Salvadoran Catholic Church pushed their congress to institute the ban.

Similarly, a New York Times article, “El Salvador, Prizing Water Over Gold, Bans All Metal Mining,” reported, “Declaring that El Salvador’s fragile environment could not sustain metal mining operations, legislators across the political spectrum approved the ban, which had broad support, particularly from the influential Roman Catholic Church.” (March 29, 2017 - [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/29/world/americas/el-salvador-prizing-water-over-gold-bans-all-metal-mining.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/29/world/americas/el-salvador-prizing-water-over-gold-bans-all-metal-mining.html?_r=0))



**PROTECT OUR MOTHER EARTH**

Did you or your Maryknoll Affiliate chapter celebrate Earth Day? Were you able to participate in the Climate March in Washington, DC, April 29, or in some related event in your community?



In Washington, DC, the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns met for Mass at St. Dominic Church before the Climate March on Saturday, April 29th. The day before the March, MOGC invited participants to the Catholic Climate Covenant’s free lobby training (<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>), followed by a pot luck dinner, film, and prayers.

Please post your actions and/or photos on the Maryknoll Affiliates’ Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates/>) or send them to us at [NSFA@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@maryknollaffiliates.org).



**AFFILIATES IN ACTION – HOUSTON**

A recent communication from Maryknoll Affiliate Robert Guice of Houston shows what active missionaries the Houston Affiliates are:

In January, Dick Horstman joined a group of parishioners to take more than 100 gifts to the children of Piedras Negras, help at a soup kitchen, and deliver other gifts to an orphanage there. In March and April, he helped take youth and adults from four different high schools and a parish on mission trips to Eagle Pass, near the US/Mexico border.

Bob and Ruth Kleeman also went on a mission trip to Eagle Pass at a different time in March.

Ron Covey continues spending considerable time at his mission, Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City, where they work in many ways to be good neighbors, including tutoring 60 young students and distributing free shoes. Ron and Robert also staffed the Maryknoll Booth at a Vocation Expo at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. In July, Ron and Henry Yu will



staff the "Sweatshop" booth at the Diocesan Youth Conference.

Several members will be traveling to Guatemala in November to participate in MAC 2017. If you will be there, too, plan to chat with the Houston Affiliates for ideas to take home to your own chapter.



**RALPH MAUGHAN—PERSISTENT AFFILIATE**

Janet Quillian – Seattle Chapter

At the Seattle Maryknoll Affiliates' April meeting, Ralph Maughan, an Affiliate since 1996, spoke about his recent trip to Bangkok to visit Maryknoll Brothers John Beeching and Tim Raible and to pursue his other mission activities in Southeast Asia.

Both Brothers John and Tim have been friends of the Seattle Affiliates for many years. In 1997, Brother John visited the Seattle Affiliate Chapter and gave a talk about his work in Thailand. As a consequence, the chapter invited Brother John to be the keynote speaker at the first regional conference Seattle hosted in 2003. Brother Tim Raible was in charge of the Seattle Maryknoll House for five or more years in the early 2000s. Brother Tim was actively engaged with the Seattle Affiliates during that time, attending monthly meetings and assisting and involving the Affiliates in numerous ways.

Brother John's influence also impacted many of the Affiliates besides Ralph. He invited Affiliates to come to Bangkok and to teach English to the monks



and refugees in the Buddhist wats. Brother John's message certainly impacted the lives of Ralph and his wife Kate. Both of them have visited Bangkok almost yearly to assist Brother John in teaching English to the monks.

Their mission trips gradually extended beyond Bangkok. Ralph and Kate spent six weeks in East Timor with Fr. Bill O' Leary, MM. They installed solar panels in some buildings, repaired the rectory bathroom, and assisted in a feeding program. They are most likely the first and last Affiliates to work in East Timor with Maryknoll.

Ralph and Kate have also made almost yearly trips to Burma (Myanmar) through the invitation of Brother John. The area they visit in Northeastern Myanmar has been one of the most problematic and dangerous parts of the country. The Maughans worked in partnership with a congregation of sisters from Ireland. In Myanmar, Ralph and Kate installed solar panels on an HIV/AIDS home, on the sisters' residence and on a children's home. They also bought food and medicines for some needy Myanmar people.

In a new phase of his mission life, Ralph is now serving as Co-Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Maryknoll Affiliates along with me, Janet Quillian.



**CONTEMPLATION, ASCETICISM,  
AND ADVOCACY**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Stimulated by the Affiliate Book Group’s discussion of Elizabeth Johnson’s book, *Abounding in Kindness*, I eagerly anticipated hearing her talk at a local university. She asked, “Is God’s Charity Broad Enough for Bears?” Johnson has been criticized by some Catholic groups because of her support for giving women greater authority in the church and her willingness to speak at meetings of Catholics who disagree with the church on some issues, but here she was greeted as a one who should be on a theological Mt. Rushmore because of her achievements and role in American theological thought.

Johnson told the packed auditorium that nineteenth century naturalist John Muir claimed God’s charity is broad enough for bears. If so, she asked us why believers and theologians haven’t stepped in to protect the earth from its destruction by human domination and consumerism. She presented one obstacle and proposed three remedies to this disastrous situation. Johnson posited that the major obstacle to protecting the earth is a theology that puts humans at the peak of a pinnacle, a little lower than God, but in dominion/domination above all creatures and the material world. Drawing from evolutionary science and Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*, she presented the challenge that loving the Earth and its species as a neighbor must become an intrinsic part of faith in God. She emphasized that humans are a part, not the pinnacle, and even a recent arrival according to evolutionary science, to the circle of creation.



Elizabeth Johnson

After quoting extensively from *Laudato Si’*, Johnson proposed three spiritual practices to foster care for the earth: **Contemplation**, **Asceticism**, and **Advocacy**. **Contemplation** will bring us into connection with our true nature and our proper relationship with the earth and fellow creatures. An **Asceticism** that turns us from unbridled consumerism will allow us to recognize our appetites and will minimize our harming the rest of creation. Once we truly feel and accept that we are just a part of this vast community of creation we will feel impelled to **Advocate** for the well-being for the whole of creation.



- **Book Group:** If you want to participate in a new Affiliate Book Group in the fall, or if you would be able to coordinate a book group, contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short at [rshort@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@MaryknollAffiliates.org).
- **Book Suggestions:** Post your ideas for a good summer read at the Maryknoll Affiliates Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates/>. If you have a suggestion for a book for next fall’s book group, contact Bob.
- **Book Reviews:** The NSFA would love to publish your book review – tell us what you liked or didn’t like about your latest read. Send it to [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org).



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