



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

September/October 2019

Volume 28 Number 5

## MIGRATION IN THE NOGALES-TUCSON AREA

Bob Doyle – Chicago Chapter

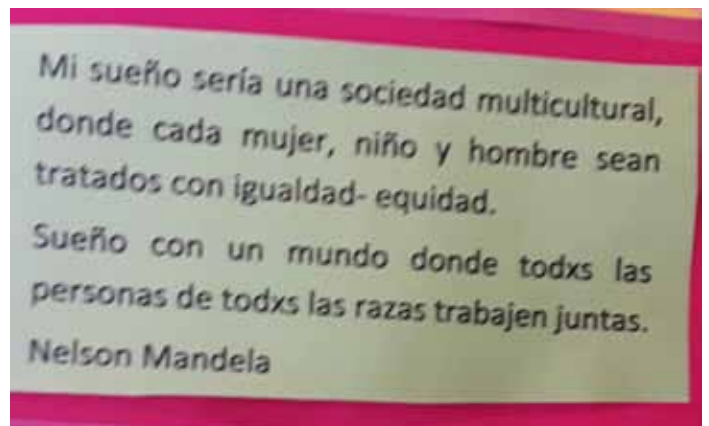
**A pilgrimage in the desert.** The desert should not be a death sentence, but the government knows the southwestern border is dangerous for migrants—and wants it that way. Some 8,000 people attempting to enter the United States have died in this region since the 1990s.

**The Monastery.** Our border visit began with an orientation at the Tucson Benedictine Monastery, a site sold and vacant until it was converted for use as a sanctuary by Catholic Community Services. There are two orientations a week for the 100 volunteers needed daily to work 4- to 8-hour shifts. About 280 workers help with kitchen duties. Most migrants coming to the border through Nogales are from Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras.

During orientation at “The Monastery,” we visited the art therapy room, where the art therapist helped us see how it benefits migrants. With an abundance of art resources for migrants of all ages, a team of therapists volunteers to provide this service.

Being in ‘The Monastery’ was amazing. Every minute was super intense. I grabbed a picture of a page in a notebook on a table, suggesting the website, [www.justiceactivist.com](http://www.justiceactivist.com). Keep this address by your computer and spend some time on the site. It is great!

One sign in the Monastery:



*My dream would be a multicultural society where each woman, child, and man will be treated equally. I dream of a world where all people of all races work together. – Nelson Mandala*

Continued on page 6.

Paying respects to migrants who died about 5 miles south of Green Valley, Arizona



An adolescent's migration ended here in 2009.



One gift for the journey found in the desert.

After our walk in the desert to pay respects to a few of the migrants who died about two miles from our guide's home, we shared in the love of those who gave their migrating family members a gift for the journey. We have no idea how many wonderful people were lost here in the desert.

Photos by Bob Doyle

**ACTIONS AND OPTIONS**

Action is one of the pillars of the Affiliate Movement, along with spirituality, community, and global vision. We can count on Affiliates to respond to opportunities and to find ways to take action, to be of service. In this issue, Bob Doyle shares his odyssey in Arizona, mourning the deaths of migrants in the desert and serving the survivors. The North Bay Affiliates were captivated by returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner Vicki Simon's reflections after she volunteered at a migrant refuge in El Paso.

Vicki also lists some opportunities for service to immigrants. Dick Horstman describes a short-term mission opportunity for aiding migrants in Eagle Pass, Texas.

While we Affiliates are usually eager to do service, this issue also tells of 71 Catholics who recently chose another path, civil disobedience at the US Capitol, to protest the inhumanity of detaining children at the Border. Maryknoll encourages us to contemplate before and during our actions.

Whether we choose service, peaceful contemplation, or civil disobedience, we know that "Apathy is not an option."

Tell us about your actions and options 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 [affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:affiliatebshort@gmail.com).

**June 2020**

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**MAC 2020**

We invite you to the always engaging and often transformative international **Maryknoll Affiliate Conference**. It will be held **June 25-28, 2020**, at the **Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, NY** – 17 miles north of the Maryknoll Center in Ossining. The theme is: *Witnessing Love in the Interim Time*. \$350 covers tuition and room & board (a \$20 reduction from the previous MAC!). Travel grants will be available as in past years.

The MAC 2020 Planning Committee has made great advances in designing the theme, content, and flow of this 3½ day event. The Keynote speaker is Nancy Sylvester, IHM, very sought after in the conference world, and most of the workshop facilitators have already been confirmed. We are also planning a first-time, unique segment to include young adults (18- to 39-year-olds).

A MAC website is being constructed; we anticipate that it should be ready in mid-September. It will provide an online registration form, travel grant application, schedule, and information you'll need to know about the conference. Please mark the date and plan to be with Affiliates and other members of the Maryknoll family from throughout our global home.



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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**VICKI SIMON  
AT THE BORDER**

Marie Wren – North Bay Chapter

On May 23, the North Bay Chapter hosted Vicki Simon, returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner to Kenya, to speak about her recent experience at the US – Mexico border.

Vicki spent two weeks volunteering in El Paso, Texas, at an Annunciation shelter in a La Quinta Inn. She told how she prepared for that experience by taking a Jesuit-sponsored five-day border immersion trip called The Encuentro Project. In addition, she took a Just Matters study module on migration, which brought home to her that migration is very extensive around the world even though we experience it mainly on the US - Mexico border.

We were captivated by her description of how the shelters are completely run and staffed by volunteers, how those two weeks were physically and emotionally demanding. She explained that between 50 and 120 asylum seekers would be referred to the shelter each day by ICE after having been processed as they came across the border. Generally, they were one parent and one or more children. When they arrived hungry, dirty, and often sick, they would be offered clean clothes, showers, meals, beds, and medical help. They would stay just long enough to have the volunteers contact their sponsor, who would buy a plane, bus or train ticket for them, and then the volunteers would accompany them to the airport or bus/train station. They were given provisions for the journey and a placard that said they didn't speak English and asked for help finding their connections.

One had to be ready for a "fluid reality," as Vicki described it, and try to hold onto paying personal attention and listening to each migrant while attending to their immediate needs, so they felt safe and experienced compassion and care. She was impressed by the gratitude expressed by each migrant. Vicki said she would hold onto "the goodness and generosity and witness of God's love through so many volunteers, refugees (one to another), and the local people of El Paso."

We were inspired by the fact that Vicki will go back again several times, as long as the need exists, and we were challenged to think about volunteering ourselves.



The handouts—Immigration 101\*, Actions to Consider, Vicki's own reflections on her experience\*, and the history of Ruben Garcia's founding of the Annunciation House in El Paso in 1978—were all very helpful.

Our chapter members have been educating ourselves on immigration and refugee issues over a couple of years. Catholic Charities has spoken to us and to the parish about local initiatives to help migrants, what legal help is available, opportunities for tutoring children, and help for at-risk youth. Some of us were

trained in observing and responding to ICE raids. One of our member couples, Bob and Nancy McFarland, opened their home to a homeless Haitian family—mother, father, toddler and infant—for several weeks.

Our chapter has as our companions Sisters Patricia Edmiston and Ann Hayden, who do ministry at the border in Penitas, Texas, and we look forward to having them share their ministries with us.

To close our meeting, member Jacqueline Hayes gave us pictures of the Statue of Liberty and read the inscription to us:

*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*



**\*Handouts Available for Download**

In "**Reflections of a Border Volunteer**," Vicki Simon responded to four questions:

- **What touched your heart?**
- **What surprised you?**
- **What challenged you?** and
- **What do you want to hold on to?**

Go to <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/resources/79-reflections-of-a-border-volunteer/file.html>.

Heidi Cerneka's "**Immigration 101**" contains definitions of terms around migration; two pages.

Go to <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/resources/80-immigration-101/file.html>.

**SHARING WITH OUR CHAPTER COMPANION**

Shelby Miller &amp; Mary Williams – NE Florida Chapter

Father Bob Carleton, our Northeast Florida Affiliate Chapter Companion, met with us via Skype on May 9th. We had requested that he speak to us about the Church in China. Fr. Bob has been on the board of the US–China Catholic Association for many years and lived in China for three years teaching English. The Association’s website includes a video with a brief history of the Catholic Church in China and vividly describes the deep and continuing faith of the people. China was one of the first mission fields for Maryknoll priests, dating back to 1911.




Our group gathered around the dining room table in the home of Mary and Bryan Williams; we used Skype to see and hear Fr. Bob. He spoke to us from his room at the Maryknoll retirement home in Los Altos, CA. During his time teaching English in China, Fr. Bob taught a class on, “Who was Jesus Christ?” He did this as students might continue their studies or work in the West and should know about Christianity. However, he was not in China to make converts. We could tell that Fr. Bob remembered his students and his time in China with much fondness as he told us about his ongoing correspondence with some of his students from that time.

On a more somber note, while talking about the current situation in China, he spoke about the registered and

unregistered churches—registered means an officially recognized by the government, and unregistered, not officially approved and underground. When Fr. Bob was in China, he attended Mass at a registered church which celebrated the same liturgy and sacraments as the unregistered church.

Pope Francis desires and has been working to bring both groups together, as evidenced by his validating bishops who had been named by the government. It is a sad commentary, however, that recently the government has torn down churches on flimsy excuses, taken down crosses from atop churches, forbidden children under 18 to go to church, and required teachers to keep statistics on students who are Christian. One of our Affiliates, Jean Fields, commented after viewing a video on a church being destroyed: “Very sad situation in China for sure! We need to keep praying to Our Lady to intercede.”

Our Affiliate group was also happy to learn of Maryknoll’s program which sponsors men and women to come to the United States to study for the religious life. This program is a tremendous help to China in training priests and sisters to serve in their home country. Approximately 30 to 40 students are currently in the US with this program.

Although four members of our group know Fr. Bob from his time in Jacksonville when our group was just beginning, other members of the group are still getting to know him through our Skype contacts. This companion program is still new for us, but it appears to be a way that we can gain more knowledge of the workings of Maryknoll and, especially, develop a connection with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Fr. Bob’s experience and “long view” offer our group a new and welcome perspective. 


**IS A LAY MISSIONER COMING TO YOUR CITY?**

Paula Schaffner – California Central Coast Chapter

A couple years ago, my husband, David, and I were contacted by Maryknoll Lay Missioner Sam Stanton and his wife Cecelia Espinosa, to see if we could help her with a church date in northern Santa Barbara County while he covered a church farther south. We had a wonderful visit with Cecelia while offering not only bed and board, but also transportation to a couple different Masses.

We saw that Affiliates could be helpful to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in their promotional efforts, and the Hospitality Initiative suggested to Ted Miles, current Executive Director of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, that we may be able to offer Maryknoll Lay Missioners a place to sleep, possibly local transportation, and

support at the churches where they are speaking. In late July, Ted shared the list of 2019 dates on which Lay Missioners will speak at churches to raise awareness and funds for all their mission needs. Offering this hospitality not only expresses our charism of welcoming, but it is a local short-term volunteer opportunity—a way to be of service to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in their missionary efforts.

Please check the list of 2019 Church Dates list and see if a Maryknoll Lay Missioner will be speaking near your home. (Go to <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/resources/82-maryknoll-lay-missioner-church-dates-august-december-2019/file.html>.) Your hospitality will not only help further their efforts; you’ll probably make a lasting connection with a fellow missioner. 

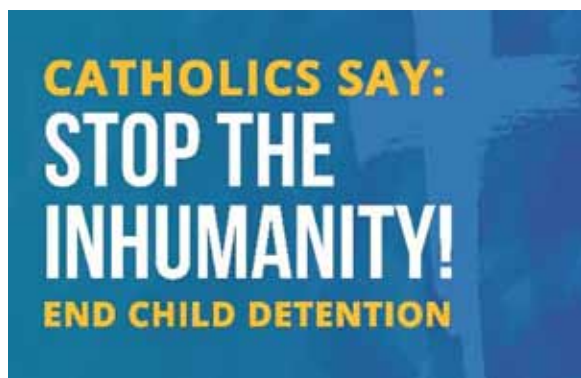
## CATHOLICS PROTEST IMMIGRANT CHILD DETENTION— 71 CATHOLICS ARRESTED

Rose Marie Berger, peace activist and member of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, wrote in *Sojourners* magazine, July 25, 2019 (<https://sojo.net/articles/cross-human-bodies>),

I spent five hours as a guest of the US Capitol Police last week. It was hot, really hot. And those plastic handcuffs leave bruises.

I was one of 71 Catholics arrested by the US Capitol Police in the rotunda of the Russell Senate building in Washington, DC, for “crowding, obstructing, or incommoding,” while praying the rosary. My prayer was—and is—to end the warehousing of immigrant children in cages—63,624 of whom have been apprehended by border patrol at the southwestern border between October 2018 and June 2019, and seven of whom have died after being in federal custody since September. More than a dozen Catholic orders and organizations sponsored the event. Seven Catholic bishops sent letters of support.

Dan Moriarty’s article for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, “Building a Movement to End Child Detention,” (<https://maryknollogc.org/article/building-movement-end-child-detention>) tells of his and other religious leaders’ involvement, describing it as “a privilege to participate in civil disobedience, to be arrested, to stand with detained families...” Others from the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the Westchester Affiliates, and other Maryknollers also participated. Pax Christi USA was one of the organizers and had distributed colorful flyers nation-wide, that said,



Rose Marie closed her article with a challenge:

I spent five hours as a guest of the Capitol Police. Detained migrant children are spending five weeks or five months in Border Patrol camps. **What increased risk will you take to say “no”?**



## CULTIVATING NONVIOLENCE

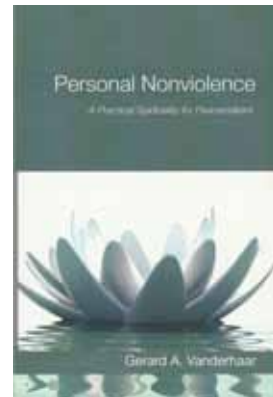
As we struggle to make appropriate responses to the situations in our families, in our neighborhoods, and in the world, *Cultivating Nonviolence* offers alternatives. Affiliates are invited to learn more online and in person about nonviolence. The Cultivating Nonviolence program was developed for JustFaith in conjunction with Maryknoll and Pax Christi. It will help us to:

- Develop personal peace,
- Learn more about nonviolence,
- Use nonviolence in all our relationships,
- Envision a better world.

The eight-week **October/November** session consists of:

- On-line readings and videos,
- Personal and virtual discussions, and
- Nonviolent practices to stretch our capabilities.

Each week we will share our thoughts and learnings through conference calls, emails, and Facebook.



We will read key sections of the engaging book, ***Personal Nonviolence, A Practical Spirituality for Peacemakers***, by Gerard A. Vandelaar. Copies can be ordered through Amazon, or we will email copies of short sections.

Contact Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss ([NSFAMary@gmail.com](mailto:NSFAMary@gmail.com)) for information or to register.



### QTM #5: WHAT STORY DO YOU TELL WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES?

This question was suggested by Tom McGuire, Chicago Chapter.

To answer this question, go to: <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/recent-postings/item/1964-question-of-the-month-qtm-5.html>. If you haven’t seen the Affiliates’ answers to the previous Questions of the Month (QTM), you’ll also find a link to them on that page.

We look forward to hearing your views on this and future **Questions of The Month**.

**MIGRATION IN THE NOGALES-TUCSON AREA**

– continued from Page 1

Another sign:



*You can request a visa for humanitarian reasons in Mexico if:*

- *You were a victim of crime.*
- *They held you somewhere against your will.*
- *For reasons of health or vulnerability you have to stay in the country. ...*

*Ask the hostel for information on how you can request regularization for humanitarian reasons.*

**The Kino Border Initiative** was launched January 18 by Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson. Six Catholic Groups are participating. The Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist are helping the Jesuits from the California Province and members from four other groups to staff the Kino Border Initiative.



The Kino Border Initiative is building a two-million-dollar shelter in Nogales. This picture was taken in January; we heard this summer that women and children are being allowed to sleep in some unfinished parts of the building but must be out in the morning to allow continued construction.



This was my first experience with a migrant family. The two boys are across from their father (in blue, lower left). The mother, her brother and his son are next to the two boys.



These four men and a young boy arrived from Honduras. This woman, from the local police office, is explaining the multi-week process of their request for asylum. It took them more than four weeks to get to Nogales, Sonora, from Honduras.

While asylum seekers are being assisted at shelters in Tucson, some 800 others in Nogales, Sonora, are waiting to present their credible fear claim in hopes of being allowed to seek asylum in the United States. Nogales does not have enough shelters, so many find themselves sleeping on the streets, in the cemetery, wherever they can. And their wait can be two months or more.



If the shelters are full, migrants may wait in this 12x16' room with a very small adjacent bathroom and a blanket covering the door to the street. Women and children may wait in this room for days before space and cots are available in shelters near the Port of Entry.

**Border Shooting:**

“This isn’t justice,” said Analizabeth Martinez, tearing up as she spoke about a jury’s decision Monday to acquit Border Patrol Agent Lonnie Swartz of second-degree murder in the 2012 fatal shooting of 16-year-old Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez. Swartz had shot 16 bullets through the border fence in 34 seconds on the night of Oct. 10, 2012, hitting Elena Rodriguez 10 times in the back and head.

“[The victim] wasn’t an animal. He was a person, a human life,” said Martinez, 53, of Nogales. “And after all this time his family has been waiting for justice, what brutality, what grief they must feel.”

“It’s unfortunate that a country that calls itself the most developed in the world, when it comes to imparting justice, appears to have remained in the Stone Age, violating human rights,” Cuauhtemoc “Temo” Galindo, the mayor of Nogales, said of the outcome. Galindo isn’t surprised that jurors wouldn’t convict Swartz for killing the Mexican boy, he said, but is still disappointed.

**Samaritans:**

In 2005, Shura Wallin and Pastor Randy Mayer established the Green Valley-Saharita Samaritans to work independently and as a complement to the Tucson Samaritans. (<https://www.gvs-samaritans.org/>).

Twice a month, about 60 Samaritans meet

to summarize the desert visits for the previous two weeks and discuss other humanitarian needs. The Border Patrol has gone out of their way to thank the Samaritans. Many volunteers, such as the ambulance nurse and volunteer doctor, work on both sides of the border.



Bob Doyle also recommends “**US Immigration – The Basics**,” a 45-minute presentation by Alyson Ball from Charlottesville, Virginia. She volunteers with an international rescue committee that resettles about 200 refugees per year. She describes immigration in general: the immigration system in this country, the laws in the US, and the roles of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_8-WeeDYIF0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8-WeeDYIF0))

**HOSPITALITY**

Maryknoll Affiliates have put their homes on the Maryknollers Hospitality List. The list catalogs Affiliate households that are available to offer hospitality for Maryknollers and Affiliates who are visiting a geographic area. To date, 28 Affiliate households have been listed.



The geographic areas covered are:

- PHOENIX, AZ
- ARROYO GRANDE, CA
- LONG BEACH, CA
- PETALUMA, CA
- DENVER, CO
- LITTLETON, CO
- SALEM, CT
- JACKSONVILLE, FL
- ORANGE PARK, FL
- WEEKI WACHEE, FL
- NEW ORLEANS, LA
- COLUMBIA, MD
- HATFIELD, MA

- ONEONTA, NY
- BROOKLYN, NY
- CLIFTON PARK, NY
- HARTSDALE, NY
- ROCHESTER, NY
- RALEIGH, NC
- PORTLAND, OR
- SOUTHAMPTON, PA
- HOUSTON, TX
- DES MOINES, WA
- LACEY, WA
- APPLETON, WI
- HUDSON, WI

When Maryknollers request hospitality in a given area, they will contact Bob Short. Bob will assess the details of the request and then have the Affiliate member who is offering the hospitality contact the interested Maryknoller. Offers of hospitality continue to be accepted. To add your home to the list, please email Bob Short ([Affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:Affiliatebshort@gmail.com)).



**MARYKNOLL CONNECTIONS**

Some chapters already had a special relationship with a Maryknoll Priest, Brother, Sister, or Lay

Missioner when the Chapter Companions Initiative began. Others have requested a companion and are now enjoying getting to know their Maryknoll missioner.

It's not too late to ask the Chapter Companion team to help you connect with a Maryknoll missioner for mutual enrichment. Email us at [maryknollcompanions@gmail.com](mailto:maryknollcompanions@gmail.com).



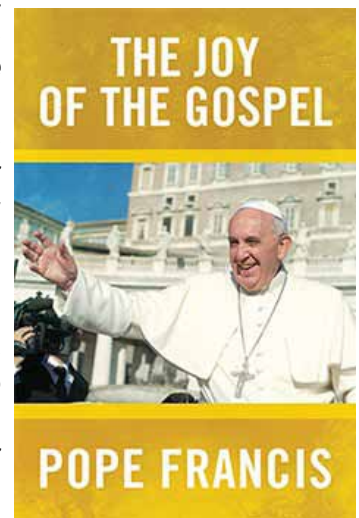
**INVITATION TO THE POPE FRANCIS READING CLUB**

Matt Rousso –  
New Orleans/Gulf South Chapter

We have begun a “Pope Francis Reading Club” in the New Orleans area to encourage Affiliates and as many people as possible to be in touch with the creative, visionary and challenging thinking of our wonderful Pope Francis. We will only occasionally read a book by the Pope. Most of the time we will read copies of recent talks, homilies or excerpts from interviews he has given.

A highly enthusiastic group of 20 people helped develop the plan for the reading club. We will meet once a month at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center (the Cenacle), in Metairie, LA, on Monday evenings from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. There is no fee but we may make an occasional small free-will offering for the use of the Cenacle, its copying machine, etc.

For the month of August we are asking members to read *The Joy of the Gospel*, written in 2013, in which Pope Francis gives his fundamental vision for the church and society and includes most if not all of the issues he will deal with in more depth during his following years as Pope. We will discuss *The Joy of the Gospel* Monday, August 26. Our September meeting will be Monday, September 30.



If you are interested in joining the Pope Francis Reading Club and need a copy of *The Joy of the Gospel* or would like more information, please contact Matt Rousso: [mrousso@maryknoll.org](mailto:mrousso@maryknoll.org).

The text is also available at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html)

We hope you will join us for what we believe will be a most fulfilling and enriching experience. If you don't live in the New Orleans area and want to read along with the us you could email your comments or questions on the readings to Matt who might be able use them at their meeting.





### A VISIT WITH ALBANY AFFILIATES

Mary Moritz – Southeast Regional Coordinator

Photos By Mary Moritz.



John Moritz is welcomed by Denise and Rich Lessard.

Despite the size difference, a lot of the challenges are the same. We both hope to have Chapter meetings where people can be revitalized and helped to grow. Albany often reads a book together and reviews it at a meeting. Northeast Florida has never read a book together; but our most avid reader, John Moritz, reports at each meeting about the newest Orbis-published books and we have an active lending library.

John and I thoroughly enjoyed both the hospitality of the Lessards and meeting Albany Affiliates. It is good to know that one of the new initiatives of the Affiliate Board is developing a database that will inform us about where there are Affiliates who are happy to host or otherwise connect not only with Maryknollers but also with other Affiliates. I applaud this initiative and am eager to see it developed.

I know our Northeast Florida Chapter will try hard to extend Maryknoll hospitality to any of you who come our way!



In May, my husband, John, and I were blessed to spend a few days at the home of Rich and Denise Lessard in Albany, New York. Rich and Denise invited some of the members of their Albany Affiliate Chapter to meet with us one evening. You may remember the Albany Chapter as the energetic sponsors of the 2014 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference.

During a wonderful supper prepared by Denise, and spurred on by John Moritz, we had a lively discussion about symbols. John had recently given a meditation on symbols at the Affiliate Board Meeting and they were still on his mind.

As the leader of the Northeast Florida Chapter, I enjoyed comparing notes with Chris Minnear, the co-leader of the Albany Chapter. We noted some differences between our groups. They have a large chapter of 30+ people and we are very happy if eight can make it to a meeting.



John chats with Chris Minnear.

### SHORT-TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Dick Horstman – Houston Chapter

The Benedictine Sisters of Boerne have a mission house in Eagle Pass, Texas, across the Rio Grande from Piedras Negras, Mexico. Sister Ursula Herrera is the only Sister at the house. Last December, the Sisters converted the house to a migrant respite shelter.

The migrants are delivered to the house around 7:00 in the evening. Sister feeds them dinner, gives them a change of clothes, and they sleep one night at the house. Sister feeds them breakfast the next

morning, and they are then picked up at 9:00 AM to travel to San Antonio. Sister needs help cooking, washing bedding, making beds, cleaning and sorting clothes, buying groceries, etc. She averages approximately 28 migrants a night.

Sister does not have room for a group of volunteers. She has a very nice apartment with a full bath in a detached garage for two volunteers. It is an ideal setup for a couple.

Because Sister Ursula is very busy, if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact me, Dick Horstman [rhurst6970@aol.com](mailto:rhurst6970@aol.com).



**BORDER ACTIONS TO CONSIDER...**

Vicki Simon – Returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner

**Participate in a border immersion experience:**

Learn about life at the Border in a 4-5 day immersion experience.

- The Encuentro Project, a Jesuit sponsored immersion program in El Paso/Juarez, considers groups of 12-15. Contact Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ ([rafaelgarciasj@gmail.com](mailto:rafaelgarciasj@gmail.com)), for more information and your group's interest and needs.
- The Loretto Community's Latin American and Caribbean Committee (<https://www.lorettocommunity.org/>) coordinates a Border experience trip each year out of Tucson, AZ, to Nogales.

There are many other such programs offered throughout the US.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers who can stay two weeks or longer are needed. Spanish is helpful, but many jobs do not require Spanish. If you decide to apply, go in good health and well-rested as the days are intense and long. Log on to Annunciation House of Hospitality (<https://annunciationhouse.org>) for up-to-date information, the application process, and forms.

**Financial donations:** Financial donations are needed urgently rather than specific items so they can buy exactly what they need, responding to the changing needs of our guests. Make donations payable to Annunciation House and mail to 815 Myrtle Avenue, El Paso, TX 79901, or donate via their website.

**Local opportunities:** If you cannot travel or volunteer at this time, get involved locally in organizations working with recently arrived refugees and migrants.

**Write and contact:** Send letters to your state representatives. Send letters and post on social media, sharing what you know about Immigration matters and current anti-immigration bills.



Photo by Bob Doyle

**YOU BELONG\***

*Chapters, consider creating your own welcome statement for use when inviting others to join you in actualizing your vision.*



We would like to let you know that you belong...

- People of African, Asian, European, or First Nations descent, and people of mixed and multiple descents. We say, "**You belong.**"
- People along the continuum of gender identity and expression: gay, bisexual, heterosexual, transgender, cisgender, or queer folks, and everyone for whom those labels don't apply. We say, "**You belong.**"
- Bodies with abilities and challenges, living with chronic medical conditions, visible or invisible, mental or physical. We say, "**You belong.**"
- People who are activists and those who aren't. Mystics, believers, seekers of all kinds. People of all ages. We say, "**You belong.**"
- Your emotions: joy, fear, grief, contentment, disappointment, surprise, and all else that flows through you. We say, "**You belong.**"
- Your families, genetic and otherwise. Those dear to us who have died. Our ancestors and the future ones. The ancestors who lived where these buildings are now . . . we honor you through this work that we are undertaking. We say, "**You belong.**"
- People who feel broken, lost, struggling; who suffer from self-doubt and self-judgment. We say, "**You belong.**"
- *All beings that inhabit this earth, human or otherwise: the two-legged, the four-legged, winged and finned, those that walk, fly, and crawl, above the ground and below, in air and water.* We say, "**You belong.**"



\*Adapted from "Diversity Welcome," which is made available for download by Training for Change, [https://www.trainingforchange.org/training\\_tools/diversity-welcome/](https://www.trainingforchange.org/training_tools/diversity-welcome/), along with a long list of other tools for workshops.

# News from the Board

## JOHN MORITZ: OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

I joined the Affiliate Board in November of 2018. My chapter, Northeast Florida, was nurtured by Fr. Bob Carleton, MM; beginning our initial formation in 2009, we became a chapter in 2011. As the test case for the Affiliate Formation Program, we underwent an arduous nearly two years of reading, watching, discussing, and discerning. I was initially attracted to the Affiliates despite never having met a Maryknoller prior to our formation, though I generally knew of Maryknoll by their reputation for early mission efforts.

I have been involved in ministries for most of my adult life. I had attended a Cursillo retreat in 1975 and was active for about 25 years. After that, my wife, Mary and I have worked in marriage preparation ministry to this day. Early in my involvement, I was concerned that our ministry did not mirror that of most Affiliates, but I was greatly supported by Fr. Jim Madden, who shared my concern for marriage and assured me that what we were doing was completely consistent with being an Affiliate.



**John shares his electrical skills during a November 2018 Affiliate mission effort—helping refurbish a flooded mobile home south of Houston.**

Upon becoming an Affiliate, I agreed to co-coordinate the Southeast region with Mary. We attended the 2011 MAC, which solidified my commitment to the Affiliates. As RCs, we have made varied and often not so successful attempts to spread the Affiliate message in our region. Also, as a survivor of the Affiliate Formation Program, I was asked to help revise the program to make it more appropriate for initial chapter use and for individual formation. Truthfully, despite some limitations, I thought the program was great!

I am willing to contribute what gifts I have to the Affiliate movement. I believe that we Affiliates have an opportunity to be a vital element of mission in the future. How this evolves is in process. I have never thought about myself as a board member type of person. When people start talking about amending the minutes of the last board meeting, my eyes glaze over, I see in black and white, and all the words become blah, blah, blah. Nevertheless, I look forward to participating in the servant leadership of the Maryknoll Affiliate Board.



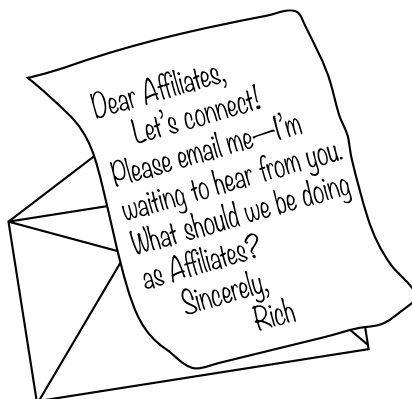
Hello Affiliates,

Last Fall, as the new Affiliate Board Chair, I emphasized two characteristics of a successful movement—connection and communication. These are equally related to the Affiliate Board's key responsibilities, namely:

- to discover and embrace the wisdom and ever emerging life of the Affiliate movement, and
- to engage in deep listening with the wider Affiliate movement.

It would be difficult to achieve these without connection and communication. Considering the nature and loose structure of the Affiliates, to be successful will require that both Affiliate leaders and members commit to dialogue. I can't emphasize this enough!

As my personal commitment to this dialogue, I want to keep reaching out and connecting with Affiliates. All Affiliates and/or Chapters are invited to participate. If you are reading this, you are invited. Participation



can be one-on-one conversations or connecting during a Chapter meeting. We can connect by phone or on the internet, via Zoom video conferencing or Skype. If okay, I'd like to expand this connection by inviting another Board member and/or Regional Coordinator to the call, as well.

To participate in this dialogue, please email me at [rlessard@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rlessard@maryknollaffiliates.org)

so we can arrange the particulars. This will be an ongoing effort, so expect reminders in the future.

These conversations are just one way to enjoy mutual dialogue and engagement between leadership and the wider Affiliate movement. I hope you can join with me in this effort. Let's have morning coffee or a nightcap together!

Blessings,  
*Rich Lessard, Affiliate Board Chair*



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