



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

March/April 2020

Volume 29 Number 2

QUO VADIS SUCCESS AT LE MOYNE COLLEGE

Santa Orlando – Albany, NY Chapter

Quo Vadis, Latin for *Where are you going?*, is an Affiliate program designed to help returnees from an immersion trip (most often college students) to process and incorporate the experience into their lives going forward.

Santa Orlando and a team from the Albany Chapter met in February with 30 students from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY, to help them process their immersion trips to Jamaica, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic. This Day of Discernment helped the students recall the surprises, events, and gifts that will forever remain etched upon their hearts. Affiliates believe post-reflection is an important aspect of cultural immersion trips. Many programs prepare groups prior to their trips, but don't plan time to process the experience after returning. *Quo Vadis* provides this service to groups returning from immersion trips to encourage them to share their experience with others who have taken trips such as these and have been changed by the experience.




An Albany Affiliate team of six facilitated this day, encouraging the students to remember events that touched them, to share these experiences with those present, and to let the experiences speak to them in the silence of their hearts. The students were thoroughly engaged throughout the day, sharing with each other in pairs, small groups and large group discussions. We felt privileged to hear their stories, many of which brought back similar memories of immersion trips that we ourselves have taken.

Students shared moments of joy: being welcomed like family by residents of their host country, or dancing and celebrating with children and entire communities.

They embraced being out of their comfort zone by tossing aside fear of the other and instead celebrating the commonalities. Many students wished our country would value relationships more than schedules. They were surprised at seeing armed guards everywhere, and the fact that it made the locals feel safer, whereas the presence of increased armed personnel in our country causes fear and anxiety. The students commented on how the political decisions in one country have a great effect on the lives of the people in other countries; no country exists in isolation.

Some students expressed sadness to realize that they were feeling isolated and alone upon returning home. At most they receive a nod of the head in passing, instead of a connecting touch, a warm and authentic greeting. They have seen for themselves that material things do not necessarily bring joy.

Most students plan to have more cross-cultural interactions in the future. The worldwide concerns that they have studied have now become very real and personal. The students are a positive reflection of Le Moyne's academic education, as well as proof of the spiritual and organizational prowess of their campus ministry director, Ms. Alice Zicardi.

The Quo Vadis* program, developed by Bill Murphy and other Affiliates, is adaptable and flexible so it can speak to groups of various ages. We encourage other Affiliate chapters to reach out to groups who take immersion trips to promote the program. The Albany Affiliate team was deeply touched by being present to the students and sharing their experiences. We also spoke of the Affiliate Pillars: Spirituality, Community, Action, and Global Vision. Know that the Maryknoll Affiliate charism is alive and well. 

*Contact Bill Murphy (jbzmurphy@rcn.com) for more information.

ONE'S OWN COUNTRY

What makes Maryknoll Affiliates so exceptional? Generosity? Deep spirituality? Openness to new ideas? Love for our neighbors? Willingness to take action? Global Vision?

Articles in this NSFA issue show Affiliates sharing their Global Vision through the Quo Vadis program and by helping at Maryknoll church dates in the US. We see Affiliates open to new ideas with immigrants and nonviolence. Others take action by forming communities and extended families abroad. Affiliates are all called to rise above the clamor of the comfortable simplicity of a litmus test and see that our Global Vision connects us in a complex web. I'm reminded that every complex problem has a simple answer—and it's **WRONG!**

What can we be doing, especially in this interim time of changing eras? As people of Love and Action Affiliates can be a yeast that spreads though the world prioritizing the common good. Can we reframe a narrow issue? How do we bring others to our big, complex table?

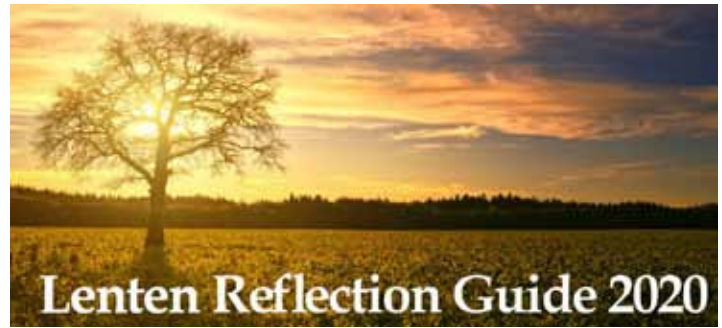
Please tell us at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org about your and your chapter's special outreach with those for whom dedication to a particular focused issue obscures the big us. May the Affiliates Global Vision guide these actions in our own country.



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.



WHAT IS YOUR THEME FOR LENT?

The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns encourages us to examine and deepen our lives with their 2020 Lenten Reflection Guide (<https://maryknollogc.org/article/lenten-reflection-guide-2020>), which offers weekly reflections on ecological conversion.

Or you may feel drawn to a theme from past years, such as **nonviolence** (maryknollogc.org/resources/lenten-reflection-guide-2018).

While you're on the MOGC website, you might take a few minutes to see what other resources are available. For example, Sr. Ann Braudis's meditations on the solar eclipse and the autumnal equinox are listed.



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.

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A MARYKNOLL PARTNERSHIP

Carolyn Creighton – Seattle Chapter

For many years Maryknoll has had a missionary cooperative agreement with the Seattle Archdiocese. Maryknoll priests come to educate regarding mission work by sharing their personal experiences during Mass. In a three-year cycle, most parishes set aside one weekend during the summer for this missionary visit to learn about the overseas work of the Church.

The Seattle Archdiocese provides the list of parishes desiring a Maryknoll priest's visit, as well as the dates and parishes to which they have been matched. Most priests stay overnight at Maryknoll House and have use of the house car. Usually the priest will take the supplies (*Maryknoll Magazine*, donation envelopes, pencils, brochures, etc.) with him. Sometimes Maryknoll House ships the supplies to the parish in advance. The number of Masses served on the weekends—from three to six or seven—can sometimes be overwhelming for a single priest.

Three years ago, the Seattle Affiliates decided to partner with the visiting priests by helping to alleviate some of their work load at the parish level. We only assist at the parishes within the greater Seattle area and the Portland Affiliates assist at parishes in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington, area.

At our May Affiliate chapter meeting, the master list of parishes and assigned priests is laid out. Affiliates sign up for parishes near their home or with a priest they know personally. They usually sign up for two parishes; even then,

some parishes do not have Affiliates partnering with a Maryknoll priest. And sometimes Affiliates cannot help at every Mass.

Last year, to “recruit” interest in the Affiliates, we inserted a flyer with information about the Seattle Affiliates into 500 or so Maryknoll Affiliate brochures. We had a competition—two priests, Father Bob Wynn, MM, Maryknoll House and visiting Father Bob Carlton, MM, versus the Affiliates—to see who could fold their flyers and put them into the brochures the fastest. Who would be first? The priests were winning until they were disqualified for improperly folding their flyers! Great fun!

How do we partner? We...

- ARRIVE at the parish early and greet the priest when he arrives.
- HELP carry in the boxes of pamphlets, set up tables with literature, and place donation envelopes in the pews .
- MEET & GREET parishioners. We often stand out by the sidewalk, ahead of the parish greeters.
- STAND at back of the church at the start of Mass, as the priest will usually introduce the Affiliates. During Mass, we talk with other parishioners.

We do not attend every Mass!

- PASS OUT *Maryknoll Magazine* and Affiliate flyers. If ushers do this, we stand by the table, available for questions. Some priests personally hand out the *Maryknoll Magazine*.

- RESTOCK donation envelopes and brochures for the next Mass.

- REBOX supplies after the last Mass for return to Maryknoll House. And last, but not least,

- EAT! After Saturday evening Mass, the priest and we Affiliates are hungry. Often we go out to dinner “Dutch treat,” to a pizza or burger place.

By Sunday evening, everyone is exhausted. The priest usually heads directly to Maryknoll House or the airport. The priests, delighted to have our assistance, give fantastic feedback. In turn, we Affiliates are happy to partner with other Maryknoll missionaries. New friendships emerge. That's Mission in Action!



FOX CITIES IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

*Nancy Bourassa – Fox Cities Chapter,
Task Force Chair*



ESTHER is a faith-based organization working for social justice. Four members of its Immigration Task Force are Fox Valley Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter members. Kathleen Gribble, chapter coordinator, has offered her home for asylum seekers waiting for their court date.


The ESTHER Immigration Task Force has evolved over the years into a wide-reaching group with ties to many groups in the community and beyond. Currently, we are working on auto insurance for undocumented immigrants, we are educating the community through entertainment, we gather and share information about conditions on the border, and we advocate for local immigrants in abusive situations.

Safe Roads is an initiative aimed at culminating in a bill that will allow our undocumented immigrants to be tested to drive legally and carry insurance. A few members of our task force are working on the bill with other groups around the state. It would be a win/win for the state but is still meeting with opposition.

The task force’s educational arm continues with Voices of Hope, a 45-minute Readers Theater that tells the stories of local immigrants: their journey here and struggles in the community. Music, stories, and commentaries throughout the performance make it an enlightening presentation. Immigration Simulation, a hands-on, two-and-a-half-hour, interactive process lets participants live out four days in the life of immigrants in our area.

We have spoken with several people who have been to the border to help those crossing the border into this country. We have sponsored a presentation by one group, we heard some horrific stories of conditions from someone who worked in the detention centers, and we saw an illuminating PowerPoint presentation about a very recent trip. Some of us have conferred with people working on the border to improve the lives of those suffering these unbelievable conditions.

We sometimes get involved with individual cases. Melissa, a task force member and immigrant herself, took the USCIS course (<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/educators/training-seminars>) to help our undocumented with their paperwork. Working out of Casa ESTHER in Omro as a Legal Immigration Advocate, she will be helping those trying to apply for a legal status in the US, a very daunting task. Another ESTHER member was contacted by a young man working on a large farm about an hour from here. After personal meetings and hearing his story of abuse, firing, and removal from his residence, ESTHER people are working to get him a U Visa, which gives those who have been abused legal residency. The young man who did not know where to turn is now on his way to a permanent status.

We meet monthly at a local church and invite interested citizens to join us in our efforts for a better life for our immigrant families. This year we are working on the census and voter registration. 




A LETTER FROM NICARAGUA

Kitty Madden – Affiliate

As I continue my time-of-life review and recycling, I am grateful for the opportunities I have had these past 34 years to document

my experiences with the Sandinista revolution of the 80s and also our accompaniment of Nicaraguan women and families through 27 years of Casa Materna Mary Ann Jackman in the northern highlands of Matagalpa.

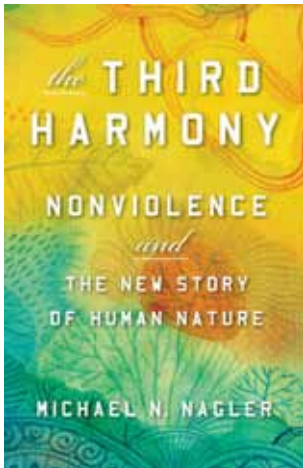
The ending of the Casa in December of 2017 seemed to be an early example of the government’s desire to do away with or strongly control all nongovernmental organizations. We are just grateful that we were able to attend close to 18,000 women with high risk pregnancies and contribute greatly to the reduction of maternal deaths in Nicaragua. Of the Casa mothers, there were only two maternal deaths, neither of which happened in the Casa.

I apologize that I am not able to send an update on Nicaragua for the Affiliate NSFA newsletter at this time, but I am looking forward to sharing my perspective with any interested Affiliates when we gather for MAC 2020 in New York in June. I send gratitude to all of you for continuing to hold the people of Nicaragua in your prayers. 

NONVIOLENCE EXPERT SPEAKS TO OUR CHAPTER

Marie Wren – North Bay California Chapter

On Saturday, January 11, Affiliates from the San Francisco-North Bay Chapter and their friends (19 in all) gathered at Bob and Nancy McFarland's home to hear an inspirational talk and video by Professor Michael Nagler, followed by questions and answers. Professor Nagler, cofounder of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at UC Berkeley, received an international award for promoting Gandhian Values Outside India. He has authored several books, including *The Search for a Nonviolent Future*, and speaks on peace and nonviolence in many venues. Founder and president of the board of the Metta Center for Non-Violence Education in Petaluma, he is a student of Sri Eknath Easwaran and also founded the Blue Mountain Center of Meditation, where he lives.



We sat spellbound as Nagler talked about his new book, *The Third Harmony: Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature*, which comes out in March, to be followed by a film of the same name (see Thirdharmony.org), with coverage on social media and PBS. The first harmony is with the universe, the second with nature and the third is the harmony within us and among us as

human beings.

He talked about “the old story” of human beings, which is materialistic, promotes separateness, isolation,

and competition; exploits the environment, leading to climate crisis; gives rise to dictators; dominates, destroys, and leads to reaction. It's about war and violence, poverty and scarcity. Today's mass media news mostly deals with the old story.

The “new story” is about consciousness, humans as spiritual beings, helping others, cooperation and collaboration, interconnectedness, and the convergence of modern science and spirituality. The new story is about nonviolence as a way of life—it is the only method that can get us to a new paradigm. Violence cannot change hearts, but in the presence of nonviolence, hostility falls away.

Nagler recommends:

- Avoid mass media – it alienates us (go to alternative sources for news, of which he is compiling a list)
- Learn nonviolence
- Have a spiritual practice, which increases knowledge of self and the universe and decreases fear.
- Tell the story of nonviolence in actions and words, where it can do the most good,
- You were born with a role, find it, do it with the right means, and don't be attached to the results.

As a group, we were very moved by his stories of how nonviolent approaches stopped violent attacks and turned people around. Two films were mentioned as related and worth seeing: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* and *A Hidden Life* (about Franz Jägerstätter's resistance to serving under Hitler—it is inspiring and beautiful).



North Bay-San Francisco Chapter Affiliates and friends. Professor Nagler is 3rd from the left.

THE RIGHT TO STAY IN ONE’S OWN COUNTRY

Steve Barrett – Guatemala Chapter

Steve has been in Guatemala for most of the last 40 years, working in education. Since 1989, he has collaborated with CEIPA as their educational consultant.

Frequently, in the context of the current worldwide immigration nightmare, the right of people to stay in their own countries and the obligation of the governments of those countries to fulfill their most basic human rights do not receive as much attention as they should.

The Ecumenical Center for Pastoral Integration (CEIPA) in Quetzaltenango, in the southwestern region of Guatemala, has been working to defend the rights of working children and adolescents since 1989. Children and adolescents, most of them of Maya-K’iche’ or Maya-Mam ethnicity, become well versed in their rights through a critical pedagogy on which the three programs that comprise CEIPA are based: education, socio-productive training (vocational workshops), and political advocacy. Children and adolescents are learning to become active citizens who work for change in their country. The three programs offer a wide range of opportunities for children and youth.

Working children and youth who have aged out of the public-school system attend CEIPA’s three elementary schools,

one of them located in the largest market of Quetzaltenango. Many students work there or in the adjoining bus terminal. Classes for 7th through 9th grades, referred to as “básico” in Guatemala, are available on the grounds of the organization. Students in the elementary program range from 9 to 17 years; those in the básico program are from 13 to the early 20s. Students in the weekday program attend classes from 1:30-5:30, which does not interfere with their work schedules. CEIPA also offers a weekend program for youth at both the elementary and básico levels. Students in this program do not have the luxury of attending school during the week because of their work obligations but are able to attend classes all day on Saturdays.



These students are engaged in CEIPA’s year-long cooking workshop.

Through CEIPA’s educational program, this graduate just finished the 9th grade, quite a feat for most youth in Guatemala.



The vocational education program offers a variety of workshops that students attend for an entire year. Many of the participants in this program come from the surrounding municipalities and rural communities and did not attend one of the CEIPA schools. The workshop offerings have varied over the years, according to the shifting needs of the local economy. At the closing of the 2019 school year (classes in Guatemala begin in January and end in October, but in CEIPA they end in November), some 120 youth concluded workshops in cooking, baking, confectionery, sewing and dressmaking, and cosmetology. Those who have successfully finished the program now have two options for the coming year: they may receive support in finding work in their fields in established businesses, or they may receive supervision over a period of several months while starting and maintaining their own small businesses.

CEIPA staff members who work in the political advocacy program divide their time among three subprograms:

- The formation and maintenance of children’s and youth councils that work alongside local government in several municipalities advocating for youth rights;
- The human rights school, in which approximately 13,000 children and youth have participated since its inception in 2010; and
- The writing of public policy to defend the rights of children and youth.



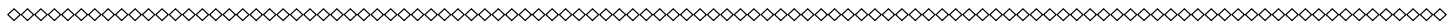
Young people participate in a group community- building activity in CEIPA’s “socio-productivo” program.

Standing up for children and youth is particularly important in Guatemala, where 51% of the population is under age 18 and 70% is under age 30. Add to this that the average grade level completed is fifth grade elementary and that half of the population under age 5 is malnourished— the sixth highest rate of child malnutrition in the world. In all three programs at CEIPA, students examine and question the context in which they live and seek solutions to their problems. It is very much a pedagogy of questions, as Paulo Freire stated in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*.

For more information, you may contact me at stevebxela@gmail.com. You can also check out the website at ceipa-ac.org.



Certificates on completion of a CEIPA vocational program help students qualify for jobs.



GAIL FORMS A MISSION COMMUNITY

Gloria Tan – Comunidad Santa Maria Chapter

I have known Gail since 2010, when she came to train us to be Maryknoll Affiliate missionaries. She was very dedicated and optimistic about forming a new chapter of Hispanic ladies, the only Spanish-speaking chapter in the US. She didn’t mind driving two hours from Raleigh and was always on time and ready for the meeting.

On April 30, 2011, we had our covenant signing with special guests Father Robert Kus and Father David

LaBuda. After that, she called often to see how the chapter was doing and to advise us on different subjects that we could work on. She always made sure that we were treated with respect. In 2011, I had the opportunity to go with her to the Maryknoll Affiliate Conference in New York.

As the chapter grew, she knew that all the new members needed to know what Maryknoll means and what we were doing. So she came on weekends to make sure everyone could assist in new-member orientations. She explained how Father Price founded this mission and how fortunate we were to be in the place where he grew up. After the short training, we renewed our vows at the church. It was a very emotional moment.

Teresa Mariche is a newer member of the chapter. Teresa said about Gail, “She was a great example. She always inspired me to do my best. In spite of knowing her very little, I cared a lot for her. We will always remember her and miss her. May she rest in peace.”



**TANZANIA PARTY:
MARYKNOLL VALUES LIVE ON**

Roger Schiltz – Seattle Chapter

Ellen McDonald was quoted in the January NSFA, “Maryknoll is like a visible symbol of a whole set of values. ... At the same time, the personal vocation of each has taken Maryknoll out to places where we might not have gone.”

Kitty and I gathered young people together from Musoma area who we knew when we were Maryknoll Lay Missionaries. **Melkiadi**, MD, selected the restaurant. It was in a well-to-do neighborhood where customers were having their Sunday morning espresso coffee and morning snack. We ate a lot more than that.

We had first met Melkiadi after Mass in Musoma, Tanzania. He asked us, “Do you think a person can live like St. Francis today?” He was one of the very few fifth-grade children who could even attempt to speak English. We asked him to help with our teaching of

And could we help her two brothers who were AIDS orphans, too? Salome graduated in December with a degree in Human Resources. She has a son, **Willis**, age six, and is expecting a child at the moment. Her brother Frank graduated December 2019 with a degree in engineering. He is helping his sister Salome with some finances. He is looking for work.

Modi is attending Montessori College and is pursuing a degree in early childhood education. She teaches in the mornings and has classes in the afternoon. She is totally into teaching. She is a very good teacher now, and I see her as a teacher of teachers in the future. Modi and her cousin were the first AIDS orphans we met in Musoma. We were with them when both of their mothers died of AIDS.

All of the above have been influenced by Maryknoll. Maryknoll Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Missioners have made their presence known in the Musoma area community. Today, Fathers, Sisters, and lay Tanzanians carry on that whole Maryknoll set of values. Their vocations will take Maryknoll out

to places in the future where we might not have gone.



Modi, Salome, Willis, and Melkiadi, with Affiliates Roger and Kitty Schiltz

reading and math. He was great with children. He is now a medical doctor, a pediatrician.

We met **Salome** in 2004. She brought over 300 AIDS orphans to the celebration of The Day of the African Child. Sister Marion Hughes, MM, got us together. We asked Salome’s grandparents if we could help her with finances to take extra lessons after school to prepare her for Secondary school. Her grandmother said, “No.” Grandmother’s reasoning was that she needed Salome for cooking and caring for the house.

So was this a Maryknoll Affiliate party?

Almost forgot! We spoiled Salome’s little boy Willis with all the food he could eat, including a huge bowl of ice cream.





CONFUSED CATHOLICS CALLED TO RISE ABOVE

Al Drinkwine – Seattle Chapter

My soul is Catholic
My mind so confused,
How can limited,
Single-minded Catholics
Our world family so abuse

Having lost an infant
Through miscarry,
And a son
Due to untreated mental health,
The pain of love lost
I leave on no shelf

If abortion,
And sexual discrimination,
are the main issues
On which a president is elected,
Many moldy minds
Need to be disinfected

What about those
Who die at our border,
Due to warped moral values
Of a presidential, glory hoarder

And there are our homeless,
Increasing in numbers,
With no place to live
Or safely slumber

Add to the unacceptable pile
Our victims of endless conflicts,
So the military-industrial complex
Can reap financial benefits

My soul is Catholic
My mind so confused,
How can limited,
Single-minded Catholics
Our world family so abuse

As a cradle-Catholic
No need for confusion,
From the cradle to the cross
Christ, cast no elusion

His love
Not exclusive,
Or abusive,
His life's message
Remains totally inclusive

No single issue
Dominated His love,
His blended message,
Calls us, to rise above

EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL READINGS

Paula Schaffner – CA Central Coast Chapter

A Review of *God Lifts – Everyday Gifts**

By Patty Ward, Mary Moritz, and Peggy Wescott

I was delighted to receive a copy of this book from Mary Moritz after she mentioned that she and two of her sisters had collaborated on it. Mary, the Affiliates' Southeast Regional Coordinator, has always spoken incisively, and her clear thinking shines through in her writing.

Thinking I would like to post a review, I had two problems with this book.

The first was that I didn't want to just read it from front to back; it's a book to be savored in daily sips. So I decided to spend three weeks reading the first seven entries from each sister. The second problem is that there are not enough entries for a full year. This lack can only be solved by starting over from the beginning once I have read all 183 entries, which would probably be very worthwhile.

I have read other collections of spiritual readings, such as in Lenten or Advent guides, and always had to work to put myself into the author's frame of reference. *God Lifts – Everyday Gifts* speaks to my lifestyle; all three authors share memories or situations they encountered as parents, grandparents, or members of communities, and I immediately recognize where they are coming from. Then they find God in those small events of their daily lives. They show me how a precocious grandchild can reflect the goodness of God, or how an insect in the car can be God's gift of slowing one down enough to avoid a collision.

The final line on each reading is a *text, whisper, or smile*—a message of a few words, how they imagine God would respond to their reflection, making it feel more like a two-way conversation.

Now, as I continue reading the rest of the stories, I am learning to recognize God's presence in my own simple, everyday experiences. God speaks to each of us in languages we can understand.

*Sold on Amazon: [amazon.com/s?k=god+Lifts+Everyday+Gifts&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=god+Lifts+Everyday+Gifts&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss)



**OUR CHAPTER RETREAT:
A NEW TRADITION**

Mary Moritz – Northeast FL Chapter



Hearing about other Affiliate chapters holding retreats inspired me to ask our Northeast Florida Affiliates if they would like to hold a one-day retreat at our cottage, located one hour south of Jacksonville. Everyone responded with enthusiasm. Our chapter had last gone on retreat in 2014, and we all felt the desire to do this again, even if just for one day.

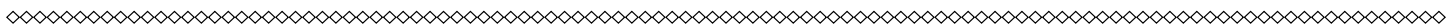
We invited Monsignor Vincent Haut, a local retired priest, to lead us in our retreat and were excited that he was able to do so. After comparing calendars,

we determined that everyone could participate on the last Saturday in October. As it turned out, one couple ended up unable to attend due to a funeral, but nine of us (plus one very sweet dog!) gathered with Monsignor at the cottage.

We began the day with each attendee describing what brought them to Maryknoll. Monsignor is a gifted spiritual leader who focused on the promises Jesus made to us about the Holy Spirit, as reported in John’s Gospel. We alternated between meeting all together and splitting up to discuss the latest lesson two-by-two. The weather was beautiful, leading us to spend a lot of time outdoors, enjoying God’s creation as we nurtured our souls.

We also nurtured our bodies. Each person brought a bag lunch to minimize meal preparation duties. We ended the actual retreat with a beautiful Eucharist around the cottage table. Then John and Mary prepared a simple supper for those who were able to stay longer.

I thank all the chapters that inspired me to plan this retreat. Everyone who attended was blessed by the day we shared, and it is safe to say that our chapter has a new tradition!



**AT MAC2020:
TALK WITH THOSE WHO WALK THE TALK**

One of the most exciting things about attending the Maryknoll Affiliate Conferences (MACs) is the opportunity to talk with people about what is happening in the countries where they live. While you’re at the MAC, don’t miss visiting with these people:

- Kitty Madden – Having spent the last 34 years in Nicaragua, Kitty can fill you in on current conditions there.
- Renate Schneider – To learn what Haiti is like these days, Renate can report on changes since her article in the January NSFA.
- Peruvian Affiliates – Several have applied for visas. (Pray for their success.)
- Rosa Beatriz, Rosa Maria de Leon, and Anabella Penados – They can talk about various aspects of mission in Guatemala.
- Sun Shil Theresa Kim – She can speak to what it means to be an Affiliate in South Korea.
- Fred and Jet Goddard –What has our previous executive coordinator been doing in Philippines?



There will probably be even more worldwide representatives, not to mention folks from other regions of the US.

Be sure to enhance your global vision by attending MAC 2020 and joining in the conversation. Better yet, enrich that conversation by encouraging other Affiliates you know to attend as well.

For details and to register, go to www.mkmac.org.



News from the Board

THE AFFILIATES' INTERIM TIME

*Bob Short – Executive Coordinator,
MAC 2020 Committee member*

At some juncture in our lives, a good number of us have dithered over what would be a fitting, engaging title for a term paper, article, or workshop. It can be a grueling process. In one moment, there's inspiration, and the next, exasperation; bouts of energy, then tedium; feelings of "I've got it" followed in short measure by doubt. So it was with the title for MAC 2020: Witnessing Love in the Interim Time.

Witnessing Love was an easy sell. But several on the MAC 2020 team initially asked what the heck "Interim Time" meant. Ultimately, we all came to see that this phrase, inspired by John O'Donohue's poem, *For the Interim Time*, was actually key to understanding the place we find ourselves in these days. You might have an intuitive sense of this yourself. Something is fundamentally different. As posted on the website a few weeks back, Pope Francis said, "...it's not an era of change, but a change of eras."

Everything about MAC 2020 is meant to help us see how to love in chaotic, seemingly random times. The first sentence of the synopsis of Nancy Sylvester's keynote reads: "How do we witness to Love in a time of chaos when all our structures and systems are

breaking down?" Nancy promises that she'll look at this from a contemplative place that will bring a sense of peace and perspective. So, it's not a glum, gloomy, depressing exploration that'll make you want to pack a bottle of Prozac. In the end, we think there's a good chance that a genuine sense of joy will emerge.

The five workshops on Friday afternoon – Community, Influencing Public Policy, Caring for the Earth, Seeking Shelter, and Communication & Courageous Conversations speak to the Affiliates' Four Pillars in this context. The Open Space session and the time set aside for discussing where we are as an Affiliate Movement provide a personally focused look. Perhaps

the most illuminating and evocative take will be on display in the segment with the younger generation on Saturday morning, a first for any MAC. Iliia Delio wrote, "They are born into a world that has been rewiring and rerouting its planetary circuits since the beginning of the twentieth century... personal identity is relational rather than self-reflective... community, authenticity, and transparency are especially important." (*Birth of a Dancing Star*, pp. 189-90).

In the end, odds are that the best learning about how to witness love in this crazy time will come from

our relationships as we move about the corridors and outside spaces at Graymoor, listening and conversing with each other from a place of profound respect. In the end, isn't it in relationship (the relational nature of just about everything) wherein the deepest learning takes place?!



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Once again, a rich slate of powerful speakers is offered. To view the programs available from May 10th through July 31, 2020, go to maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute/.

If you're in New York for MAC 2020, a week at the MMI would be a valuable add-on. You may register online or request an application form by:

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