



Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

March/April 2021

Volume 30 Number 2

LET'S CELEBRATE!!

It's the 30th Anniversary of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement: 1991 – 2021!

When the first Affiliate Advisory Board met in September of 1991, little did they realize what they were about to launch. In 30 years, the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement has grown to more than 500 members around the world with more than 40 active chapters in the US, Latin American, Africa, and the Far East. Throughout our journey, there have been 10 MAC gatherings and scores of regional gatherings, not to mention the regular, often monthly gatherings of faithful chapters all around the world. How does one celebrate this auspicious occasion: our 30th Anniversary?

We can celebrate the three decades of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement in three phases: **past**, **present**, and **future**. The **past** invites us to reflect on those who have made this celebration possible—our founders, coordinators, board members, regional coordinators, and the many chapter founders and members. In the **present**, we express our gratitude to those who have gone before us, celebrate with all on the journey, and understand the significant events in the unfolding story of the Movement. Looking into the **future** may cause uncertainty and fear, but it can also fill us with dreams and visions. If we project the present into the future and nurture it with our spirituality, experiences, and new ideas, it will become our hope to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

This Anniversary provides us with an opportunity to create a new era of the Movement in a time of rapid and profound change—an opening to embrace future generations. We are being summoned to make a difference in the world, to grow as a faith community tending the pillars of Spirituality, Community, Action, and Global Vision, and to be advocates for the growth of the Affiliate Movement in the 21st Century and beyond. The Celebration Committee is planning special activities for the Celebration, but each chapter is invited to plan and to share their own commemoration of the 30th Anniversary.

The **Celebration Committee**—Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios (Guatemala), Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland (DC / Baltimore) and Ginny McEvoy (Long Island)—invites you to participate in the 30th Anniversary celebration being planned for September 2021.



Help us celebrate the **past**, experience the **present**, and embrace the **future** of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement.



What's Inside?

| | |
|--|----|
| Let's Celebrate!! | 1 |
| Sharing Our Lives | 2 |
| Good Books and Conversation | 2 |
| NE Regional Gathering: a Reflection | 3 |
| Sharing Reflections | 4 |
| For a Taste of Tanzania | 5 |
| MINI MACS – A New Series | 5 |
| Exploring <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> / Easy Meeting | 6 |
| A Prayer for Living “Fratelli Tutti” | 7 |
| Fraternity and Healing | 8 |
| ABC's of Accountability for Black Lives | 9 |
| Dear Affiliates / Maryknoll Mission Inst. | 10 |
| Help Wanted | 11 |
| Study Circles: <i>Advancing Nonviolence</i> | 12 |

SHARING OUR LIVES

This issue of the NSFA is all about sharing. We have been sharing our lives as Maryknoll Affiliates for 30 years this September! Affiliates such as Bertha Haas and the Schiltzes have long shared their lives in mission abroad. But the sharing goes both ways: Affiliates benefit by Nancy McFarland sharing her intentional community and Evelyn Brush sharing her Franciscan connection. Book groups are enriched by the participation of non-Maryknollers and local friends.

The pandemic may have crimped our ease of doing in-person mission but it has opened the Zoom door to easier ways to connect with Affiliates and others, e.g. a virtual MINI-MAC (April 17th) open to everyone. Regional meetings, seminars, travel-free and infection-free gatherings are well attended and easy to participate in. Board member, Gerard Mullaney plans to share his COVID relief for restorative efforts in Guatemala

We encourage you to think how you can share the richness of being an Affiliate. Rich Lessard, in his last letter as Board chair says your help is wanted. In your chapter, use the enclosed Easy Meeting on Pope Francis's *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*, and make your plans for the Affiliates' 30th Anniversary Party. Share your plans or challenges at 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 more 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



GOOD BOOKS AND CONVERSATION

Maryknoll Affiliates and friends are discussing two Orbis books this winter: *Hunger for Hope* by Sr. Simone Campbell, and *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Bryan N. Massingale. The virtual weekly gatherings started in February and will continue through March. Hugh Menton, Paula Schaffner, and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss have organized the meetings of about 25 people from Oregon, New York, California, Washington, Illinois, Louisiana, and Florida, including formerly active Affiliates and friends from our congregations.

In *Hunger for Hope*, Sr. Simone Campbell stresses the importance of contemplation to maintain her constructive activism. Fr. Bryan Massingale's *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* lays out the Church's complicity in racism and some Catholics' avoidance of working for racial justice. We are learning about our similarities and our individual experiences and issues, and our groups pray and reflect on our need for growth and understanding. We are building a community.

Some who had expressed interest in the book group could not participate at the times selected. We invite them and you to read the books on your own and send your questions or reflections to the NSFA (NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com). 

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 NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com.

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

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING:
A REFLECTION OF WHO WE ARE**

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

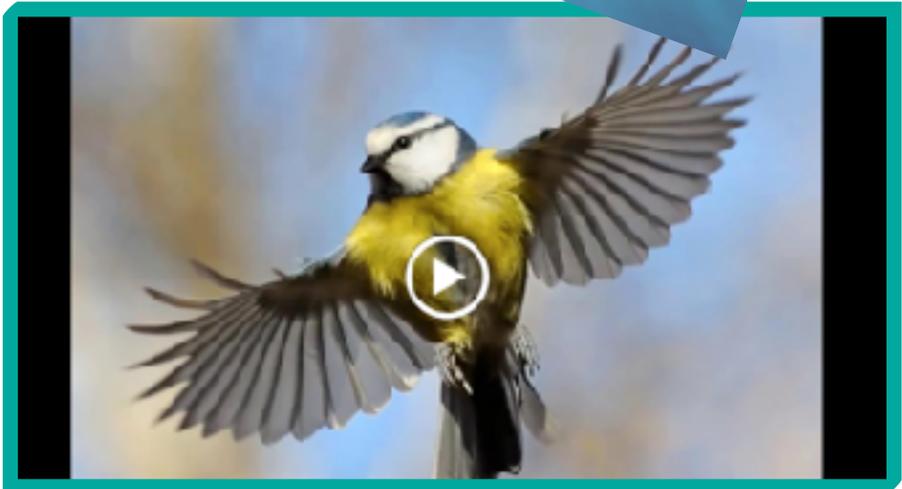
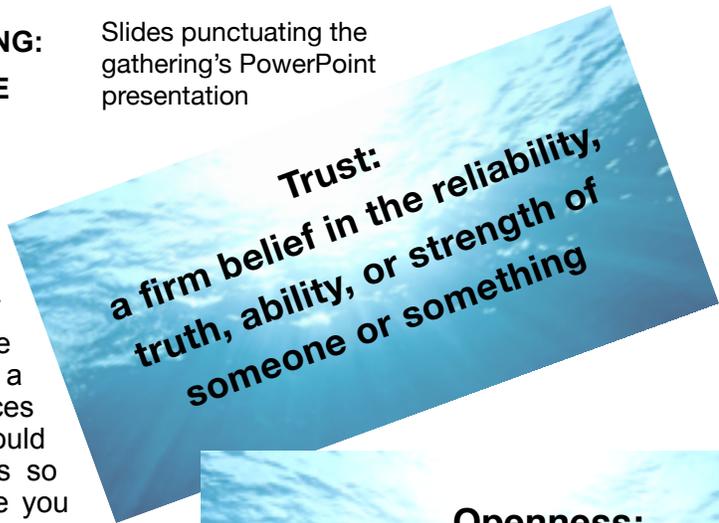
On a Monday night in mid-February, 47 Zoom screens (well over 50 participants) came together to counter the darkness of politics and pandemic and speak to each other of respect, gratitude, revolutionary love, care for the earth, and much more, utilizing a panoply of creative mediums. In the spaces before and after the presentations, one could also hear wonderful, simple words of, “It’s so good to see you after so long!” “How have you been doing?!” “HELLO, *insert name.*”

I think it’s fair to say that this gathering was a small reflection of not just the Affiliate movement, but of Maryknoll today. At least one Maryknoll Sister, Brother and priest participated and, while no present Lay Missioners were able to attend, many former Lay Missioners were there. Sr. Mary Ellen Kempken spoke eloquently about Global Vision, an Affiliate pillar and a brazen tracer on all Maryknoller’s DNA. The incredibly thoughtful reflections, PowerPoints and videos honored the diversity of race, ethnicity, culture, social status, religion and even political leanings. On age diversity, we just might have a ways to go . All the pillars were incorporated in the presentations as was the expansive, embracing, compassionate vision that characterizes *who we are.*

Finally, this heartening celebration came together thanks to the insight, intuition and indefatigable mission commitment of Northeast Region Coordinator, Santa Orlando. A woman of downstate NY toughness, almost no pretense and, if applied, a heart to melt the mountains of snow around her upstate NY home. Somewhere along the line, Maryknoll’s mission charism got hold of her and she hasn’t been able (or tried) to break its grip. Un millón de gracias, Santa.



Slides punctuating the gathering’s PowerPoint presentation



Note: A recording of the gathering is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V0zF5kcKptv6id67RfXoi9cjZPzuNxpG/view?usp=sharing>

SHARING REFLECTIONS

Nancy McFarland – San Francisco/
Bay Area Chapter

I love opportunities to join with other Affiliates in different programs. My husband Bob and I have been part of the San Francisco - Bay Area Maryknoll Affiliates Chapter from its start—about 22 years. We have had opportunities to work with the Maryknoll team in Bangkok with asylum seekers and later with the Asian Muslim Action Network, a Muslim peace organization, for three months a year for ten years. I would like to share some reflections from our Emmaus Community.

For 12 years, my husband, Bob and I have been part of the Emmaus Community, an intentional, inclusive Eucharistic community. Our daily meditations started at the first pandemic lockdown in March 2020, and many people outside the community have asked to be included in receiving the daily meditations. Many of us join early for our zoomed liturgies for a chance to talk with one another.

In his January 5th posting, David Carlson of the Emmaus Community quotes from *The Overstory* by Richard Powers: “Love is a tree with branches in forever with roots in eternity and a trunk nowhere at all.” I love the part about how in nature (which includes humans), things work through cooperation and partnership, not through competition. My husband’s photo conveys a similar feeling.



Photo by Bob McFarland

Read more about *The Overstory* on the Emmaus Community blog:

<https://www.emmausnorcal.org/post/294-love-is-a-tree-with-branches-in-forever-with-roots-in-eternity-and-a-trunk-nowhere-at-all>

in the January 2nd posting, Carlson relates Dorothy Day’s and Thomas Merton’s statements to a New Normal:

“Everything that is, is holy, ...” – Thomas Merton.

“The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?” – Dorothy Day.

Carlson continues:

“Dorothy Day once said that her life’s work was to make it easier for people to be good. Because from goodness comes love. And joy that accompanies love. She is putting values and the virtues that implement [them] out front. This would be a New Normal, wouldn’t it? Putting values forward as our common goal in efforts to bring about a common good?”

...

“Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton were good friends. Both—one as a founder of alternative communities in the urban darkness and the other as a monk in the woods—were seeking common goals and values and a “new normal,” including the normal that we are all other Christs.”

It has been richly rewarding for Bob and me to participate in this community of activists.



Editor’s note: An internet search shows many Emmaus communities in the US. Nancy writes about the Emmaus Community in Sonoma County, California.

FOR A TASTE OF TANZANIA

The aroma of exotic East African delicacies and the thrum of African drums aren't forgotten, but the 2021 Taste of Tanzania, in support of Huruma School for children with disabilities in Mwanza, Tanzania, has gone virtual. This year, you need only your ticket from TZHuruma.org to attend.



Bertha Haas, who founded Huruma School as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, and the Portland Maryknoll Affiliates held the very successful 2020 Taste of Tanzania a mere two weeks before the corona virus lockdown. Huruma's students don't have access to remote learning and need our support more than ever. Please join us on March 13th at 7pm for entertainment, new videos, a tour showing the progress at Huruma, and prizes.

Email Bertha Haas for more info:
sunksflower@yahoo.com



IT'S TIME

According to Affiliates Roger and Kitty Schiltz, who, as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, left Tanzania in 2007, it's time to go home:

- When you think ugali (cooked cornmeal) and dagaa (small dried fish) with spinach is a gourmet dinner.
- When you get tired, need more sleep and you think, "Oh, its only malaria."

It's *difficult* to go home:

- When 50 little kids want to be the only one to hold your hand to dance the hokey pokey.
- When you are teaching 4 or 5 children under a mango tree and 30 or 40 more want to learn.



MINI MACS – A NEW SERIES

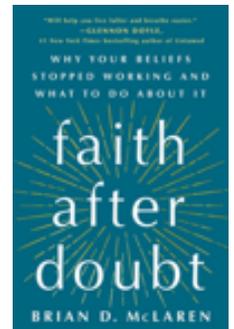
Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

When the COVID pandemic shut down MAC 2020, the planning committee—Celine Woznica, Ginny McEvoy, Agnes Walsh, Ann Coady, Jim Coady, and Bob Short—immediately set out to sustain the momentum (and hope) for MAC 20Something. Tentatively, a hybrid (in-person & virtual) MAC is planned for late spring/early summer 2022.

In the interim, a series of 3 MINI MACs have been planned for this year. Realizing what all of us have been through since early 2019, Ann Coady suggested the theme of *Tending*:

- *Tending Our Souls* (spirituality & faith) – Spring
- *Tending Our Communities* (community & justice) – Summer
- *Tending Our Planet* (climate & environment) – Fall

We are very excited to announce that the Spring MINI MAC—*Tending to Our Souls*—is already set for **Saturday, April 17 at 4:00PM EST** (NY time), and we're especially thrilled that the presenter will be **Brian McLaren**, pastor, author, speaker, and leading figure in the emerging church movement. He works with Richard Rohr and others in the Center for Action and Contemplation. The 75 minute Zoom conference will focus on his latest book: ***Faith After Doubt***.



MARK THE DATE. More details, including how to register, will follow soon.



EXPLORING FRATELLI TUTTI

Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland –
Washington, DC / Baltimore Chapter

The Baltimore-Washington Maryknoll Affiliate chapter recently offered presentations on Pope Francis' most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. Over 40 people registered for the two sessions held on January 23, and February 6, 2021. The sessions used the three-part See-Judge-Act method as outlined in a study guide produced by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

Susan Gunn, the director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, led the first session, focusing on chapters 1-4. The second discussion, addressing chapters 5-8, was led by Marie Dennis, a senior advisor to the secretary-general of Pax Christi International. Both presenters offered questions to consider in small groups, such as:

- What trends listed by Pope Francis resonate with you? How are we like a person in the story of the Good Samaritan? What new paths of hope have been revealed to you during the pandemic?
- What wisdom could Pope Francis offer to U.S. politicians? How do we understand nonviolence? Do you think the Catholic Church will recommit to the centrality of the Gospel Nonviolence?

One group noted that Pope Francis was writing the encyclical just as COVID was becoming a pandemic. The people discussed how they each were like a character in the Good Samaritan story, which Pope Francis used to illustrate his points. They identified with several of the trends Pope Francis mentioned: homelessness, migration, inter-racial issues, health, unemployment, global warming, etc. They agreed we all need collaboration to survive. One couple was planning to host a conference on *Fratelli Tutti*. Another committed to prayer in a small group.

Several individuals commented that two sessions were not enough to cover all of the rich information in the document. All are encouraged to read the *Fratelli Tutti* thoughtfully and decide how we can incorporate the teachings as we interact with others.

Affiliate chapters could use a study guide in their meetings and further explore Pope Francis's insightful encyclical.



EASY MEETING: ON FRATELLI TUTTI

Format: Virtual (Zoom meeting)

This meeting is based on the six-page Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' (MOGC) guide, "Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*." There are many other guides available on the internet; for example, the US conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has the two-page guide, "A QUICK KEY TO *Fratelli Tutti*." (See the **Downloads** box on page 7.)

Before the meeting. Each person should have a copy of the MOGC guide available, especially if they can't easily switch between a ZOOM screen and an on-line pdf. Alternatively, the Zoom meeting host could screen-share pertinent parts of the guide. Use as many of the chapter introductions and reflection questions in the guide as your meeting time allows. Depending on the interest in your chapter, the MOGC guide could be used to explore *Fratelli Tutti* over several meetings.

Opening Prayer: Begin with the prayer from page 6 of the MOGC guide, "A Prayer to the Creator."

Read. Allow time for the participants to read silently the introduction and the text following Chapter 1, on page 2.

[In your sharing, using the **Mutual Invitation** approach—the facilitator starts the sharing, then invites the next person to speak, who then invites the next person, until all have spoken—helps to build community among participants.]

Share. Ask participants to share any initial thoughts about their exploration of the encyclical. (Has anyone read the whole encyclical?)

Reflection question: How has the pandemic impacted you? Have you experienced a revived sense of **community**? How have you connected with the broader Affiliate or Maryknoll community?

In **Chapter 2**, Pope Francis says, “Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders (69).” Our Maryknoll Affiliate **Spirituality** helps us be more than bystanders.

Reflection question: Have you ever experienced such an “encounter of mercy”?

In **Chapter 4**, Pope Francis says, “The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family (141).” The **Global Vision** of Maryknoll Affiliates stretches us beyond borders.

Reflection question: How do you feel called to cultivate a “heart open to the whole world”?

Discuss if your chapter wants to further explore Fratelli Tutti and if you want to take specific **Actions**.

Closing prayer: One person reads “A Prayer for Living “Fratelli Tutti,” by Cameron Bellm, on this page.



Downloads

Fratelli Tutti, about 100 pages: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html.

Guides:

- MOGC – https://maryknollogc.org/sites/default/files/fratelli_tutti_study_guide_final5.pdf
- Franciscans – https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/fratelli_tutti_study_guide_final5.pdf.
- USCCB - <https://www.usccb.org/resources/02-%20Quick%20Key%20to%20FRATELLI%20TUTTI%20-%20EN.pdf>

A PRAYER FOR LIVING “FRATELLI TUTTI”

Cameron Bellm*

When our lofty words of love have been emptied of their meaning,

When our borders and computer screens have erected impenetrable walls,

When our minds are so quick to conflate “other” with “enemy,”

How will we find our common humanity?

It’s never too late to make an earnest and tender start.

May we remove from our pockets the stones we intended to throw

And cement them together to build a home that welcomes all.

May we repent of our indifference and move into genuine encounter.

Instead of drawing battle lines,

May we draw our chairs up to a communal table, Where we can feast in the knowledge of our shared dignity.

May God grant us the holy vision

To see in every human being a sacred mystery, And may we love each mystery not abstractly, but concretely.

Just as Thomas touched the wounds of Jesus, May we be unafraid to touch the wounds of our suffering neighbor.

May we lay down our arms and offer our outstretched hands,

Until there is no “them,” but only “us,”

Until we are, at last, sisters and brothers, all.

Amen.



*Cameron Bellm is a Seattle-based writer, speaker, and contemplative in action. First published by Jesuit Conference of Canada and the US at jesuits.org.

FRATERNITY AND HEALING

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

The Maryknoll Affiliate Board's Engagement Team encouraged us to invite other chapters to our meetings. So, for our January evening meeting, the Portland Chapter invited western US chapters to Portland Affiliate Evelyn Brush's presentation on Franciscans. Over 20 people from Washington, Oregon, California, and Montana responded to our invitation. When we introduced ourselves, many Affiliates shared their various mission efforts in Africa, South and Central America, and Southeast Asia.

Using PowerPoint slides, Evelyn provided an informative review of the various forms of Franciscans. The first and second orders are the priests and nuns. Third Order Franciscans, such as Evelyn, make no vows, but after a several-year orientation and formation period, they commit themselves for life. Fraternity is their charism. Third Order Franciscans feel responsible for each other. Many saints, popes, and other famous folks were Franciscans, including Christopher Columbus, Dante, Michelangelo, and Pope John XXIII. Evelyn pointed out St. Clare's strong role with Francis and in establishing the Poor Clares. She was not afraid to say, "No!" to St. Francis and to popes when she felt it was necessary. Evelyn presented the Rules that guide Third Order Franciscans and their well-known stance for peace, nonviolence, and ecology.

After learning about the Franciscans, Affiliates addressed the question, "How can we use our Maryknoll Affiliate Pillars of Spirituality, Global Vision, Community, and Action to heal the world?" Responses in the Chat function included:

- Teach empathy, experience JOY.
- We need to be the example we want to see.
- We need to share our stories.
- We need to be our best selves to those around us.
- The effects will ripple out.

North Bay/San Francisco Affiliate Leslee Coady said, "We can be more understanding, forgiving of people who think differently from us. Listen. Accept them as people. Not judging."

Anna Johnson, a Maryknoll Society (Fathers and Brothers) Mission Formation Manager in Seattle wrote, "By having the experience of walking with people on the margins of our global society, and being able to speak with radical inclusivity with people on the margins—too often these voices are left out of societal conversations and decisions."



Marie Wren offered, "Maryknoll Affiliates heal the world through *community*—sharing joy with each other especially in this time; through *spirituality* which underpins the *activity*; and through *global vision*. We are one human family going beyond borders, versus the nationalism which is prevalent in some nations today."

Manny Hotchkiss said those in his breakout room talked about their volunteer work. Kathy Culhane's chapter, North Bay/San Francisco worked on refugee housing, which covered all the pillars—spirituality, global vision, community and action.

St. Francis of Assisi had a profound impact on our Church and society. He created three distinct orders, including one for lay (secular) people. Franciscan spirituality has a unique perspective on the Incarnation, nonviolence, and the wonders of creation.

After the meeting, I reflected that Pope Francis's letter addressing fraternity, *Fratelli Tutti*, and even the Pope's name, show the influence St. Francis has had. What could we Affiliates learn from the Franciscans: Provide a better orientation? Build a stronger community? Like Affiliates, Third Order Franciscans have no set programs but rather show their charism in their secular community.

It was very good for Affiliates to come together, seeing some old friends and connecting with new ones. We had a few technical issues, but I learned to not plan too much activity and just let the Spirit flow.



THE ABC'S OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR BLACK LIVES*

What white people can do to become active contributors towards justice.

Racism and violence against Black lives throughout our history is an abomination with painful and traumatic consequences beyond comprehension. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have catapulted an uprising. Change must happen. We are long overdue.

A shift is happening: displays of solidarity, people listening in new ways, and racism being called out. These micro-steps are heartening, but it must not end there.

Confronting our long history of white supremacy and privilege is a process. We cannot just watch *Just Mercy*, say we are allies, use solidarity emojis, carry our signs, change our Facebook profile picture frames to Black Lives Matter, order our copy of *How to Be an Antiracist*, and call it a day. It requires a steadfast commitment to unlearning what we have been taught and acknowledging our accountability. In other words, no one is immune from responsibility.

In *Feminist Accountability: Disrupting Violence and Transforming Power*, Ann Russo emphasizes that seeing ourselves as allies or heroes just because we stand together in solidarity falls short. She explains that our traditional way of “punishing overt racist, sexist, homophobic, and/or xenophobic words and actions” positions us to think that some of us are “good” and some are “bad,” when really anyone who is white bears accountability.

Whether we choose it or not, being white brings privileges—and even when we don’t want to benefit from systemic oppression, we do. While we all have inherited a fight we didn’t start, we have a responsibility to use our privilege to help put an end to it.

Russo suggests that the lens of accountability helps us see the roots of oppression and violence as “operating on intimate, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic levels, rather than beginning and ending with the individual.” Behavior, then, can be seen as an “outcome of ongoing racial inequities, injustices, and abuses of power that are always/already operating in our lives.”

Behavior change doesn’t come through finger-pointing and shame. Negative reinforcement is so 1950s. In 2020, we have a much deeper understanding of what can nurture and cultivate a process of honest reflection, unlearning, accountability, and change. We stop calling ourselves “good” and “bad” and instead get to work to dismantle injustice.

As an educator and therapist, I want to share some basics—the “ABCs” of what may help us deepen accountability. This list of evidence-based principles

| | |
|---|---|
| Accountability | No one can be a bystander |
| Black reverence | Organize |
| Compassion | Peace and pluralism |
| Dismantle white privilege/ supremacy | Queer/LGBTQIA community protected and uplifted |
| Equality | Reach out |
| Fairness | Show solidarity |
| Generate healing | Think consciously |
| Hold space and listen | Unlearn bias |
| Insist on systemic reform | Violence ends |
| Justice | White humility |
| Kindness | Xenophobia ends |
| Liberation | Youth empowered |
| Mobilize | Zealous commitment to end hate |

that have helped me in my own understanding of privilege and accountability as a white cisgender woman is a starting point for the continued work of unlearning and relearning and commitment towards Black Lives Matter.

We can move from being passive bystanders to active contributors. Micro-steps are vital—we must keep walking, even when it’s uncomfortable, confusing, exhausting, and painful. Accountability is a must.

*Abridgment from the article in *Psychology Today* (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/rethink-your-way-the-good-life/202006/the-abc-s-accountability-black-lives>)

by Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW, behavioral science professor, clinician, and the author of *Mentalligence: A New Psychology of Thinking and Reset: Make the Most of Your Stress*.



January 31, 2021

DEAR AFFILIATES,

Happy New Year to all Affiliates. I write today to propose gestures of *restorative justice* as the previous administration passes into our nation's history. I lament the many outrages and cruelties this administration has visited on various peoples. One of these groups is of course our Southern neighbor immigrants seeking asylum and refuge in the United States. We have all come to know about children separated from parents, deportations resulting in deaths, delay and denial of legitimate asylum requests. Furthermore, my experience has been one of insufficient outcry from Catholic and other Christian leaders. My distress about this experience leads me to donate the sum of the Covid relief check provided by the Federal government to Maryknoll Sister Jane Buellesbach in Guatemala as a gesture of Restorative Justice. There are other donation opportunities as Maryknoll maintains a presence in El Salvador, at the U.S. Southern border, and elsewhere.



To those of us who may be in a position to do so, I urge consideration of passing along Covid relief benefits provided by the United States government as a gesture of amends for the sins of the previous administration and for American citizens complicit by their support of this president. Doing so would be one small gesture to join Maryknoll Sisters in making God's love visible after the failures of these past four years..

Sincerely,

Gerard J. Mullaney
Northeast Ohio Chapter

CATHOLIC RESTORATIVE JUSTICE NETWORK

The official California source for Formation and Leadership for Restorative Justice Ministry, presents five 90 minute webinars on Thursdays, March 4th through May 20th.

Relating to the care of the incarcerated and families, the webinars include the meaning of the restorative justice ministry, trauma and compassion, spirituality, intercultural and inter-religious competencies, and a closing evening of reflection.

Register for the free sessions at <https://www.restorejustice.com/network>

MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2021



The Maryknoll Sisters are offering these programs and more:

- 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

Please be aware, due to the COVID Pandemic, all the programs will be conducted by ZOOM.

The complete schedule and program descriptions may be found at

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



News from the Board



Rich Lessard –
Maryknoll Affiliate
Board Chair

At the beginning of my Affiliate Board Chair term, I emphasized the need for our

“movement” to strengthen itself and that one way of doing so was through greater connection. Now, at the end of my term, I return to this theme. The health of our movement is determined in large part by the strength and depth of our connections. By connecting, we build solidarity and fraternity within our global community and, much needed now, throughout the world. So I again hang out the virtual “Help Wanted” sign and suggest a few ways we can all help to connect.

Beyond the Chapter. At first, Affiliates connected as individual chapters, and that has been the focus of Affiliate life. But 30 years later, our world is much more open and accessible. As awful as the pandemic has been, one positive outcome (at least for those with internet access) has been that this world became a little bit smaller. With just the click of a button, many of us could be together virtually with family, friends, coworkers. Chapters of Affiliates meet virtually and can join a multitude of online programs offered by all four expressions of Maryknoll. The new normal? I don’t know. But for now, I see this as an opportunity for Affiliates to strengthen and expand our relationships with each other around the world, and to make our global Affiliate community bigger and more inclusive. This may be necessary for us to survive and thrive. **You can help!**

As more online opportunities are offered, please participate yourselves, but also invite others. You will help to strengthen the bonds among Affiliates, and by your invitation to others, you directly impact the growth and strength our Affiliate community.

Affiliates around the world have discovered the magic of Zoom. If your chapter does not already meet virtually, I encourage you to try it. If you need help with this, talk to your Regional Coordinator as a first step. Additionally, invite Affiliates beyond your own chapter to these meetings. Board members and Regional Coordinators want to engage more with Affiliates, and if your Chapter plans to offer a program or discussion that would interest or benefit others, please consider how others can join. The Guatemala,

Albany, Portland, and Baltimore-Washington Chapters have recently had successful gatherings. **You can help!**

Share your gifts. What are you passionate about? Do you have experience or expertise in an area of spirituality, ecology, social justice, nonviolence, interfaith dialogue, antiracism? We Affiliates are called to develop our collective skills as a learning community and to inspire each other. **You can help!** You could offer an online discussion or presentation or perhaps participate on an ad hoc Board committee of the Board to consider an issue or topic concerning the good of the Affiliates.

Share your ideas. The Affiliate Board needs to discover and embrace the wisdom and ever emerging life of the Affiliate movement—and to guide it. The Board operates on two tracks: to make better what is, and to envision and move us to what can be. Both require engagement, dialogue, and the sharing of ideas. **You can help!** The Board needs to hear from you; it cannot function in a vacuum. We all are responsible to support each other in our global community. Please don’t shy away from this. If you have a question, ask it! If you have an idea or suggestion that could benefit Affiliates locally or globally, PLEASE share it! We are listening!

Servant leadership. Do you have a natural feeling of wanting to serve? Of course, you do—you’re an Affiliate! Do you aspire to lead, to be a servant-leader for the common good of the full Affiliate community? If so, the Affiliate Board needs you. If not, or not now, do you know someone with the gifts and willing heart to serve?

You can help! Please let us know!



How can you help? Please consider these and other ways that you and your chapter can help. We need all Affiliates to participate in continuing to build upon our 30-year history to unify,

strengthen, and animate our community. This global community needs you! Bob Short (our Executive Coordinator), your Regional Coordinator, and Board members are here to support the movement. Please reach out to any of us any time to let us know how you can help, how we can help, and to share anything else that’s on your mind.



**STUDY CIRCLES:
ADVANCING NONVIOLENCE**

Study groups are planned to deepen participants' understanding of and commitment to Gospel nonviolence. Discussions will center on the book, *Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World*. People who are reading the book on their own may join Pax Christi USA's 6 sessions to participate with other readers in free Zoom meetings, with break-out rooms for small-group discussion.

You may register as an individual or as a study group in the sessions which begin in early March.

To learn more, visit:

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2021/02/12/study-circles-for-new-book-on-nonviolence-starting-this-month-registration-now-open/>

