



Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

March/April 2022

Volume 31 Number 2



HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE SYNOD AND SYNODALITY?

Hugh Menton – Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Unlike many Affiliates and Catholics, I was received into the Church as an 18-year-old, while a student at a Catholic university. I was looking for meaning, a direction in life, as young people still do. The decision shaped and filled my life. Now I am an old man and I am finding that same meaning and feeling in Pope Francis' call for the current synod and vision of synodality. Reminiscent of my college days, when many Catholics were unaware of the social doctrines of the Church and its place in the world as described by Vatican II, many Catholics today in the US are unaware of the Synod. Have you heard about it?

The Vatican Office for the Synod, the USCCB, diocesan materials, and parish bulletins are using the Jesuit educational approach—begin with definitions (something I found useful as a college student). Here is one definition of **Synodality**:

- *syn* = “together” *hodos* = “road”
- *synod* = “on the road together”
- **Synodality** is a style or mode of being Church, in which we journey together, both clergy and laity, each according to our roles and spiritual gifts.
- The **intention** of this process is “to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.”

What do Affiliates have to do with the Synod? For me, it's as basic as the Affiliates being a voice in the Church. This is an opportunity to initiate doing Church differently, something clearly expressed at Vatican II—as the People of God and all people of goodwill. As Father Greg Boyle points out in his new book, *The Whole Language*, that goodness is present in every human being. Affiliates are called to expose that goodness and bring it forward to the world, as Maryknollers have always done.

We will have opportunities to express the Affiliate experience and vision in this process, which hopefully will not end in 2023. It seems to me Maryknoll pillars of spirituality, community, global vision, and action are quite in sync with Pope Francis' call to communion, participation, and mission.



What's Inside?

The Synod and Synodality	1
Mary's intro / Synod Resources	2
Plan for Action in Latin America	3
Our Philippine Affiliate Checks In	4
News from Haiti	5
Trip to the Southern Border.....	6
Migration Points to Ponder.....	7
Scholarships for Broken Souls	8
Making a Difference in Oaxaca	9
Road Trip with Father Mike	10
Board News: Mission Grants Approved ...	11
New Mission Involvement Explored	11
Ecumenical Advocacy Days	12

PERSIST AND INITIATE!

In this issue, we see the persistence of Maryknoll missionaries, continuing their work through natural disasters and the pandemic. Renate Schneider has persisted with her mission work in Haiti through multiple earthquakes and political unrest. The Dahl-Bredines continue with their community connections in Oaxaca over several decades. Fred Goddard, former Affiliate Executive Coordinator and Lay Missioner, has moved beyond his US role to continue peacebuilding in the Philippines. He tells us of Philippine trauma from a typhoon.

Affiliates also initiate and innovate. The Affiliate Board has recently taken steps to boost mission work with a new financial grant program. They have also established a team to explore new mission opportunities for the Affiliate Movement. This year, Latin American Affiliate chapters offer inspiration to Affiliates worldwide by coming together and planning joint actions on Climate Change and migration.

True to their Maryknoll nature, Affiliates persist and initiate new mission efforts. Send your stories of persistence and innovation to NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com.



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

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

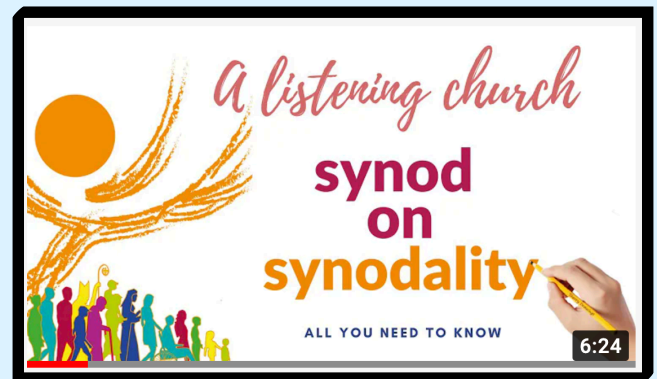
For further information, see MaryknollAffiliates.org, contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email AffiliateBShort@gmail.com, or write to:

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

SYNOD RESOURCES

To learn more before you decide how to get involved in the Synod process, check out these sites:

- US Conference of Catholic Bishops: <https://www.usccb.org/> – search on **Synod 2021 2023**
- New Ways Ministry: www.newwaysministry.org/synod – LGBTQ Catholics ministry
- Videos: Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) – search on **Synod 2021 to 2023**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5IAktuejwo>

This video uses simple, engaging sketches to present what synodality means and what you can do to be involved.



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.



**PLAN FOR ACTION
IN LATIN AMERICA**

Rosa Beatriz Casteñeda de Larios –
Guatemala Connie Pospisil Chapter

These are all connected.

- Walking together
- Strengthening links
- Community coexistence
- Climate change – Buen Vivir
- Migration and mobility
- Sharing experiences

By walking together, we will strengthen fraternal bonds and we will solidify the community of the Affiliate chapters of Latin America and our neighbors. We will feel like family and we will assume responsibility for the *Casa Común*—our common home. Only in this way will we build bridges between people, countries, and Mother Nature. We will become aware of the union we have in Buen Vivir, especially dealing with **climate change** and **migration**, as well as with people in situations of suffering, precariousness, marginalization, or exclusion.

The reality of our western continents is inviting us not to stay comfortably seated any longer, but to get out of our comfort zone, to take risks and make our own the projects that societies need. Personal and community projects will fill us with

energy, dynamism, and hope because we have taken action. Therefore, for the chapters of El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Guatemala Connie Pospisil, the action and community pillars will guide us throughout this year, as we **take action**.

We see it as very important that, as each chapter goes beyond itself to reach out to others with the love of God, we share our missionary actions with our fellow chapters. We need to participate in each other’s actions—giving and receiving photos of the actions carried out, and sharing lived experiences and the satisfactions gained by interacting with children, youth, and/or adults.

Our purpose is to inspire this **action-sharing community** through the publications of the *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte* (NTLH) Magazine and this year’s Zoom meetings, in which community actions will be reflected on, discussed, and implemented, especially those on climate change and migration. Our hope is that through these actions we become aware of how important it is to make a difference in our environment and thus commit ourselves more and more to creating something better. The actions should lead us to discover the why of our mission and at the same time motivate us to continue being missionaries in our countries.

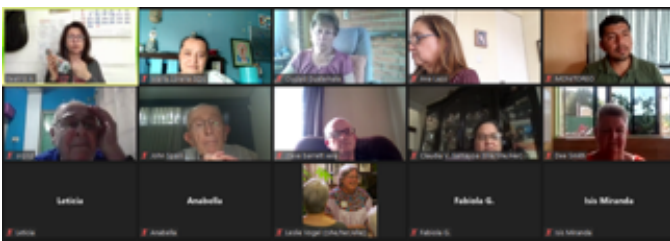


JOIN THE NSFA TEAM!

Affiliates are invited to join the NSFA Editorial Board to:

- Offer suggestions for NSFA articles
- Edit an article or two per issue
- Receive untold appreciation

Interested? Email: NSFAMary@gmail.com



In February, Guatemalan Affiliates discussed climate change.

OUR PHILIPPINES AFFILIATE CHECKS IN

Fred Goddard – Former Executive Coordinator
of the Maryknoll Affiliates

*Fred and his wife, Jet, moved to the
Philippines in late 2012.*

Between family ministry and work with the **Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute**, my days have been so filled, and when they are not, I just need to stop and rest. We went to online courses when the pandemic hit, and that ended up being more work in ways we could not imagine. When we had in-person trainings, it was an intense three weeks of courses. Now, with going online, these courses are spread out over months and require much of the same attention. As the main tech person for our organization (as usual), I am especially busy. 2022 looks to be much the same—we are starting off the year with three customized trainings.

Family is the main health insurance in the Philippines, and we are a major actor with Jet's family in that area.

Family-wise, we did return to the Philippines to be closer to Jet's family. That has been a blessing, but as her siblings age, their health needs also increase. Family is the main health insurance in the Philippines, and we are a major actor with Jet's family in that area. I tend to be one of the main "health consultants" for family and co-workers.

Our **Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter** is also aging, and the pandemic has not helped at all. We have not gathered since before the pandemic, and I am not sure when we would be able to get together again. We are all playing it safe for right now. While there has been no Omicron variant in Davao City, it has been detected in Manila, and we all feel it is just a matter of time.

The **super-typhoon Rai/Odette** ravaged the Philippines, especially Northern Mindanao and the Visayas, first making landfall on December 16, 2021. We here in Davao City were hardly affected by the typhoon. However, an older cousin of Jet's from Cebu described typhoon Odette as the most vicious typhoon in his long life. He wrote:

Ironically, the sturdier houses in elevated subdivisions were the hardest hit. The strong



Fred Goddard, pictured with Merida, Mexico, Affiliates Ceci and Fina, attended the 2012 Central American Regional meeting of Maryknoll Affiliates.

wind menacingly howled like a thousand hyenas wanting to take down its prey ravaging everything in its path. Concrete power-line posts fell like toothpicks strewn across the roads; roof panels flew as if untethered kites landing from distant heights. Plants were uprooted. When finally it moved out, it left behind a tale of destruction, mess, and chaos, imparting a lesson of how to live a pre-industrial life: no electricity, no piped water, no internet communications, no TV, many roads impassable for days.

There are family members from whom we have not yet heard. Thousands, if not millions, have been displaced by Odette, but fortunately, many have reached out to help.



Disaster Assistance

If you would like to help fund recovery efforts after typhoon Rai/Odette, and are able, you can donate through:

- Caritas Philippines (the social action arm of the Catholic Church in the Philippines): <https://www.nassa.org.ph/caritas-philippines-appeals-for-aid-for-affected-families-of-st-odette-through-alay-kapwa/>
- Fred's PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.me/fredjet>

NEWS FROM HAITI

Renate Schneider – Chicago Chapter

*From her February 2022
Haitian Connection Newsletter*

After the major earthquake in August, earthquakes in the Jérémie area are continuing. On January 24, two earthquakes hit the area, measuring 5.3 and 5.1 on the Richter scale. Two people died, some houses became uninhabitable, and schools closed. There was great panic in the streets, with some school children jumping from the second floor to safety.

Now people are waiting anxiously for February 7, the normal date for a new administration to take over. In addition, the floating bridge that could bring goods to Jérémie has not been started, even though some of the material has already arrived. All prices have gone up, especially for food and gas. Life is difficult. But Haitian Connection continues to work side by side with our Haitian colleagues.

Women's Empowerment Project. Initiated by The Trees That Feed Foundation in conjunction with Jérémie Breadfruit Flour and Haitian Connection, the project offers women economic sustainability. In the pilot, 25 women have committed to sell 50 konparets (Haitian sweet rolls) per week. They purchase the konparets from Jérémie Breadfruit Flour for 15 gouds and sell at 25, making a good profit. These results encourage and empower both the women and Jérémie Breadfruit Flour.



Once we evaluate the pilot, we would like to expand to more women and communities within the Grand'Anse.

Earthquake delays school opening. Damaged in the August 14 earthquake, the school building in Jean Bellune had to be completely gutted, and rebuilt. Haitian Connection helped the school procure some tents for the preschool and elementary schools. The kids, teachers and parents were all happy. Hopefully the weather will stay calm so the tents can last for a while.

House repairs in earthquake-ravaged Deschamps. The earthquake hit Deschamps hard. Haitian Connection has maintained a significant presence, here, building several houses for women and their children and



establishing a community mental health program and a micro credit organization. After the earthquake, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to fund needed house repairs.

More new houses in 2021. Gelsomine Pierre, mother of two, is the proud owner of a new

house. Having been abandoned by two husbands, she cares for a child from each marriage, plus two children of other family members. She sells peanut butter and bread, and buys small items on credit to resell in the market to make a living with her children. She is very happy with the house, saying it is the greatest gift you can give to someone who is in need of a home. Now that she has her own home, she is respected in the community, and her second husband has even asked to come back.

After-school program resumes in new location. With the re-opening of schools in Jérémie, Haitian Connection's after-school program also resumed, and we have enrolled 15 children. Many more would like to come, but to meet each child's needs, we have to limit the number of children we can enroll. The parents, as well as the children, are very grateful because they would not be able to pay for tutoring.

Last year, the after-school program had to move after five years. Fr. Jean, founder and director of John Bosco School, offered one of his classrooms, and in January we moved into a more secure environment with a gate and security guard, important in Haiti these days. We are grateful that our dedicated staff—Eliasmé, the coordinator of the after-school program and teacher of languages; Flore, a primary teacher; and DeGraf, our math and physics teacher—have kept the program going, despite earthquakes, political insecurity, and a huge wave of corona virus infections.

To get a feel for life in Haiti, I recommend *What Storm What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy (see <https://tinhouse.com/book/what-storm-what-thunder/>). And to learn more about what Haitian Connection is doing, please visit our website: Haitianconnection.org.





TRIP TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Lou Haveman – friend of SW Michigan Chapter

In January, our group of six women and three men spent a week in El Paso at a non-profit called Abara. We met people who have lived on the border their entire lives, some who cross the border daily, and others who have tried to cross illegally. Some were being deported as we walked across the Rio Grande River on the bridge. We met and listened to border patrol agents and saw the wall Steve Bannon built. We visited one of the dozens of Mexican-side shelters for those seeking asylum. We worked for an afternoon at a US-side shelter for people awaiting the means to travel to their hosts families across the nation. We listened and learned. We were surprised, depressed, and inspired.

Border Patrol. Most are Latino, many with relatives living in Mexico. Agents are not vilified; rather, the job is sought after and the number has tripled since 2000. Armed and prepared, their job is to capture, rescue, and turn over migrants to others (usually ICE) for processing. Their practice is to treat everyone with dignity, and they find joy in rescuing those lost, dehydrated, close to losing their lives in the river or the desert.

The Border Patrol operates under rules and regulations regarding asylum that may change daily, and exercise some personal discretion. They might allow those in custody to simply turn

ABARA: “to ford” or “to cross over”

Abara, a three-year-old non-profit organization, provides “a place where people and ideas come together to understand each other and address pressing concerns in love.” Food, housing, and transportation for four nights and three days costs \$450 per person.

<https://www.abarafrontiers.org/>

around and retrace their steps or turn them over to detention, but probably less than ten percent get past them. Roads along the 700 miles of 22-foot wall are well graded and monitored by sophisticated infrared cameras and in-ground sensors, and patrol vehicles respond within minutes. But the wall is scalable and equipment vulnerable to false alarms. The US border states use various means of deterrence, including drug-detecting dogs and National Guard units.



Lou Haveman inspects the border wall.

Migrants. Their make-up has been changing from single men and youth seeking employment to families and mothers with children. A pastor who runs a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez said, “Be assured that almost all of these people are fleeing for their lives and seeking a secure home for their families.” Almost all are seeking asylum, for which they must be on US soil or at the point of entry. The magic words, “I fear for my life!” need to be documented.

Most will be detained and deported to their home country, not to Mexico, at our cost. With an attorney, they have a much higher chance of being allowed to stay; they will be released and provided bus fare to a US city and given a court date. Less than 20 percent disappear. Increasing numbers of migrants are from South America, Southeastern Europe, the Middle East and other countries such as Haiti. Many fled their country several years ago, stayed in another country for a period, and now seek entry into the United States. We were not allowed entry into US government receiving stations, where people can be held for months but were told children are no longer separated from their parents.

Continued on next page.

Shelters. In 23 government, church sponsored, or non-profit shelters in Ciudad Juarez, migrants wait, prepare, and recoup from traveling hundreds, if not thousands, of miles. At the guesthouse El Buen Samaritano, headed by Juan Fierro Garcia, we were overwhelmed with the love and hospitality of those who have so little, receiving handcrafted “Trees of hospitality” from the children with lots of hugs and smiles.

On the US side, several very short-term shelters care for those who have been released and are preparing to go to their host families and cities. Ciudad Nueva, which grew out of Annunciation House, has neighborhood outreach as well. Many shelters are in very nondescript commercial buildings for their own protection. We volunteered in a shelter that serves up to 500 individuals; most are only in this shelter for 24-72 hours.

Almost all shelters are staffed by volunteers, young and old, men and women, from as far away as Massachusetts. They work for a couple of weeks or months at a time. Food and housing are provided, but no stipend. Many shelters, at least on the Mexican side, are staffed and run by low income and poor churches, many of them Pentecostal. Central American church leaders are engaged in incredible sacrificial work, and they feel alone, often invisible to the church in the US.



Photo from Bev Abma’s video, “Abara Visit 2022 01” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI9UtwOx9gU>)

Surprised. Six months ago, at Fort Bliss, adjacent to El Paso, 10,000 Afghan refugees were in a tented encampment. In less than six months, all had been transported and orientated to host cities throughout the country. Ft. Bliss was only one of several locations. How is it that the State Department and Homeland Security can make that happen and not come up with a viable border policy and a resettlement program for vulnerable peoples from the South that have more culturally in common with the US population?



MIGRATION POINTS TO PONDER

•Water rights in the Southwest and between the US and Mexico is a huge issue.

- COVID19: Title 42 is the latest rationale for preventing anyone who has or had COVID from being accepted as an asylum seeker.
- 84 percent of the World’s refugees are hosted by emerging and developing nations. Only 3 percent were hosted in the US as of 2020.
- 70.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes because of persecution, conflict, and/or human rights violations. This is the highest number ever recorded. There were 42 million displaced people ten years ago.
- Only a tiny fraction of the World’s refugee population was resettled in 2018, less than 1%. Canada received 28,100. The US received only 22,900. A total of 55,000 visas have been allocated for 2022, spread over many countries.
- US drug consumption is a major contributing factor of destabilization in Central America. One person said, “As long as the US demand for illegal drugs is ongoing, there is a moral obligation for the US to take in our Central American migrants.”
- Climate change will cause increasing migration around the world.
- It was said that the second most important and powerful person in Honduras is the US ambassador. That means we bear a share of the responsibility for what happens in these troubled countries.
- Unaccompanied children are a growing problem and almost all of them are deported.
- “I was a stranger, and you invited me in.” – Jesus

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BROKEN SOULS

Isis Miranda – Guatemala Chapter,
Caminando por La Paz*

One day in May of 2011, I decided to go to the scholarship department at the university to apply for a scholarship, even knowing that my grades were not a thing to brag about. After waiting for a while at the front desk, I was welcomed by the coordinator, and she took my student identification and checked my grades in her computer. By that time, I was already regretting being there because I knew what the answer would be. She looked at me arrogantly, told me that I was not qualified to get a scholarship, and continued in a brusque tone: “The scholarships are given to the best students. I mean, scholarships are hard earned—you need a 91 to be a candidate for a scholarship, so we cannot give you one with that 75.”

The coordinator continued talking, but I don't remember what else she said because my mind was filled with my memories of Father Thomas. He never requested good grades of any scholarship applicant; for him it was really important, as he used to say in his homilies, to “understand the context,” assimilate what we have learned, put it into practice in our lives, and cause a change in a person from there.

Living in the most violent areas and having limited resources was enough reason to give a student a scholarship. If someone failed their school year in other institutions, the usual procedure would be to withdraw the scholarship immediately, but Fr. Tom used to send the student to repeat the school grade and would watch his achievement over time. Of course, there was scolding; we had to listen to him screaming angrily for a while, but he always ended the sermon by asking in a soft voice, “How much does your tuition cost?” And when he felt that we needed to clear our minds, he would take us out to eat or on trips to symposia, conferences, or exhibitions. Then he would talk long and deeply in his desire to “reprogram our mind” and/or encourage us.

Now, years later, I have understood that there were not strict requirements because the main goal of those scholarships was to give sense to the life of vulnerable souls—souls beaten by abandonment or discrimination, hurt and looking for love or attention, young souls in adult roles—all of them were broken souls. No doubt father Tom understood that it was not easy for these students to concentrate on school tasks when at the same time they were facing real problems.



In order to solve the problem of failed classes and school dropouts, he created the tutoring program, but who ran this program? Students with shameful grades like mine, ones who misbehaved during Mass, the ex-gangsters... we were the same ones because first, there was no one else who wanted to do it, and second, in the process of rebuilding those broken souls, other needs arose: needs to create leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, and motivation. It was also a process of self-discovery of one's own talents. Then? Scholarships for good students? – No, scholarships for broken souls trying to be good students while daily fighting all kinds of battles. But was it worthwhile? Yes!!

I find this answer when I listen to the Gospel about “the parable of the Sower.” I think about Caminando por la Paz and all who collaborate with this mission. We are all planting seeds and trying to cultivate them in a land with stony areas and thorns, but also with fertile soil. So, no matter how many seeds were lost or did not bear fruit, we have deep faith that more than one will fall on fertile ground and bear fruit up to a hundred times more.

In this time of pandemic, our students have overcome many obstacles during their school year, especially because virtual learning was not something they were used to or prepared for. We have had students who failed in some of their classes but recovered during the year; others who did not make it and failed their school year. Our plan is continue supporting, motivating, and believing in them as Fr. Thomas did with us.

Thank you very much to our friends and sponsors who keep sowing and cultivating fruits with us.



*Established by Thomas Goekler, MM, maintained by Guatemala and Texas Affiliates after his death. See <https://www.fathertomsmmission.org/>.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OAXACA*

Phil & Kathy Dahl-Bredine

“To live is art, it is science, it is joy, it is dance,
it is struggle.”

Our friend, Dorothy Day, of the Catholic Worker movement, would explain that the goal should be to create societies in which it is easier to be good. For all its faults, our village Yukuyoko and other awakening indigenous communities of Latin America seem to be such places. Some places they call what they are living, “el buen vivir”—living well. Former Mexican Secretary of Natural Resources, Victor Toledo, put it this way: “To seek el buen vivir is to adopt a collective ethic, communality, solidarity, mutual aid, where the individual’s behavior is marked with the values of equilibrium within oneself, with others, with the natural world, and with the cosmic ‘immanence’ or ‘essence’”. He goes on to say, “...today such concepts are beginning to replace ideas such as ‘development,’ ‘progress,’ and ‘growth,’ the ever less credible ideological battering rams of neoliberalism. Vivir bien means to learn to live collectively and in permanent communion with the natural world.”

Some believe, and we are also coming to agree, that it is this conjunction of values, not individualism and capitalism, that assured the survival of our species for the past 300,000 years. Could these be the values of the Mother Civilization of us all, glimmering through the clouds of centuries of Western individualism and violence? We stay in Yukuyoko to try to discern the answer and do a small part to help this original culture survive long enough to teach us what we Westerners need to learn to survive the



crises that are largely the creation of our Western society.

In our village there is new energy, not only for remembering the ancient knowledge of how to live together in harmony, but for how to survive

the present crises of climate change, pandemics, and pessimism. A group of young people, mostly women, calling themselves *hijas de la tierra* (daughters of the earth), realize that the future of the village involves small economic projects that build on, instead of replacing, the *campesino*



structures and understandings that are already in place on the village level.

Recently, they are expanding honey production, and finding markets for village-made products in the city of Oaxaca. They now have a plan to improve the wool quality of their sheep by introducing the soft merino sheep wool and by introducing Angora rabbits to produce a fine quality yarn for use and sale. Others will be expanding egg production in groups to provide larger markets with organic eggs. These new projects will supplement traditional milpa production for family consumption and, in good years, local markets. Of course, you all, with your interest and help, are part of these critical efforts.

Peace and blessings,
Kathy and Phil



Mail: Paz en las Americas,
1819 N. Virginia St.
Silver City, NM 88061
Email: kpdbmx@gmail.com)

*An excerpt from Phil & Kathy Dahl-Bredine’s September-October 2021 newsletter, written to “share our view from this little corner of the planet.” Kathy and Phil Dahl-Bredine are former Maryknoll Lay Missioners who stayed in Oaxaca, Mexico. The NSFA carried a review of Phil’s novel, *The Insurrection of the Common Good* in May 2020 and of *Milpa! from seed to salsa*, in May 2016.

ROAD TRIP WITH FATHER MIKE

Ralph and Kate Maughan –
Seattle Chapter

Father Mike Bassano is a Maryknoll Priest presently ministering in a UN Refugee Camp in South Sudan. The camp cares for 33,000 internally displaced survivors of the on-going civil war. We first met Father Mike in Thailand several years ago on one of our mission trips. Since then, Father Mike visits us on his triennial home leave. He spends time in our home relaxing and rejuvenating.

On each visit, Ralph takes him on a week to ten-day road adventure. Past trips were spent exploring the Pacific Northwest, much of the American Southwest and California. This year was spent in Yellowstone Park and the Grand Tetons.

It had recently snowed, and Father Mike called it a winter wonderland. We spent three days exploring Yellowstone and its attractions and wildlife, including several bison who obviously do not know the rules of the road. We managed to see Old Faithful in action three times.

Leaving Yellowstone, we traveled to the Grand Tetons. The weather was perfect and the snow-covered mountains were magical. We returned home via the old mining town of Wallace, Idaho.



Father Mike has a long history of ministering in difficult places. He served ten years in Chile during the revolution and ten years in Thailand, which included several years caring for dying AIDS patients living in a Buddhist Temple. His last 13 years have been in Africa.

We always look forward to Father Mike's visits. He is a joyful and spirit-filled man and the only person we know who carries everything he owns in a small gym bag. His only belongings are a couple of changes of clothes, necessary travel documents, and a journal filled with his daily writings. When the journal is full, he sends it to the Maryknoll Sisters' Contemplative Community in Ossining, NY. We look forward to his next visit. The UN compound has email facilities, and we routinely keep in touch with Father Mike via email.



Farther Out...And Further Afield by Jim Coady



"THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYS: THERE WILL ALWAYS BE FLOUR AND OLIVE OIL LEFT IN YOUR CONTAINERS UNTIL THE TIME WHEN THE LORD SENDS RAIN AND THE CROPS GROW AGAIN!"
1 KINGS 17:14-16

The origin of pizza?



CRISIS CONTEMPLATION*

I consider crisis contemplation to be an aspect of disorder that prepares communities for a leap toward the future. This is a leap toward our beginnings. We are not just organisms functioning on a biological level; our sphere of being also includes stardust and consciousness. We all have a spark of divinity within, a flicker of Holy Fire that can be diminished, but never extinguished. —Barbara Holmes

*Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation, 7/25/21

News from the Board

AFFILIATE BOARD APPROVES MISSION GRANTS

Readers of the February 7 *Monday Morning Update** were the first to see the exciting news: the Affiliate Board has approved a new Mission Grant program.

Any Affiliate or Affiliate chapter can apply for a monetary grant to help fund a mission project they are involved in or committed to becoming involved in. The grants are meant to encourage mission efforts of Maryknoll Affiliates inspired by the four pillars of the Affiliate Movement: Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action. These grants will assist Affiliates in promoting peace, justice, community development, and/or international understanding.**

The 2021-2022 Affiliate budget includes a few thousand dollars to fund the grants. These funds are available because of the spontaneous generosity of Maryknoll Affiliates. The Board will review the success of this grant program in the coming years.



The application form for Mission Grants will soon be available; watch for details in the Monday Morning Update emails. Small grants of less than \$500 will be approved relatively rapidly by a designated subset of the Board, but bigger requests will go to the full Board for approval. After receiving the funds and working on the project, recipients are expected to periodically report to the Board. A brief newsletter article about the project is also requested.

Affiliates are encouraged to be creative in identifying mission projects and in applying for grants. In addition to funds that Affiliates may not have had available otherwise, the grants will allow recipients to label their projects as supported in part by the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement.

What have you or your chapter been saying you'd do, *if only we had the money?*



* Sign up for the Monday Morning Update at <https://www.maryknollaffiliates.org/contact-us>.

** Note that scholarships for conferences or travel grants are not part of this Mission Grant program.



NEW MISSION INVOLVEMENT EXPLORED

The Affiliate New Mission Initiative (ANMI), a team of Patty Hinton, Santa Orlando, Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland, and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, assisted by Bob Short, enthusiastically responded to the Board's October 2021 request to explore a *new mission involvement for the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement*. The Affiliate Movement has not previously identified an action involving the whole Movement.

The ANMI team looked carefully at the Board's directions, which includes an emphasis on collaboration. Collaborative mission involvement could cover most everything Maryknoll Affiliates hold dear—from working with youth in the US, to working with marginalized communities abroad, and everything in between. As Affiliates, collaboration with other Maryknoll entities comes naturally, but other organizations could be considered for collaboration, too. Indeed, mission always involves collaboration, even if it is only with the community being served.

We are gathering information on individual Affiliates' known or existing relationships that could benefit from the Affiliate Movement's increased commitment and greater collaboration. Many general suggestions include working with immigrants at the US Border, with Native American groups, at overseas mission sites, on addressing climate change, on youth forums, etc.

The ANMI team invites your input. Do you already have a collaborative relationship with a mission site or activity that the Affiliate Movement could embrace and enhance? What efforts are you already pursuing with Maryknollers that could be broadened and strengthened? What other mission-oriented entities or sites besides those with Maryknoll have you encountered that could use the long-term or intensified involvement of more Affiliates? How is the Spirit of Mission leading you and the Affiliate Movement? Where are we called to serve? What are your dreams and what would you want to become involved with? Contact our team chair, Patty Hinton pattybscd@sbcglobal.net with your ideas to help move our Affiliate Movement toward this New Mission Involvement.





Join the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns at
Ecumenical Advocacy Day

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Virtual Event

April 25-27, 2022

This year's theme:

"Fierce Urgency: Advancing Civil & Human Rights,"

We are called to restore, protect, and expand voting rights in the United States and to realize human rights around the world.

[Register here:](https://advocacydays.org/)

<https://advocacydays.org/>

