



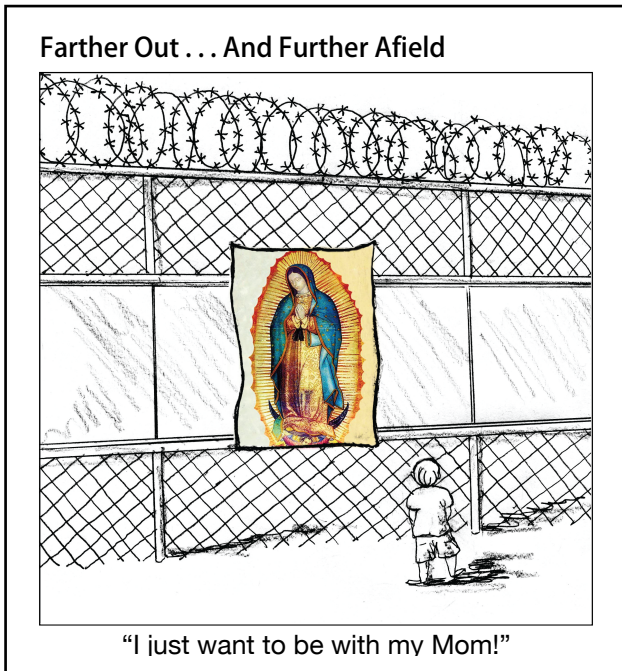
Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

May/June 2021

Volume 30 Number 3

Introducing NSFA's new cartoon artist—**Jim Coady!**



CHILDREN AT THE BORDER

Ann Coady – Virtual Chapter (Minnesota)

As a trained Red Cross volunteer, I recently spent time helping to organize shelters for the unaccompanied children who had crossed the border between Mexico and the United States. The US government had asked the Red Cross to start up these shelters because we are experienced and do this all the time during natural disasters. Then we would train government contractors to take them over for the long term.

When the children cross the border, the Border Patrol arrests and holds them in custody until they are identified and registered. The horrible pictures you see in the news of children sleeping on the floor under mylar blankets are from this custody. By law, children are not to be held there for more than 72 hours, after which they are turned over to a more long-term shelter, where they are cared for until they are placed with parents or relatives who are already here in the country. The vast majority of the children already have family residing here in the US.

I first worked at a former camp for oil workers, then was sent to the Convention Center in Dallas. Both shelters

house teenage boys. The numbers were overwhelming, but the boys expressed tremendous relief at being in a safe place, and they were extremely well-behaved. Most of them came from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. I have visited all three of these countries and have learned first-hand of the problems with gangs and how difficult it is for parents to protect their sons from being recruited or threatened.

This experience will remain for a long time in my heart, especially the image of a young boy praying before the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the roar of encouragement and enthusiasm that rose up every time a young boy wound his way through the cots, satchel in hand and a caseworker at his side, leaving to be reunited with long lost loved ones.

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NEW VOICES, NEW VISIONS

Two articles in this issue require a special introduction. First, note the article on the right: “A Card to Share.” I met Kim Vanderheiden during a Pace e Bene nonviolence session. Her website says the Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* requires that suspects in police custody be alerted to their 5th Amendment rights before interrogation, but the court did not rule in what manner or with what language suspects are to be informed. Kim loves to send copies of the “*Right To Remain Human*” card for distribution. As Americans are re-envisioning what we want public safety and policing to look like, may we use our Christian values to respect the rights of all people “to Remain Human.”

The article on page 3 is notable for its Junior Affiliates authors’ thoughts about our 30th Affiliate Anniversary, for its beauty, and for giving us an inkling of a new world to come. What are Junior Affiliates? We look forward to learning more in future issues of the NSFA about how Guatemalan Affiliates are involving youth in their Affiliate chapter.

Our Board meets June 10-13. To share your questions and ideas with them, please email Affiliatebshort@gmail.com. And to let NSFA know how your chapter plans to celebrate Maryknoll’s 30th Anniversary, contact 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.

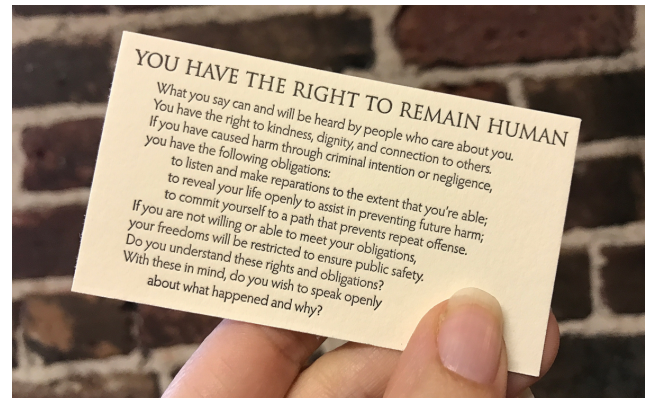
Mission Statement: Maryknoll Affiliates, while continuing to pursue their own life’s journey, commit themselves to the mission goals of Maryknoll in the context of Chapters that gather for prayer, reflection, and action. Maryknoll Affiliates challenge one another to witness to mission as a way of life 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, contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email AffiliateBShort@gmail.com, or write to:

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

A CARD TO SHARE

Kim Vanderheiden – Justice Artist/Writer



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN HUMAN

What you say can and will be heard by people who care about you.

You have the right to kindness, dignity, and connection to others.

If you have caused harm through criminal intention or negligence, you have the following obligations:

- to listen and make reparations to the extent that you’re able;

- to reveal your life openly to assist in preventing future harm;

- to commit yourself to a path that prevents repeat offense.

If you are not willing or able to meet your obligations, your freedoms will be restricted to ensure public safety.

Do you understand these rights and obligations?

With these in mind, do you wish to speak openly about what happened and why?

See: www.justiceconversation.org/2018/11/04/the-right-to-remain-human



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 at AffiliateBShort@gmail.com.



ONE COMMUNITY, ONE VOICE, ONE JOURNEY

By Leticia Arriola and Jimena Celis



Being part of Maryknoll Affiliates is more than being a member of a group. It is a pact of dedication, solidarity, belief, and sense of community.

Time has been our witness throughout this path, throughout these three decades of service, hard work, and commitment to the people, to our community, the one that we have built and strengthened to be one of our pillars. The thirty years anniversary logo represents that path, how it began to grow, just like a seed, to become or bloom into a greater movement that solidifies the love, care, and devotion of all its members around the globe.

For us, being part of this great accomplishment and celebration has been more than an opportunity to become active members, but it has been a time for reflection. Time to reflect on the challenges, growth, and change Maryknoll Affiliates have dealt with and have taught us during this time.

Without a doubt, we want to be part of this change, in ourselves and with people that surround us. Having these thoughts in mind, we were able to brainstorm, discuss, and conclude on how the logo would look like and why the colors we chose also reflect our past, present, and future.

Since the beginning we knew this collaboration didn't have to do just with the image of Maryknoll Affiliates, or the 30th anniversary. We knew it was a way to connect all its members that represent those seeds that have built the past, live the present, and hope for the future.

Also, as Junior Affiliates, it motivates our team to gather ideas that will make this celebration a great opportunity for all to become one, and as mentioned before, hope for the future.



CALLED TO BE GOOD SAMARITANS

Rick and Susan Treuting – New Orleans Chapter

In the spirit of encounter and solidarity, of which Pope Francis sings throughout *Fratelli Tutti*, the Gulf South Chapter of the Maryknoll Affiliates met via Zoom on a Sunday in late February. Before the pandemic locked us out of the Walmsley House, the home of Matt and Janet Rousso, a group of between 16 and 22 Affiliates would meet monthly to renew our gospel-driven global visions. At the February Zoom meeting, we began with a prayerful reflection on excerpts from the Lenten message of Pope Francis. It was an invitation to conversion through renewal, his Lenten theme. Francis calls us “to renew our *faith*, draw from the living water of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.”

The heart of the evening was time spent breaking open chapter two of *Fratelli Tutti*, A Stranger on the Road. This chapter (and the whole of *Fratelli Tutti*) is a masterpiece of Francis in defining, encouraging, and inviting us to be missionary disciples. Matt had prepared us before the meeting by sending out chapter two of the encyclical and excerpts for discussion developed by St. Nicolas Parish, Boldmere. As is often suggested relative to the parable of the Good Samaritan, we considered how we are similar to the various characters in the story and why. Many of us identified with the priest and Levite who were too busy, judgmental, afraid, or otherwise chose to avoid stopping to meet and help a neighbor. When asked to see ourselves as the robber, Kevin Cahalan recognized that in his decision to buy inexpensive items of clothing manufactured by the hands of forced labor or unjust wage earners, he was complicit in robbing the workers of their human dignity!

We considered how each of us show or experience the mercy of the Good Samaritan. In paragraph 69 of *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us that we all face daily opportunities to give and receive mercy. These opportunities offer an option to make either loving decisions or self-centered decisions. We offered instances of when we included or excluded our neighbors. A few stories of when we have tried to help a stranger on the road were mentioned. It became clear to some of us that like all real missionary work, Francis is directing us to make the instantaneous decision to develop a relationship with a stranger through kindness, void of negative judgements. Sue and I shared how we helped a lady push her car up the ramp of a parking garage when her car

stalled. Reaching out of ourselves is the missionary experience.

These stories and descriptions kept bringing out the joy and duty of encounter. Our conversation led to the question, “*What do you hear?*” (not just what do you think). The emphasis was on identifying

those times when we hear a stranger inviting us into a very personal engagement. The question helped us to realize that we need to live creatively as missionary disciples despite the pandemic limitations on physical contact. We started to hear the opportunity to make some long overdue phone calls to family members, friends, parishioners. We heard the call to spend more time visiting when conditions allowed. The first step is making the effort to hear the cry of those in need of our presence. What a joy it ultimately brings! It is the sound of God’s merciful voice and the essence of an authentic missionary response from deep within us.



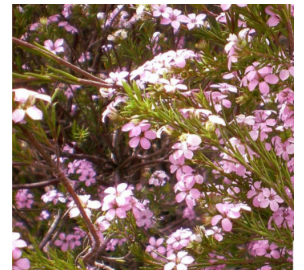
Breath Prayer

In the March 2021 *Sojourners*, Osheta Moore explained breath prayers:

Breath prayers involve praying a short, five- to seven-syllable prayer.

On the inhale, you pray a name for God that is meaningful to you: “Nurturing Mother,” “Kind Savior,” and “Gentle Healer” are some of my favorites. On the exhale, you pray your request: Give me peace; hold me close; be near me in my grief ...

The day Ahmaud Arbery was killed, I prayed, “God of Justice, hold me close.” On the day I learned that the novel corona virus was ravaging brown and Black communities, I prayed, “Wounded Healer, protect the vulnerable.” On the day there was rioting in my neighborhood after George Floyd was killed, I prayed, “God who hears, respond to our cries.”



HOPE ON HOOVES

Nancy Richards – Seattle Chapter

When Fr. John Mollel, the Vicar for our Lake Stevens Church, returned to his home parish in Arusha, Tanzania, in 2016, I accepted his invitation to visit, wanting to see opportunities to do mission work and go on a safari. Receiving unbelievable hospitality, I knew I would return, and I made a presentation to the Seattle Chapter about the trip and my volunteer opportunities.

In 2018, Fr Mollel passed away, but he left me a strong forever friend group. In early 2020, I saw on Facebook (FB) that Sam was buying goats at \$25 USD for single mothers in Karatu, TZ, near Arusha. The women use the milk for their families, sell it, or make cheese. The goats have kids a couple times a year, soon creating herds. Goats gives these women independence and a means of support. I told Sam I'd buy a goat, and two days later I received a picture of my goat and family with a handwritten thank-you sign. I was amazed. Thus began my goat journey—Hope on Hooves.

By May 2020, stressed out by the pandemic, unable to volunteer locally, I asked God what I could do to help. I had posted pictures on FB of my goats so my friends could see the families. I said if anyone was interested in purchasing a goat for \$25 or a cow for \$130, they could buy it through me, and receive pictures of their goat or cow with the family they were helping. The response was overwhelming!

Now volunteers Lotha, Rodgers, Kajuju and Sam help interview the long list of women requesting a goat. All the volunteers are teachers and take time away from their families or work to help. Delivering animals, volunteers find many of these families also need food, clothing, household supplies, and medical assistance.

I track the donations, make thank-you signs, and email them before the deliveries. Seeing the pictures of the goat recipients, many send additional money. The volunteers are so excited to be able to purchase the needed food, clothing for the children and moms, beds, bedding, medicine and furniture. The volunteers may also drive them to medical appointments, attend doctor

appointments with them, and keep me informed, taking nothing. One hundred percent of the donations go to the families. So incredible.

In December 2020, one of our Seattle Affiliates, Carolyn Creighton, made many phone calls and was instrumental in getting over 40 Christmas Goat orders from our group!

Donors are very open to helping these families. One Seattle couple paid for leg surgery for a little boy, Geoffrey. This year we saw another miracle:

A woman's whose toddler son, Said, had water on the brain, begged us to help him. Without committing to covering possible surgery, we said we could take him to Arusha for a consultation, and I would try to raise some funds. A recent \$200 donation covered travel, MRI, blood tests and a doctor visit. A neurosurgeon saw him on a Wednesday and said to stay at the hospital—two UK neurosurgeons that specialized in this type of brain surgery were flying in on Friday. The surgeons did surgery the following Monday.



I was really worried: the hospital didn't give the volunteer, Kajuju, much choice, and he had signed the papers without knowing the cost. After the surgery, he explained the situation to the surgeons, and they did the surgery for free!

The only cost was \$120 for his hospital stay. We also paid for his mom's meals for a month and transportation home. The day after Said's surgery, out of the blue, I received donations for \$100 and \$250. Not sure why I was worried. Said goes back in May for a follow-up appointment. His head has started to reshape.

As of March 2021, we've delivered 171 goats and 17 cows, funded lots of medical assistance, and provided food, clothing, school uniforms, school books and playground toys, tables and chairs, beds, mattresses and bedding.

I plan to return to Tanzania in summer, 2021, and meet many of these families. I will send pictures to those who have donated and/or sent prayers. I would absolutely love to have others around the country join this mission of Hope. You can FB me, at Nancy Richards Hurlbut, message me, or email me at nancyrichards@live.com.



THE TREE OF CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE

Cindy Korb – Albany Chapter

In the *Bridges to Contemplative Living* series, Thomas Merton writes, “Contemplative living directs our minds and hearts to the truly important issues of human existence, making us less likely to be captivated by the superficial distractions that so easily occupy our time.” Put another way, contemplation is a way of responding to our everyday experiences by consciously attending to our relationships. It deepens our awareness of connectedness and communion with others, becoming a positive force of change in our lives and providing meaningful direction for our journey.

“Wake up! Wake up!”

“Spirituality means waking up.”

Anthony de Mello asserts that most people are asleep, walking through life on autopilot.

Sister Simone Campbell, of The Nuns on the Bus fame, acknowledges that her contemplative practice impacts every aspect of her existence. In fact, “...the practice has led me deeper into political action and encounter.” While discussing her book, *Hunger for Hope: Prophetic Communities, Contemplation and the Common Good*, our Affiliates book group wrestled with the concept of contemplative practices. What exactly are they? Are centering prayer, Zen practices, mindfulness, and meditation the *only* contemplative practices?

The short answer is a resounding ‘No!’ The Tree of Contemplative Practices was developed by Maia Duerr, of The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society (<https://www.contemplativemind.org/practices/tree>) to help illustrate the variety and multitude of contemplative practices. This diagram is by no means exhaustive—there could be many more branches, many more leaves—but it does give a starting place to consider what contemplative practices might look like. After examining the tree, you may realize that you already engage in quite a few contemplative practices and be encouraged to try some new ones.

Maia Duerr defines contemplative practice as:

any activity one does on a regular basis to help cultivate a sense of self awareness, joy, equanimity, resilience, and compassion for yourself and others.

As with all plants, the roots of the tree provide *nourishment* and *strength*; without the roots, the branches and leaves couldn’t exist. Intention to connect with something greater than yourself is the first of these foundations. This connection then brings about an awareness of the wisdom that lives inside of you, as well as an awareness of your habits, choices and patterns. That awareness is the second root. Almost any practice can become contemplative when based on these two roots. Think of a labyrinth. You can simply walk a labyrinth as a maze without giving it much thought or energy. However, when you bring intention to the labyrinth, expecting a connection and communication with God as well as an openness to any insight or wisdom that may come, it becomes a much richer, deeper experience, a contemplative experience.

The practices have been grouped into seven basic categories or branches: stillness, generative, creative, active, relational, movement, and ritual. Looking at the tree, which ones of these practices do you already engage in?

When people first think about contemplative practices, they typically envision stillness practices; some practitioners even view them as the most important. Stillness practices help quiet the mind and still the body. This cultivates calmness and equanimity, which in turn increases awareness and creates space for wisdom to come forward. I’m sure we’ve all had powerful experiences with this during mission trips, retreats, special prayer services, mass, or your own prayer time.

While stillness is important, it is only one of the seven branches, there are so many more. We often engage in several branches at the same time without even realizing it. For example, our Affiliates book group engaged in the relational branch as we

dialogued and listened deeply to one another during our discussion time. Many participants had spent time before meetings not only reading the chapters but reflecting on them, a stillness practice. Some members were moved to activities such as volunteering and participating in marches or protests as a result. As Maryknoll Affiliates we participate in both the relational, activist and ritual branches: our meetings are considered sacred—often beginning and ending with prayer, we engage in storytelling and deep listening, and volunteer our time and effort with social justice issues.



Continued on page 7.

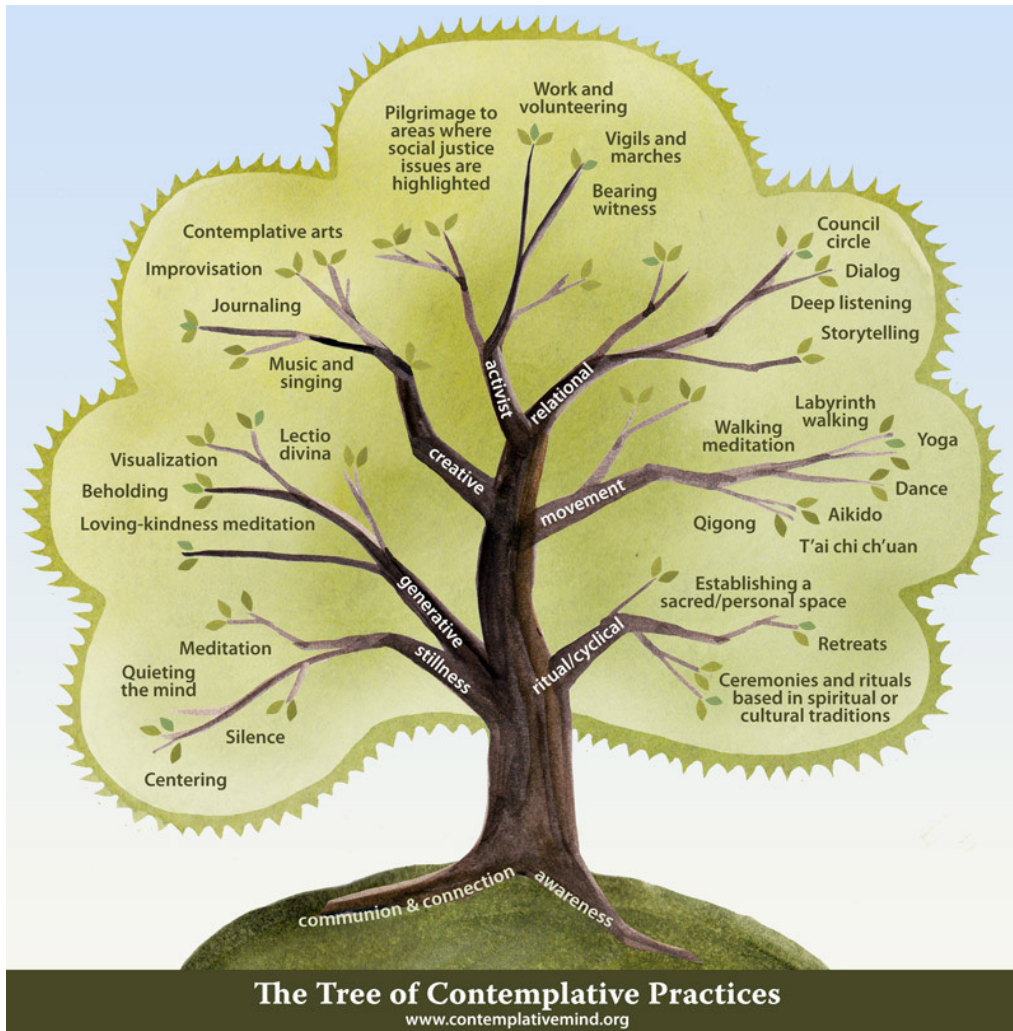
Continued from page 6.

I first became aware of the Tree of Contemplative Practices during my formation program as a spiritual director. And like many of you, I realized that I had already been engaging in contemplative practices without realizing it or having the words to describe it. After retiring, my husband and I became Maryknoll Lay Missioners serving in Kenya. Even before making such a drastic lifestyle change, we had been engaged in the active branch of contemplative practice in our own parish and community—helping with food drives for the local food pantry and working with the youth.

During our time in Kenya, I was moved to deepen my spiritual life. Living in a culture so very different from my own, I realized that my knowledge and practical skills weren't going to be adequate. I needed the help and guidance of God to be an effective teacher in a system so very different from what I knew, one that valued different things. I found

myself asking a lot of questions, doing a lot of reading, and discovering centering prayer. That has been my go-to prayer practice since then. The contemplative practices I was engaged in allowed me to more consciously bear witness to my high school students. I was able to listen more deeply to their stories as I engaged with them both inside and outside of the classroom.

Though I didn't have the vocabulary to describe what I was sensing, what I knew and felt intuitively, I became more contemplative. As a result, I felt drawn to becoming a spiritual director myself and began coursework while in Kenya. Finishing the course after returning to the US, I became a certified Spiritual Director. As time has gone on, I have engaged in other practices—journaling, yoga, retreats, and lectio divina. Currently, contemplative practices ground me as I accompany others on their spiritual journey to a deeper relationship with God.



© The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society
Concept & design by [Maia Duerr](#); illustration by Carrie Bergman

BOOK GROUP TRANSPORTS AND CONNECTS

Hugh Menton – Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Where does a Maryknoll Affiliate book group take you? To places you might not imagine—to times past, present, and future; to the four corners and the middle of the Continental US, and even beyond. Twelve Affiliates took that journey recently, reading and sharing Fr. Bryan Massingale’s *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*.

Maryknoll groups offer the gift of openness to listening and hearing others, and Massingale’s book necessitated just such openness. In his very college professor, scholarly theologian approach, he begins each chapter telling us what he is going to be teaching us. But then, like in so many Jesuit professors, he provides amazing insights and directions.

Our group’s degree of openness to listening to each other also enriched the journey and broke open our hearts. One couple work with immigrants applying for citizenship; they raised 8 children—3 Afro-American, 3 Asian, and 2 biological—and now rejoice in a rainbow of grandchildren. Our member from the South is leading a discussion on this book for a group of interracial Catholic women who want to improve interracial relationships in their

diocese. A German-born member related the German lamentation over the Holocaust to Fr. Massingale’s call for the US Church and society to lament the 400 years of slavery, Jim Crow, and failures of the Civil Rights era; she shared the powerful music of Hezekiah Walker’s “I Need You to Survive.”

Classic Books to Read & Discuss

- James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*, 1955
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, 1987
- Henry Louis Gates, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*, 1997.

We Believe...

As Catholic Christians, we espouse certain fundamental beliefs about God, the human family, and social justice—an alternate set of meanings and values that inform a nonracist way of life (taken from Massingale, pp. 126-8):

1. We believe in one Creator God and the common origin of the human family.
2. We believe that the diversity of the human family is a divine blessing and mirrors the inner life of God.
3. We believe in the solidarity of the human family, which leads to the conviction that we are responsible for each other’s welfare.
4. We believe that the poor and the marginalized have a privileged claim upon the conscience of believers and the public concern of the state.
5. Finally, we believe that racial reconciliation is a divine gift and promise, partially realized here on earth and of certain fulfillment in a time known only to God.

One member challenged us to engage in the action part of the Maryknoll experience, so we developed the list of “Now What” options shown below. Will you find an action to take you someplace on racism in the Church and society?

Now What?

- Write an article for the NSFA on your experience with racial justice.
- Find a black community that you can join in action, whether shared music performance, liturgies or celebrations, or community actions.
- Use black spirituals and black composers’ music, which speaks to the black experience, in church and liturgical services.
- Listen to Hezekiah Walker’s “I Need You to Survive” (<https://youtu.be/90Kb2gkmMG4>), then read “The Beloved Community” and “Epilogue” (Massingale, pp. 140-43, 175-80).
- Write letters to Catholic newspapers regarding racial justice and calls to action.
- Advocate for voting rights and against voter suppression.
- Encourage interactions between individuals of different cultures.
- Provide story-telling by black people and people of color about racist experiences.
- Lead a parish group using *JustFaith* Ministry programs on race, such as “Faith and Racial Justice”, “Faith and Racial Healing”, and “Faith and Racial Equity.”
- Read the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ letters on racial justice in the US or individual bishops’ letters to the people of their diocese.
- Check out resources in your diocese on your diocesan website.
- Try out a free *JustFaith* Ministries evening with a group, using a one-session outline from justfaith.org.



BORDER NEIGHBORS

Gerard Mullaney – Northeast Ohio Chapter

On March 12th, the Northeast Ohio Affiliate Chapter hosted Affiliates from several states for a Zoom meeting with School Sister of Notre Dame Judy Bourg, who ministers to migrants on the US-Mexico border. Three Northeast Ohio Affiliates—Pam Cibik, Gerry Mullaney, and Kathy Ress—had visited Sister Judy and her team five years ago at the Sisters’ residence on the border in Douglas, Arizona.

By way of photos, maps, and slides, participants became acquainted with the beauty of the borderland country and the sister cities of Douglas and Agua Prieta, Mexico. Sadly, Sister Judy’s photos also showed the border wall in all its physical and moral ugliness. In contrast, we were given the opportunity to learn of the beauty, the humanity, the compassion of Sister Judy and her interfaith partners—especially her local Presbyterian community.

The ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame at the border has many dimensions. They meet basic needs for food, water, clothing, respite, and temporary shelter for migrants who approach the Migrant Center on the Mexico side of the border after a grueling journey across the Mexican desert. The Migrant Center supports individuals upon who have been deported as they ponder their fate and future. Sister Judy and partners also go out into the desert to leave water for thirsty, weary migrants.

The sisters’ presence and counsel affirm migrants’ dignity and give added support to their empowerment. They provide opportunities for life sustaining activities and skill building—carpentry and woodworking, sewing, gardening.

The ministry of the School Sisters, along with the Presbyterian ministerial team, honors the deceased as well. For years they have conducted a weekly Tuesday vigil procession of white crosses—each with the name of a migrant whose remains were found in the desert, having perished on their journey to the border. This procession passes



Sister Judy’s photo is of the “Our Lady of Guadalupe” mural on the outside wall of the Ajo, AZ, Humanitarian Aid Center. Near the Sonoran Desert, the area of most desert-traveler deaths, the center was started by the Ajo Samaritans, local folks, who wanted to end death in their “backyard.”

along the road to Mexico from Arizona. Sister Judy comments about the positive connections made as motorists pay tribute to the procession and to the deceased.

In current national news reports about migrants coming to the border in great numbers, we are hearing criticism and blame, policy arguments, politicization of the situation. Sister Judy and her faith-based partners stand in contrast. They see the divine in these human beings—indeed our sisters and brothers—and their immense suffering. This suffering stems from the migrants’ journey, which followed suffering in their homelands—the violence, the “violence of poverty” in Judy’s words—that drove them to their journeys. And Judy’s response, shared with us in this presentation, is simply a “yes” to the Gospel call to love one’s neighbor.

Sister Judy needs our help and donations. Email her at jbssnd@yahoo.com.



CHAPTER MEETING RESOURCE



The Third Wave of Mission Group offers materials that focus on the short immersion trips (on hold during the pandemic) that hundreds of thousands of mostly young people participate in annually.

The series of short videos (5-15 minutes) come with accompanying study guides. Why not test one out during a chapter meeting—virtual or in person—to see how these resources might spark new reflection and activity?

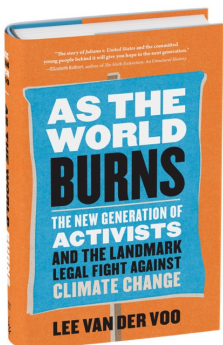
To see all the materials, go to their website: <https://thirdwaveofmission.org/video-modules/>. Questions? Contact Bob Short: affiliatebshort@gmail.com.

OUR FOCUS

AI Drinkwine – Seattle Chapter

**As we travel life’s paths
sometimes our forest becomes
troubled
with doubt, pain, fear, and anxiety
No weapons
can effectively shoot holes
in life’s clouds of despair
However,
as we raise our eyes
glimpses of sunlight
filters through the canopy of leaves
nourishing all life
tucked in the forest shadows
Hope,
enlightens our path
A smile,
A cookie,
A gentle wave,
Can send problems
to their deserving grave
Let our focus
not hide in life’s shadows
Allow it to rise
to sunlit skies ~**

AS THE WORLD BURNS



“Do children have a right to a livable planet? Is the government obliged to protect it?”

These are the driving questions of *As the World Burns*, a 2020 book by Lee Van Der Voo. It vividly details the story and court case of the 21 courageous youth of The Children’s Trust and the film, “Youth v Gov.”

The Kirkus review* says the book provides “a comprehensive look at the motivating factors that caused young adults to sue the government for a better future.” The book is available through Timber Press and other booksellers.

*<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/lee-van-der-voov/as-the-world-burns/>

**MARYKNOLL MISSION
INSTITUTE 2021**



*These Maryknoll Sisters’
programs are offered
online May through July:*

- 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
- 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

*This year’s programs will be conducted by ZOOM—
attend without travel, from your home.*

See complete schedule and program descriptions:
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



tending our souls:
faith and doubt in a
four-stage process

MINI-MAC A HUGE SUCCESS

Jim Coady – MAC Planning Team

Many thanks to all of those who participated in the Mini-MAC presented via Zoom. By most accounts, this event, the first in the series of three Mini-MACs being developed by the Maryknoll Affiliates virtual conference planning team—Bob Short, Celine Woznica, Ginny McEvoy, Agnes Walsh, Ann and Jim Coady—was a major success. Special kudos go to Chris Keavney of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, who hosted us on their Zoom facility, for his flawless technology support.

Surely it was helped along by Bob “Think Big” Short’s success in having Brian McLaren, a former pastor, and now a faculty member of Father Richard Rohr’s Living School at the Center for Action and Contemplation, lead us in exploring the theme of “Tending Our Souls.”

Brian spoke to us about how, in his book, Faith After Doubt, he sees the stages of spiritual growth in our lives and how each stage is meaningful and necessary to the journey.

Over 200 folks had signed up and over 120 were online on Saturday, April 17, listening and participating in the small breakout sessions that took place after Brian’s introductory talk. We will be making a video link available on the Maryknoll Affiliates website to “Tending Our Souls with Brian McLaren.”

The team is now in the process of finalizing the next two Mini-MACs—“Tending Our Community” and “Tending Our Planet—planned for this summer and fall. Updates coming soon!



Participants populated 5 Zoom screens!



Affiliates are gearing up for a proper celebration of our

30 Year Anniversary!

Contact NSFA or Bob Short (affiliatebshort@gmail.com)

to offer your ideas or volunteer your service.



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

The Vatican plans to celebrate the end of the special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year on May 24th, 2021. On this date, the Vatican will roll out the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Creation Care Teams and each of us will have a special and important role to play in the months and years ahead. These documents from the Interdicasterial Working Group of the Holy See on Integral Ecology:

- * [Journeying Towards care for Our Common Home - Five Years after Laudato Si'](#)
- * [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)

begin to map the Vatican's invitation to the global church to embark on a journey to 'total sustainability' in the next decade. During the Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year, there will be the launch of the program and a public commitment on the part of various institutions to begin the 7-year journey to total sustainability in the spirit of Laudato Si'. Your chapter could use these documents to begin its own 7-year integral ecology journey.

