



Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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GIVING REFUGE

This talk by Rosemarie Milazzo, MM, for the Maryknoll Sisters also applies to Affiliates, to all of Maryknoll.

In 1994, when refugees from Burundi and Rwanda fled to Tanzania during the genocide there, the local people complained that Tanzania was too poor to welcome refugees. In response, the president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere asked, "Who made these borders? God didn't make borders, they are man-made. The land is for us all, these refugees will be welcome here." Today we have 28 million refugees globally, and 85 percent are hosted in developing countries. Why? The Somali refugee and poet Warsan Shire tells us why in her poem, "We only leave home when home is the mouth of a shark."

I have been a member of an international peace team, Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) since 2007. Listening to stories, I am troubled again and again as I note that the US is responsible for the crisis in many countries due to our irresponsible actions: military interventions in Iraq, covert operations, installed authoritarian leaders, multinational corporations stopping family farming. Yes, we are all entangled in this mess.

I have worked in camps with refugees in Kurdistan in Iraq, in the Congo in Africa, Lesvos in Greece, Nogales and Agua Prieta in Mexico, and at our own border in Arizona and Texas. In Nogales, Mexico, with the NGO, NO MORE DEATHS, I welcomed refugees who had been caught by Border Patrol in the desert as they were making their way to the US with torn shoes, huge blisters on their feet, scratches and cuts all over their bodies. Yet they planned the next return because, their stories told us, they were fleeing from the mouth of a shark.

Working with CPT in Agua Prieta, Mexico, drug cartels were as numerous as flies in a garbage bag. Our job was to escort migrants from the tent at the border, to our place, protecting them from kidnapping by the cartels that hovered in the area.

Two years ago, I served in a shelter for refugees in El Paso, Texas, and this past summer, Catholic Charities



What's Inside?

Giving Refuge	1
Transformation and Collaboration	2
A Tool for Policymakers (Yes, You!)	2
A New Take on Socialism	3
A Psalm Before We Begin	4
Help at the Border—From Home	5
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Look to the Future.....	5
Dress-A-Girl	6
Our chapter's Approach to Right-to-Life.....	8
Are You Participating in the Synod?.....	9
Board/RC Meeting Snippets.....	10
Board News: Maryknoll Affiliate Board and Regional Coordinators Meet	11
Remind President Biden	12

Continued on page 4.

TRANSFORMATION AND COLLABORATION

We may have had a hard and confusing year, but now, in the new year, we are like a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis. In this issue, Sr. Rosemarie Milazzo, MM, encourages us to use our experience and skills, our lives, to address the refugee crises. Much can even be done to help neighbors and refugees without leaving home. Mary Morris Williams and her friends send love and beautiful dresses to girls in other countries and to refugees in the US.

The Affiliate Board's fall meeting explored how Affiliates can transform ourselves and our Affiliate Movement. Like the butterfly, transformation is a sign of our life and growth. Board Chair Ginny McEvoy reports that the Board called for a *coordinating team to explore the possibility of new collaborative mission involvements*. The Maryknoll Sisters and the Fathers and Brothers, who continue to provide inspiration and leadership, are advocating for new Mission involvement and collaboration among all four Maryknoll entities.

Even Pope Francis has called for transformation through involvement in a new synod. He is asking us all to make input and collaborate through *synodality* to transform our Church. Send your ideas for transformation and collaboration to the synod and to us 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 further information, see [Maryknoll Affiliates.org](http://MaryknollAffiliates.org), contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email AffiliateBShort@gmail.com, or write to:

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A TOOL FOR POLICYMAKERS (YES, YOU!)

Marie Dennis ended her recent talk on nonviolence for JustFaith with a link to *A Policymaker's Tool*:

paxchristi.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PCI-brochure-POLICYMAKERS-TOOL-NONVIOLENCE-21.pdf

She asked that we download and read the document and see where our ideas take us. *The Policymaker's Tool* flows from several years of work by the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns and Pax Christi on their joint project, The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. It includes concrete actions all levels of organizations could take to build peace and inspiring stories of peacemakers throughout the world showing that nonviolence works.

To whom could each of us send this Policymakers tool? What can we do locally, in our state, in our country?



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.

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A NEW TAKE ON SOCIALISM

Religious Socialism: Faith in Action for a Better World, Orbis (www.orbisbooks.com), 2021. Fran Quigley is a longtime human rights activist and member of faith-based and health care access advocacy groups, as well as a professor at Indiana University McKinney School of Law.

Reviewed by
Marie Venner – Affiliate Board
Member

In times when it is easy to get discouraged, Fran Quigley's new book lifts up a lamp of optimism, happiness, and hope that nourishes our Maryknoll spirituality, community, vision, and action.

Quigley's engaging stories of social justice leaders in the Church over the past century or two make for exciting, joyful, and easy reading. His work builds upon Orbis editor Robert Ellsberg's stories of saints' lives and extends that exploration further into the modern era. Quigley's book also provides context and connectivity to such stories, as well as exposure to many new people, less familiar even to those of us who have made a second-half-of-life dive into learning more about our nation's history.

Quigley draws on a wide array of primary and secondary sources and presents connects them with humor, perspective, and an uncommon lightness, full of colorful anecdotes. These figures emerge from a dim background in our relatively unknown religious history in the United States, and we learn the faith basis and convictions that powered their work for the dignity of all and basic rights for all, sooner rather than later. Quigley gives hope, recounting how regular people stepped forward, inspired by their religious values, and took on a calling for social change—hearing the cry of the poor and understanding their strength, wisdom, and capacity as well—and then accompanying and leading in struggles, bound together as one with them.

Many of us grew up with a religion and culture that characterized socialism as a threat and a step toward authoritarianism and oppression, but young people today are experiencing our current system as anti-democratic and keeping a majority of the population in a state of precariousness

without the basics of life that both the UN Declaration of Human Rights and Catholic Social Teaching have long advocated. Now, a majority of young people and persons of color in the US express support for socialism. This book makes visible the religious drives and underpinnings of social progress in the US, a current and important task giving the church credibility and a future addressing what comprises the dignity of all and touches every person's lives and needs.

It's not too late; most Americans still say religion is important to them. And there is a history of people running for office in the US on socialism as Christianity in action, from Eugene Debs, who ran for president many times and inspired Bernie Sanders, to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Cornel West, with Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim socialists in between. Quigley shows how we can draw hope, amusement, and inspiration from all; they are indeed part of our history and legacy of *Faith in Action for a Better World*.



TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE*

Howard Thurman – author, theologian,
civil rights leader

*The first order of social change is changing
one's individual internal spirit.*

There are few things more devastating than to have it burned into you that you do not count and that no provisions are made for the literal protection of your person. The threat of violence is ever present, and there is no way to determine precisely when it may come crushing down upon you. ... In this world, the socially disadvantaged individual is constantly given a negative answer to the most important personal questions upon which mental health depends: "Who am I? What am I?" ... The awareness of being a child of God tends to stabilize the ego and results in a new courage, fearlessness, and power.

*Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation, July 22, 2021

GIVING REFUGE, *Continued from page 1*

asked for help and we went to Texas and Arizona to welcome refugees. In Texas, our Sisters worked with youth who had been separated from their families awaiting placement with relatives. In Arizona, ICE or Border Patrol brought refugees who had already been processed to our shelter. Our task was to provide hospitality until we could contact their sponsors. When they arrived in the home of the sponsors, they had to report to court to process their sanctuary request. They wore huge bracelets on their ankles that indicated where they were at every moment. The bracelets would be removed when they appeared in the court. To our dismay, we learned that 70 percent of these migrants would be refused and returned to their homes.

God didn't make borders, they are man-made. The land is for us all, these refugees will be welcome here.
—Julius Nyerere, Tanzania

In all of my experiences, with Syrian refugees as well as Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq; with Bangladeshi, Afghani, and Cameroonian refugees in Greece, all who traveled in dangerous rafts across the Aegean Sea from Turkey; in the Congo; and at our own borders, I realize how much we are all entangled in this mess. I ask, can we provide the container to hold this? We need folks who could break the border cycle of horror with a warm welcome, a smile, and reassuring words.

Just this week, Catholic Charities asked if we could help with Afghani refugees arriving in the US, settling them in military bases around the country. Have we not worked at settling people before? Could this ministry be our response to the wilderness that many folks face today?

In order to survive these traumatic journeys, people need supportive love, care, healing with compassion. We can provide that, tapping the talent and experience already in our midst. We already know how to live in community, how to hold one another in love, how to welcome strangers. We know how to live simply. Can we be the co-creative energy of divine love, sharing our lives with those who are seeking sanctuary/safety in an earth community of compassion and peace?

**A PSALM BEFORE WE BEGIN***

A prayer for the new year, or as your chapter begins a new project.

- O Divine One, from whose hands comes the work of creation, so artfully designed, our chapter prays that this work we are about to do may be done in companionship with you.
- May the work that we will soon begin add to the light of your presence because it is done with great love.
- May the work that our chapter begins speak like a prophet of old of your dream of beauty and unity.
- May the work that we will soon begin bring the joy of doing it for its own sake, in our poverty over ownership over it.
- May our openness to failure or success, and our invitation to others to share in it, aid in its bearing fruit for the world.
- May our chapter be aware that through this work we draw near you.
- O Beloved, we come to you with ready hands.



* Inspired by Fr. Edward Hayes's "Psalm Before Beginning Work" in his *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*.

HELP AT THE BORDER—FROM HOME

Here is an opportunity for Affiliates to address the refugee crisis at the US Border without leaving home.

Heidi Cerneka, Maryknoll Lay Missioner at the US Border in El Paso, was featured in the Winter 2022 issue of Maryknoll Magazine (www.maryknollmagazine.org/) and in the NSFA July/August 2019 issue. Both articles highlight the possibilities for volunteers at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy, where Heidi provides legal assistance to refugees.

Las Americas needs volunteers and interns. Besides needing workers with legal expertise, Heidi specifically mentioned that social workers or counselors could interview clients. The organization's website—las-americas.org/—includes two pages requesting interns and volunteers and listing needs. Currently volunteers work remotely.



Picture yourself working virtually at this volunteer's side.

Diana Nevarez Ramirez, the volunteer coordinator for Las Americas, provided this up-to-date information:

Yes, volunteers are needed. Second language capability would be helpful. We conduct intake clinics on Thursdays from 9 AM-1 PM MT and ask for weekly or biweekly participation in this program. We also conduct individual intakes and wellness checks throughout the week for those with limited availability on Thursdays.

To volunteer, please submit a volunteer application and resume to Diana Nevarez at diananevarez@las-americas.org. Volunteer application forms can be downloaded from <https://las-americas.org/en/volunteer>.



MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS LOOK TO THE FUTURE*

The Maryknoll Society addressed Mission, Climate Change, and Interculturality at their 14th General Chapter, summer 2021. Reaffirming their “dedication and enthusiasm for overseas mission,” ... the delegates’ first recommendation called on the new General Council to meet with the leadership of the Maryknoll Sisters, Lay Missioners, and Affiliates [the four “expressions” of Maryknoll] in an effort “to initiate a new mission commitment” before the end of 2022 in a location where “Maryknoll is not currently present.”

the delegates ... called on the new General Council to meet with the leadership of the Maryknoll Sisters, Lay Missioners, and **Affiliates** ... “to initiate a new mission commitment” ...

The Chapter’s very next set of Recommendations showed the Society’s determination to take action “to directly combat climate change, global warming, and environmental destruction,” ... including a desire to divest of all fossil fuel investments and a switch to electric cars, [and] to subsidize two climate-change related Orbis books each year.”

Evidencing their commitment to “interculturality” and to overcoming discrimination (racism, sexism, and homophobia) in Maryknoll, the Chapter delegates ... issued four “Mandates” to help members identify issues of sexism, racism, homophobia, and all forms of discrimination in the Society and to deal with these issues “through ongoing conversion and raising consciousness as part of a lifelong formation process.”



*Excerpted from an article by Leo B. Shea, MM, in *Interchange*, Vol. 41, No. 2, 2021



DRESS-A-GIRL

Mary Morris Williams— NE Florida Chapter

Dress-A-Girl members sew dresses for girls in need around the world. In April 2018, two adventurous women—Melanie Carlson, and Cindy Bennett—started a Chapter of this organization in South Jacksonville, FL, patterning it after another chapter near Jacksonville, to make it more accessible to their area. Melanie Carlson attends St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Cindy Bennett is a member of The Church of 11:22.

A study group at St. Joseph's was discerning a work of mercy for an ongoing project. Melanie suggested sewing for girls. Women could become involved by donating supplies, sewing, cutting patterns, making decorative items for the dresses, or supporting the group financially. A group of us committed to the project, agreeing to pray as we made each dress for the girl who would receive it.

Since that time, Dress-A-Girl South Jacksonville has grown and blossomed. Women from several more churches have joined: Mandarin Methodist Church, First Christian Church, and Fruit Cove Baptist Church. I have enjoyed our ecumenical nature—we feel united in our purpose and function very well together. Besides teaching sewing skills to our members, we develop on-going contacts with local

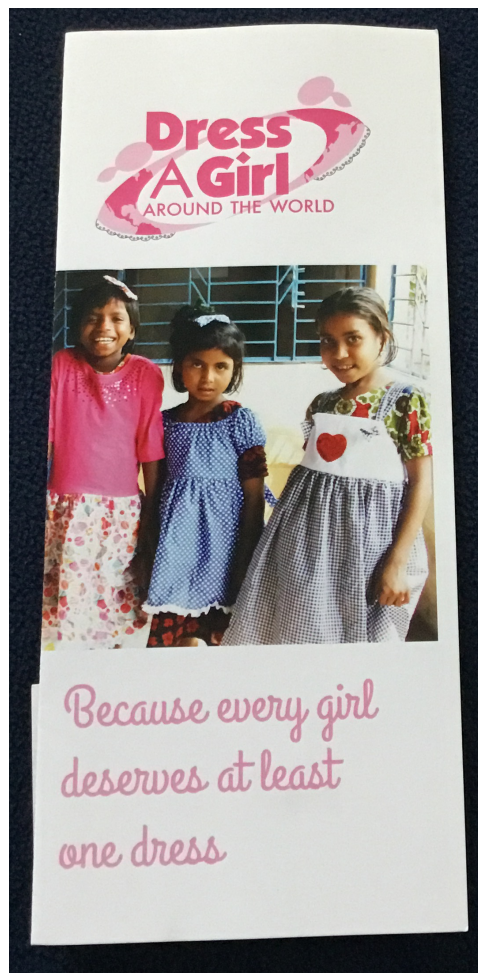
organizations who serve girls in need and with missionaries who take the dresses to foreign countries.

When I became involved, I had no plan to sew anything. I didn't think I had the time. I agreed to prepare kits with fabric and sewing supplies for distribution to members of the group. Each kit was a particular size and had the necessary fabric and elastic to make a sundress.

Next, I started making local contacts with non-profit agencies who worked with girls or families. We had positive responses from the homeless shelter for women and children in Jacksonville and from three nearby shelters for domestic abuse. Over time, our group has also served churches and the foster care department. In time, I even started sewing again, surprised that my old machine still worked.

A goal of this project is to restore a sense of worth to vulnerable girls suffering from poverty or abuse and those at risk of trafficking. The dresses are distributed as a sign of the love of Christ. The "Dress-A-Girl" label on each dress is said to deter would-be predators or the slave trade. When distributing the dresses to parents, we provide education on the dangers of trafficking.

Our brochure for Dress-A-Girl, printed by South Jacksonville Chapter, explains its beginnings: "Dress a Girl Around the World was started when founder, Rachel Eggum Cinder, needed a project for Hope 4 Women International's tailoring program in Uganda. She remembered a pillowcase dress pattern she had been given and took it with her. Rachel and her sister Joan taught the women at Smile Africa to make the dresses. A month later, Pastor Ruth, the program's director, sent pictures of the Karamojong girls wearing the dresses the women had made. The Karamojong are lowest, most



Continued on next page.



despised class in Uganda, and seeing the girls' smiling faces in their beautiful new dresses inspired people to inquire about making dresses."

Our chapter has been able to send dresses with missionaries or by mail to many foreign countries, including Ukraine, Brazil, Philippines, Guyana, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. I was happy to bring them to El Salvador in early 2020 to Maryknoll Lay Missioner Becca Muder for distribution at a pre school where she worked. We have sent them to the US/Mexican border to Lay Missioner Heidi Cerneka and to Afghan refugees at a military base in Virginia.

During the COVID19 shutdown, our group continued to function. We met once a month in the parking lot of a library to hand in the dresses we had made and pick up kits to make new dresses. We started to meet again in person when our libraries re-opened. To date, our group has made 10,000 dresses and distributed them locally and internationally. Meeting and working with the women of this organization has been most rewarding and fulfilling.



Some Dress-A-Girl Recipients



OUR CHAPTER'S APPROACH TO RIGHT-TO-LIFE

Paula Schaffner –
CA Central Coast Chapter

At our first in-person meeting after pandemic restrictions eased, we discussed what action we could take as a chapter. One member, Joan McKenna, came armed with information on abolishing the death penalty. With all in agreement, we met again to plan what we could do in our local parish to raise awareness of this issue during October, “Right-to-Life Month.”

Our first step would be to present our plan to our pastor, and we didn't know if he would welcome our efforts in addition to the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive, which highlighted the needs of disabled children. Our plan was to offer a campaign that we could handle without requiring his or the staff's efforts.

Our small but effective team, Jane Baker and Daniel Jiminez, Joan McKenna, David Schaffner and I, decided to ask if we might place a handout in the parish bulletin and offer information at tables after one weekend's Masses. We used information available at Catholic Mobilizing Network (<https://catholicmobilizing.org>) to create a possible handout and developed our agenda, each of us presenting one point:

- Introduction—place the death penalty issue squarely in the right-to-life realm
- Proposed actions: bulletin insert (show sample), tables, offering a prayer card in English and Spanish, and Father's invitation from the altar to visit the table
- Restorative Justice component: investigate ways



A Knight of Columbus signs petition to abolish the death penalty for Affiliate David Schaffner.



Jane Baker speaks with a parishioner after Mass.

our parish can support our county's program

- Recap: List what Father has agreed to and our plan to carry it out
- Fallback position: Ask if Father would review the materials we presented and talk with us again

To our delight, not only did Fr. Beto (José Alberto Vasquez) agree to the insert and information tables, he made several suggestions. We could add spots in the bulletin all month—we could call it “The Maryknoll Corner,” and we could add a prayer on this issue to the month's intercessions. And of course, our bulletin insert should be two-sided: English and Spanish. He offered our parish secretary's services in translating the text. In addition, he invited parishioners to our information tables from the altar at each Mass.

Jane contacted Catholic Mobilizing Network and ordered information cards and pledges to sign. Paula tailored the flyers suggested on the network's website to fit on one page and worked with the secretary on the Spanish translation. She also coordinated with the person writing the October intercessions to include the right-to-life prayer. Joan had the inserts printed, and Jane and Daniel had large signs printed and laminated to hang along our church colonnade. Then we all scheduled ourselves to have at least two people at our table after all six weekend Masses.

With the well-received campaign behind us, we basked in our success for a few minutes before considering what we could do to help the Sister who coordinates the Restorative Justice program in our county. Could she use some local parishioners to help spread the word when she makes her annual plea for volunteers?



ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNOD?

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

Pope Francis has called the entire Catholic Church into Synod. The Synod of Bishops is scheduled for fall of 2023. Diocesan consultation—a process of listening, dialogue, and collective discernment—is to be completed in August 2022.

Pope Francis says, “The purpose of this Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.” (Preparatory Document, §32)

Stressing that “the Synod is for everyone and is meant to include everyone,” Pope Francis invites us to “have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.” (Oct. 10, 2021)



Ten themes are presented for input:

- the journeying companions
- listening
- speaking out
- celebrating
- co-responsible in the mission
- dialogue in church and society
- dialogue with the other Christian denominations
- authority and participation

... the purpose of the Synod ... is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, ...”

- discerning and deciding
- forming ourselves in synodality.

The process is intended to form us in synodality, that is, as a church journeying together, relying on the Holy Spirit, in which all have a voice; where decisions are made transparently with accountability; a church that is concerned for the well-being of our entire society; where all are called and trusted to witness to the Good News; where all are heard.

In other words, the hope is that this process will help us build relationships in which everyone is valued and needed.



Resources: From the Vatican: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>, including the Preparatory Document (www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html)

Jesus is with us in the humdrum no less than in the cathedral. We make the humdrum holy by our presence. We can also make a holy place common. My own interior is sometimes “holy,” sometimes humdrum. If God is everywhere, how can anywhere be humdrum?

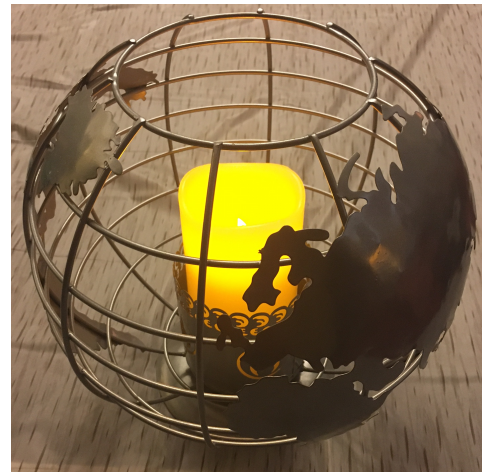
—from the “Jottings” of Bob Maxwell, who was a Cincinnati Affiliate

BOARD/RC MEETING SNIPPETS



Fr. Tim Kilkelly, of the Maryknoll Society's new leadership team, who led us in a liturgy on the earth, seeking God's kin-dom, visits with new Affiliate Board Chair Ginny McEvoy. Tim remembered a video of Fr. Jack Sullivan, MM, a strong supporter and coordinator of the Affiliate Movement who recently passed away. Fr. Jack had

emphasized, **"Be There, Listen Well, Serve With."**



Ginny McEvoy provided an Earth candle centerpiece to focus the group's thoughts during the Board meeting.

During the time for reflection, Sr. Teruko Ito asked,

"Who are we not listening to? What is the cry we are not listening to? What are the international Affiliates saying? When will they become full partners in this community? I want to see Affiliates as part of the Maryknoll Movement, the one earth community. What does it mean to be a member?"

Conversations Heard at the October Board Meeting

One chapter is investigating how they can help refugees coming to the US. Other Affiliates' special Action is addressing Climate Change.



"If we are interested in inviting younger members to our chapters, we need to go to where they are."

An Affiliate suggested that if we want to know what the youth are thinking, we can visit

youth groups:

"They always need food. I could bring food."

Another is concerned about a cultural divide in their city:

"I will try to speak with others who may not agree with me. I can try to understand where they are coming from, and maybe diplomatically provide them with another way to look at the issue."

What Actions are you and your chapter pursuing?



Sr. Norie Mojado (left) and Sr. Teruko Ito were given a heartfelt goodbye by "Elvis" (Manny Hotchkiss) singing, "I can't Help Falling in Love with You." Their departure from the Maryknoll Sisters Leadership team ends their participation at Affiliate Board meetings. New representatives of the Maryknoll Sisters will join us in the spring.

News from the Board

MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE BOARD AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEET

Ginny McEvoy – Affiliate Board Chair

The meeting of the Affiliate Board from October 28-31, 2021 at Watch Hill, RI, was the first hybrid meeting of the Maryknoll Affiliate Board with Regional Coordinators (RCs). The three-story vacation house of the Maryknoll Sisters was a perfect setting for the meeting. The house, with its manicured lawn, sits back from the road in the middle of the Watch Hill community, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. An ocean beach and the small town of Watch Hill are within walking distance. The first-floor entrance opens into a large living room on one side, with the dining room past the kitchen on the other side. On a wonderful porch adjoining the dining room, lunch and dinner can be enjoyed during the summer months.

A large open staircase leads to the second floor with bedrooms and a large living room with a smart TV. This became our Zoom conference room where Board members and RCs were able to enter into lively conversation and discussions with each other during the course of the meeting. Six Board Members were present in person, four attended virtually, and two were excused. Three Regional Coordinators (RCs) were present in person, two attended virtually, and one was excused. Bob Short directed the meeting from his computer, while I engaged members and RCs in front of the Zoom camera. The meeting schedule provided for an opening session on Thursday evening, followed by two full days of meetings and a closing session before lunch on Sunday.

At the gathering on Thursday evening, we reflected and shared experiences since the last meeting in June. This sharing provided a warm atmosphere for the work and decisions of the next

two and a half days. Breakfast at 8 AM was followed by prayer and a three-hour session from 9:15 to Noon. Friday and Saturday had two-hour sessions after lunch, ending at 4 PM. Supper followed at 5:30 PM, with a reflective gathering on Friday evening. Saturday evening, we had a wonderful celebration for Rich and Denise Lessard. The dinner by battery candlelight was a “thank you” for Rich’s faithful service on the Board and as Chair for the past two years. After dinner, we continued the celebration with entertainment by Bob Short and Manny Hotchkiss (our very own Elvis). A wonderful time was enjoyed by all, thanks in no small part to Bob’s wife, Shirley Short, and Trudy Wheeler, who cooked for us, preparing a truly festive dinner on Saturday

evening. Special thanks to both! Rich and Denise stayed overnight at Watch Hill and left after breakfast on Sunday morning.

Our meeting concluded on Sunday morning after we reviewed the Consensus Action Statements (CAS) – the results of our discussion and our decisions that

will, hopefully, move us forward in synodality¹ and mission. I am very interested in the CAS that has called for a *coordinating team to explore the possibility of new collaborative mission involvements*. Given the upheaval in our church, society, and the Maryknoll world, many are looking for new ways to be in mission. In the coming year, I am hopeful that this team will provide new insights into the elements of mission and envision opportunities for Affiliates to live them out.

Stay tuned for more news...



¹“The concept of synodality refers to the involvement and participation of the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church” (<http://secretariat.synod.va/content/synod/en/news/synodality-in-the-life-and-mission-of-the-church--by-the-interna.html>)





Remind President Biden

Despite campaign promises to **end** the inhumane policy of forcing asylum seekers to "**Remain in Mexico**" for their immigration claims to be processed, Biden has expanded the policy to migrants from more countries, including Haiti.

To urge Biden to act, go to:
<https://maryknollogc.org/action/restore-asylum-end-remain-mexico-and-title-42-expulsions>

