



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

September/October 2018

Volume 27 Number 5

#FAMILIESBELONGTOGETHER
JUNE 30, 2018



Washington County, OR



Rockland County, NY

People brought and carried signs ...



White Plains, NY

First, our faith impels us to welcome the stranger.

Second, separating children from their families is immoral!



San Luis Obispo, CA



...such as
"Separating Families is Immoral,"
"Seeking asylum is not a crime,"
"ICE stay away from sensitive locations,"
"ICE identify yourself,"
"Reunite Families."

The rally was attended by 700 people; there was a great diversity including many high school students, white, black, brown, young, older, retired, and those just starting out. Speeches included several local families who have experienced ICE tactics intimately. Their family members were taken from them despite years of participation in our local community.



THE EXAMINED LIFE

Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." This issue makes it clear that Affiliates do not live unexamined lives. I see Affiliates consciously choosing to be positive, constructive, loving, and active, and having lives worth living. Our cover shows Affiliates standing up for families fleeing violence and separated from their children at the US border. On page 11, Rosa Beatriz reminds us to be more than just connected to each other, to be intercultural. We choose to take on new and challenging approaches, such as Active Nonviolence through the Mission Nonviolence conference or perhaps a Virtual Mission, as Paula Schaffner did. Bob Short meanwhile nudges us to practice contemplation and think about what we may need to let go of. What do we really need?

Examine your life as you read the articles in this issue about advocacy for immigrants by Kathy Ress, or about immersion trips by Margaret Mott. John Moritz suggests reading some great Orbis books. Affiliates and Maryknollers in Guatemala jumped into action and report on their relief efforts for those suffering from a recent volcanic eruption. Affiliates in Houston invite you to join them near Houston, November 11-17, to help reconstruct houses damaged by Hurricane Harvey (see page 9).

Write to us with your news or comments:
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.

MISSION NONVIOLENCE



*Moving our Broader Community
to Nonviolence and Peace*

Mini-Regional Conference

Portland, Oregon

Sept. 21-23, 2018

All **Maryknoll Affiliates** are invited!

Friday, 6PM – Affiliate Social and casual dinner

Saturday, 9-4 – Active Nonviolence Workshop
and Mass, pizza, and open mic

Sunday, 12:30PM – Affiliate gathering and lunch

For details, contact Mary at
MissionNonviolence18@gmail.com

To RSVP, use the downloadable form at:

<http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/supplemental-materials.html>



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: David Stocker Bob Short

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

LETTING GO

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

I'm not at all sure what prompted it, but on a phone call yesterday afternoon, a close friend asked me if, simply by association, "Maryknoll" had become for me a vicarious way of convincing myself that I was living out a committed life of service in a global world. Now, this friend is a smart person (who else uses vicarious these days?) who knows and loves Maryknoll. Still, his question initially disturbed me. What prompted him to ask? What did he mean by it?



We talked for some time. Unfortunately, the glass of wine poured earlier was out of reach from the chair next to the phone. While the question could have rather complex psychological and theological implications, I simply understood it to mean that I shouldn't allow my connection to Maryknoll, most especially in those days of past glories, to become a vicarious substitute for all the commitments in and around me (some global and some domestic and rather unexciting) that I needed to attend to.

Perhaps a better way to approach the question is to disconnect the name and organizational structure of Maryknoll—all expressions—from the underlying spirit (Spirit) of Maryknoll that is irrevocably at the essence of its DNA. I think Isaiah 58:6-14 is among the Biblical passages that identify that spirit.

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*

(Isaiah 58:6-8)


In this time of interim when the core paradigm is changing; when greed, power, tribalism, influence peddling and moral relativism (vs. truth) are all too evident in our country; and, when there is a credible argument that our country is moving towards autocracy... In this time, the Spirit of Maryknoll—essentially antithetical on every account to the negative 'values' listed above—is more needed than

ever. Holding onto a specific organizational structure and culture, within Maryknoll, not so much so.

Over the last six months, an ad hoc committee of the Affiliate Board has been grappling with the question, "Where would we like to be in five years?" There is profuse humility among committee members: they know that they could not begin to adequately answer the question. They will try to provide suggested areas of content and formatting for a contemplative October retreat/meeting with Affiliate Regional Coordinators and Board members. That this meeting/retreat will take place within a contemplative perspective gives us a good deal of hope. Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, spoke to this:

To put it boldly, contemplation is the only ultimate answer to the unreal and insane world that our financial systems and our advertising culture and our chaotic and unexamined emotions encourage us to inhabit.

Soul truths are very different from ego truths. Reflective listening and honestly holding onto (dwelling with) whatever the concern or the question before us, affords a much better chance that we'll come to a deeper, more meaningful response to our question of future Affiliate identity and purpose.

Sister Theresa Baldini's words to me a few weeks ago are apt: "The question is not so much where we are going (want to be), but what do we need to let go of." All of us in Maryknoll probably need to put it that way. 

THOUGHTS ON GOD

Everyday life and all it takes are holy.



Every single breath is a gift of God. Every exhale is an act of trust.



*How close am I to God?
"As the Father is in me, so also am I in you."*

—From the jottings of Bob Maxwell,
Maryknoll Affiliate, deceased 2017



ADVOCACY FOR IMMIGRANTS

Kathy Ress – NE Ohio Chapter

“They tried to bury us, but they didn’t know we were seeds.”—Dinos Christianopoulos

From April 20-23, I was privileged to attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days, “A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People,” in Washington, DC. At this event, over 700 persons from various faith communities across the US gathered to learn about and bear witness to the urgent immigration crisis.

For three days, faith leaders passionately called on us as believers to join an URGENT call for safety and prophetic witness to the migration of more than 65 million displaced persons around the globe, a number that is rising. They passionately reminded us of the age-old narrative and command of scripture to respond to those in exile, welcome the stranger, and meet the angel among us. On the last day, we met for a vigil and made visits to our legislators on the Hill.

Overall, panelists at this conference urged us to dig deeper into the root causes of immigration, the “Three C’s”—conflict, corruption, and climate change. This was exemplified in the desperate stories of persons from the Philippines, the island of Tuvalu, and the Sudan—places caught in dire conditions.

An intriguing new concept mentioned



several times at the conference was “intersectionality,” where different cultures or groups of people meeting creates a wonderful space ripe for rich conversation and creative change. It is in these spaces that sacred work can be done to reduce the fears underlying xenophobia. For example, we learned of Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier’s “Biblio drama” healing approach. Small groups of both parishioners and immigrants read migration specific biblical passages, then talk and share their experiences, often leading to healing and forgiveness. She uses biblical quotes to fire up spirit, as when she talks of her people surrounding an ICE raid, “like Joshua surrounded Jericho.”

We reflected on how the works of Dr. Martin Luther King need to be part of this work, that what is happening now with immigration needs to be connected to the civil rights movement. As Dr. King stated,

We must all learn to live together as brothers or we all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be.

Workshops focused on advocating for change in Congress by directing money away from detention centers and border security and toward measures that provide safety.

More specific recommendations made are:

1. Direct money away from detention centers and border security and create community resources and shelters.
2. Protect the Department of Justice’s MRA account, which provides community resources for immigrants. <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/2016site/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FY2018-Justice-for-Immigrants-Appropriations-Toolkit-FINAL.pdf>
3. Ask for more transparency/accountability in private detention centers. Check with banks that provide loans to these centers.
4. Stop the defunding of the Department of Justice’s Legal Orientation program for immigrants, their only recourse to legal advice in detention.
5. Learn more about effects of NAFTA/trade on countries.
6. Have town hall meetings on immigration, even if legislators refuse to come!

7. Learn of resources for immigrants who are deported back to their countries, an often perilous journey, where resources are slim.
8. Continue to engage a broad coalition around immigration as a civil rights issue, drawing on resources and learning from our African American brothers and sisters.
9. Advocate for keeping TPS and Dreamer Status.

We also learned that when asking for “immigration reform,” legislators need concrete specifics and “Asks.” Give them facts, and let them know what is going on. We were asked to keep up a presence on the Hill.

Note: For more information and resources, see Ecumenical Advocacy Day: <https://advocacydays.org/2018-a-world-up-rooted/>, or search for “Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2018” on YouTube.



MARYKNOLL SPIRIT LIVES IN CINCINNATI CHAPTER

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – NSFA Co-editor

Cincinnati Affiliates have wide and deep connections to Maryknoll. Many in the chapter had been a Maryknoll priest, sister, or lay missionary, or attended a Maryknoll seminary and maintain contacts with their Maryknoll associates. Members enjoy coming together for community and to share their activities but don’t usually work together on one project. Some are no longer comfortable with long distance travel, but several attended the 2015 regional meeting in Wisconsin. Mission and Global Vision are evident

in their actions for peace and justice in their current professions or volunteer work.

Mike Gable travels extensively as part of his role as the diocesan Director of Missions. He enthusiastically mentioned many programs in the Cincinnati area that facilitate connections and sharing between parishes, teachers, communities, and faiths around the world. He strongly endorsed JustFaith as an excellent peace and justice formation and community-building program. His connections as a returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner with his wife Kathy, and as an Affiliate, also keep him well involved.

Ahn Vu, another returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner, and Bob Bonnici also appreciate their on-going international connections in their work with youth. Over the years, members have worked as volunteers with Cesar Chavez, taught English in China, math in Africa, and worked locally with immigrants and GED programs, and in many other service roles. Jane Friels, who celebrated her 80th birthday at this gathering, reflected that Maryknoll was the first place that made her aware and appreciative of other cultures. Liz Maxwell added, “We never stop learning.” The chapter recently met with local Muslims.

Liz graciously hosted this midweek gathering of six Affiliates and told us a little about her husband Bob Maxwell, who passed away last year. We saw a poster for the Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award inaugurated in 2017 after his death. The spirit of Maryknoll lives on in Bob Maxwell’s award, and in the global vision, relationships, and actions of this chapter.



Some Cincinnati Chapter Affiliates comment on their famous local pizza: (l to r) Liz Maxwell, Mike and Kathy Gable, and visitor Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss.



Friends Across Borders

Are you ready to plan your own immersion experience?

Find out about upcoming trips at:

<http://www.friendsacrossborders.org/>

HOW A MARYKNOLL IMMERSION TRIP CHANGED MY LIFE

Margaret Mott –
California Central Coast Chapter

In 2004, My husband and I went on a FAB (Friends Across Borders) trip to Kenya. We knew in advance that this would be a special trip but went with no idea about how this would affect our lives.

When we arrived in Nairobi, it was early morning and the city was awakening. The ride from the airport was a wake-up to life in a developing country; the smell of burning garbage filled the air, and street children were wandering through the outskirts of the city to begin



Shown are about half of the tour group with which Margaret Mott and her husband Hank traveled. It was possibly the first Friends Across Borders (FAB) trip to Kenya.

their day, alone and in search of their daily bread. People were everywhere, walking or waiting for the small crowded buses—matatus—to take them into town for their business of the day.

I knew nothing about this country and her people but was anxious to learn about everything we were going to experience as we were immersed in the work of Maryknoll in the bustling city of Nairobi. I truly was in awe as the day progressed. We settled into the Maryknoll House and began our friendships with our drivers—Paul, Rashid and Simon, and with the Maryknoll priests and lay missionaries.

On our first expedition from the Maryknoll House, I rode with Paul and a few others to the Rift overlook. The Rift Valley, called the cradle of civilization, is where our first

ancestors were born. I was overwhelmed to think that this was the holy ground from which human life emerged and humans began to have an awareness of who we were, the first awareness of God and spirituality.

Leaving the city, I saw women hard at work, carrying babies, heavy piles of wood, and all the other responsibilities of motherhood. Sitting along the side of the road, watching their animals graze, were the men. That night I wept as I thought of the burden which women in these countries face each day. Their work is so difficult, and they are denied so much. It broke my heart as I thought of my comfortable life.

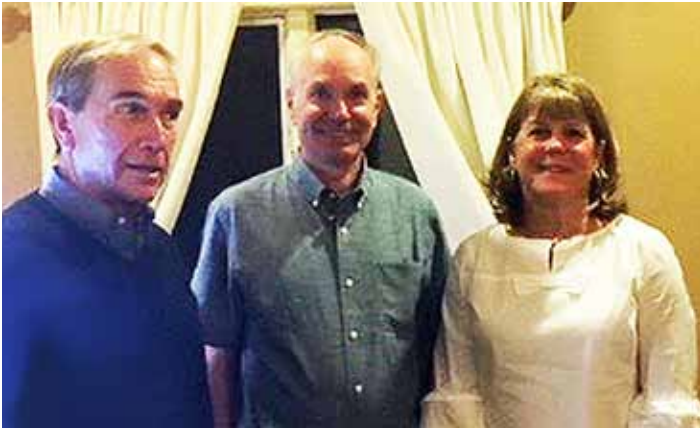
We fell in love with Kenya and her people. We were blessed to meet so many wonderful people who worked in and with Maryknoll during our stay there. Our sundowner hour (cocktail hour in the West) and dinners were spent with the Maryknoll missionaries; during these fascinating times, they talked about the history of Kenya and Maryknoll's role in the development of Kenya. Each day was more interesting and wonderful than the previous day. We went to schools, hospitals, homes for street children, and Mass in a lovely middle-class parish. The final days were spent at the Masai Mara Game Park seeing all the beautiful creatures that have roamed the country over the centuries. One day it felt like we had traveled to the Garden of Eden, with elephants and giraffes wandering along the hillside.

When we left, we knew that we wanted to do something to help the Kenyans. Our dear friend, Lay Missioner Russ Brine, suggested that we help educate girls and set up a way for us to support two high school



In 2016, Margaret, second from left, and her daughter Ann, center, visit with social worker Mercy, their sponsored student Faith, whom they have known since she was 4, and two women they sponsored in high school and then nursing school. Both are nurses and moms—terrific young women who are the future of Kenya.

students at one of the schools which we had visited. In the years since our first visit, the two high school girls have become young women with careers and children, and we have added several more girls with the help of my mother, my daughter, and a dear friend who has twice journeyed to Kenya with me.



IN 2017, Hank (left) and Margaret Mott co-hosted a fundraiser dinner in support of Maryknoll Lay Missioner Russ Brine's (center) projects in Kenya and Cambodia.


In December 2016, the Jesuit Refugee Service in Nairobi helped us visit five women and their children who had fled their strife-filled homelands of DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Burundi. These women and their husbands fled with nothing but their children. One woman lost her husband and several children along the way. When they were reunited in a refugee camp in Burundi, her husband was lost; two years later the Red Cross still cannot find him. .

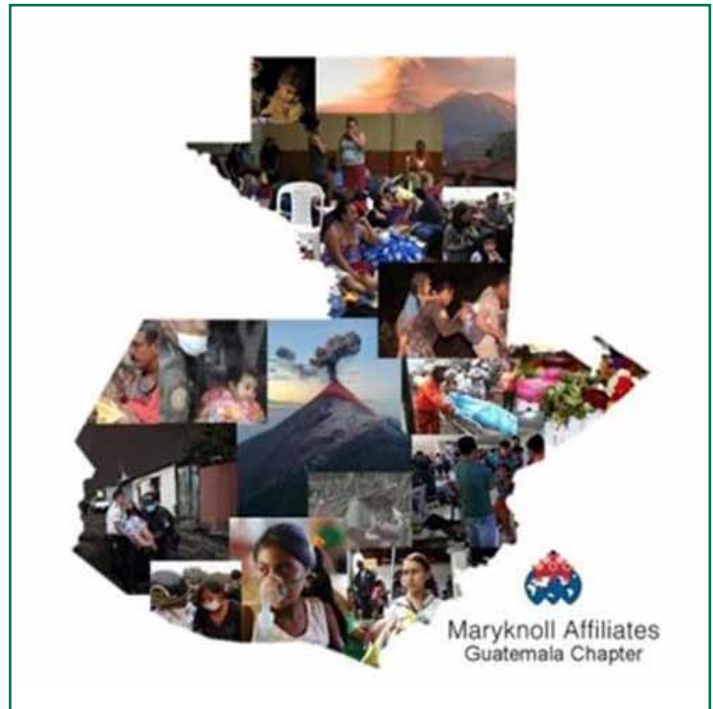
We were shown such hospitality upon entering their meager homes in the slums of Nairobi. I became just another mother understanding the desire for a safe and decent life for my children, and we all embraced when we left their homes, but when we left, they told our guide and translator that they were honored that we would visit them. They had never had a white person visit their homes. One of the children was a very bright boy who was attending a top-rated high school on a scholarship, hoping to become a doctor. When he left he shook our hands and said "I'll see you in America." What a remarkable group of people.

Seeing first-hand the plight of the refugee was heartening. Kenya is a poor country, yet they house thousands of refugees in spite of the difficulties—their hospitality is inspiring.

That first trip certainly changed our lives, and we have been to Kenya many times since, accumulating a huge family whom we love and share our lives with. Several of our girls are now women who are nurses, college

students or high school students, and two years ago, before Russ Brine left for mission in Cambodia, we sponsored four children in need of medical care from his neighborhood of Kitale, Kenya. These children have enriched our lives and broadened our outlook much beyond our comfortable life in the US.

I encourage all of you to look into a FAB immersion trip. It will enrich and change your life wonderfully. 



Guatemala Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates

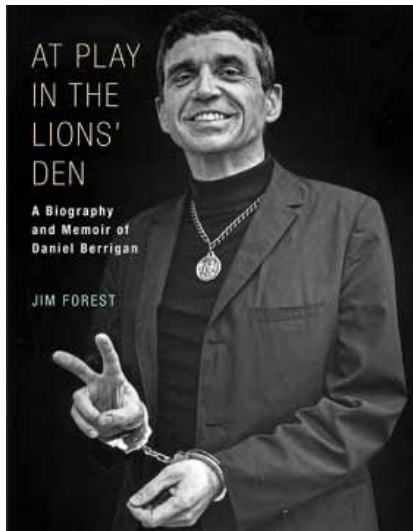
Is very thankful for the commitment, love and expressions of solidarity from the Maryknoll family during the current crisis and resulting consequences from the volcano.

Your thoughtful concern for our brothers and sisters brought to mind Jesus' words: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mt. 25:40.

We formed the Fire Volcano Committee that will study which project will best bring a sense of dignity to those who are the most vulnerable.

The donations sent by you will make possible the relocation of many people who have lost their homes. Once we determine the specifics of the project, we will be in communication about the process from beginning to end.

Your solidarity keeps alive our HOPE!



ABOUT BERRIGAN

*A review of
AT PLAY IN THE
LIONS' DEN
by Jim Forest
Orbis Books,
2017*

Mary Ryan-
Hotchkiss
– Portland Chapter

This biography and memoir of Daniel Berrigan, recently released by Orbis Books, has justly received much good press. It was reviewed by both *America* (<https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2017/11/01/daniel-lions-den-berrigan-biography>) and NCR (<https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/my-friend-dan-berrigan-another-daniel-lions-den>).

As I began reading, I was impressed that there are pictures on almost every page, and that the book has an extensive index, notes, and a bibliography. Pertinent quotes fill frequent sidebars, and readers are treated to snippets of his poetry.

In just the first few pages, I learned that three former Maryknollers were included in the Catonsville Nine, who were tried with Berrigan for their 1968 burning of draft records that earned him and several others a prison term. Some stories added insights into Berrigan's close relationship with Phil Berrigan, his activist priest/brother.

*My uncle's vim and vision and vitality crackle
out of the pages of Jim Forest's book.
Dan Berrigan, Presente!
—Frida Berrigan*

I kept reading, enjoying the personal stories, his connection with prominent authors such as Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, and his evolving consciousness about the Viet Nam War, war in general, and nuclear weapons. Since I have lived through some of the same evolutions and times, his memoir allowed me to see with a new perspective and to better acknowledge the troubling positions of the Catholic Church and our country with respect to war. Orbis and Jim Forest have done it again—bringing us

great stories and insights. I thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommend this book!

Note: Affiliates, don't forget to ask for your special 40% discount!



DIY MISSION NONVIOLENCE

Can't attend the regional conference in Portland, Oregon, this September? Here's how to explore Active Nonviolence on your own:

- Read the entertaining *Nonviolence* by Mark Kurlansky or an inspiring book on nonviolence from Orbisbooks.org.
- Take the Nonviolence Pledge at PaceyBene.org. Here's the pledge link: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/859/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14090&okay=True
- Get involved in Campaign Nonviolence:



1. Attend the Nonviolence Convergence in Washington DC, September 22 (<http://www.paceebene.org/2018/07/12/covenant-of-nonviolence-for-convergence/>)
2. Join one of the over 1,000 2018 Campaign Nonviolence events being held across the US during the week of September 15-23.
3. Create a Campaign Nonviolence event in your area. Get your DIY instructions here: <http://www.paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/>

AFFILIATE MISSION IN TEXAS

Spend a week in mission with fellow Maryknoll Affiliates in prayer, reflection, comradery, and service to the poorest of the poor.

The Houston Maryknoll Affiliates, with Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM, invite you to Brazoria County, Texas (just South of Houston) the week of November 11-17. to assist in the repair of homes in Holiday Lakes, a rural, immigrant community badly damaged by the flooding associated with Hurricane Harvey. No special skills are required—work is likely to be installing drywall, painting and clean-up. Tools will be provided.

Lodging: Cameron House, a modern facility owned by the Archdiocese of Galveston-



Houston, located in a rural area, has six suites, two rooms each: a full bath and four single beds (capacity – 24 missionaries). Lodging is free; meals only \$25/day. Bring clothes (including work clothes), toiletries, and towels.

Travel: Airfare is on your own. Ground transportation (if you are flying to Houston) will be organized once we know your flight arrangements. If we need to rent a van, that cost will be shared.

Weather: Average high in November is 74 and average low is 52.

More Information: Bob Kleeman (brklee@att.net) or Dick Horstman (rhurst6970@aol.com)

To register: Dick Horstman (rhurst6970@aol.com)



MY VIRTUAL MISSION

Paula Schaffner –
California Central Coast Chapter

When the opportunity has presented itself, I have enjoyed being physically present to engage in short-term mission work. However, this time the call came as a request for “someone to help update our website” in Chicago Affiliate Renate Schneider’s Haitian Connection newsletter. My husband and I had twice volunteered at the university she spearheaded after the 2011 earthquake, and we knew of some of the various programs Renate shepherds through her NGO. Having learned how to post articles on our Maryknoll Affiliates’ website and not having an overloaded schedule, I thought I could help support her efforts in this way.

The updating became a matter of starting a new website from scratch with a WordPress format, partly because I don’t know how to “write code,” the way her original website had been developed. I had to learn new skills even to do this, but no one else had offered to help, and Renate was extremely patient. After only about six months, off and on, we were able to launch the new website. From now on, my volunteer job will be only to post occasional updates.

Although I sat on my couch to do this volunteer work, I felt it was a worthwhile offering. My frequent struggles

reminded me of one bible scholar’s comment that God asks us to perform from our weakness, not our strength. Maybe that’s so we’ll realize God was helping us when we succeed.



Besides sharing this experience to encourage you to be open to new ways of doing mission, I want to invite you to visit Renate’s new website:

HaitianConnection.org

Learn about the many initiatives she has developed—building homes for women, microcredit, small business startups, mental health programs, and more. Maybe you will see a way that you can help!



READ UP ON DIALOGUE

John Moritz – NE Florida Chapter,
SE Regional Coordinator

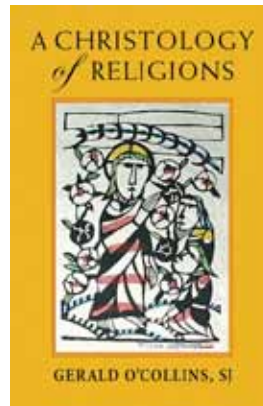
Why focus on inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue? Maryknoll has always included finding and crossing the borders, the boundaries to encounter the “other,” that which is foreign, different. Inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue are necessarily an integral component of our mission. We, as Affiliates, reflect that charism, and these offerings are valuable resources for both reflection and action.



Words to Live By: Sacred Sources for Interreligious Engagement, edited by Rose, Ziad, and Hessler

This collection of essays by authors from various religious backgrounds is very readable and gives flesh and blood to the notion of dialogue. The stories convey a sense of the oneness that people experienced in developing relationships with those of different backgrounds and

faiths. This is a really good source book for personal reflection in preparation for interreligious dialogue activities.



A Christology of Religions, by: Gerald O'Collins, SJ

Just as I began to tire of what was becoming too academic or remote in this readable but scholarly text, another gem would jump out. O'Collins placed the traditional elements of Christology in the context of today's emerging understanding of Church. His Christological framework, well within traditional teachings, helps on my journey to move from an ego-centered to an eco-centered theology.

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The Risk of Hope: How to talk about God in the World Today, by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

This book proclaims all that Maryknoll stands for in a most humble, caring, and truly loving manner. Cardinal Tagle shares himself in a series of anecdotes which illustrate that this man “gets” servant leadership. People who have endorsed his writings say that he has to be

on a very short list for successor to Pope Francis at the next conclave. I sure hope so.



PRE-MINI-CONFERENCE GATHERING

Maryknollers and Affiliates from three Northwest chapters were hosted by Roger and Kitty Schiltz, enjoying good food, music, and talk about the Mini-Regional Affiliate meeting, *Mission Nonviolence*, to be held in Portland on September 21-23. They look forward to seeing you in Portland, Oregon, and pursuing Active Nonviolence. For more information, email MissionNonviolence18@gmail.com.

Attendees (L to R): Anna Clarke Johnson, from Seattle, Team Leader, Western Region & Young Adult Outreach for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Judy Pinney, Walla Walla Chapter, and granddaughter Chelsea, Fr. Mike Bassano, MM, stationed in South Sudan, Chris Pinney, Walla Walla, Ralph Maughan, Affiliate Regional Coordinator, and Kate Maughan, Seattle Chapter, Manny Hotchkiss, Portland Chapter.



Present but not pictured were Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss and Gabriella Maertens, Portland Chapter, and from the Seattle Chapter: Carolyn Creighton, Yvette Jorg, Roger and Kitty Schiltz.



News from the Board

DIVERSE CULTURES UNITED— NEW ALTERNATIVES EMERGE

Rosa Beatriz Castañeda – Guatemala Chapter,
Board Member

Three years ago, Pope Francis released *Laudato Si (Praise Be to You)*, his encyclical on “Care for Our Common Home,” to “communicate above all a sense of deep urgency and profound concern for the precarious state of our common planetary home.” [P. Francis - 1]



Nine months ago—at MAC 2017 in Guatemala—the Buen Vivir cosmivision helped us realize that we are citizens of different countries, belonging to one world that urgently needs love and care!

“The cosmivision shared by indigenous communities tells us that we are interdependent with one another. Harming any natural resource is harming us.”—Quechua, Peru Native

The Encyclical and the Conference were opportunities to realize that we have to open our eyes and change our minds and hearts to discover different alternatives from the ones we choose to repeat again and again. This means that attitudes have to change, risks have to be taken, and we have to build bridges and break down walls that stop us from having a dialogue with people that think differently than we do. Looking for new alternatives means dialoging with diverse peoples and perspectives. Only in doing so will the distance between people begin to dissolve.

Let’s challenge ourselves to overcome the fear of being different and put our efforts into restoring the equilibrium of the whole. Let’s start carrying out actions that people will remember, that awaken them to recognize that life is sacred and that all of us are responsible to work for justice and peace. It is the only way we will celebrate creation as a whole.

*“The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.”—Chief Joseph, 1879 (Kent Nerburn, *The Wisdom of the Native Americans*)*

Pope Francis called for immediate changes in human behavior to fight global warming and save the environment. Tragically, he said, people have grown increasingly self-obsessed, ever more distant from nature, and alarmingly preoccupied with technological novelty. Buen Vivir cosmivision expresses that to keep the equilibrium, the different should not be excluded, because in doing so, instability follows. When the different is seen as part of the whole, the balance remains.

It is not enough to simply be connected to each other. In today’s increasingly diverse societies, it is critical that we become intercultural. As expressed by Pope Francis and implicit in the meaning of Buen Vivir, we are asked to pursue opportunities to bring equilibrium to the whole through the interaction between two or more cultures acting in a horizontal and harmonious way. This means that each culture is enriched in the sharing of skills, knowledge and experiences. In this way, no one group feels above the others. A condition that favors dialogue, with respectful listening to each other, makes for a harmonious coexistence and mutual solidarity.

“Let us walk in the present with our backs toward the future and our eyes in the past.”—Aymara, Bolivia Native



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Does your Chapter want new members?
- If so, who is most likely to be interested in Maryknoll Affiliates?
- How would you find these people?
- What would you say to them?
- What activities would attract them?
- What image or photo would attract them?



We want to hear your ideas. Drop a note or email to a Board member, your regional coordinator, or our executive coordinator, Bob Short. Or send them to us at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org and we will forward them to the Board.

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How did Kathy Ress earn her certificate?
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