

# Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

January/February 2021

Volume 30 Number 1

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

The Maryknoll Affiliate Board recently gathered information on Affiliates and their chapters.\* Board members and Regional Coordinators (RCs) contacted and visited chapters, asking chapter contact people for information. The team of Rosa Beatriz Castañeda Ramirez, Ginny McEvoy, and Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland gathered information on international chapters and reported on the data at the November virtual Board meeting. We share part of the team's report here.

Most of the Affiliates and 43 active Affiliate Chapters are in the US, but more than one fourth of Chapters and Affiliates are international (Charts 1 and 2).

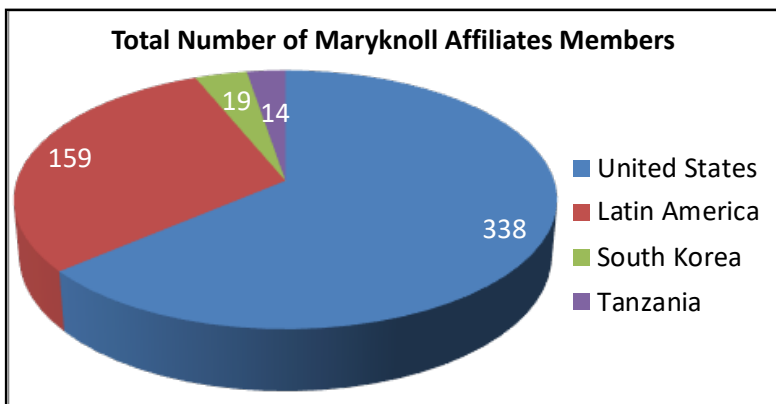


Chart 1

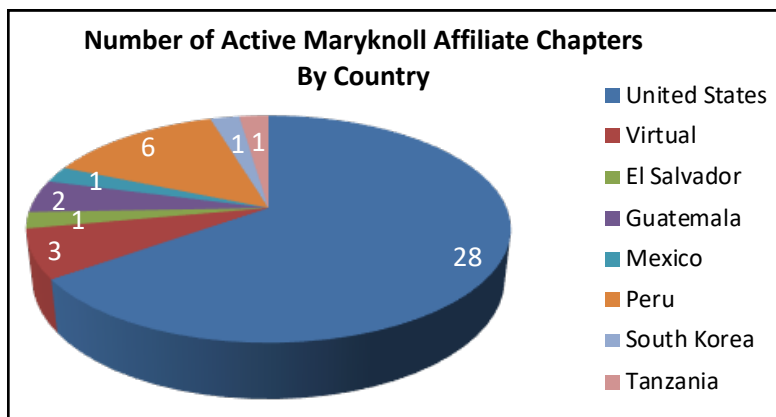


Chart 2

Of the 43 active Affiliate chapters, 22 chapters have 10 or fewer members, and 18 chapters have between 11 and 20 members. The 3 largest chapters are: Guatemala – 44 members, Albany – 32, and Springfield, MA – 21.

Those of us who have been privileged to attend one of the Maryknoll Affiliate Conferences are not surprised by the team's report that the vast majority of Affiliates in the US are over 50 years of age and that about three-quarters are even over 65! Data on the ages of Affiliates are incomplete but confirm our observations. International chapters typically have more younger members than do US Chapters.

The team's recommendations to the Board:

- Conduct a formal census of chapters and chapter members.
- Engagement Teams (Board & RC) should maintain regular communication with chapters.
- Clarify when a chapter becomes inactive.

\*The full report is available at [www.maryknollaffiliates.org/not-so-far-afield](http://www.maryknollaffiliates.org/not-so-far-afield).



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WHAT ARE AFFILIATES ABOUT?

Maryknoll Affiliates exude our four pillars of Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action. This first 2021 issue of our Movement's newsletter speaks of our efforts to connect in community and sends an invitation to read compelling books together. Open to inspiration, we remember Dorothy Day, and Fr. Tom Goekler, MM, who started Caminando por la Paz before he died in 2010; and we contemplate how we can envision ourselves and our God.

We see Affiliates in Guatemala pivoting to respond locally to the global crisis, providing food and education during the pandemic. Around the world we are trying to re-educate ourselves against the on-going evils of racism, environmental destruction, violence and war. Indeed, Affiliates learned during a year of crises to make use of new tools and ways of living, ways to reform ourselves and our communities.

In 2021, how will we show our Affiliate-ness as a Movement, in local chapters, and individually, now and after this in-between time? We encourage you to contemplate the role for your chapter and send your questions, ideas and plans to [NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com](mailto:NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com).



What are YOU about?

**Not So Far Afield (NSFA)** is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates and is also available online at [MaryknollAffiliates.org](http://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](http://MaryknollAffiliates.org) or contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email [Affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:Affiliatebshort@gmail.com), or write to:

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

DISCUSS A GREAT BOOK VIRTUALLY!



Our Affiliate book group was announced in November and several books have already received some votes.

\_\_\_ **Hunger for Hope** by Sr. Simone Campbell

\_\_\_ **Re-Enchanting the Earth** by Illia Delio

\_\_\_ **Writing Straight with Crooked Lines** by Jim Forest

\_\_\_ **Racial Justice and the Catholic Church** by Bryan N. Massingale

\_\_\_ **Dancing in God's Earthquake** by Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow

Copy this form and complete it in your email message:

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My preferred **weekly ZOOM** meeting day and time (choose one or more):  
\_\_\_M \_\_\_T \_\_\_W \_\_\_Th \_\_\_F \_\_\_S \_\_\_S  
\_\_\_Afternoon EST \_\_\_Evening EST  
My book choice:\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ I could be a facilitator.  
My name and email:\_\_\_  
Comments (your ideas are appreciated!):  
.....

Email your reply to [NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com](mailto:NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com) by **February 1, 2021**. We will start before March.



**Not So Far Afield** Co-Editors:

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

**Submissions:** We welcome letters to the editor, articles, photos, and suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. Please contact us at the address below.

**Subscriptions:** To report a change of address, subscribe, unsubscribe, or change to/from print or digital versions, email: [NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com](mailto:NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com), or contact Bob Short.

## RACISM—PATHS TO AWARENESS

Hugh Menton – California Regional Coordinator,  
Greater Los Angeles Chapter

In August of 2020, Affiliates [Kathee Bautista](#) and [Mary Williams](#) facilitated a Maryknoll Affiliates sponsored series of discussions on racism, using a Sojourners' program. This may seem like old news. However, racism, including in the Catholic community of the US, is not old news. We all journey with it in various ways.

Maybe because I'm an educator by trade or because the deepening of my own understanding of our society's and Church's racist history has come through education, I believe awareness and education are part of the journey of change in both society and the Church. *JustFaith* Ministries, as they always do on social justice issues, have created programs that hopefully lead to seeing, judging, and acting. My recent completion of *JustFaith's* "Faith and Racial Healing" deepened my awareness and knowledge. *JustFaith's* eight-week programs with books and videos, now conducted virtually, require a level of commitment that most people in our communities choose not to or do not have the time to make. Then, how do we reach those in our Maryknoll and Catholic circles for reflection and action on racism?

The question brought me back to something I heard in our Affiliate series. Someone in the dialogue sessions shared what she and others have done in their parish. They worked with their pastor to post three links to videos, which parishioners could watch at their leisure. Then virtual parish discussions were facilitated for each video. It seemed a very positive approach to reaching a community that desires greater awareness.

If you wish to utilize videos in your parish, Affiliate chapter, or other discussion group, I have discovered two powerful videos to recommend:

- "Grace, Justice and Mercy: An Evening with Bryan Stevenson and Rev. Tim Keller." (Bryan's homily begins at minute 28; it's on [youtube.com](#); use the Search feature to type in the title to locate it; Rev. Keller's homily is also worth the time.)



**The Storm\*** – Hugh comments: "For me, this image captures the challenge of racism—the fact we are all in the same boat and our need to respond together—and yet the colors portray an optimism about the possibilities."

- The *JustNews* session (*JustFaith* Ministries) with Jack Jezreel and Andy Loving, a Louisville attorney who made a journey of education to compassion to action around racism. To access it at the [justfaith.org](#) website, click on "Explore Resources" at the top of the homepage, then click on Webinars and Andy Loving's "Doing Justice with the Money You Don't Give Away" is on the list.

A third video, "Reconstruction in America," is on Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative website ([eji.org](#)), home page. Stevenson's work is known to many through *Just Mercy*, the book and the subsequent film. The Equal Justice Initiative website is filled with history and information to explore.

In the joyful spirit of the Gospel, may you continue your journey of awareness, education, and action.



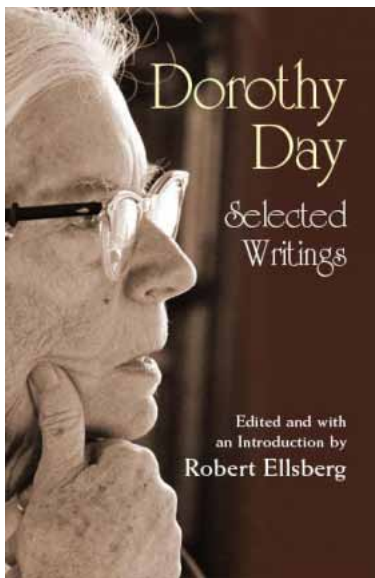
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**CELEBRATING DOROTHY DAY  
—AND WOMEN  
Portland Chapter**

We celebrated Dorothy Day on the 40th Anniversary of her death, November 29. Dorothy inspires us with the Catholic Worker Movement she co-founded, the numerous Catholic Worker Houses, the Catholic Worker newspapers, and her participation in many social justice campaigns. She was an amazing, undaunted American woman, to whom Pope Francis paid tribute in his talk before the US Congress.

Dorothy and Pope Francis are similar in their simplicity, attention to the person rather than the theory, and to the practical. They both demonstrate attending to the need in front of your eyes and not worrying about what others are going to think of you. Although Dorothy said, “Don’t call me a saint,” the Dorothy Day Guild ([Dorothydayguild.org](http://Dorothydayguild.org)) is pursuing canonization for her. Many other discussions, videos, and books about her are available. Search on her name on YouTube.

One Affiliate mentioned that in preparing a list of saints to include in the parish bulletin each month, they tried to have an equal number of male and female saints. It wasn’t easy. Robert Ellsberg’s book, *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses*, provided some ideas. To keep the gender balance, they used people in their bulletin list who weren’t even Catholic but were nevertheless models to emulate. Why restrict “sainthood” to those who have been blest by the Church’s long and expensive canonization process?



Indeed, some suggested, “No more male saints should be named until there are an equal number of female saints.” When asked for suggestions, people often mention their mothers, a grade school nun, or the Maryknoll sisters who inspire them to holiness. We were happy that in Wilton Gregory we now have a Black American cardinal, but when will we have a female cardinal?

Then we segued to a different discussion of gender: Everyone agreed that God has no gender and the names for God should reflect that. Pronouns for God should be carefully used, too. It makes sense to refer to the Trinity as “they.” “He” works for Jesus as a historical man, but for Christ, the eternal incarnation, a genderless pronoun seems more appropriate.

How do you envision “The Christ?”



**HUGE VIRTUAL CONGRESS**

Have you ever been energized by joining about 10,000 people at an African celebration of the Mass? Have you listened to Fr. Boyle or Sr. Helen Prejean? In years past, the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress offered that as well as inspiring music, art, and opportunities to visit the booths of Maryknoll/Orbis Books, music publishers, various artists, and myriad international organizations. And Maryknollers in attendance gathered for a lunch to visit with friends from afar.

This year, the Los Angeles Archdiocese Office of Religious Education announces:

*RECongress 2021 will look different. However, we are committed to offering the high-quality event our attendees have come to expect: a vibrant multicultural faith community, diverse prayer expressions, art, workshops, music and liturgies. We will fuel the passion to love God and serve the needs of our world.*

From **February 18-21, 2021**, those who could not afford to travel to LA have the rare opportunity to enjoy the Congress as much as the locals. For the reasonable rate of **\$35 per person**, you may attend virtually for a few hours or four days.

Visit [recongress.org](http://recongress.org) for more information.





## RETREAT ON GOSPEL NONVIOLENCE

MaryBeth Buchner –  
Albany Chapter

**A**lthough it was a bit long for me to sit still at my computer, I spent a very worthwhile day December 18 at the Gospel Nonviolence

Retreat presented by Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. There were over 360 people on the morning Zoom program, with about 700 registered for both sessions.

It was very exciting to be connected to so many people from around the world who were also interested in learning about nonviolence. I noticed that many Affiliates and other Maryknollers also participated. Marie Venner, Denver area Affiliate said,

My breakout was all Maryknoll! So glad Maryknoll has been so active in this nonviolence effort. Marie Dennis' leadership (of the Retreat and the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative) is a remarkable gift to the church and all of us.

Fr. Emmanuel Katongole from the University of Notre Dame spoke of three stories from his native Africa, and especially his own personal story of his sickness, hospitalization, and conversion after receiving the gift of love and care. He made me think of my own life story and how it influenced me. When I was six-and-a-half years old, my dearly beloved uncle was killed in action in Korea. That terrible loss profoundly affected my life and inducted me into "the revolution of nonviolence and love." I share that story in my blog: [boomerfrontrunner.blogspot.com/2010/05/memorial-day.html](http://boomerfrontrunner.blogspot.com/2010/05/memorial-day.html).

I especially liked Katongole's five key convictions:

1. Nonviolence (NV) is a personal journey of compassion .
2. NV is a gift, an invitation and a vocation—living as if we are from another planet.
3. NV is NOT passive, but rather an everyday practice of goodness, hospitality, and love.
4. NV is a long and painful journey of sacrifice.
5. But NV is also a beautiful and joyful journey, and we must "fix our eyes on Jesus."

During the retreat, we saw the film, "The Third Harmony—Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature," written and directed by Michael Nagler, with Executive Producer, Tom Eddington, who were both in attendance. I actually got emotional during the film when the Palestinian peace activist described the Palestinian mother and the Israel mother crying the same color tears. The apology to the Native American elders by the US military veterans was very moving. I appreciate the idea derived from quantum physics that we are not inherently separate but that we are all connected. Dr. Erica Chenoweth said that nonviolence is actually more effective and more powerful than violence. We are basically nonviolent by nature and there is a new awakening to this reality. Nonviolence is "organized love." I loved the film so much I forwarded its link to my Albany Chapter of the Maryknoll Affiliates.

Bernice King from TheKingCenter.org and daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was absolutely marvelous. I loved her thoughts about Agape Love as the message and example of Jesus. We must resist evil and injustice (the triple evils of poverty, racism, and militarism) but refuse to harm others. We have to practice Nonviolence 365—basically all the time and as a way of life! I love the concept of creating "The



**MaryBeth's uncle honored posthumously.**

Beloved Community" and working to bring about the Kingdom of God together on this earth—choosing the way of unconditional love.

After the Retreat, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Portland, proposed that the film, "The Third Harmony," be shown to all Affiliates. Bertha Haas, also of the Portland Chapter, said,

I'd like to see Affiliates in the US work with the new administration to begin using Defense Dept funds to enhance the U S Peace Institute ([www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)). Since much of our military and police involvement claims to be peacekeeping, let's actually train our people in peacekeeping practices. And a reduction in weapons production. And a ban on sale of weapons to foreign countries. And developing treaties for serious arms reduction."

You can see we all felt the Retreat was worthwhile and wonderful.



Photos courtesy of Ron Covey



**CHANGE AT CAMINANDO?**

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

*Affiliates at Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City respond to the Pandemic.*

People say we have been experiencing change during the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been some new phrases added to the language. I hear “the new norm,” “our lives are changing,” and “what will the pandemic bring?”

Is any real change taking place? What has been happening at Caminando por la Paz at first seems to confirm the idea that there is a new norm and a great deal of change.

At the very beginning of the pandemic, Caminando’s president, Carlos Miranda, received a phone call from our strong supporters, Cross Catholic International, asking if our program would be interested in a grant to help feed the hungry. Our affirmative response led to our first food distribution. Additional distributions have been paid for by generous individual donations received at [www.fathertomsmission.org](http://www.fathertomsmission.org), as well as by profits from the sale of Family Coffee ([www.fathertomfamilycoffee.org](http://www.fathertomfamilycoffee.org)). Lately, local charities have also used our people and truck to complete food distributions.

You may already know that malnutrition in

Guatemala is at times greater than in Africa. Then, much of Guatemala has experienced a shutdown that caused greater than usual unemployment. A major portion of the population lives from paycheck to paycheck. Without money, how do you buy food? If you were in Guatemala today, you would see people in the streets waving white flags to signal their need for food, medicine, employment, etc.



This past Thanksgiving, we had the annual memorial mass remembering Father Thomas Goekler, MM, our founder. It was celebrated by Fr. John Spain, MM, and streamed on the internet.

Are our recent actions a change, a new norm?

Food assistance. At present, the program is heavily involved in food distribution. For several years now, we have provided a nutritious meal to the kids who come for tutoring, not to mention the times individuals come to the door asking for and receiving food. Many times we stressed with visitors that malnutrition is a real problem, not only in our neighborhood but throughout the country.

Education. We have not stopped tutoring. Previously, we provided alternative learning via the internet and



gave individual sessions to those in need of special help. We have been able to continue internet lessons, albeit on a limited level.

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## We are doing the same things, providing God's gifts to our neighbors.

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Since we have been able to do only a small amount of tutoring at the house, the kids have been provided internet access to class work. We do have two very small, select groups who come for computer lessons. The limited tutoring has given us time for some long overdue construction projects. We were able to repair and remodel the home of our head cook. We also made some positive changes to our own home.

**Building Projects.** In the past, many of our visitors have had the opportunity to visit a home that we repaired and remodeled.

We are doing the same things, providing God's gifts to our neighbors. One activity appears to be something new: the program took our truck to the Honduran border recently, to pick up a family that experienced great loss when Hurricane Ita struck. At first



Ita's damage in Honduras

this seems new, but when I think about it, I realize it was only what Caminando always does—it reaches out to those with the greatest need.

Is there a new normal? It does not seem important. The reality is that Caminando por la Paz has in the past, does now, and in the future will continue to offer God's blessings to all we encounter.



### UPDATE FROM PERU

Victor Hugo Castro Campos – Niño Jesús Chapter

*The following is a translation/paraphrase of Victor's message.*

You may recall that the members of our chapter had worked in the past with the Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters for many years as catechists, as they carried out pastoral work with the families. When the Maryknoll priests left Peru, placing responsibility for our parish with the Peruvian Diocese of Lurin, one priest remained—Fr. Tomas Burns, who continued to serve as a parish priest.

In Lima in 2012, we celebrated 100 years of Maryknoll service, thanking the missionaries for their total dedication. We shared our stories in the parish hall and viewed photos of the Maryknoll missionaries.

At this gathering, we catechists reconnected after 30 years; there was fantastic joy, and we decided to meet and provide support in the parish. We invited Father Tomas Burns, whom we chose as our Spiritual Advisor. He accepted with humility, and he suggested that we join Maryknoll as Affiliates, which we accepted. We are now recognized as the Niño Jesús Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates. Most of us are educators, but there are also engineers, accountants, psychologists, and police workers.

A group of us participate, having collaborated with Fr. Kyungsu Son, MM, at Casa Bartimeo, a school where young people are taught massage therapy all day each Saturday. We provided the students breakfast and lunch. During their studies, the students carried out one-month internships in the Chorrillos and Sarita Colonia Women's Prison, working two days a week. The course lasts nine months, and those who finish receive a certification issued by the Diocese of Lurin, a stretcher, and a briefcase.

Another group of Affiliates works with young people from state educational institutions, where we give classes in Core Course Review, Gastronomy, and Dance.

Due to the pandemic, for our safety we are not meeting monthly, and our two volunteer activities have been suspended. We communicate by Whatsapp to keep in touch. This is all that I can report on our chapter.

**Our members**—Raul LI. (Coordinator), Victor C., Lourdes G., Maria P., Okga LI., Cirina I., Rosa A., Martha R., Freddy S., Rosa C., Ricardina I., Fernando Z., Oedro T., Gladys M., Marua G, Gladys L., Xarlis A, Arturo L., and Fernando—**send their greetings.**



**REMEMBERING FATHER TOM**

Isis Miranda – Guatemala Chapter

“My students from Chamelecón are better than yours,” Father Thomas told the director of Colegio Santo Tomas, an upper-class school in a privileged area of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. It was not the first time I had heard Father say that; it seemed like his favorite phrase whenever he was with people of high economic rank, and each time he did, my mind would wander away, not understanding the real reasons for what he was saying.

I couldn't stop feeling a little embarrassed, thinking that my grades were terrible, our vocabulary and behavior were not always the best, and what about our spirituality? We were like robots repeating each phrase at Mass without really knowing the meaning of the words. I wondered how Father Thomas could say so confidently that we students from an underserved sector were better than those who arrived daily in luxury vans, in impeccable uniforms and dragging expensive backpacks.

One day, during my first trip to Guatemala, Father took us to visit a businessman, at which he told him, “This is Isis Miranda; she is my director of the scholarship program in Honduras.” I was perplexed, because I was not the director of anything; it took me a few seconds to greet this man who was impressed and addressed me very happily. I was also surprised because I took care of the files of the program's scholarship students, but, although it was sometimes hard work and a tedious task, I felt that I was not even close to being the director of any area of the program. But I decided to accept that “promotion” in silence.

Father continued talking with that man, and I heard again: “My students are the best.” Of course, after I found out that I was “the director of the scholarship department,” I was alert and listened to the explanation of that phrase.

When the man smiled and said, “Really, Father?”, Father, with his shining blue eyes and raised index finger, said “Exactly! the best ones, and you know why? Because they live in the midst of violence on the streets, they suffer violence in their homes, they work, and at their young age they take care of their younger

siblings. They suffer contempt and stigmatization for being from a poor and violent neighborhood, and in the middle of everything they strive to fulfill their duties and pass their school year. Do you understand now what the point is?” And he continued with a softer expression on his face and a low tone of voice: “The young people of the upper class just have to study.”

Moved and identifying with that explanation, from the depths of my mind and my heart, in silence, I promised Father Tom, right there, that I would work with more dedication and put my heart into the program.

In my early 20s, my understanding and knowledge of politics, sociology, religion and economics were very limited. In the early years, I did not understand or like the homilies of Father Thomas. He was always talking about one of those topics, or about all at once, and it almost always seemed like he wanted to grab a whip and punish us at every Mass. Now I laugh every time I remember.



Through my daily experiences in the program, my attitude changed, and I learned to listen with my heart, and to look “from the eyes of God,” as Father Thomas used to say. Seeing him every morning with his cup of coffee and his tired face, helping us and teaching us to administer and plan activities, led me to admire him more every day and to understand his ministry.

He was the only priest in Chamelecón who lived in a simple house. He was half a block from that of a recognized murderer, in an area where poverty and violence manifested crudely. A New York journalist asked him, “Why have you decided to live here and not in a quieter and safer area?” And he replied, “Because if Jesus Christ came today, he would decide the same; his purpose and his gospel were dedicated to the poor, to those who have no voice.”

Father Thomas marked the lives of many people. Personally, I learned to turn my childhood and adolescence traumas into weapons of courage to work with faith and enthusiasm for the community.

Thank you for so much, Father Tom. A hug to the sky.

Note: This article first appeared in the *Caminando por la Paz*, Guatemala, November 2020 Update, and also in the *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, Oct-Dec 2020 issue.





**YOUTH V GOV V THE CLIMATE**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

We just streamed the new movie *Youth v Gov* through the DOC NYC Film Festival. The son of Marie Venner, a longtime Affiliate from the Denver area, is a plaintiff in the case. Twenty-one young people are suing the government because their constitutional right to a stable environment is threatened by government actions which exacerbate climate change.

We watched transfixed, seeing that the government has known about the disastrous consequences of climate change for decades—back to the 60s, consequences even confirmed by the American Petroleum Institute. In the 80s and 90s, the fossil fuel industry began funding efforts to cast doubt on the source of climate change. (If you have a chance, another good movie to see is *Merchants of Doubt*.)

Fossil fuel companies have tried to have the youths’ suit dismissed multiple times over the past five years, fearing an end to the government support they’ve enjoyed for so long. Even Democratic politicians have kept fossil fuels going and have delayed the inevitable shift off fossil fuels.

We were inspired by the eloquent, exuberant youth—some as young as 10—explaining how they love nature and the environment. They fear yet another flood or forest fire facilitated by increasing climate change due to use of fossil fuels. We enjoyed the dramatic and colorful cinematography and how it literally brought complex issues home, into homes and lives we haven’t seen before.

I think the government should have continued with programs for solar panels, like the ones President Carter installed on the White House. I wondered why, even now, new environmentally sensitive areas in the US continue to be opened to fracking and drilling, when the price of oil is the lowest in 50 years and the US, the major oil producing nation, is overflowing with gas and oil beyond our ability to store it. Utilities can produce solar and onshore wind energy much more cheaply than energy from coal or gas and not deal with the same disastrous climate and environmental consequences.

In the fall of 2020, the youth appealed the most recent blockage to having their case heard, and they are hoping the Biden administration will take a new stance. Times have changed too: climate change is now more evident than ever. The youths’ case could offer the Biden Administration the impetus needed to require other changes.



Youth v Gov finished out the film festival as a runner-up for the Audience Award and was one of the Top Ten favorites at the festival. If you didn’t catch the film in November through DOCNYC, you may sign up on their website ([youthvgovthefilm.com](http://youthvgovthefilm.com)) for updates on future film festivals and public re-release information. No matter how familiar or unfamiliar you are with climate change, you are guaranteed to learn new things and be moved.



**HOLEY – HOLY – WHOLLY**  
Al Drinkwine – Seattle Chapter

Currently  
Our society  
Is a bit holey

Filling those holes  
Is best done  
By turning to  
The faith  
Of the Holy One

Through asking  
Blended with accepting  
Heaven’s Holy  
Can fill societal holes

Making humanity  
Wholly holy

Holy smoke!  
What a beautiful gift  
This will be  
To each other

### CHAPLAIN TO VETERANS

Gaye Hieb – Florida Affiliate

I am a Maryknoll Affiliate, formerly from North Carolina and now living in Florida, and it is with great pleasure that I tell about our Chaplains Groundbreaking honoring Father Vincent Capodanno and Father Mycal Judge on Nov. 11, 2020.

As a volunteer Chaplain for the VFW Post 10209 in SpringHill, FL, I wanted to create a memorial honoring fallen chaplains and rabbis who laid down their life during combat.



Photos courtesy of Gaye Hieb.

Gaye Hieb and her husband, Bob.

Father Capodanno began his training as a Maryknoll priest in 1949. In 1966, after being released by Maryknoll to join the Navy Chaplain Corps, he trained to serve in Vietnam, where he was deployed at the same time as my husband. Fr. Capadanno died in 1967 and subsequently received the Congressional Medal of Honor. (See [www.maryknollmagazine.org/2017/09/capodanno-grunt-padre-50-years-later/](http://www.maryknollmagazine.org/2017/09/capodanno-grunt-padre-50-years-later/).) I was touched by the community support for the memorial and by the support from Maryknoll Superior General Fr. Ray Finch, MM. I also appreciated the support of Father Ed Shellito, MM, and his blessing of both memorials.

The journey of Chaplain Capodanno is something not many people know about, nor do most people understand the chaplain's role. The role has become a lot clearer to me as a post Chaplain, being asked for prayers, visiting veterans or their families, or working closely with veterans in nursing homes. Many veterans have no family close by, or they have outlived their family. Hearing stories from them of

how important these chaplains are out in the field made this undertaking even more meaningful. The stories veterans tell of needing a chaplain in the field, at home, or by their bedside has shown me a great deal of the sacrifice these men and women chaplains make daily to provide spiritual care to the soldiers in their care.



Fr. Ed Shellito, MM, blesses the Groundbreaking.

Through this memorial we hope to honor the sacrifice of these veterans and Chaplains.



## News from the Board

*The Maryknoll Affiliate Board welcomes its newest member!*

### MY MARYKNOLL LIFE

Patty Hinton – St. Louis Chapter

Maryknoll has been part of my life for 60 years. It began when two Maryknoll Sisters gave a presentation to my 6th grade class on the missions in China, and God gave me that mission 'spark.' I've made mission trips to Guatemala and Jamaica. The most meaningful mission experiences I've had were in Nicaragua, on the Island of Ometepe. The community I belong to, the Brothers and Sisters of Charity, had a mission outreach to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, an orphanage of about 300 children. I only had the chance to spend my two-week vacations from work there for five years in a row. I would load my suitcases with things for the children and workers but what the kids and I valued most were the times spent together going to the beach or playing games—sharing our lives and hugs.



I would like to see more opportunities to experience short term mission at an affordable price. I also would like to see more opportunities for international sharing either as a group or one-on-one for individuals. (I've

had a pen pal from Japan since I was in high school, and it's been such a gift.) It would be great if Chapters shared with other Chapters what they are doing—to encourage others. Communication and sharing build community, and that is vital to the success of our organization.

I am grateful to be an Affiliate, one of this group so dedicated to the vision of Maryknoll, and am honored to be on the Affiliate Board.



### MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE RETURNS IN 2021

*The Maryknoll Sisters are offering these programs:*

- May 9-14 *Leaning into the Gospel:  
Learning Love and Freedom*  
Sr. Anne McCarthy, OSB
- May 16-21 *When Tears Sing:  
Lament as a Way Home to the Heart of God*  
Rev. William Blaine-Wallace, PhD
- June 6-11 *Transforming Individuals and Communities:  
Restorative Justice Practices*  
Joanne Blaney, MKLM
- June 13-18 *Deepening One's Contemplative Practice:  
Necessary for the Transformation of Our Time*  
Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM
- June 20-25 *Theogenesis: Is God Becoming God?*  
Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, PhD
- July 11-16 *A Living Gospel:  
Reading God's Story in Holy Lives (And Our Own)*  
Robert Ellsberg, MA
- July 18-23 *Finding a Way in the Wilderness:  
Drawing Courage through the Art of Film*  
Rev. Larry Lewis, MM



The complete schedule and program descriptions may be found at [www.maryknollsisters.org/missioninstitute](http://www.maryknollsisters.org/missioninstitute)

#### Register online

or request an application form at:

**Maryknoll Mission Institute**  
Maryknoll Sisters, P.O. Box 311  
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311  
Tel. 914-941-7575 @ 5671  
Email: missinst@mksisters.org

**Please be aware ~  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic  
We are exploring options  
For virtual presentations**

## SEEKING CHANGE IN THE CHURCH

FutureChurch is offering a new program, ***Women Witnesses for Racial Justice***, which focuses on racial justice by lifting up the witness of Black Catholic women who challenged racist structures and institutions and led trailblazing lives.

**Resource packets** about 15 such women will include biographies, prayers, art works, and discussion and reflection questions. See [www.FutureChurch.org/racial-justice](http://www.FutureChurch.org/racial-justice) to download the first packet on Civil Rights Icon, Sr. Antona Ebo. FutureChurch has asked that we share their information widely!



**Now on YouTube:** Last August, FutureChurch hosted *Women Erased Session IV: Restoring the Memory of Black Catholic Women* with Anita Baird, DHM. This session is available at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2X9gJZ80vY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2X9gJZ80vY&feature=youtu.be).

