



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2018

Volume 27 Number 6

## OUR LONG-TERM MISSION

Judy and Chris Pinney – Walla Walla Affiliates

In February, Chris Pinney, his son Zac, and four others visited programs, interviewed people, and videotaped footage in Sololá Diocese, Guatemala, the sister diocese of Spokane, WA, Diocese. They found vibrant activity in Sololá but also great need. The video was shown at the Sixth Annual Mission Celebration in Spokane, also attended by Ralph Maughan, Seattle Affiliate and Regional Coordinator, and Bob McFarland of North Bay, CA, Chapter.



Judy, Chris, and Sr. Marie Tolle

Chris views the fish hatchery.



hundreds of catechists and most recently served as administrator of the medical clinics. Having retired, she is now in New York recovering from a recent illness.

While visiting, Chris, a fish biologist, also gave advice about their fish hatchery.

**The Bad News.** The religious education building in the small village of Ixtahuacan Antigua needs stabilization because erosion of the ground beneath the old building has made it unsafe to use. A source of

funding for 90% of this project was obtained under the agreement that the community would raise the remaining 10% – \$2,000. This would be an impossible feat because the villagers, while rich in faith and love, are monetarily poor, so their donation will have to be conducting a “fundraiser.”

Should anyone be interested in making a donation, please contact Donna Connell, the chair of the diocesan Guatemala Commission, at (509) 924-1346. To learn more about their efforts in Sololá, please visit: <https://dioceseofspokane.org/diocese-of-solola>.



Photos courtesy of Judy Pinney.

Deacon Kevin, Fr. Nicasio – pastor of Santa Catarina and Ixtahuacan, and Chris Pinney.

**The Good News.** Fr. Nicasio and Deacon Kevin, natives of the Sololá diocese, serve 29 communities—all considered part of the Ixtahuacan area—many of which are far from Ixtahuacan, over mountains and hills! They celebrate Mass as frequently as possible; however, for many parishes, that is once a month. Ixtahuacan boasts an active parish council, offering religious education, a youth program, and a catechist program. Fr. Nicasio and lead catechist Sebastian are training over 200 catechists in preparation for the sacraments. Catechists also hold prayer services several times a week at the various parishes.

Sr. Marie Tolle, Sister of Charity of New York, served the area for over 40 years, doing pastoral and medical work. She has trained



Religious Education Building in dire need of stabilization.



**CONNECTING**

Coming from our regional conference on nonviolence and then the Affiliate Board and RC meeting, I am energized by the possibilities for connecting.

Rich Lessard, our newly elected Board Chair, seeks stronger connections among leadership, Affiliates, and chapters, with the other Maryknoll entities, and indeed among all of us as leaven in our communities.

In this issue, the Pinneys from Walla Walla, WA, who have worked quietly for years with their Guatemalan sister diocese, now reach out to Affiliates. New Orleans Affiliates made friends with immigrants at the border. David Stocker asks us to join him at the November SOAWatch/Encuentro at the US-Mexico Border. Kevin Carroll, Maryknoll Office For Global Concerns, invites us to advocate for the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, substituting Just Peace for Just War.

The Affiliate Movement empowers us to connect and to prototype our ideas for mission. At the Board meeting, we were urged not to fear failure as we develop prototypes, rather to fail fast, to iterate, and to progress, perhaps not perfectly, but one step at a time. We are seeing the fruits of a prototype virtual chapter. Technology means geography need not limit our connections. Mission is wherever we are and wherever we can connect!

Tells us about your connections and your ideas at [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto: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](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).



Karen Bortvedt, left, during her service in Cambodia.

**SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION**

Karen Bortvedt – Returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner

**H**ave you had an inspiring experience on a FAB trip? Do you know someone who may make a great lay missioner? We invite you to join one of our upcoming webinars—with me! I will share some of my experiences in Cambodia, as well as all the nuts and bolts of becoming a lay missioner.

The upcoming webinars are:

- November 15, 5pm EST – login to [zoom.us/j/995940923](https://zoom.us/j/995940923)
- December 2, 11am EST – login to [zoom.us/j/326958422](https://zoom.us/j/326958422)

If you can post a notice about these webinars in your church bulletin, or if you have other questions, please contact me at [join@mklm.org](mailto:join@mklm.org). To learn more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, check out our website: [mklm.org](http://mklm.org), or call 914-467-8857.



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

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## ON THE WAY FROM THE FORUM

Rich Lessard – Affiliate Board Chair

A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum! Not the Broadway musical; this Forum is a room in the Maryknoll Sisters' Center House in Maryknoll, NY—where our Board gathered in October, and I was elected Chairperson of the Affiliate Board! I would never have imagined myself as chairperson when I began as a Maryknoll Affiliate 11 years ago.

On my way home that day, I reflected on my life as an Affiliate, and about how best to positively impact the Affiliates. So, by way of introduction, I am sharing some thoughts as I begin this new endeavor with you.

Our Roles and Responsibilities documents say:

*In a spirit of collaboration, the Board discerns, in dialogue with the Regional Coordinators and Executive Coordinator, how to best guide the Affiliate movement. It seeks to foster an ever deepening commitment to mission and to Maryknoll; to develop its collective skills as a learning community and to inspire a culture of engagement and growth. Seeking to be faithful to servant leadership, the Board commits to engage in deep listening with the wider Affiliate movement, to bring the voices at the margins to the center and to always seek the greater good, both within and beyond our global movement."*

This is not an easy task! As Chair, I will strive to work in the spirit of servant-leader with all Board members, Regional Coordinators, and the Executive Coordinator to ensure all we do is on behalf of and in support of the Affiliates worldwide.

You may have noticed that the word "movement" above is not capitalized. I wish to change this—I want people to recognize us as the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement. A successful movement has: clarity of purpose, shared values, emphasis on training, participants who believe strongly enough to volunteer their advocacy, synchronized actions through networks, and leadership effectively influencing and persuading by inspiring and empowering, not by coercion. I don't feel confident saying these define the Affiliate movement now, but I think they can provide us a guide as we make our path forward.

The challenge to put the "M" in movement is daunting, but it is possible and worthy of the effort. The response to this challenge is up to us all, Board and Affiliates.

In our Board retreat, we affirmed all four pillars of the Affiliates, but *Community* was mentioned most



Denise and Rich

frequently. We Affiliates experience community in our Chapters, at regional and international Affiliate conferences (MACs), in our relationships with members of the other expressions of Maryknoll, in our own local faith communities, and in other local, national or international organizations. During the retreat we talked about what binds

us to our Affiliate community, i.e., to other Affiliates within our Chapter, between Chapters and between Affiliates and Chapters, with Affiliate leadership. Two key elements necessary for community are **connection** and **communication**. Just as nails and screws are necessary to keep our homes secure and strong, communication and connection are necessary to make our Affiliate movement strong and secure. I am pleased that some of the initial actions the Board and Regional Coordinators have committed to will focus on ways to improve and strengthen both.

A movement must have connection, without which there can be no Movement. I hope Affiliates will seek ways to connect to more Affiliates and to other Maryknollers, including: be aware of what other Affiliates are doing by reading the NSFA, NTLH and/or the Monday morning e-mail updates; actively reach out to other Affiliates, individually and chapter-to-chapter; attend regional or international conferences; and be in dialogue with Affiliate leadership.

*Communication* is also integral to community. We must use all available means. In addition to e-mail and telephone calls, let's utilize current technology: Skype, Zoom, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc. Let's be bold!

Another aspect of communication is dialogue. May we enhance the way we dialogue with each other by making an active effort. We must listen, really listen. And we must respond. Dialogue means two-way. I ask Chapters to respond and dialogue with their Regional Coordinator or the Executive Coordinator. Regional Coordinators have the responsibility to be in contact with each Chapter within their region. Dialogue will improve our sense of inclusiveness and belonging. It is primarily through the Regional Coordinators that the leadership can "*discover and embrace the wisdom and ever emerging life of the Affiliate movement.*" I urge the Affiliate leadership and all Affiliates worldwide to find new and creative ways to be in dialogue.

In closing, I ask that you keep the Affiliate leadership in your prayers as we work on behalf of all Affiliates worldwide. God bless!





### THE ART OF NONVIOLENCE

David Stocker – NSFA Contributing Editor\*

Have you heard about the upcoming national protest against US immigration policy and against the half century of US government sponsored mayhem that has compounded the immigration crisis at the US southern border? The Border Encuentro and Vigil, organized by the School of Americas WATCH ([SOAW.org](http://SOAW.org)) will take place November 15-18 on both sides of the US/ Mexico border wall in Nogales, Arizona.

This vigil was begun by Father Roy Bourgeois (a Maryknoll priest at that time), who exposed the US government's role in the 1980 massacre of four Maryknoll sisters in El Salvador. Father Roy bore witness to the US direct involvement in numerous juntas, interventions and massacres.

SOA Watch, from its inception outside the gates of Fort Benning in 1989, continues to expose the names of those responsible, tracing material support from the US to repressive military dictators and foreign governments. When we gather in sacred ceremony, we remember the names of thousands upon thousands of disappeared teachers, community and labor organizers, environmental activists, writers, journalists, poets, and priests. SOAW may be the longest-standing protest in our nation's history. Yet, the US government still teaches the curriculum of torture and counterinsurgency that is applied throughout Latin America and in the Middle East.

For some years, I've been involved with the *puppetistas*, a convergence of street theatre artists who bring mythos and pathos to the poignant ceremonies of the three-day vigil. Again this November, people of faith and conviction will converge in deep learning, in non-violent expressions of outrage for past and present wrongs, and in sacred sorrow for those disappeared as a result of US hegemony. The experience of

solidarity with artists recharges my batteries for the whole year. For many, the SOAW/ Border Encuentro is a life-changing experience.

The nonviolent direct action we have learned can be applied to many issues in our world, from pipelines and poverty to Palestine, making our resistance creative and vibrant. We can be joyful to have found each other in these challenging times. More than this, the growth of our resistance movements must exceed the proliferation of the violence perpetrated by our government.



This year the puppetistas are expanding our outreach to work with schools and community centers in the neighborhoods adjacent to the border wall, and we need your support in Nogales. SOAW is presently conducting a campaign to raise \$40,000. If you can help us, please go to the SOAW website ([SOAW.org](http://SOAW.org)) and click on "Contribute to a Crowdfunding Campaign." Thank you and Godspeed to all Maryknoll Affiliate activists in the projects to which you commit.



\*David Stocker is a writer, arts educator, and activist from Rockford, Illinois.



## JUST WAR OR JUST PEACE?

Kevin Carroll – Nonviolence and Peace Fellow,  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

A project of Pax Christi International, The **Catholic Nonviolence Initiative**, or CNI, (<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>) is a global effort affirming the vision and practice of active nonviolence at the heart of the Catholic Church. It grew out of the landmark Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference held in Rome in April 2016, which was co-sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pax Christi International, and other organizations, including Maryknoll. Leaders include Ken Butigan of Pace e Bene (<http://www.paceebene.org/>) and DePaul University, and Marie Dennis of Pax Christi International (<https://www.paxchristi.net/>).

Attended by lay people, members of religious congregations, bishops, priests, and theologians from six continents, the conference called on:

- Pope Francis to share with the world an encyclical on nonviolence, and
- The Catholic Church to recommit to the centrality of Gospel nonviolence.

Rooted in the Christian scriptures and tradition, Gospel Nonviolence is a way of life and discipleship that expressly stands against violence without using violence; actively confronts evil; strives to engage, transform, and resolve conflict to foster reconciliation and unity; and tirelessly seeks justice, peace, and the well-being of all. Nonviolence is central to affirming and safeguarding the dignity and infinite worth of every human being, and to honoring and healing planet Earth, our common home.

CNI calls on the Church to:

1. continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence;
2. integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life, including the sacramental life, and work of the Church (through dioceses, parishes, agencies, schools, universities, seminaries, religious orders, voluntary associations, and others);
3. promote nonviolent practices and strategies (e.g., nonviolent resistance, restorative justice, trauma healing, unarmed civilian protection, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding strategies);
4. initiate a global conversation on nonviolence—



within the Church, with people of other faiths and no faith, and with the larger world, to respond to the monumental crises of our time with the vision and strategies of nonviolence;

5. no longer use or teach the “just war theory” and continue

advocating for the abolition of war and nuclear weapons;

6. lift up the prophetic voice of the Church to challenge unjust world powers and support and defend those nonviolent activists whose work for peace and justice puts their lives at risk.

Actions Affiliates can take:

- Read and sign the appeal as an individual or as an organization (<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/final-statement-an-appeal-to-the-catholic-church-to-re-commit-to-the-centrality-of-gospel-nonviolence/>).
- You can also support CNI at <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/support-the-catholic-nonviolence-initiative/>.
- Read *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church returns to Gospel Nonviolence*, edited by Marie Dennis, which can be found at <https://www.orbis-books.com/choosing-peace.html>.
- Talk about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative in your Affiliate Chapter or faith-sharing group.
- Work on being more devoted to nonviolence in your own life and interactions.



Attendees at Nonviolence and Just Peace conference at the Vatican



**MOVING OUR COMMUNITY TO PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE**

Northwest Regional Mini-Conference  
September 21-23, at Beaverton, OR

David Stocker - NSFA Contributing Editor

With about 60 people in attendance, **keynote presenter Rivera Sun**, well known for her popular fictions, *Billionaire Buddha* and *The Dandelion Insurrection*, was right on. *The Dandelion Insurrection* follows a colorful cast of activist characters in a society that is crumbling from the weight of capitalism and empire. Drawing from her other career as a nonviolence trainer for Pace e Bene, she told real his-tories and her-stories of people who changed the world without violence. Her statistics that nonviolence succeeds more often than violence for regime change, civil rights actions, and fair working conditions were heartening.

Rivera gave us tools to mount our own campaign. She walked us through Goals, Strategy, Targets, Participants, Duration and timing, and Resources and risks; then we considered how to apply these tools in our area of interest during breakout sessions.

In the **breakout sessions**, the afternoon presenters included Benneth Husted on the subject of nonviolent resistance in Palestine, Ethan Livermore of the Poor People’s Campaign, Maxine Fookson of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (<http://imirj.org>), and Peter Bergel offered strategic guidance for non-violent campaigns and great music! Each presenter modeled ways to move deeper into that list of nonviolent strategies.



Principal presenter Rivera Sun, author and Pace-e-Bene Active Nonviolence trainer, writes fiction books where heroes succeed through nonviolence.

This break-out group focused on organizing an Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice.

Seattle Affiliates Bill O’Dwyer and Ralph Maugham chat at the Friday night dinner hosted by the Hotchkisses.



**Friday dinner.** Affiliates and presenters broke bread together at the Hotchkiss home, celebrating International Peace Day. After a delicious meatless meal, we discussed, “How can Maryknoll Affiliates help build a nonviolent community?” Tom Hastings, from Portland State University, said peace is on the path to being a separate educational discipline.



**Kevin Carroll**, Nonviolence and Peace Fellow with the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC), brought us up to date on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI—<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>), a global effort affirming the vision and practice of active nonviolence. It calls on the Church to promote nonviolent practices and strategies and no longer use or teach the “just war theory.” See Kevin’s article on page 5.

Kevin Carroll, speaker from Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and his sister, Megan Carroll, beat their drums.

**March and pray.** Before our Saturday afternoon Mass, we took to the streets to demonstrate our newfound active nonviolence skills, using our voices, signs, and drums.

Affiliates (L to R) Bertha Haas, Teresa Kuntz, Kitty Schiltz, and Paula Schaffner march with signs.



Ethan Livermore (left), with Poor People’s Campaign, Portland, learned how to make drums at David Stocker’s breakout session.

**David Stocker.** I count myself privileged to have also been a presenter, telling about Border Encuentro, which takes place November 15-18 in Nogales, AZ. See my article on page 4.

Affiliate Gabriella Maertens and Kevin Carroll, MOGC, show map with our global connections.



**Sunday lunch.** Our final gathering focused on Global Vision. Over a Mediterranean themed meal, we shared some of the places in the world with which we feel a special connection. Watch for an **Easy Meeting** about this in our next issue!

## MISSION IN THE TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Janet Rousso – New Orleans Chapter

In June, 12 of us set out for the Rio Grande Valley with Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM, and Matt Rousso, a Maryknoll Mission Educator and Promoter. We were not sure what to expect since the US government had recently initiated Zero Tolerance for refugees and asylees, and hundreds of children were being separated from their parents and put in detention facilities.

On our mission visits, we were filled with deep sadness and much anger at what we saw. Our desire to offer the migrants smiles of welcome and words of friendship grew stronger each day. We wanted to be in solidarity with the so-called “*illegal aliens*” and visit with the poor living in the Valley, hear their stories, and, in some small way, bring them our love.



At the Border Wall - Barbara Sallettes, Joan Cruz, Mary Ann Becnel, Kim Nunez, Charlie Freel, Janet Rousso, Matt Rousso, Bob Hitchins, Ramona Casas, Jill Hitchins, Lolita Gary

As we walked along the Border Wall separating Texas and Mexico, we could imagine the experiences of people trying to cross the border; the journey of the migrant people became very real and very close.

*Education, Engagement and Empowerment* became a theme for me. We learned of the great work happening at the Daughters of Charity’s Proyecto Juan Diego in Brownsville, and at the Sisters of Mercy’s ARISE in McAllen. These people are doing amazing things—educating and empowering the people through leadership training, civic engagement, citizenship education, and youth empowerment.

At LA POSADA in San Benito, we met migrants waiting to join relatives or sponsors somewhere in the US. LA POSADA offers a safe refuge for migrants and refugees, some coming from the courts, detention centers, or Immigration. Sister Zita was rather taken aback when nine senior citizens, and three others not far behind in age, stepped out of the van. She was expecting high school seniors! We heard of Mario, Julia, Maria, and others—of their courage and

determination to journey to a new land in spite of road blocks, difficulties, and complications along the way.

At lunch time, Immigration dropped off two families, who had spent 17 days in a San Antonio detention center: a mother and her three children from Guatemala and a young indigenous mother from Quiche, Guatemala, with her small baby, Mateo. As I watched participant Bob Hitchins take on the role of a loving parent with Mateo, I delighted in seeing the baby move from obvious discomfort and fear to a quiet smile in response. We came away feeling happy that we had witnessed the warmth of a home and people who are caring for migrants.

On our return from LA POSADA, we revisited two families whom we had engaged with in their homes, hearing their story. They had meager resources and lived in the colonias, sharing community with ARISE through its various programs. We brought a gift of fruit and offered a blessing and prayer of gratitude that they received us twelve strangers into their lives. Our revisit was special – like being with old friends.



A highlight was participating in an Interfaith Prayer Vigil and Walk in support of families in crisis at the border. Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Jewish, Muslim, and Catholic ministers, religious, and lay leaders led approximately 300 people in prayer. In silence, we walked to the Federal Building where migrants meet the court for legal proceedings. *How moving it was!* Under umbrellas in the rain, we were at one with God and in solidarity with migrant families facing separation, detention, and possible deportation. Our good friends from Maryknoll, Sr. Pat Edmiston, MM, and Sr. Ann Hayden, MM, had told Matt about the prayer vigil. The next night, the sisters visited us for shared conversation around the supper table, and we heard about their great work and ministry.

One of the remarkable women we met was Sr. Norma, a Missionary of Jesus, the Executive Director



of Catholic Charities for the Brownsville Diocese. Immigration authorities drop off migrants here before they travel to meet up with sponsors, relatives, or friends. Sr. Norma and her staff and volunteers welcome the migrants, often 100 at a time. Volunteers help make the connections necessary for the migrants to continue their journey. The migrants receive showers, clean clothes, hygiene supplies, and food. They were expecting a busload of people from ICE that very day and she invited us help the volunteers unload boxes and organize supplies donated from around the world. We happily obliged, feeling good to know we were helping in some small way.

Lunch that day was at Subway in the Greyhound Bus station, very close to the Respite Center, followed by a special prayer service, “*Migrants Seeking Posada*,” right there in the station. Matt’s prayer centered on the Holy Family as migrants. At seven different locations around the bus station, participants Bob and Jill Hitchins portrayed migrants seeking shelter, exclaiming, “*In the name of Heaven, I ask you for shelter. I am far from family and home—I am hurting and need your compassion.*” With each pleading, we reflected on words of Pope Francis, praying that God would look after migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and then sang a song in Spanish. It was indeed a reality check as we thought about the crisis at the border. As ICE did not bring migrants to the

Station that day, we had no opportunity to be the first friendly faces to greet them.

As we departed, we had one lasting and unique moment at the gate in small Harlingen Airport. We saw Marlene, a volunteer from LA POSADA, with our young friend from Quiche, Juana, and her baby Mateo, on her way to Newark to meet her husband. What a special blessing that Joan Cruz, a Maryknoll Affiliate from New York, fluent in Spanish, was able to accompany them through the airport in Houston and on to Newark. For me, the picture of Juana and Mateo will live in my heart as I remember our special moments in the Rio Grande Valley and our small community of 12 missionary disciples from the New Orleans area, Mississippi, Houston, and New York. Words we saw on a handbag say it well:



## TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER ACCOMPANIMENT

Kim Nunez – New Orleans Chapter

Our mission program (see Janet Rousso’s article, page 8) was an accompaniment, rather than doing for, as we connected with the people whom we visited. Little did we know when we planned the trip in the fall of 2017 that we would be there during the height of the Zero Tolerance Policy for migrants seeking refuge and asylum—and that hundreds of children were being put in detention facilities and separated from their mothers and fathers.

We spent time at the Border Wall and with the ARISE and Proyecto Juan Diego programs, both located in the heart of the colonias, getting to know families they served. While at Proyecto Juan Diego, we also sat in on a citizenship class as residents prepared and learned about being citizens in the United States. At La Posada and the Respite Center in McAllen, which serve mostly refugees, we met people from the Ukraine, the Congo, Mozambique, Guatemala, and Mexico. The Respite Center, a few blocks from the bus station in McAllen, serves both those coming into the US initially and others after they leave detention,

who will join family/friends in another part of the country while they await a court date.

But what happened to me during my visit and has continued upon my return? I was transformed by the people I spent time with: Rosa, Julia, & Mario, to name a few. Immigrant, refugee, and migrant are no longer just words; I see faces of real people and their fortitude, belief in God, endurance. It has moved me to tears and changed my prayer time. While immigration was something I cared deeply about before going, I am still carrying the people who live and work in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in my heart. Now that I am home, I have begun to share the story—most people have reacted by saying thank you, because they understand the situation much better than they ever could by watching tv or reading about it. Perhaps my transformation can also open the eyes and hearts of others; that may be exactly why taking part in a mission program is so valuable. We accompanied each other there, but the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley continue to accompany me in my thoughts, heart, and prayer. As I reflect and pray, Matthew’s words now have more meaning and impact than ever:

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*





Photos courtesy of Jennifer Hiam.

**MASS OF SOLIDARITY AND HOPE**

*...For Detained Immigrants and Refugees  
August 25, 2018 at NWDC, Tacoma, WA*

Joe Hastings – Returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner  
& Pat Bader – Seattle Chapter

More than 300 supporters of detained immigrants and refugees participated in the Mass of Solidarity and Hope at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), built on the theme, “For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Preceding the Mass, about 500 people gathered at St. Leo Parish in downtown Tacoma, bringing signs and banners and scurrying around with last-minute preparations. Marchers from St. Joseph Parish in Seattle and at least a dozen other Tacoma and Seattle parishes and Catholic groups, including Maryknoll Affiliates, joined them, and we began in song!

The palpable spirit of the gathering, rooted deep in our Catholic faith, was the desire to express concern for and solidarity with immigrants. Esmeralda Saltos spoke briefly about her work coordinating Catholic Eucharistic services at NWDC. After Mass, we called on the inspiration and example of Our Lady of Guadalupe in reciting “A Pilgrim’s Prayer,” and then we filed out of church singing, led by the “Share the Journey” banner.

Advocates for social justice from St. Leo and St. Joseph parishes organized the pilgrimage and bilingual Mass on a city street just outside the Detention Center. By their words and actions, the three Jesuit priests concelebrating Mass and the participants showed their solidarity with the detainees and refugees. The crowd, feeling this spirit of solidarity, responded with enthusiastic prayers and songs. The more than 1500 detainees in NWDC drew hope from our singing and from the information that visitors passed along.

After Mass, St. Leo volunteers sold delicious burritos for those visiting the Welcome Center that AIDNW (Advocates for Immigration in Detention – [www.aidnw.org](http://www.aidnw.org)) operates to help newly-released detainees navigate their way back to family and friends located around the country.

Some detainees, brought to the NW Detention Center from other parts of the country, have no family or friends to visit them here. The pilgrimage and Mass truly welcomed the strangers in our midst behind the fence of the Detention Center. May they feel supported as they await the court’s decision on their cases.



**A PILGRIM’S PRAYER**

God of all nations  
We turn to you in faith  
And compassion for  
Our brothers and sisters detained by  
Our government in our country.  
Many have lost their children;  
Children of all ages have lost their parents  
While they suffer fear, mistreatment  
and incarceration.  
Please embrace them with your presence,  
And the comfort of your peace.

Teach us citizens the ways  
To stand in solidarity with those  
without documents,  
without due process,  
without a home.  
Stir us to action with them  
and on their behalf,  
that together we may all find a home  
in a society of peace, justice,  
and dignity for every person. Amen.






**MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE – 2019**

Several Affiliates have found Mission Institute programs to be rich sources of strength and inspiration. Which of these Mission Institute 2019 offerings speaks to you?

- May 12-17 **All the Light We Need**  
Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF, D.Min
- May 19-24 **Oasis in the Overwhelmed**  
Millie Grenough, MAT
- June 7-9 **Mission Empowered by Love**  
Marie Dennis, MA  
**50th Jubilee Celebration of Mission Institute** – Carolyn Woo, PhD
- June 16-21 **Traveling the Road to Joy with Thomas Merton and Friends**  
Christine Bochen, PhD
- June 23-28 **Mission Inter Gentes: Egalitarian Missiology for the 21st Century**  
Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC

Find the complete schedule and application forms at <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/mission-institute/missioninstitute/>. Register online or request an application form by:

Email: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org)  
 Phone: 914-941-7575 @ 5671  
 Mail: Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll Sisters  
 PO Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 

How do we fuel the Affiliate movement?



Watch your mailbox for the Maryknoll Affiliates' annual appeal letter, coming after November 1st.

A special gift for you is included.



**PERU AFFILIATES—MOVING SPIRITUALITY**



Carlos Apcho, who says he uses Google Translator to read the *Not So Far Afield*, sent us several photos of Maryknoll Affiliates from Lima, Peru. They were participating in a Day of Prayer for the care of our common home (the earth), a recent event organized by their local diocese. 



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