



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

July/August 2019

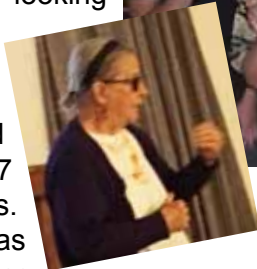
Volume 28 Number 4

## STAYING CONNECTED

Santa Orlando – Albany Chapter

One of the most important things we can do as Affiliates is to stay connected—to our local communities, to Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers, Brothers, Lay Missioners and to other Affiliate chapters. It is through these connections that we experience the charism of Maryknoll. Proximity to Maryknoll in Ossining, New York, has allowed many of the Albany chapter members to form ongoing relationships with Maryknollers who reside there, but proximity is only one aspect of forming relationships.

At our May chapter meeting, the Albany Chapter Skyped with the Guatemala Chapter. This had been previously arranged via a series of emails to coordinate a common meeting time. Both groups were looking forward to this meeting to reconnect with Affiliates we had met at MAC 2017 or at other times. Laughter was shared together as



Sr. Connie Pospisil (l.), Fr. John Spain (r.) in Albany, and Santa (above) with the El Salvador Maryknoll family at Easter

we adjusted the cameras to focus on the Affiliates, not on the ceiling! We prayed together and wished the Guatemala Chapter a Happy 10th Anniversary by providing them with a cake and candles—which we enjoyed for them. We briefly shared what our chapters do throughout the year, acknowledging differences and commonalities. It was a joyful meeting and we plan on continuing this practice in the future.

Affiliate Ron Covey from Houston/Guatemala was also in our area during the month of May. The Albany chapter has been selling Affiliate-run Family Coffee which benefits Caminando Por La Paz (a Catholic Worker House focused on education for children in inner-city Guatemala) since 2015. Ron's visit did not coincide with an Affiliate meeting, but some of us gathered to share a meal, support, and community.

Sisters Connie Pospisil, MM, and Helen Werner, MM, from Lemoa, Guatemala visited us in June. Our chapter has been in relationship with them since 2009, and we visit whenever they are back at Maryknoll for renewal. We also stay in contact via personal Skype conversations, but nothing takes the place of a face-to-face visit to update us on the current programs in Lemoa. Father John Spain, MM, who is a native of nearby Troy, New York, also visited in June. On a recent visit to El Salvador, I extended the invitation, and we smoothed out the dates via email. Chapter members were able to learn about the current

situation in El Salvador and appreciate its complexity. It was wonderful to have representatives from the Sisters and Fathers with us.

Many of us maintain a strong, ongoing connection with Maryknoll Lay Missioner Peg Vamosy, but she visits in July when our chapter doesn't meet. Since I know when Peg is coming to the area, I plan to assist and support



her at one of her church talks. Typically, we also arrange a luncheon or dinner to catch up with Peg while she is in the area. I was in El Salvador with Peg for Holy Week this year—a wonderful experience which included visits to the ministries of two other Lay Missioners and Easter dinner with the El Salvador Maryknoll family. It was a privilege to witness the work they do and the camaraderie among them.

We are all part of a global community. Our individual mission is to try to bridge the illusion of separateness by reaching out to others. The Albany Chapter continues to be inspired and blessed by our Maryknoll family connections. We will continue to do our best to be catalysts and conduits of communication. Affiliates are called to Relationship!



### MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

The Maryknoll Affiliate Mission Statement includes the phrase, “Maryknoll Affiliates challenge one another to witness to mission as a way of life by *going beyond borders* (italics added for emphasis)...,” but this issue gives examples of Maryknollers and Affiliates not going beyond borders, but rather going to the southern US border and serving the great needs there.

Several articles show it is not even necessary to physically go to the border to make a difference. David Schaffner points out that shoelaces are such a simple item but are providing a tangible way to connect with those in need and also to educate the local community about the situation at the border! Affiliates in this issue also say their mission is in the community: teaching English to immigrants, offering hospitality to traveling Maryknollers, or joining a Campaign Nonviolence action. Santa Orlando points out the many ways the Albany Chapter maintains connections and is a catalyst and conduit of communication. She says Affiliates are called to Relationship.

And Affiliates contemplate. Before, during, and after actions, we contemplate our place in the global human family and know our hearts have been cracked. We “ain’t gonna study war no more.” Please share the fruits of your contemplation 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).



### WELCOMING MARYKNOLLERS

The Affiliate Hospitality Initiative core group—Patty Hinton, Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland, Manny Hotchkiss, and Bob Short—are compiling a list of Affiliate households that are available to offer hospitality to Maryknollers traveling for work or pleasure. Once the list is completed, we will post the number of potential hosts by geographic area (e.g., Boston, Saint Louis, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, etc.) but no names or addresses. Maryknollers, including Affiliates, requesting hospitality in a given area would contact Bob Short, who will assess the request. If an Affiliate host is available, Bob will have the host contact the interested Maryknoller.

**Hospitality Data Gathering** – *If you are interested in participating, please respond to [http://maryknollaffiliates.org/index.php?option=com\\_chronoforms5&chronofom=HospitalityForm](http://maryknollaffiliates.org/index.php?option=com_chronoforms5&chronofom=HospitalityForm). Don’t forget to fill out the anti-robot code box. When completed, hit SUBMIT.*

If you have any questions, contact Bob Short at: [affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:affiliatebshort@gmail.com).



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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## BIRD LESSONS

Bob Short - Executive Coordinator

In mid-April, a female robin began constructing a nest on the flower trellis just outside our back door. Completed in a few days, the nest looked perfect. To the best of my knowledge, the robin had no access to YouTube or *Building a Bird Nest for Dummies* to help her with the construction. I spent the next four weeks observing Robi (naming creativity not being my strong suit) several times each day. Though Robi never gave any indication she wanted to become a Maryknoll Affiliate, what I observed over those weeks was an inspiration to me.



Photos by Bob Short

Day and night, she spent ninety percent of her time maintaining the nest, often through long periods of cold and rain. Then the eggs came and her motherly resolve grew stronger. Robi was acutely vigilant, as birds need to be, but in time she came to trust and allowed me to get very close to the nest. On each visit I carried on a conversation, essentially the same one every time. Many would say that's all we humans ever do anyway. I also assured her that I'd do my best to protect her from the neighborhood cat that frequently visited our yard. Robi appeared attentive and receptive but never uttered a peep in return. Even so, I convinced myself that we had become friends.

Then, on the morning of the eleventh day of incubation, a day or two before the eggs were ready to hatch, I opened the back door to ask Robi how her night had been, but she was gone. In her place, inches from the nest, was a squirrel rotating a blue egg, the last one of the clutch, in its front claws – just as squirrels do with an acorn before biting into it.

I couldn't begin to process all this. How must Robi feel!? Was she distraught, defeated, filled with

revenge? Do birds feel, think, have a hidden belief-system or life philosophy to help them deal with such terrible losses? Did she stamp her tiny claws and ask, 'Why me?!' Did she just accept it as one of nature's inevitable cruelties? I wondered too if on some instinctual level birds have a built-in moral code about murder and ornithological injustices; or, perhaps a batch of existential questions around sin, redemption, and an afterlife. Admittedly, these are almost assuredly the entirely wrong questions emerging from a small, inchoate human mind. I had to check myself. Were all these queries and projections simply yet another example of anthropomorphic excess that we humans apply to so much else in the cosmos, including God?

Yet, I couldn't let go of the possibility that there must be a lesson in this for me. Robi, like everything in nature except us humans, never left the confines (and freedom) of life's natural rhythms. She knew in a different, non-cerebral way without needing to ask either existential questions or the tedious ones that often consume our lives. She knew in a different way—perhaps much like the monk who, after forty years of searching for 'the answers,' came around the bend on a mountain trail one early spring morning, saw a peach tree in full bloom, and proclaimed to himself, "Now I understand!"



Last week a robin built a new nest; this time on the door ledge of the porch outside the entrance door of our house. Squirrels could never get to this one. I have to believe it's Robi. We've resumed our conversation.



## MEETING MARYKNOLL IN ST. LOUIS

Mary and Manny Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Patty Hinton, Vicki Simon, and the Hotchkisses talked about their connections to Maryknoll over lunch in May. The Hotchkisses were passing through Missouri on their way home to Portland, Oregon, from an Affiliate Board meeting at Maryknoll, NY. Patty Hinton is the Regional Coordinator for the large Midwest region that includes Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio, and other nearby states where there currently are no Affiliate chapters. She arranged for Vicki Simon to join us.

Vicki Simon is a returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner who served in Kenya. Since returning, Vicki is on the Maryknoll Lay Missioners' Board and has served in various Jesuit-related roles in the St. Louis area. She commented that the JustFaith program had been active for over 12 years at St. Francis Xavier "College" parish, St. Louis. Racism and white privilege are discussed in many area churches. She recently volunteered at a migrant refuge affiliated with the El Paso Annunciation House of Hospitality. Having studied Latin American culture and taught Spanish for nine years, she said, "I felt called to do something!" She plans to work at the border again in August.

Vicki Simon, happy to connect with Affiliate groups, plans to visit the North Bay, CA, Affiliates this summer after a church date in San Francisco, where she will be sharing about her recent time at the US Border. Inviting the public to meetings featuring returning or visiting missioners is a great way for Affiliates to increase awareness of Maryknoll's efforts.

Patty and Vicki emphasized that their diocese is very diverse and mission oriented, with a Jesuit sister parish in Belize and some diocesan priests on mission in Bolivia. A number of locally organized immersion or mission trips are available through their diocese and with the Jesuits' Encuentro Project in El Paso.

Patty wished there were more Maryknoll-related mission opportunities she could advertise. Patty and Manny, who at the November 2018 Board meeting were placed on the same Prototype team, have been working together to organize a database that lists Maryknoll mission service possibilities, as well as a list of Affiliates offering hospitality to Affiliates and other Maryknollers in the US.

Patty also invited Debbie Perotta to join us. Although not an Affiliate, Debbie had attended several Affiliate events with Patty. Debbie offered us some excellent questions and suggestions. She noticed that Affiliates are usually over 50 years old. One group she knew of, Net Ministries, has youthful members interested in mission and evangelization. We agreed that working with similar groups on joint projects or inviting them to join us for a special gathering or presentation could possibly interest them in Maryknoll. When we admired a symbol Debbie was wearing, she asked, "What is the symbol of the Maryknoll Affiliates?"

Patty shared that as a young woman she considered becoming a Maryknoll sister, but instead started



Left to right: Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss join Patty Hinton, Debbie Perotta, and Vicki Simon at lunch to learn more about Midwestern Maryknoll activities.

her family. Then she considered the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. She has also been connected with the Franciscans, Cursillos, and the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. She has taken mission trips to Nicaragua and Jamaica. Having recently retired from her work as an accountant, she is looking into new adventures, including teaching English as a Second Language and more mission trips.

Patty said she was also looking forward to MAC 2020 next summer, the RC/Board meeting next November, learning about the projects of other Affiliate chapters, and especially about the progress of the other three Prototype groups. We all agreed that connection and communication between and among Affiliates and the various Maryknoll entities is vital for our future.





Left to right: A Rotary colleague, the HELP technician, and Jim Comes present the Guatemalan family their new stove.

smoke exposure, and some families will be visited to measure air quality in the room where the stove was installed.

In four days, our group of ten Rotarians installed 100 stoves in homes and one larger wood-burning stove in a school. The Mayan families receiving the stoves are very poor—they live in two or three rooms and have none of the basic conveniences we take for granted. The taxi driver who drove us around to different houses told me he makes five dollars a day. In addition to reducing the Mayan family’s exposure to smoke, the stoves burn wood more efficiently, saving trees and money. The families were overjoyed to have the stoves,

which will enable them to spend less for wood and hopefully more on food.



**BOSTON AFFILIATE WORKING WITH ROTARY**

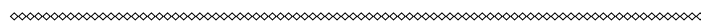
Jim Comes – Boston Chapter

I recently had the opportunity to work with a local Rotary Club to install wood-burning stoves in two villages on the shores of Lake Atitlan, Guatemala. My local Rotary Club in Westborough, Massachusetts, and Rotary clubs in Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, received a grant from Rotary International to install the stoves.

I worked with another Rotarian from Massachusetts and a local technician from HELP International. HELP identified 100 families and provided the basic parts needed to install a stove. Each family agreed to not sell the stove and to purchase eleven cinder blocks which would act as the base for the stove. (Google “Onil stoves Guatemala” to see the stoves.)

The goal of the project was to change the practice of cooking with open fires on the floor, eliminating exposure to smoke and reducing health issues. Mayan families traditionally cook with open fires on the floor in rooms with little or no ventilation. Several health problems are associated with smoke exposure: acute respiratory disease, chronic bronchitis, asthma, tuberculosis, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and others.

With continued support from the grant, local health clinics will be monitored for health issues related to



**WISHING FOR MORE EXCITEMENT?**

*A little preparation can lead to a lively meeting.*

In preparation for a chapter meeting just before Earth Day, Matt Rousso, New Orleans Chapter contact person, sent two questions to the members of the Gulf South New Orleans Area Chapter:

1. What is one thing you *do* to combat Climate Change?
2. What is something you *could* do that challenges you?

Since they’d been discussing and studying *Laudato Si* and *Care for Creation*, these questions resonated with the members. Sixteen people attended the meeting and everyone had something to say.





**MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONER/LAWYER**  
 Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

On our annual road trip, I met briefly with Heidi Cerneka, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, in El Paso.

Heidi said she was inspired to join the Lay Missioners while she was still in college and heard about the church women being martyred in El Salvador. Rather than being frightened, their dedication excited her. As a Lay Missioner, Heidi worked many years in Brazil with women in prisons, but at 50 years of age she decided to go to law school. Now she works for a nonprofit, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, as an immigration lawyer. Most of her work involves asylum cases. In this part of Texas only about 3% of asylum applicants are successful. She said that in other jurisdictions, e.g., parts of New York or Portland, Oregon, about 50% of asylum applicants are eventually granted asylum.



The Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy center needs volunteers and interns. Besides the obvious need for workers with legal expertise, Heidi specifically mentioned that social

workers or counselors could interview clients. The organization’s website—[Las-Americas.org](http://Las-Americas.org)—includes two pages requesting interns and volunteers and listing needs.

I asked Heidi her message for Affiliates. She emphasized, “Walls and detention centers are not the answer. Central America needs to be a place where people can stay if they want, with job opportunities, fair wages, and security. The US needs to be a place where people can come with fair immigration policies. ... All the people that leave the government’s detention centers are now documented; they’re not undocumented or illegal!”



**DEEPEN OUR COMPASSION, O GOD**

By Heidi Cerneka

Deepen our compassion, O God.  
 You are the judge, not us.

Our sister left behind home, family, culture, language  
 When she fled to protect her life,  
     her children, their future,  
 As greed and power ravaged her nation.

Our brother asked for refuge,  
 A refuge promised by the UN and the US,  
 But we welcomed him with detention,  
 Separation from loved ones.

Teach us to walk a mile in their sandals  
 And be moved to indignation and action.

Stretch our compassion, O God,  
 To embrace those  
 Who see this reality differently.

Move us beyond entrenched beliefs,  
 Inspire us to creative responses  
 And justice that restores relationships  
 And hope for all.

May those who knock at our door  
 Seeking refuge and hope,  
 Who are met with condemnation and walls  
     by this nation,  
 May they challenge us  
 To live our baptismal promise to the Gospel,  
 And may they judge us with compassion  
     when we fail.

Amen



Note: This prayer first appeared in the Maryknoll Lay Missioners’ *Voices of Compassion*, Spring 2019. Reprinted with permission.



Photo source: [catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://catholiccharitiesusa.org)

**MARYKNOLL NUNS AT THE BORDER**

Mary and Manny Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Maryknollers, including Affiliates, have been attending to the needs of migrants at the US-Mexico border. (Affiliates have written about helping at McAllen, TX, and on page 8, Don Gonzalez tells about El Paso.) Sr. Lil Mattingly, MM, responded graciously



Sr. Lil Mattingly

to our email when we arrived in El Paso in April. She arranged for us to meet the



Heidi Cerneka (See page 6) had attended a number of protests together, one at Tornillo, TX, recently in the news for its massive immigrant youth detention center. Lil had earlier participated in SOA Watch gatherings and received a prison sentence after “crossing the line” at Ft. Benning.

Sr. Maggie loves her work as a children’s chaplain, but her doctor has her resting from her usual work for a few months. She came with a bag of tricks, jokes, and little gifts. Since she didn’t have children to care for, she kept us entertained with paper jumping frogs, little shirts made from folded paper money, and drawings she made of us. Her hands never stopped moving the whole evening!

The sisters commented,

- My hope is that Affiliates, myself included, could look for ways to educate the people around them. There’s a lot of ignorance about the border.



Sr. Maggie Sierra entertains us while we visit.

Maryknoll sisters working at the US Border near El Paso and hear their stories. Sr. Lil and Sr. Maggie Sierra are both working with immigrants in El Paso. Sr. Susan Nchubiri, MM, who is based at Maryknoll, NY, is working with them for a month responding to the massive increase in refugees from Central and South America.

Sr. Susan is working at a shelter in El Paso, Casa del Refugiado, which just opened in April. The converted warehouse is already providing services to 300 people.



Sr. Susan Nchubiri

It is connected with the Annunciation House, which has been serving immigrants in El Paso for 40 years. Sr. Susan has been with Maryknoll for 16 years. A native of Kenya, she said that she is learning some Spanish through this work at the Border.

Sisters Lil and Maggie are both nurses and worked together in Bolivia, but they have been in El Paso for several years. Sr. Lil works at yet another immigrant refuge center. The ten refugee centers near El Paso together receive over 700 immigrants daily.

Sr. Lil noted that the Spanish vocabulary is a little different here, especially some idioms. Sr. Lil and



- People of faith need to learn to talk to each other, even when they have very different political views. We all want health, happiness for our families, etc.
- People need to come and see.

Sr. Maggie sent an email later saying, “God does not ask us to ask if people we help have all their immigration papers in order, or are they legally asking for asylum, before we feed, clothe and give them something to eat or give them shelter. I think we have to be people of Hope. The poor have hope because they have children and every parent wants their children to get an education, health and housing, and to be safe.

The Diocese of El Paso is still asking for volunteers to work at the migrant refuges. See <http://www.elpasodiocese.org/>.



Photo source: El Paso Diocese.org



## AT THE EL PASO MIGRANT REFUGE

Don Gonzalez – Hawaii Chapter

Last November I volunteered at the refugee center located within the grounds of the Diocese of El Paso. It is a good-sized room with its own kitchen and eating facility. The bishop of El Paso and seminarians reside nearby, and most volunteers stay in the seminarians' sleeping quarters, where they are comfortable and have a regular bed unless there is a lack of space; then volunteers might sleep on a cot.

Volunteers learn how to perform a number of functions, then do what is requested as needed.

**Intake.** When the refugees arrive at the center, they are guided to a room where they are interviewed to verify information that was provided them by INS and to inform their sponsor that they have arrived in the US. The interview and contact of sponsor process are usually conducted in Spanish. The refugees are allowed to speak to their sponsors to assure them they have arrived, are well, and are waiting for the sponsor to arrange their plan of exit. Then they collect clothes and other items that the center provides. All the clothes and other items are donations from various sources within the Diocese of El Paso.

Besides greeting the refugees, volunteers help them find their sponsors and arrange for the sponsor to purchase either a plane or bus ticket. For this task, it helps to speak Spanish since most of the sponsors are Spanish-speaking. Contact is by phone, and each communication is documented, with each refugee's travel plan noted near the phones. Dates and times of departures and transportation methods, are recorded.

In the refugee center, the refugees sleep on cots and have a bathroom available within the facilities. About 40 to 60 refugees arrive daily except Sundays. Before the refugees come in, the volunteers get the sleeping quarters ready. Then they follow a procedure for assigning cots.

**Cleaning.** Volunteers may assist with cleaning the facility. Refugees are asked to help keep their quarters clean and to assist with arranging chairs and tables. They also help clean the bathrooms. The refugees are very cooperative since they get free board and because they need to feel productive.

**Food.** Volunteers can also help clean the kitchen and at times assist with the cooking. Volunteers from the Diocese usually provide the meals, but there were times they did not arrive or arrived late. Sometimes the volunteers have to prepare and serve breakfast. Three meals are provided to the refugees. The volunteers eat the same kind of food that the refugees are provided—if they are given beans and rice, the volunteers eat the same. The refugee center is located in an isolated area, and opting for an alternative would require driving to the nearest restaurant or fast food place.

**Night Duties.** Volunteers may be expected to perform some duties that they have not thought of doing, such as staying overnight in the refugee center. The center tells the refugees that at least one person is in the room with them at night. Volunteers who do not feel comfortable with this responsibility, possibly lacking resources or training to handle emergencies, are free to refuse.

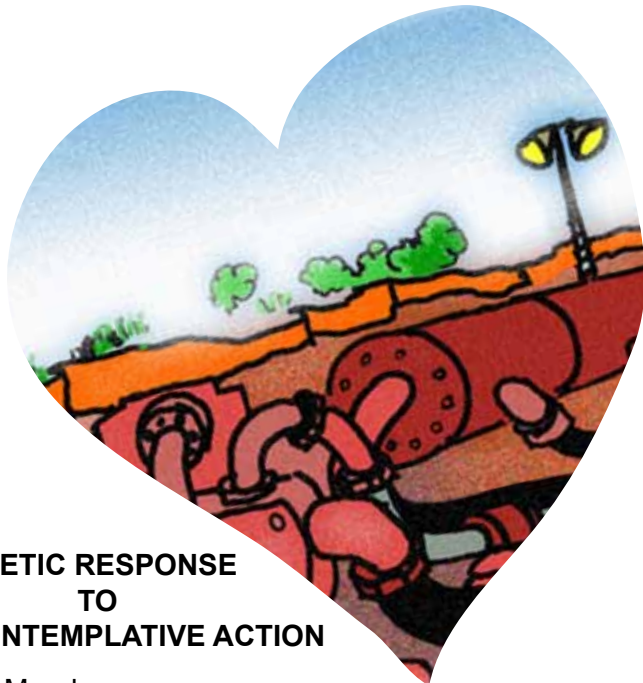
**Transport.** Volunteers arrange for the refugees to go to the airport or bus station. Diocesan volunteers usually provide the transportation, but when they are not available, volunteers need to seek out people at the center who can provide the transportation. One volunteer ended up renting an SUV to transport refugees. The refugees can't miss their plane or bus: the ticket has been paid for by their sponsor, and rearrangement is difficult and time-consuming.

Overall, my volunteer experience was a good one and very satisfying. I spoke to some of the refugees and their stories are very sad. All of them were from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

One of the best things about doing volunteer work is meeting other volunteers from different locations. The volunteers I met were from the San Antonio, Texas, area and sent by Catholic Charities. I was the only Maryknoll Affiliate and the only one from a great distance. I will volunteer again in the future, but this time not travel as far—maybe to San Diego, California, if there is a refugee center there.







**POETIC RESPONSE  
TO  
CONTEMPLATIVE ACTION**

Bill Murphy –  
Maryknoll Affiliate Board

*It was my turn to prepare a “State of the Heart” report at the conclusion of the May 3-5, 2019 meeting of the Maryknoll Affiliate Board. The meeting’s central theme was **contemplative action**, and my response to what I heard and experienced took the form of the poem below.*

**FRACKING THE HEART**

How do I turn my heart of stone into a heart of flesh?  
I used to think the waters of baptism were sufficient:  
Gentle, flowing waters can soothe but rarely awaken;  
Still waters warm and calm but hardly get me moving.  
Maybe knowledge was the answer?  
Theology or the facts and figures of science and computers  
Would guide me to a meaningful life and best solutions.

Slow down  
Sit with the darkness; it becomes light  
Listen in the silence  
Share stories of life:  
accompanying gospels of struggles, pains, joys -  
compassion for ourselves as well as others  
breaks open my heart.  
Don't just move, stand there  
Then  
move in the direction that beckons me.



**WEEK OF ACTIONS**

**Sept. 14 to 22** is 2019’s Week of Actions, and **Campaign Nonviolence** plans to have 3,000 actions around the world! Several Affiliate groups have participated in this annual effort, “working for a new culture of nonviolence free from war, racism, poverty, and environmental destruction.”

Define your own action and join the campaign! Be sure to take photos and tell the NSFA at [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org) all about it. For more information and to register your event, go to <https://paceebene.org/>.



Walla Walla Affiliate Chris Pinney (left) and David Stocker, presenter at an Affiliate regional meeting in 2018, use their drums at a Campaign Nonviolence demonstration.

**CULTIVATING NONVIOLENCE**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –  
Portland Chapter

*Learning, growing,  
transforming, and deepening  
ourselves and our society  
are signs of life.*



**T**hrough my involvement with the Affiliates, I have embraced and continue deepening my identification with nonviolence. The JustFaith module, Cultivating Nonviolence, offers to us Maryknoll Affiliates a way to keep growing, cultivating.

I am inviting Affiliates to participate in Cultivating Nonviolence with me, on-line: Eight sessions during October and November 2019 with readings and videos on-line. We will share our reflections during weekly conference calls. Only one book is needed: *Active Nonviolence: A Way of Personal Peace*, by Gerald A. Vanderhaar. To sign up or for more information, please email [NSFAMary@gmail.com](mailto:NSFAMary@gmail.com).



## THE SHOELACE PROJECT AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

David Schaffner—California Central Coast Chapter

Our chapter has organized a “Shoelace Project” for the months of June and July in St. Patrick’s Parish, Arroyo Grande. The idea for this campaign came from an NSFA article, “Compassion and Hospitality on the Border,” (March/April 2019). In this article, Jerrie Drinkwine mentioned that the detention center removes shoelaces and belts from asylum seekers as they are processed by ICE. When they are delivered to a respite center, they receive replacement shoelaces. Thus, the Humanitarian Respite Center operated by Catholic Charities in McAllen, Texas, and similar facilities along the border, need a constant supply of shoelaces.

As our chapter had been looking for a project that would focus on the plight of immigrants (and also be of help in small way in alleviating the hardships), we first met with our pastor who gave his approval. An unexpected collaborator joined us in this effort when Affiliate Joan McKenna, who works at our local hospital, owned by Dignity Health, asked if she could also conduct the project there as one of their charitable efforts. Working with the hospital chaplain, they not only collected shoelaces, but Dignity agreed to print several hundred one-page flyers (two-sided: English and Spanish) for inserting in the parish bulletin, at no cost to us. **Lesson Learned:** One never knows who might be allies and collaborators.

One of the challenges of this campaign is to communicate clearly what is happening on the border: We wanted parishioners to realize that these asylum seekers are here legally under international and US law while awaiting their asylum hearing. And why shoelaces, of all things, are needed. **Lesson learned:**

It is important to communicate the facts clearly and concisely—not always easy.

A side benefit of a campaign such as the Shoelace Project is the opportunity to discuss immigration as a social justice issue. Reminders and thank you notices are running in the parish bulletin during June/July. The first of these included the opening sentence of the USCCB statement on immigration,

The Catholic Church in the United States is an immigrant Church with a long history of embracing diverse newcomers and pastoral care to immigrants, migrants and people on the move.

During the campaign, other quotes from either the USCCB or Pope Francis will be inserted to emphasize the point that “Welcoming the Stranger” is a part of who we are as Christians and Catholics.

At the time of this writing, over 1,000 pairs of shoelaces and some cash for shipping have been collected;



Photo courtesy of Sisters of Mercy, Merion, PA



Sister Anne Connolly, a Sister of Mercy working at the Humanitarian Respite Center, will receive our collected shoelaces.


the shoelaces will be packaged at our next Affiliate meeting and forwarded to one or more of the Respite Centers. This effort is being viewed as an icebreaker, both with our pastor and with the parishioners, for educational and other initiatives dealing with immigration.



# News from the Board

## PROTOTYPE PROGRESS AND SUCCESS


At its May meeting, the Maryknoll Affiliate Board heard updates on the four prototype projects which had been proposed and initiated at the November 2018 Board meeting. This is what has been accomplished in just six months:


- 
**Chapter Companions** – Gerry Mullaney, NE Ohio, said ten chapters have requested or already have a Chapter Companion—a Maryknoll missionary. To sign up your chapter, contact the Chapter Companions team at [maryknollcompanions@gmail.com](mailto:maryknollcompanions@gmail.com).

- Quo Vadis** – Per Bill Murphy, a local marketing team has been formed in the NY/New England area, and they are presenting the workshop to cross-cultural immersion groups to beta test it. If successful, the resulting final version of QUO



VADIS will be presented at the November Board/RC meeting before broader marketing of the workshop.

- Affiliates Connecting** – Rich Lessard, Board Chair and Albany Affiliate, has connected with several Affiliates and Chapters through phone and video chat. If you wish to connect with him, e-mail him at [rlessard@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rlessard@maryknollaffiliates.org). We are looking for new ways of Affiliates connecting; one such way is the Question of the Month. Be on the lookout for a new question in your e-mail inbox each month.
 

- Affiliate Hospitality** – Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland said a survey asks Affiliates about their willingness and ability to provide hospitality to traveling Maryknollers, including Affiliates. See “Welcoming Maryknollers” on page 2.
 



### TIME TO TAKE YOUR TURN?

Help navigate the Affiliates into the future. Share your ideas and expertise on the **Maryknoll Affiliate Board**—or nominate someone from your chapter.



Contact Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland:  
[rhugheswheatland@yahoo.com](mailto:rhugheswheatland@yahoo.com)

## MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE – 2019



*Have you considered attending a Mission Institute program? If New York is too far for you, consider the California offerings! There's still time to sign up!*

- July 7-12 **Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality**  
 Rev. John Philip Newell, PhD, and Cami Twilling
- July 14-19 **Teilhard and Struggle: Drawn to the Road of Fire**  
 Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD
- July 21-26 **Sacred Heart of the Cosmos: Mission Spirit in Modern Time**  
 Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS, MFA

- Sept. 8-13 **Mission Spirituality: Releasing the Fire Within**  
 Monrovia, CA  
 Sr. Claudette LaVerdiere, MM, STL
- Sept. 17-20 **Mission Spirituality: Releasing the Fire Within**  
 Los Altos, CA  
 Sr. Claudette LaVerdiere, MM, STL

Find the complete schedule through September and application forms at:

<https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute/>

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



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If you wonder, "Why Shoelaces?!",  
read page 10 to find out!

