



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2017

Volume 26 Number 6



Our Maryknoll/Pax Christi International delegation in June when the treaty was passed at the UN. L-R Judy Coode, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Beth Begley (NJ Chapter Affiliate), PCI UN rep; Jonathan Frerichs, PCI Disarmament Coordinator; Alice Kooij, PCI Policy Director; Jasmine Nazario Galace, PC Philippines, ICAN, Miriam College Manila; Gerry Lee, Director MOGC; Marie Dennis, Co-President of PCI; and Mary Yelenick, PCI UN rep.

ICAN WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Beth Begley – New Jersey Chapter


The *Nobel* committee awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to **ICAN—International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons** “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

Maryknoll and Pax Christi International were integral members of the ICAN campaign to achieve the Nuclear Ban Treaty, and their efforts continue toward ratification in each signing nation and entry into force.

It had been very discouraging that our efforts brought so little awareness, especially here in the US. Then we awoke on October 7th to the Nobel Peace Prize. As part of the campaign, my email has been happily flooded with congratulations and encouragement from our campaigners all over the world.

**ICAN—
International
Campaign to
Abolish Nuclear
Weapons** draws
“attention to the
catastrophic
humanitarian
consequences of
any use of nuclear
weapons and [works]
to achieve a treaty-
based prohibition of
such weapons.”—
Nobel Prize
Committee

The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** was opened for signatures on September 20th. There need to be 50 ratifications for it to enter into force. Three states have ratified to date—the Vatican was first. In spite of pressure from the US, we expect the treaty to be in effect within two years and to serve as a moral benchmark. (Editor: The US has not signed or ratified.)

Although the nuclear states try to discount this accomplishment, I see it as a part of a new expression of empowerment by the nonnuclear and less powerful states and by a new generation of activists working from the ground up and giving priority to reducing the humanitarian effects of war and violence. The Land Mine Treaty and the Treaty on Cluster Munitions  were the first steps in this movement.

Note: To learn more about the negotiations at the United Nations to adopt a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons leading toward their total elimination, read Sister Elizabeth Zwareva, MM's report in the July-August 2017 issue of NewsNotes at <http://maryknollogc.org/article/un-nuclear-ban-treaty-negotiations>.

GLOBAL VISION INFORMS LOCAL ACTION

This issue illustrates that as Maryknoll Affiliates, global vision informs and influences our response to problems. We salute the Affiliates and Maryknollers in the Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Our global vision teaches us that wars and nuclear weapons not only threaten the warring countries, but as President Eisenhower stated in the 1950s, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger..." This NSFA offers a Pax Christi prayer to aid reflection on the UN Nuclear Weapon Treaty and on the US role with nuclear weapons stealing from the hungry and the poor.

Kevin Foy's global vision, developed overseas and in the southern US, leads him to recognize and address racism at home. Marie Venner stresses the urgency of doing something about climate change since the contribution from highly industrialized areas such as the US disproportionately impacts low-lying or poor countries.

Informed by global vision, Affiliates in San Rafael, California, reach out to refugees and immigrants knowing that US trade and immigration policies contribute to the migration. Tell us how your Affiliate global vision shapes your response to the problems in our midst at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.



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.



OUR CUP IS FULL

In early November, around 100 Affiliates and friends will be attending MAC 2017,

our international Maryknoll Affiliate Conference, in Guatemala. The Coordinating Committee tells us,

The assembly cup is full. We welcome Maryknoll Affiliates who will live the harmony between people and Mother Earth inspired by the theme of Buen Vivir.

The Coordinating Committee asked for responses to these questions: What valuable learnings do I hope to leave with? In what ways would I like to see the theme "Buen Vivir" (Living in Harmony with All) become part of the commitment of the Affiliate Movement? What will be my own special contribution in this MAC 2017 assembly to strengthen the four Pillars (Community, Spirituality, Global Vision, Action) to the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement?

One person shared the thought, "Living in harmony with all challenges us to remember that the Blessing that awaits us is often outside our comfort zone!"

Read more of the thoughtful and inspiring responses they received (in English and Spanish), in the *No Tan Lejos del Horizon* Special MAC Edition (See Downloads) and plan to hear a full report on our first truly international MAC in the next issue of NSFA.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld 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.

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY—A SIMPLE 1-2-3

Marie Venner – Denver Chapter

Are you concerned about climate change but don't know where to start? Here's a path forward. For cleaner air, more jobs, and involvement for all, think 1-2-3 and prioritize!

1. **Shift control of our electricity** to the community level.
2. **Electrify everything**—no more investments or taxes supporting fossil fuel.
3. **Efficiency improvements** can provide the quickest and best return.

By taking even some of the steps below, we can make progress toward our top priorities!

1. Shift control of our electricity. Take leadership for reducing the carbon intensity of our electricity:

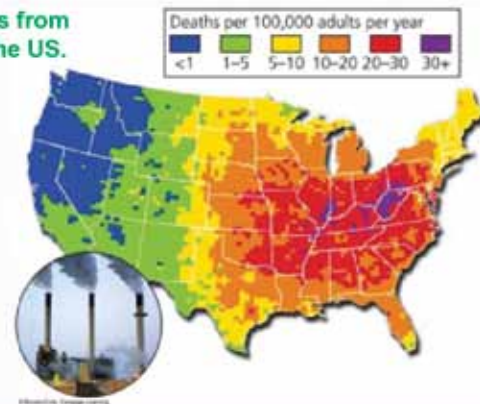
- **City** – Most cities have a franchise agreement a monopoly utility provider, which is more inclined to listen to them than to customers. To get us off of coal, find or form a group and speak to your values as a group member. Call or visit as many of your city council people as will meet with you and explain your concerns. Take a few colored handouts/graphs. Listen to their concerns and say "I'll check into that and get back to you," if you don't have the answer. Ask your city council to send a letter to your utility about getting off coal faster than they are planning. Ask your Mayor to join the Sierra Club's Ready for 100% (<http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100>).
- **Local** – Email your utility managers with a simple message: "We want our electricity to be fossil free by 2030!" Or something longer: "As a faith community member we value good life for all. We need to get these coal plants closed right away. How are we going to get to 100% renewable by 2030?" Mention the parish, city, or community group you are from and that you want action. Ask your group leaders and clergy to email, too. Email weekly if you want; this is not like voting!
- **International and Mission** – 1.2 billion people in the world need renewable energy. Provide developing communities safe and healthy solar lights and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

2. Electrify everything that can be transitioned now.

- Join the millions buying electric vehicles! Economical 200+ mile cars now on the market allow you to fuel at home and leave with a full

Premature Deaths from Air Pollution in the US.

Air and traffic pollution have an unexpectedly large impact on life, health, and wellbeing.



tank each morning! Some communities even have tax credits for EV!

- Move out of investments in fossil fuels. It's not just what you do with your charity that matters, but where your money sleeps at night.
- The International Energy Agency, known for conservative estimates, says four renewable technologies are ready to market: wind, solar, batteries, and electric vehicles.
- Raise our building standards. Zero net energy buildings are possible now and can produce savings and increased comfort and certainty for residents.

3. Efficiency improvements. Efficiency can be the cheapest dollar spent and will provide the best return.

- Replace all your light bulbs with LEDs.
- Get an energy audit and make the suggested improvements.

More ways to help:

- Community level projects have more "Bang for the buck." Retrofitting one building or campus is great but is not going to get us there in time. See rapidshift.net for ways to move faster.
- Support Grid Alternatives (<https://www.gridalternatives.org>) and other programs that help people transition and train for new jobs in the field of renewable energy.

Why am I passionate about this? It's about life and dignity for all. Extra high temperatures; potential agriculture/food system disruption; the exploration, production, and use of fossil fuels—all are death dealing for many of us. Jesus taught us to "choose life." Let's choose it—now.

If you need more information or any materials, don't hesitate to email me at marie@catholicnetwork.us and I'll try to get you what you need or think would help.



5 THINGS CHRISTIAN MISSION TEACHES ME ABOUT CONFRONTING RACISM*

Kevin Foy – Maryknoll National Director for Teacher and Catechist Outreach

Kevin collaborated regularly with the Seattle Affiliates from 2011-2015 and currently with the Affiliates in Chicago, where he now works.

Reflecting on testimony from residents of Charlottesville following the recent racist demonstrations, I am struck by a major disconnect. While many white residents are quick to say, “This is not us,” their black neighbors point out that racism is indeed very much a part of Charlottesville: African-Americans are the targets of 80 percent of traffic stops, despite making up only 20 percent of the local population. The same white residents who showed up to protest racism also regularly reject their appeals for reforms in education, employment, and housing policies that disproportionately harm people of color.

Like you, I am trying to make sense of Charlottesville and its aftermath. But after nearly a dozen years of stepping beyond my comfort zone to see the world from different angles, I recognize how disturbingly common it is for people to live in close proximity but very different worlds. I offer some insights that may help folks respond to this moment with greater consciousness of racial injustice.

1. Recognize How Little You Know.

The first time that I visited Haiti, I met a man named Max. Haitian-born, Max had spent decades in the United States building a comfortable life. When he eventually felt the urge to return and assist his people, the poverty and desperation that he saw shocked him. He remembered thinking, “This is not the Haiti I left.” But he came to realize the more inconvenient truth: that this was, indeed, the Haiti that he left, just not the Haiti that

he knew. This sentiment is echoed throughout my experience.

When I left my hometown of Seattle to volunteer in the US South, racism suddenly entered my field of vision like never before. The bigger shock, though, was returning home to recognize that my very progressive, tolerant city was actually much more segregated and unequal than I had realized. My perception of the city had become much more complicated based on my experiences outside of it.

2. Looking for Inequality is a Good Way to Find It.

Once, in Guatemala City, I walked a visiting US delegation to a high-end mall. On the way, we passed the typical sights of a busy city—crowded buses, street vendors, people asking for spare change. Stepping into the mall was like stepping into a different world, where the clothes were cleaner and the people wealthier. I whispered to the members of my group, “Do you notice how most of the people in here are light skinned, and most of the people on the street are indigenous?” Looking around, a member of the group said, “You’re right. I didn’t notice that, but it’s true.” With my previous experience in the country and deeper understanding of its (and our) racial politics, I knew to look.

I also knew to look when I came back to Seattle. And in looking, I realized that certain truths were staring me in the face all along. The northern suburb in which I grew up was at one point a “Sundown Town,” meaning that people of color were welcome to work but not stay. This helps explain memories, such as attending a high school basketball game as a child on Seattle’s South Side and being surprised to see mostly (really, any) black faces on the opposing bleachers. Today I live elsewhere, but continue to track how the explicit racial segregation of the past is adapted as economic, criminal justice, and educational policies that achieve similar ends.



3. Injustice Is Injustice, No Matter the Degree.

I once spoke with a man in the US who argued that Africa is “where our attention needs to be,” because “Latin America is really on the upswing.” This assessment is hard to square with the heartbreaking poverty that I have witnessed firsthand in Haiti, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Mexico. I cannot compare these realities to those in Africa, but then, why try? Within my own experience, for instance, I could possibly say that Haiti is “worse off” than Guatemala, or that Guatemala is better off now than during its civil war, but either way people are still suffering.

In the US, people often treat the end of Jim Crow and the passing of civil rights legislation as the sole measure of racial justice. But progress is not justice. If it was, Jim Crow would be judged primarily by the notion that slavery is worse.

4. Don't Accept for Others What You Wouldn't Accept for Yourself.

A dentist in Juarez, Mexico, recently showed me multiple molds of children's mouths. On each mold, front teeth were missing and broken from falls off of bicycles with defective brakes. Those bikes had been “charitably” donated to the community. Angrily, she said, “A gift should be given as if it is for you.” This reminded me of the first time that I visited this part of the border, where factory workers labor for a little over \$6 a day. The director of a project for migrants and refugees on the US side said, “People will say, ‘But at least that's more than they would get otherwise, right?’ I always ask them, ‘Would you accept that?’”

That question resonates with me in considering racial injustice in the United States. When I taught at an all-black Catholic school in the deep South, I coached the girls' volleyball team. We practiced outside on a torn up slab of concrete with a sunken net. Obviously, we could not host any games, and instead traveled around to play other schools, on lovely courts made for white students. For all that anyone might tell me about how great it is that the Church is providing an education to “those kids,” all I can think is, “They are not getting what I got, or what I would tolerate for my kids.” And it's impossible ten years later to forget the looks on their faces as they saw in those rival schools a world of opportunity to which they had little to no access.

5. What You Hear Matters Less than Who You Listen To.

A white colleague living and working in South America told me that it took a long time for people there to feel

comfortable enough to call him out on how he moved in their culture. For instance, he did not realize that, to them, his habit of refusing favors or simple gifts was seen as a power play—he was unwittingly saying to them, “I don't need or value what you have to offer.”

I grew up with all of the benefits of a liberal, justice-oriented education. I learned about the Civil Rights Movement in school, took courses on race and class in college, and jumped boldly into post-graduate service to those most in need. That all looks great on paper, but in fact did not counteract the racial privileges and biases that occur when a white guy spends the first two decades of his life with few to no meaningful relationships with people of color.

This, sadly, is the case for the majority of white Americans. In a 100-friend scenario, the average



white person has 91 white friends; one each of black, Latino, Asian, mixed race, and other races; and three friends of unknown race. The average black person, on the other hand, has 83 black friends, eight

white friends, two Latino friends, zero Asian friends, three mixed race friends, one other race friend and four friends of unknown race (Christopher Ingraham, *Washington Post*, August 25, 2014).

Since then, most of my progress in understanding and addressing racism has come less from reading about it and more from being intimately connected to people from a variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Being a missionary teaches you that the world can look very different depending on where you stand in it. As you gain access to different perspectives, that view can and should become more complex and disturbing. But as Christians, we know that this disturbance is good—it means that we are paying attention to the Christ in others and the Pharisee within ourselves. I hope something here has disturbed you.



*Reprint of Kevin Foy's blog, “5 Things Christian Mission Teaches Me About Confronting Racism,” posted on August 18, 2017 (<http://maryknollwest.blogspot.com/2017/08/5-things-christian-mission-teaches-me.html>).

PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE NUCLEAR BAN

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017 and will remain open indefinitely. Once 50 nations have ratified or acceded to it, it will enter into force. The US has not yet ratified.

This prayer service is derived from Pax Christi International's Interfaith Prayer Service for Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty Negotiations, conducted on March 28, 2017, at the Isaiah Wall, NYC. Your chapter might use it at a chapter meeting or arrange an interfaith prayer service in your area.



Six hundred ICAN campaigners gather in Vienna ahead of the conference. (<http://www.icanw.org/>)

CONVENER: Peace, Salaam, Shalom to all gathered here in support of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.”

ALL: We seek blessings upon:

- Those gathered here and who cannot be here;
- Those who have suffered horrific death and disfigurement, genetic disruptions, the massacre of family and friends, and the devastation of their beloved earth due to others’ use and testing of nuclear weapons;
- Those who have gone before us, preparing the soil and planting seeds of a nuclear weapons ban;
- Those who need to be imbued with a consciousness of the imperatives needed to safeguard our humanity, and all creation;
- Those other creatures with whom we human beings share this fragile planet, whose lives and futures are bound up with our own.
- Our Mother Earth itself, whose very existence is imperiled by nuclear weapons.

CONVENER: “We stand at a pivotal moment in the life of both our World Community, and our Earth Community. “

READER 1: Nuclear weapons are a global problem affecting all nations and impacting future generations and the planet that is our home. . . . While the focus is often placed on nuclear weapons’ potential for mass killing, more attention must be given to the unnecessary suffering brought on by their use. There are those among us who are victims of these weapons; they warn us not to commit the same irreparable mistakes which have devastated populations and creation. [Pope Francis, December 7, 2014]

ALL: Having witnessed the savage suffering inflicted by one nation’s nuclear weapons upon the people of another nation, we know that the use of such weapons violates the moral integrity of our human family.

READER 2: “Nuclear weapons are instruments of ultimate violence. Our planet has no place for weapons of such terror and mass destruction. For anyone to possess them takes a toll on everyone’s humanity. Their presence in an era of increasing interdependence is an affront to human dignity. Nuclear weapons are designed to cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences and their use, under any circumstances, is unjustifiable and unthinkable.” [Pax Christi International Statement regarding the Nuclear Weapons Ban Negotiations]

ALL: Having unleashed the horrors of nuclear weapons, human beings now possess the power of irreversible global annihilation -- a power that vastly exceeds the moral authority of our species.”

READER 3: Nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth; to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them, is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself. Our nuclear adventurism has saturated the planet with nuclear garbage from testing, from explosions in high altitudes, from nuclear power plants, from nuclear weapons factories that can’t be cleaned up. Because of myopic leadership, of greed for possessions, a public chained to corporate media, there has been virtually no response to these realities. [Philip Berrigan]

ALL: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. “ [Isaiah 2:2-5]

READER 4: “An atomic bomb means a total denial of the dignity of a human person. The human race does not need such an inhuman weapon nor should we need it . . . [T] existence of nuclear weapons is intrinsically evil and there is no reason whatsoever to justify this deadly weapon. Even one nuclear weapon should not be tolerated. The existence of nuclear weapons in the world is a grave threat to peace and we need to abolish them.” [Archbishop Joseph Takami (*Hibakusha in utero*) of Nagasaki, 2010]

ALL: Having known the ravages of nuclear testing and bombardment upon the earth itself, and upon its creatures, the world cries out for an end of the specter hanging over us.”

READER 5: “By far the greatest single danger facing human-kind, in fact, all living beings on our planet - is the threat of nuclear destruction. I would like to appeal to all the leaders of the nuclear powers who literally have the future of the world in their hands, to the scientists and technicians who continue to create these awesome weapons of destruction, and to all the people at large who are in a position to influence their leaders, I appeal to them to exercise their sanity and begin to work at dismantling and destroying all nuclear weapons. We know that in the event of a nuclear war there will be no victors, because there will be no survivors.” [His Holiness the Dalai Lama]



The two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of people, and their effects are still being felt today.

ALL: Ban nuclear weapons!

CONVENER: Let us now share two minutes of silent reflection, remembering all those who have suffered and died as a result of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, and all those who have suffered as a result of the diversion of money from human needs, in developing these instruments of mass annihilation.

[TWO MINUTES OF SILENT MEDITATION]



READER 1: “At this crucial crossroads of history, we join to call on the world to recognize that violence begets violence; that nuclear proliferation benefits no one; that we can, we will, and we must find other ways to protect ourselves, our nations and our future: for it is not sufficient to have peace in our time, but, instead, we must leave a peaceful world to our children.” [Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism]

ALL: We commit ourselves to the abolition of nuclear weapons, for the sake of our selves, our children, and all of creation.

READER 2: Nuclear weapons remain the most dangerous of all weapons, the only ones that can destroy civilization in a day. We need to redefine security in human and ecological terms, rather than military ones: food, shelter, clean air and water, jobs, health care and education. This kind of security is universal.” [Abolition Now]

ALL: We denounce and reject the funding of nuclear weapons, as undermining true security. We commit ourselves to funding life, not destruction.

READER 3: “Nuclear abolition is the democratic wish of the world’s people, and has been our goal almost since the dawn of the atomic age. Together, we have the power to decide whether the nuclear era ends in a bang or worldwide celebration.” [Archbishop Desmond Tutu (2010)]

ALL: We have the power to choose life, or to choose death. We choose life.

CONVENER:

“Let us now conclude with two minutes of silent contemplation of the critical work to be done and in hope and re-imagining of a world free of the scourge of nuclear weapons.”

[TWO MINUTES OF SILENT MEDITATION]

CONVENER:

“Let us go in peace -- and let us get to work!”



A PDF of these two pages is posted at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/spirituality-resources.html>.



THE MAKING OF A VIRTUAL CHAPTER

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

Until a few weeks ago, there were two Affiliate virtual chapters. The first has six members crossing three U.S. time zones and has met three times. The second is a contemplative virtual chapter that focuses on reflective conversation and prayer. Members from both of these chapters have spoken very positively about how meaningful the experiences have been.

On Sunday, October 1st, a third, hybrid Affiliate chapter entered the virtual Maryknoll Affiliate world. Approximately 15 members from three continents and as many countries: Kenya, Germany, and the US—crossing too many time zones to count—held their first meeting. This hybrid virtual chapter evolved from the creative vision and organizational acumen of Gerald Grudzen, PhD, and Marita Grudzen, who have been connected to Maryknoll in several capacities for many years.

Gerry began his history with Maryknoll in the Seminary in the 1960s. He was ordained, and though he later sought laicization from the priesthood, he kept dedicated to the missionary spirit of Maryknoll. Marita Grudzen joined the Maryknoll Sisters in 1959, but left in 1967 to serve in other ways. Their educational achievements have focused on diverse religious traditions: Gerry helped found Global Ministries University with faculty representing Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, completed a doctorate from Columbia University in the history of Christianity and Islam, and became involved in interfaith programs in Bangladesh, Thailand, Egypt, Turkey, and Kenya, sometimes working with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Add to that background his incorporation of the latest educational technologies, combining both classroom and Internet based learning and teaching.

Marita also brings her earlier experience with service through intentional Christian communities and her teaching and writing about health care for

elders of different religious traditions. Marita has trained Maryknoll Lay Missioners regarding interfaith collaboration and has presented at the Maryknoll Mission Institute.

At the invitation of Maryknoll Lay Missioner Judy Walters, the Grudzens came to Kenya and laid the groundwork for establishing a Maryknoll Affiliate chapter there. Some of their friends and colleagues in Germany and the United States also became interested in meeting virtually. They used the Zoom program to connect, which worked well except for one problem in Mombasa.

The ambitious agenda of their first meeting began their journey of exploration of the Maryknoll Affiliates: what Affiliates are and why the group should consider being Maryknoll Affiliates. The 12-month formation process for new Affiliate chapters was explained: the themes it covers and the four pillars it emphasizes. They discussed the Affiliate vocation and what forming a community would offer them individually and together. They reviewed the mission statements of Maryknoll Priests, Sisters, and Lay Missioners in Kenya and looked at Maryknoll Affiliate presence in Tanzania. They asked, what would such a spiritual community offer Kenya? The members divided into three subgroups to discuss what had been presented and then returned to the full group to introduce themselves and share something in response to the program.

I don't think the Affiliate Board could have anticipated that a virtual chapter could take on such a far-reaching character when it was first proposed. It's a very encouraging development for mission.



SPREAD THE WORD

Sr. Arlene Trant MM, recently returned from mission in Macau, reached out to us for ideas and help with **Mission Education** in the US, her new assignment with the Maryknoll Sisters. She offers a few areas for brainstorming:

- Get Maryknoll magazine to schools/parishes?
- Diocesan Mission Office—aware of Maryknoll?
- Mission education in Catholic schools?
- Maryknoll related service hours for confirmation
- Work with Catholic colleges/universities or Newman Centers/campus ministers?

We will be talking with her and developing ideas. If you could help, please email atrant@mksisters.org.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MOVES TOWARDS NONVIOLENCE?

JUST PEACE JUST WAR IN DIALOGUE

Charlie Reilly – San Diego Chapter

A cluster of San Diego Affiliates joined several hundred people at the University of San Diego (USD) Peace and Justice Auditorium October 6 & 7 to reflect on this topic.

Maria Stephan of the Institute for Peace gave a splendid opening talk on “The Nonviolent Option: The Power of Active Nonviolence.” She reminded us of the many under-reported examples of effective social change through nonviolent movements around the world in recent years. Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana gave the closing talk, “Christian Nonviolence and Just Peace.” He heads the Vatican’s Human Development office, which includes the Justice and Peace outreach initiative encouraged by Pope Francis. This event follows up on a Vatican session held a year ago, also organized by Maryknoll and Pax Christi co-president Marie Dennis. Sandwiched between the two public talks was an all-day seminar for some 15 Catholic theologians and peace activists with an equal number of military officers, most of them faculty members (or retired from) teaching ethics at Army, Navy, and Air Force academies. Fr. Bill Headley and I participated in the whole event.

The dialogue was structured around a half day of presentations by the “peaceniks,” followed by small group dialogues including Marie, Ken Butigan of Pace e Bene, Maryann Cusimano Love of Catholic University, Terrence Rynne from Marquette, and Father John Dear (who recalled fondly his last visit to USD with the Maryknoll Affiliates). Their proposal supported the emergent concept of “just peace” as a complement, hopefully more effective in practice, than has been St. Augustine’s so often ignored “just war theory.” The group discussed last year’s Vatican dialogue, Pope Francis’ great interest in “just peace” and strong support for more leadership from the Vatican in the world movement for nonviolence.

In the afternoon, a panel of military officers was invited to present their vision of peace and security and to discuss how they teach and view prevention of war, conduct during, and role after conflicts. Many of them have participated in “mil/civ” dialogues in the United States and were “at ease” in discussion, and at times, in disagreement. I was surprised to learn that most of them came from Catholic backgrounds, so the concepts and language in the dialogue was more fluid than I had expected. They made some valuable points regarding the continuing value of “just

Just Peace

war” for having placed some controls on the conduct of warfare that are now enshrined in international law. General Charles Dunlap, USAF (Ret.) expressed this concern, noting that there were some adversaries who would love to see those principles trashed. The “peace group” recognized that danger but felt the “just peace,” nonviolent approach would be a complement, not replace the whole just war apparatus but spur the ethics of peace building.

I appreciated the ongoing “mil/civ” discussions on the 3 D’s—Defense, Development, and Diplomacy—though not the disproportional investment going to the first. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars have heightened tensions between the military and civilian humanitarian and development actors, and this was one of many military/civilian dialogues on the subject.

My takeaway and comment summing up our small group discussions was:

We ask far too much from the military if laying on them the 3 D’s, while we ask far too little of our religious leaders in promoting the ‘just peace’ of the nonviolent Jesus.

At the end of the day, Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego welcomed Cardinal Turkson and framed well the issues of just war and just peace for the audience. The Cardinal’s keynote talk, “Christian Nonviolence and Just Peace,” was excellent. He had sat in on the dialogues, listened well, and focused on Pope Francis’s “Message for the Fiftieth World Day of Peace (January 1, 2017).” He recalled Francis’s words to UN and US Congressional leaders, and his writings on the environment and solidarity. He concluded by counseling that each of us has our own violence deep inside. Before taking on and setting straight the violent world, he counseled, we should begin and continue by shaping up ourselves. He didn’t sing it, but I could almost hear the hymn, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me,” floating in the auditorium.



Just War

CARING FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

Marie Wren – North Bay Chapter

Members of the North Bay Affiliate Chapter, Nancy and Bob McFarland, Leslee Coady, Rich Younkin, and Marie Wren planned this event at St. Isabella's parish in San Rafael, CA, to impart information and to inspire involvement and action. Presenters included a Rwandan refugee priest, Carolyn Trumble—a Maryknoll mission promoter, staff members of Catholic Charities, an immigration lawyer, and Maryknoll Affiliates.

Fr. Samuel, a priest at St. Isabella's and a son of a Rwandan refugee, was born in a Ugandan refugee camp. He inspired the audience with stories about ministering as a priest to refugees in Uganda and emphasized that the most important thing to give refugees is hope, over and above any material or financial help.

Two speakers from Catholic Charities told of the legal help they offer to immigrants and of social services for a local community of immigrant youth who need help with reading skills. They also addressed the current issue of the executive order

revoking DACA. They invited the audience to visit the local community center where youth are tutored.

An immigration attorney and member of the local Organizing Committee, emphasized the need to listen to the stories of immigrants and to determine their immediate needs. She told of immigrants whose cars were impounded because they did not have driver licenses. The Committee helped them.

Affiliate Bob McFarland spoke about his and his wife Nancy's involvement with a Rapid Response team that observes and documents raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They also support families who may be left without a breadwinner because of the raids. Bob and Nancy are willing to take such a family into their home.

Some parishioners were interested in volunteering and will be invited to our next Affiliate meeting where we can explore their interests and where to use their skills. Although the evening addressed immigrants and refugees from other countries, we were keenly and sadly aware that there were many refugees from nearby Napa and Sonoma because of the devastating fires. Any of us could be refugees.

I WAS AN ALIEN AND YOU WELCOMED ME

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

The Maryknoll Affiliate Book Group has been discussing the experiences of immigrants in the US, guided by Miguel De La Torre's *Trails of Hope and Terror*. That book emphasizes that Jesus was an undocumented refugee in Egypt and offers Christian responses to the alien.

Now we see people of color detained and arrested as they leave the county court house or go to work. Citizen protesters have been arrested as they block the path of Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) vans. Immigrant attendance at church services and classes is down, perhaps due to fear of being in public. Executive orders have rescinded the DACA program that helps young immigrants, Dreamers, legally remain in the US to study or work.

But hopeful signs abound. In October, California, with over 2 million undocumented, enacted a law barring police from asking people about their immigration status or participating in federal immigration enforcement activities. Jail officials will only transfer inmates to federal authorities if they have been convicted of certain crimes. Oregon's law prevents using state resources to enforce federal laws.



Kathleen Gribble, from Fox Cities Chapter, WI, reports that the ESTHER community visited a legislative hearing concerning pending legislation. One

bill proposes that all government officials would be permitted (not mandated) to inquire on the immigration status of persons they might encounter in any dealing. This bill would allow targeting and profiling people of color, adding another level of fear as they move in the shadows of the community. The good news is that only one speaker favored the measure and about 25, including the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, eloquently spoke against it.

Nationwide, an estimated 800 churches have declared themselves Sanctuary Churches, although only few are housing threatened immigrants. Some groups help Dreamers pay the \$465 fee for DACA renewals. Communities have participated in *Welcoming Week* (welcomingamerica.org) to help newcomers of all backgrounds feel valued and fully participate in the community. *Welcoming Week* coincides with the *Campaign Nonviolence* week of actions and with International Day of Peace each September.

What is happening in your community? How are you welcoming the alien? Send your observations, actions, or ideas on welcoming the alien to

NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.



A REPORT ON PACE E BENE'S CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE EVENT

Pat Bader – Seattle Chapter

Ken Butigan, connected with Pace e Bene (<http://www.paceebene.org/>), gave a lively and inspiring talk on Campaign Nonviolence. He said violence causes racism, poverty and war. We need to say no to violence and respect our adversary as a loving person in God's eyes. He uses the acronym CLARA when dealing with conflict:


- Center yourself
- Learn your feelings about the situation
- Articulate your truth
- Receive the truth of the other person, and
- Accomplish some dialog by acknowledging both parts of the truth.

We then watched a TED talk on nonviolence (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w>), by Erica Cenoweth, in which she said nonviolence has been shown to be more effective in campaigns for change in governments than violence. Civil resistance works.

Ken advocated the following key practices: training in nonviolence, working with a community of likeminded people for mutual support, and action (keeping nonviolence in mind during any interactions).

We concluded the morning with one-on-one role-play taking pro and con positions on controversial issues—gun control, environmental issues, etc. Each person had the opportunity to try both sides. A common feedback was that the confrontations were stressful but the CLARA method of conflict resolution was helpful. Denny Duffel of the Seattle Chapter of Pax Christi USA (and organizer of this Workshop) encouraged us to prayerfully consider signing the Vow of Nonviolence, part of our packet of handouts. (<https://paxchristiusa.org/resources/vow-of-nonviolence/>)

After lunch, as part of Campaign Nonviolence, many participants marched from the St. Joseph Parish social hall to St. James Cathedral (about 2 miles,) advocating for nonviolence and a ban on nuclear weapons.


I didn't march, but I did sign the Vow of Nonviolence and am sending it to Pax Christi, Seattle Chapter, 958 16th Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98112. 



REMEMBERING AFFILIATES

These Maryknoll Affiliates passed away in 2017:

- Warren Bowhall, Albany Chapter, April 17
- Mary D'Arcy, Subway Chapter, NY, August 2
- Carrolyn Williams, New Jersey Chapter, September 16


If we have missed someone in your chapter, or to report future deaths, please contact Bob Short (rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org) to include their names in an annual Mass of Remembrance. 

News from the Board

MEET GERRY MULLANEY

Gerry hales from the Northeast Ohio Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter and was part of the original core group that sought recognition as a chapter. After a lengthy application/preparation period, they were recognized in March, 2014. The Northeast Ohio Chapter proudly focuses on the Global Vision pillar with multiple travels and subsequent connections with missionaries in Tanzania, Cambodia, and Bolivia. The Northeast Ohio Chapter also goes local with efforts to support a parish hunger program and more recent activity to address the cruelty of US immigration policy.



Gerry became an Affiliate Board member in the spring of 2016. Now working only part-time as a mental health therapist, Gerry has more time to devote to Affiliate matters. He is on the Nominating Committee of the Affiliate Board and says, "Keep those nominations coming!!!" Beyond this, Gerry has a strong interest in furthering the connections between individual Affiliate chapters and missionaries in the field. This is consistent with the Northeast Ohio Chapter's emphasis on Global Vision and with the Maryknoll Affiliate call to "go beyond borders... to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God's creation." 

* AFFILIATE BOARD TOPIC *

Meeting in Guatemala before MAC 2017, the Board will discuss Board, Regional Coordinator, and Affiliate ideas on our 5-Year Vision. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to help develop our 5-Year Vision, possibly using the "Easy Meeting" in the Sept/Oct 2017 NSFA, and share their thoughts with their regional coordinators.

What's Inside?

ICAN Wins Nobel Peace Prize 1

Mary's catchy title 2

Our Cup Is Full 2

Renewable Energy—A Simple 1-2-3..... 3

5 Things About Confronting Racism 4

Prayer for International Acceptance of the Nuclear Ban 6

The Making of a Virtual Chapter / Spread the Word 8

The Catholic Church Moves Towards Nonviolence 9

Caring for Refugees and Immigrants..... 10

I Was An Alien and You Welcomed Me 10

A Report on Pace e Bene's Campaign Nonviolence Event..... 11

Remembering Affiliates 11

Meet Gerry Mullaney / Affiliate Board Topic..... 11

The Maryknoll Affiliates are 25 years old!



Read all about it in "Something Good in Mission," on p. 40 of the Sept/Oct Maryknoll Magazine, or at: <https://maryknollmagazine.org/2017/09/maryknoll-affiliates-mark-25-years/>

