

Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

September/October 2020

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FORMING A NEW KIND OF AFFILIATE CHAPTER

Gerald and Marita Grudzen – Kenyan Chapter

The goals of the hybrid Kenyan Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter, with members based in Kenya, Germany, and the United States, are twofold: to build a spiritual community within the Maryknoll Covenant, with members who are Muslim and Christian, through our in-person meetings and virtual meetings; and to focus on the strength and needs of Kenya within an interfaith context.

This international Maryknoll Affiliate chapter grew out of an interfaith ministry begun in Kenya by Gerry and Marita Grudzen with Christians and Muslims supported by Maryknoll Lay Missioner Judy Walter and Father Wilybard Lagho, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Mombasa. Gerry's doctoral studies focused on historical interfaith relations between Muslims and Christians. In our first visit to Kenya, Gerry was invited to give several trainings for the priests, religious, and seminarians. This connected us with several key individuals who wanted and have become integral to this Affiliate group.

After returning every August for six years to further develop and implement this interfaith training, we acknowledged that a spiritual community was forming around this work. In 2017, we began to explore forming an Affiliate chapter that would provide the opportunity to share more deeply our different religious traditions and support interfaith understanding and apply it in new ways.

With the encouragement of local Maryknollers and the Affiliate leadership, we proceeded to ask people of both religious traditions we knew well and worked with if they would be interested in joining a new group of Maryknoll Affiliates specific to Kenyans and partners in US and Europe. We went on to explain the Four Pillars of the Affiliate Movement and how they would be integrated into our meetings. Frank Pisciotta and Genie Florczyk have invested a great deal in the development of the chapter, always participating in the Affiliate meetings.

We had five meetings in 2017 and 2018 with our fledging, growing Affiliate group. We applied to be an Affiliate Chapter on the Feast of Epiphany in 2019. Richard Lessard, Bob Short, and Fr. Russ Feldmeier, MM, worked with us to adapt a Maryknoll Affiliate Covenant for our Christian/Muslim Affiliate group.

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In Mombasa, Munira Faraz distributes soap and masks bought with Kenyan Affiliate donations.

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MOVING FORWARD

We pray for your health during this challenging, viral summer. In this issue, Guatemalan Affiliate Marcela Gereda counsels, “Let this virus be the virus of transformation and human consciousness. May it be love that moves us...”

We are the Maryknoll Affiliate *movement* immersed in a Movement of Movements. Even, or perhaps especially, during the pandemic, many Affiliates have been moved by Back Lives Matter to address racism. While we work to liberate ourselves from the effects of racism, an article about St. Mary Magdalene reminds us of parallels with the treatment of women in the Church. Orbis Books, the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, JustFaith, Pax Christi, Pace e Bene, and Maryknoll Affiliates, all provide us many timely resources on anti-racism and nonviolence.

Read also about the Affiliate chapters in Kenya and Guatemala as examples for our movement’s future. Quo Vadis, an Affiliate project for those returning from an immersion, explores a key Maryknoll charism—hospitality. Indeed, would we be experiencing as much racial and environmental injustice in the world if we truly practiced hospitality?

We urge you to **vote** before the next issue, and to send your news to NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com. 

Not So Far Afield (NSFA) is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates and is also available online at MaryknollAffiliates.org. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: The Field Afar. Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners.


Mission Statement: Maryknoll Affiliates, while continuing to pursue their own life’s journey, commit themselves to the mission goals of Maryknoll in the context of Chapters that gather for prayer, reflection, and action. Maryknoll Affiliates challenge one another to witness to mission as a way of life by going beyond borders, locally and globally, walking with the poor and excluded, and striving for peace and justice for all of God’s creation.

For further information, see MaryknollAffiliates.org or contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email Affiliatebshort@gmail.com, or write to:

Maryknoll Affiliates
P.O. Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

THINGS AFFILIATES CAN DO ABOUT RACISM



- Do not be silent. Speak up and speak out when you see or hear things that are unfair. Talk with family members and find ways to include children in age appropriate ways.
- Build relationships with people who look different than we do.
- Create goals as a church community/family/yourself around diversity and inclusion.
- Vote! Make your voice heard in our government.
- Accept and acknowledge white privilege and believe that the experiences of others are as true as your own.
- Be bold and clear on what your household represents with respect to inclusion and diversity.
- Never stop learning. For years, white people have had the option to be ignorant of the truth of our racist history in our country, our government, businesses, education systems, and churches.
- Look at the language, stories, narratives, **songs** that downplay racism and inequality, think about how to **adopt new versions** that are inclusive.
- Get used to feeling uncomfortable with tough conversations.
- Confess, forgive and love yourself. Know that you will make mistakes but go forward in the world to love boldly and bravely. 

Not So Far Afield Co-Editors:

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

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DISCUSSING RACIAL JUSTICE

Mary Morris Williams – NE Florida Chapter

This summer, Rich Lessard, Maryknoll Affiliate Board Chair, asked regional coordinators to help find facilitators for a reading group focusing on racial issues. Kathee Bautista, Los Angeles Chapter, and I agreed to take on this task. Based on the number of people who came to the first session, we added two small group discussion facilitators—Debbie Kair, New Jersey Chapter, and Mary Moritz, Northeast Florida Chapter.

The group began Zooming on Wednesday, August 5, at 3:00 PM in Florida and 9:00 AM in Hawaii. We had agreed to use one of Rich’s suggestions, a discussion guide developed by the editors of *Sojourners* magazine, “Christians and Racial Justice.” The four-week program, complete with literature, is available at www.sojo.net at no cost.

About 30 people joined our first session, which focused on the theological and spiritual understanding of racism from a Protestant perspective. Many Protestants believe in a continuing spiritual battle between heavenly forces and powerful forces of evil. Principalities or powers are evil forces which we need to recognize and against which we need to fight. This fight is a spiritual one we enter through worship and persistent prayer, conversion, and confession. The first set of articles points out the sins of racism, the idolatry of whiteness, and the assumption of white privilege. Jim Wallis of *Sojourners* tells us that the political battle will be more successful when we “go deeply enough with the spiritual struggle.”

We read that in the early years of the racial justice movement, leaders started in the small black churches with prayer and worship; people were sent out from these churches to engage in demonstrations, sit-ins, or marches. Over time the movement became “more and more a civil rights movement with a largely legislative agenda.” (“Exorcising an American Demon” by Bill Wylie-Kellermann) We can see clearly now that the civil rights movement was not able to go far enough—it changed the laws but it did not change the hearts of the people.

In our second session, we looked at the disparities in justice today that still affect Blacks and other persons of color—gaps in education, health care, criminal justice, housing, and wealth. Whites have enjoyed a privileged position with reliable assets which could be converted to provide education for their children, a secure back-up resource for unexpected problems, and seed money for business ventures. Many Blacks acquired assets like tools, equipment, buildings and livestock but were not able to raise capital against those assets. In some cases, their assets were not protected legally through property registers, land records, or contracts and could not be utilized for improving the lives of the family members (“40 Acres and a Mortgage,” Franklin D. Raines).

As I write this article, we are in the middle of the planned sessions. Kathee and I are preparing to examine articles and discuss Black/white communication. One article for this week examines a modeling method to show better communication skills by using an interracial pair to demonstrate interaction. This method needs careful structure, clear agenda, and skillful facilitators to create the best environment for this type of learning (“Can We Talk?” by Andrea Ayvazian and Beverly Daniel Tatum). The fourth discussion will center on racial reconciliation in the Church.

Kathee Bautista, a Professor of Special Education at the Azusa Pacific University located northeast of Los Angeles, has been our Zoom “guru.” Her familiarity with Zoom and her expertise with PowerPoint have helped immensely in preparing each discussion. I am a retired social worker, therapist, and teacher.



Our discussions have given participants a view of racism across the country through contact with members of other Affiliate groups. These sessions have helped us recognize the injustices that Blacks suffer because of institutional racism and have increased our dedication to work for justice. We encourage participants, and all Affiliates, to continue to pray, listen, study and learn, and then ACT for justice in our world.



Kenyan Affiliate Chapter, continued from page 1

We had to address the practical problems of meeting length, time to meet, limited resources, and technical issues because this Affiliate group was a hybrid. We would meet in Kenya every August when most of us were able to meet in one place and, at other times when several of us were in the US, our meetings were virtual. We hoped that several of those in Kenya could be in one place to provide more of a connection.



After our August meeting, a few of us had a light repast. Clockwise from far left are Rich Tarro, MKLM, Gerry Grudzen, KImani Kibe—Founder of Kenyan Peace Clubs, Munira’s husband, Munira Faraz, Marita Grudzen, Munira’s daughter, and an unidentified Affiliate.

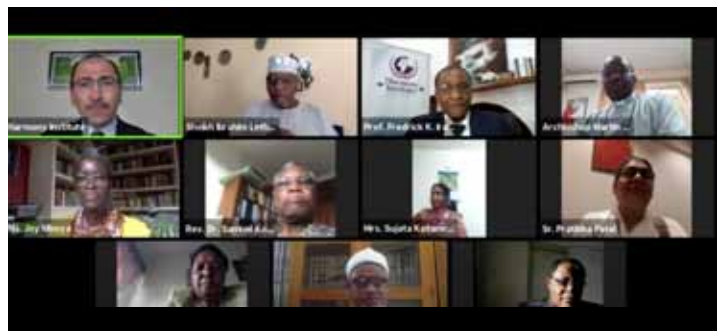
We wanted to continue to build community as much as possible and hoped they might stay on after group meetings, sharing tea and conversation. That did not persist, even though it allowed people who didn’t have computers to be part of the conversation. Sixty minutes was about the longest amount of time for a meeting that most could pay for on cell phones or computer. At first, we used Skype and International Conference Call. Then we turned to our professional Zoom account and WhatsApp. Each approach has



Affiliate Sr. Stella Ocholi, far right, a member of Mary Mother of God Community, has done a great deal to introduce interfaith activities. After working 12 hours that day, she and her religious sister, far left, stop by to visit. Genie Florczyk is on Gerry’s left and Marita is on his right.

its limitations and advantages. Sundays at 5-6pm (Kenyan time) seems to work best across our five time zones.

Our chapter’s focus is always on Kenya and its needs. We elicit the meeting topic from those in Kenya. We send frequent reminders of the day/time, connecting info and topic. Some of our Kenyan members have demanding lives, especially in this era of COVID-19, so they are not always able to join, but most do. One of our goals has been to hand over the planning, agenda, and implementation of the meeting to Kenyans. It has to be their Affiliate group. We provide the Zoom and WhatsApp connections, and Marita takes the minutes, which are then sent out to all the members. Recent topics included aspects of COVID-19: the necessary precautions for all and for the most vulnerable populations, widespread hunger due to restrictions on street sales and daily laborers, and the impact on youth with schools closed; and interfaith education.



“Zooming” on Sunday (August 16), 19 of us gathered for our Kenyan Maryknoll Affiliate meeting which was able to continue for 80 minutes.

Maryknoll Fr. Joseph Healey, a fifty-year-plus veteran missionary who specializes in small Christian communities, regularly participates in our meetings. Another of our Affiliates, Rich Tarro, is a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. He advantageously shows us another example of Maryknoll and has a specific connection with the poor and destitute. As a result, many of us have helped fund his purchase and distribution of food to people who may not have eaten for days. His specific mission is providing an after-school program for AIDS orphans, many of whom are teenagers living in foster homes.

The sense of respect, concern, and trust that has developed in our Affiliate chapter over three years has fostered deep spiritual sharing and collaboration. Parallel to the Kenyan Maryknoll Affiliates’ growth and development is that of ‘Paths to Peace Kenya’ a 40-hour interfaith training for Muslim and Christian school principals. That is another story.





BUILD NEW PATHS OF HOPE*

Marcela Gereda – Guatemala Chapter

Recently, a collective “trip” began in various parts of the world—an inner journey to the center of us. Perhaps it is a descent to Xibalbá (Mayan underworld), to go through our own hells to get out of there victorious, knowing that the answers we have been looking for are within us.

Various sociologists, philosophers and anthropologists who have studied today’s society describe it as “the society of the Ego”. As a society, we cross ourselves and we swear to love our neighbor as ourselves, but in cultural practice we allow individual interest to prevail over collective interest. We take this “save yourself who can” to its ultimate consequences.

Advertising and the media not only invite the individual experience, but they posit putting the individual interest before the collective as a value. Then the culture of placing the “I” in first, second, and third place becomes socially acceptable.

Criminologist Anthony Platt has observed that crimes in the streets of Latin America are not only the result of extreme poverty. They are also the fruit of individualistic ethics.

Faced with the disease that rules the world today, things seem to be different. We need contact, hugging, meeting the infinity of the Other. That Other which we are also.

We were going down the wrong path building a runaway individualistic world. Today, in different voices, we are proposing to retake the community sense of life, because without the collective we do not exist. The coronavirus reminds us of the benefits of putting collective well-being above the immediate satisfaction of this culture of the Self First.

At the ecological level, the need to reduce greenhouse gases has been coming—a forced low-carbon economy. For the first time in many years and in

the face of imminent danger from the spread of the virus, governments are valuing science more than economics, life over production.

What is the meaning of the city without the soul of people? What is the meaning of the water in the fountain if there is no one to listen to its fall? What is the meaning of the world if we do not fill it with love? The coronavirus reminds us that the meaning of our existence is collective and not separate from that of the rest of the species.

“With the heart, words come to the ear in many ways, through many forms, calendars, and geographies. And the fight for life can be one of them.”

– Zapatista Chiapas Indigenous Committee.

May this inner journey remind us that although social life is on hiatus, spring continues. That makes us build a path of fireflies. In this collective internal journey, may we all sow light, may we return to the sense of community, to remembering that we need each other. May the most beautiful part of this internal collective journey be yet to come.

Let this virus be the virus of transformation and human consciousness. May it be love that moves us and may we recognize God in me, in you, in all on earth, and in all that is alive.



*Translated from Marcela Gereda’s article which appeared in *NTLH*’s COVID-19 issue.

MOGC ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Looking for ways to promote anti-racism? Check out what the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns offers. Here are a few examples:

Educational:

- From Pax Christi USA – “Black Lives Matter; Pray, Study, Act” (<https://paxchristiusa.org/>)
- Orbis Books – search on “Black” or “White Supremacy” (<https://Orbisbooks.com>—ask for the Maryknoll Affiliates discount)

Prayer:

- Listen to a prayer vigil for racial justice by the Erie Benedictine Sisters. You can also read along with the program.

Go to: <https://maryknollogc.org/article/resources-anti-racism-work>



QUO VADIS LITE – WELCOME
An Easy Meeting

Based on the extended half-day workshop, “Quo Vadis – Where Are You Going?...The Next Step,” Quo Vadis Lite offers Affiliate chapters a format that can be utilized during an ordinary chapter meeting.



Mexico

The exercises assist individuals in reflecting on cross-cultural immersion experiences they may have had recently or a long time ago—not just international, but also socio-economic, ethnic, or religious encounters within their own country. Affiliate chapters can take advantage of Quo Vadis Lite to remember why many of us became Affiliates.



Thailand

Introduction: Quo Vadis Lite offers some time and space for each of us to reflect on those experiences which created feelings of welcome. Bill Murphy wrote this poem many years after his experience, describing feelings that had never left him.



Namibia

Karibu* – Come on In

*Come - move your feet,
 Take that step
 subdue that fear of being
 different uncomfortable vulnerable.
 Being a stranger goes both ways –
 through the threshold of this hut/home
 new worlds open
 for you
 for them.
 Karibu calls -
 what do you hear?
 what do you do?*

**a Swahili greeting of welcome in East Africa*

The above poem reflects on the poet’s experience of being welcomed in Tanzania, East Africa. Let’s reflect on our experiences of being welcomed.

Exercise #1: How welcome did you feel? [27 min.]

- Take some time to think about the poem and your welcoming experience(s). [2 min.]
- Gather in groups of three. Using the poem, Karibu, as a starting point, discuss your individual experience of welcoming: what in the host culture made you feel comfortable? What made you uncomfortable? [15 min.]
- Individuals are invited to share what they spoke about with the larger group. [10 min.]



Tanzania

Exercise #2 – What surprised you? [6 min.]

Speaking with a person next to you, share with each other one thing that embarrassed, shocked, or surprised when you first arrived in your immersion community. Don't forget about the expectations you had when you came. Then share with the person on your other side.



Haiti

Exercise #3 – Scripture/Faith Sharing [15 min.]

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. look for opportunities to be hospitable. – Romans 12:9-13

- What do you think is the significance of hospitality in the Christian tradition?
- Are you aware of the role of hospitality in the Jewish and or Islamic traditions?
- How does hospitality manifest itself in your Affiliate chapter?

Closing Prayer – Litany of Desire [15 min.]

Who needs your hospitality? How can you show that caring?

- Spend five minutes in silent meditation on these questions.
- Individuals are invited to mention one person or group who needs hospitality and one way they could be welcomed.

• Recite together the **Prayer of St. Francis**:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon.
 Where there is doubt, faith.
 Where there is despair, hope.
 Where there is darkness, light.
 And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, let me not seek so much
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Tanzania

CARING COMMUNITIES

Mary Moritz – NE Florida Chapter

The Northeast Florida Affiliates welcomed Paul Poirrier, Development Director of L’Arche Jacksonville and a longtime friend of Mary and John Moritz, to speak at the July meeting. Paul told us that L’Arche Jacksonville is the only L’Arche community in Florida, one of 17 in the US and 158 worldwide.

Paul explained that Jean Vanier founded the L’Arche communities to serve people with intellectual and physical disabilities. In Jacksonville, the community includes four family-style homes, a community center, and a day program. The community can house 20 “core members” in their group homes. Others take advantage of their day program.

Paul said that L’Arche Jacksonville involves others in the area by offering activities such as a Community Night once a month, where visitors can attend a program by the core members and then join them for a meal. Each December, core members stage a Living Nativity that is open to everyone. The community also operates Rainbow Workshop, where anyone can see and buy the craftwork made by community members.

Paul talked about one man who came to live at L’Arche Jacksonville when in his 40s, after only living with his parents. The man saw this move as making

I felt the talk expressed the deep emphasis on community. The core members, staff, and volunteers create a loving home environment. Those who live there are most fortunate.

—Shelby Miller, Maryknoll Affiliate

him an adult, something he didn’t feel he was as long as he lived with his mom and dad.

In our discussion, it came up that the famous spiritual writer Henri Nouwen lived in a L’Arche community in the last years of his life. He wrote about that life-giving experience in a book called *Adam: God’s Beloved* (www.orbisbooks.com).

Due to COVID-19, the Rainbow Workshop is closed right now. Additionally, the Community Nights have become virtual, by Zoom. Although L’Arche core members miss their interactions with the public, these restrictions have kept COVID-19 out of their community.

About half of the funding for L’Arche Jacksonville



Paul Poirrier, Development Director of L’Arche Jacksonville

comes from donations. Paul noted that COVID-19 has made fundraising more difficult. For example, their annual spring golf tournament was postponed twice but will finally be held in July.

Paul added that another challenge to their fundraising lies in allegations that have surfaced in the last year about their now-deceased founder, Jean Vanier. It was recently substantiated that Vanier, in his younger years, had inappropriate relationships with a number of women to whom he was a spiritual director. Vanier’s mistakes do not negate the good that the L’Arche communities accomplish, but the taint has had an impact on donations.

We all enjoyed learning more about this L’Arche community in our midst. I am certain that we will get connected with this community, to our benefit.



**ST. MARY MAGDALENE:
APOSTLE TO THE AFFILIATES?**

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, was celebrated and discussed by the Portland Affiliates during their August Zoom gathering. Her feast day was July 22. For guidance, we relied heavily on the Gospel of John and on *Written That You May Believe*, by Sandra M. Schneiders, Herder & Herder.

The situation of women in the Catholic Church is woefully unfaithful to Jesus’ teaching as narrated in John’s Gospel. Many examples from our own experience in the US and in mission countries support that statement. A recent article in the National Catholic Reporter by Roy Bourgeois, a former Maryknoll priest, reminded us of the risks as a

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St. Mary Magdalene, continued from page 8

consequence of Gospel fidelity (www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/its-time-end-male-supremacy-catholic-church).

We explored how the full liberation of women in the church today could also liberate men by easing the burden on one man trying to administer, maintain facilities, preach, etc., and by enriching decision making. Some of our members who belong to a joint Catholic/Lutheran Mission were able to give first-hand testament to the effectiveness of women priests as church leaders and ways of financially managing the cost of married priests with families.



Several reflected on the very engaging homilies given by women when this was allowed. In opining that any improvement in the status of women in the church must begin with the training of seminarians, another clarified the historical development of requirements for ordination and the role of the Code of Canon Law.

Seeking hope for the future, we looked at the work of Maryknoll Sisters and female Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Their ministries have developed from being handmaids to the Maryknoll Fathers to assuming independent ministries or ministries in which Maryknoll men and women work cooperatively.

Attaining full respect for women in the church is a slow process that will not be totally achieved until we change the use of primarily male images and language for God.

To learn more about Mary Magdalene, I recommend:

- *Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today*, by Edwina Gateley (www.orbis-books.com/soul-sisters.html),
- *Wisdom's Feast: An Invitation to Feminist Interpretation of the Scriptures*, by Barbara Reid, published by William B. Eerdmans.



DIFFICULT QUESTIONS—ONE ANSWER

Bill Murphy – Boston Chapter

My friend, Peter, wrote to me about his quandary over what to say to his grandchildren, Paris and Mason, about their discouragement and disillusionment with the world as they find it today. I responded as follows:

I would tell Paris and Mason that discouragement and disillusionment come with the territory of being young, human, alive, and full of dreams. As a Christian, I look to Jesus and my sustaining relationship with him to find a way to grapple with my dreams. To me, the path indicated by Jesus in his life has always involved a dynamic between the individual (self) and community.



Jesus needed his disciples for him to be true to himself, in fact, to discover himself and to live his life, death, and resurrection. I think I needed Maryknoll in much the same way. Maryknoll was/is for me a vessel, a living, human vessel of men and women who share life-giving spirit. I believe there is a lack of appreciation, especially in American society and culture, of the need for and role of community and structure (evolving though it may be). The issue is finding a spirit-filled structure that can nurture and animate young people today.

Paris and Mason could look into the local Maryknoll Affiliate chapter. They may find just the right “alternative orthodoxy” that will challenge them and help them thrive. The spirit and heart of Maryknoll Affiliates is a mission-based way of life based on four Pillars: spirituality, global vision, community, and action. Affiliates, the most recent manifestation of Maryknoll, may be just the balance of action and reflection that Paris and Mason could enjoy and thrive in.

I would say Affiliates represent a contemporary evolution of the Holy Spirit coming out of Vatican II. Through the Society (the Fathers and Brothers), the Congregation (Sisters), the Lay Missioners, and now the Affiliates, I think one can make a case that the Spirit has been progressively turning mission over to the People of God and thereby de-clericalizing and broadening the responsibility. I suggest Paris and Mason check out the website, maryknollaffiliates.org and/or contact an Affiliate Board member. Wishing you peace in this time of turmoil,

Bill



IMMIGRATION: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Santa Orlando – Albany, NY Chapter

Reader 1:

I want to welcome the stranger.
I need help, Lord, not to see differences but instead to see the face of God.
I need help, Lord, not to judge based on clothes, language, or customs.
I need help, Lord, not to walk away pretending I don't see them.



Reader 2:

I want to welcome the stranger.
Help me, Lord, to delight in the variety and diversity of all people.
Help me, Lord, to see the spark of the divine in their eyes.
Help me, Lord, to take the risk and offer compassion.
Help me impart the dignity they deserve as children of God.

Reader 3:

I want to welcome the stranger.
I can't imagine living in a refugee camp or leaving everything in life behind.
I can't imagine not having enough food or water.
I can't imagine running for my life to escape war or gang conflict.
I can't imagine being totally vulnerable.
Help me to understand.



Reader 4:

I want to welcome the stranger.
Allow me to meet their glance and offer a smile.
Allow me to give a wave or nod of acceptance.
Allow me to help them navigate their new life.

Reader 5:

I want to welcome the stranger.
I want them to believe that they can start over.
I want them to believe in love not fear.
I want to acknowledge their gifts and know more about their lives.



Reader 6:

I want to welcome the stranger.
By doing so I know I will receive more than I give.
By doing so I know that I will be connected to the oneness of God.

Leader:

Infinite source of all, draw us closer to each other and to you—it is only with your help that we may one day truly be in communion together. Amen.



News from the Board

WHAT ARE WE TO DO

Rich Lessard – Chair,
Maryknoll Affiliate Board

This is an email I wrote to some of you in August:

Hi all,

Yesterday, Matt Rousso from the Gulf South (New Orleans) Affiliate Chapter shared with me a link to the recent address Bishop Fernand Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, made to the



Conference of Major Superiors of Men. I don't want to summarize his remarks, but instead ask that we take the time to read them ourselves. His words are a challenge to the church. My question: What are we, as Affiliates, going to do together?

Here's the link: <http://www.catholiccommunityradio.org/blog-index/2020/8/19/bishop-cheri-addresses-racism-with-religious-superiors-conference>.

God bless, ... Rich

I look forward to hearing your comments. Email me at richlessardmka@gmail.com.



WHAT'S UP WITH THE GUATEMALA CHAPTER?

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

The answer to the question posed in the title above is, **just about everything**. Here are some examples:

- ~With over 50 members in two geographic areas, it is the largest Affiliate chapter and has the widest representation of age groups.
- ~It hosted the very successful 2017 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference (MAC). To this day, the 2017 MAC theme of Buen Vivir inspires and challenges the over 100 attendees.
- ~No *Tan Lejos del Horizonte* (NTLH), the Spanish language Affiliate newsletter, is produced (content, format, and design) by the Guatemalan Affiliates.
- ~It also produces a monthly Chapter bulletin.
- ~It has an active Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CAFILIADOSMGUATE/>
- ~Since the pandemic, its virtual workshops, open to all, are among the most substantive and well run of all the virtual Affiliate gatherings.
- ~Two members—Patty Barneond de Garcia-Tres and, presently, Rosa Beatriz Casteñada de Larios—have been Affiliate Board members.

~It plays a central role in connecting and integrating all the Latin American chapters (Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Bolivia) into the movement.

~Caminando Por La Paz, started by Fr. Tom Goekler, MM, and now overseen by Guatemala/Houston Affiliate Ron Covey and resident Guatemala Affiliates Carlos and Isis Miranda, provides educational opportunities to local children and does community service in Guatemala City.

Yet, all these accomplishments only begin to measure the breadth and depth of the commitment of members of this chapter. Founded over ten years ago by Fr. Tom Goekler and Sr. Connie Pospisil MM, the Guatemala Chapter members are deeply rooted in compassion and a justice-driven faith.

The biggest insight into "What's Up with the Guatemala Chapter," into the seriousness of the commitment of its members, is found in an earlier history. Over 65 years ago, the Maryknoll Sisters founded Colegio Monte María, a school for girls and young women.

Many Guatemala Chapter members were students (and later teachers and administrators) at Monte María, a school for gifted and, by some measures, privileged students. The Sisters taught them to accept and use their gifts to reach out to the poor of the country and to confront systems of injustice—local and global—that ran counter to the essence of Jesus' message. Many of them, most recently Claudia Samayoa, put their lives on the line in confronting injustices. The women in the Guatemala Chapter who attended Monte María have passed on this message to all members. All of us express our fervent gratitude for what's up with the Guatemala Chapter.





CONFERENCE LEADS TO ACTION

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Nonviolence Conference. This year, because of the pandemic, I was finally able to attend the Campaign Nonviolence Conference on August 8—live over YouTube! The entire 7-hour conference and all the inspiring nonviolence experts are still available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKoTpXfuHmg&feature=youtu.be>

Near the end of the conference, Pace e Bene's Ken Butigan summarized the Great News of Nonviolence:

"We are on the threshold of the next greatest nonviolent movement in history. ... We have the great news that we can respond, and we have the power to do it."

Week of Action. Ken asked us to spread our power through actions in the **2020 Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions**, Sept. 19-27. The Week of Actions, launched in 2014 to connect the dots between war, poverty, racism, and environmental destruction, has grown from 240 actions the first year to over 3,500 actions planned for 2020. You can **include your event** in the 2020 Action Week at PaceeBene.org.



**Where have you been welcomed?
More on welcoming on page 6!**

