



Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2022

Volume 31 Number 6

TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Celine Woznica – Chicago Central Chapter
Mini-MAC Committee Member

The Maryknoll Affiliates are active in a variety of social justice issues, including immigration reform, mass incarceration, and gun violence prevention. All these issues are connected in various ways, and one of the social justice issues underlying all these issues is climate change and the resultant environmental injustice. An impressive number of Maryknoll Affiliates are involved in working to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In 2021, one of the virtual Mini-MACs (Maryknoll Affiliate Conference) was dedicated to the topic of climate change and featured Andy Panelli of the Catholic Climate Covenant who, together with a team of other faith-based climate activists, led the participants through an exercise on the Climate Change Simulator. The activity was evidence-based and fascinating as we reviewed the effectiveness of various strategies to decrease the rate of global warming. We listened to the experts and learned a great deal.

Now we have the opportunity to hear other important voices regarding climate change, the voices of young people.

The upcoming Mini-MAC “Youth on the Environment” will feature the voices of three young adults active in faith-based climate action. Emily Burke and Henry Glynn both work for the Catholic Climate Covenant. Kayla Jacobs recently left her position in the Diocese of Joliet, where she worked to promote climate change action to pursue other opportunities in the same field. Although the Mini-MAC team has provided some guiding questions to the presenters, this is their presentation and our job is to LISTEN. The suggested questions include:

1. What motivated you to a commitment to address global warming and climate change?
2. What sustains you? What gives you hope?

Continued on page 2.



Join us **November 12 at 4:00pm ET**
via Zoom. *To register, go to:*
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrf-vvrikvHtcxFvqqaKpbKozrzEW72r7lo>

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VOTING AND NONVIOLENCE

Early in November, US citizens vote to influence the future of their country. We Affiliates will use our Pillars of Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action to help filter the claims and counterclaims and vote for the Common Good of all. Our Mini-MAC on Nov. 6, before the election, may help us expand our views by listening to young people as we discern how our politicians and laws could better nurture the environment.

Houston Affiliate Dick Horstman reminds us that our help is needed in ministering to hundreds of migrants crossing our border at Eagle Pass, TX. They may be fleeing a climate crisis or violence. Voters are also concerned about violence in the US. This issue features advocates who want to stop the sale of assault rifles, like those used in recent mass shootings. The advocates' nonviolent code of conduct is appropriate in any situation.

With gratitude, we are inspired by Affiliate Marie Dennis, of the Baltimore-Washington, DC, Chapter, twice honored by Pax Christi for her work as a teacher of peace and nonviolence. Poet Emmett Wheatfall also asks us to think, see, hear, and remember peace and nonviolence. Please tell us about your inspiration and work—write 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

Time to Listen, Continued from page 1.

3. What role does your Catholic faith play in your activism? Why connect this action with the Catholic church?
4. How do you and your peers approach the issue of global warming and climate change? Each one of you contributes a unique skill or talent. What are your particular skills and interests?
5. What do you want to tell us older adults? What do you want us to know?

Following the young adults' reflections, there will be time for Q&A.

Let's listen to the voices of the young!

We encourage the entire Maryknoll community to log onto the young adults' presentation on **Saturday, November 12, 2022, at 4PM EST / 3PM CST / 2pm MST / 1PM PST.**

Join us via Zoom! We can accommodate up to 100 people at this event. Register at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrf-yvrjkvHtcxFyqaKpbKozrzEW72r7lo>



Listen!

Perhaps one of the most precious and powerful gifts we can give another person is to really listen to them, to listen with quiet, fascinated attention, with our whole being, fully present.—*Kay Lindahl*

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Submissions: We welcome letters to the editor, articles, photos, and suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. Contact us at NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com.

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NSFAMaryknoll@gmail.com
or contact Bob Short



BORDER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Dick Horstman – Houston Chapter

Your help is needed at a migrant center in Eagle Pass, on the Texas-Mexico border about 150 miles southwest of San Antonio. Eagle Pass is on the Rio Grande, across from its Mexican neighbor, Piedras Negras.

The Eagle Pass migrant center, which is operated by Border Hope, a Methodist organization, is located in a warehouse. The Border Patrol processes the migrants crossing the Rio Grande at or near Eagle Pass and then brings them to the migrant center. The center serves three meals a day and gives the migrants a sack lunch for the road. Showers are available, as well as donated clothes.

The most important function of the migrant center is helping migrants make travel arrangements

from San Antonio to wherever they are going. A private bus company takes them to the San Antonio bus station or airport. Most migrants are in and out the center the same day, but some spend the night. Only a few migrants stay for an extended time.

The center receives approximately 400 migrants a day, some days as many as 600, from Venezuela, Cuba, Central America, the Caribbean, and even West Africa. Sister Ursula Herrera, OB, is in charge of the kitchen and helps as needed elsewhere. Volunteers help in the kitchen or wherever Sister needs help.

Sister Ursula’s volunteers stay with her, a few miles from the migrant center, at the Benedictine Mission House, a large, comfortable place in a residential area. The optimum group size is one to four people, although Sister can find jobs for larger groups. Affiliate volunteers can stay as long as they want. Affiliates from Houston and elsewhere have worked with her on migrant needs, as well as operating from her Mission House on home repair projects.



Benedictine Mission House.



Photo by Dick Horstman.

Sr. Ursula (left) greets Judi Horstman in the Benedictine Mission House.

Sister Ursula also has ministries in Piedras Negras, Mexico, which she visits weekly, more or less. Volunteers should bring their passports.

To learn more, please call Sister Ursula:

Phone – (830) 776-1040
 Email – sisursie@hotmail.com.

Sister is very busy, so if she doesn’t respond, call or text me, Dick Horstman, at (281) 961-9069, or email me at rhurst6970@aol.com.



HOUSTON CHAPTER NEWS

Bob and Ruth Kleeman – Houston Chapter

Actions. The construction crews continue house repairs; others assist migrants and their families, and medical groups conduct clinics—most of which are in low-income areas along the Texas/Mexico border.

The houses for repair are identified by local parish contacts who have first-hand knowledge and understanding of the families most in need, some of whom are still living in what's left of their homes flooded in 2020. Many residents are suffering from allergies and congestion cause by mold and mildew.

The medical teams set up clinics in areas designated by the local bishop in coordination with individual parishes. At these clinics, generally held in parochial schools, volunteer doctors from both the local areas, as well as from Houston and out of state, perform vision, dental, and physical exams and other procedures.

New faces. With Father Gerry Kelly's death last year, Father Rodrigo Ulloa, Maryknoll's vocation director, has been assigned to Houston, dividing his time between here and Maryknoll, New York. Father Rodrigo comes to us after spending mission time in China. With the sale of the Maryknoll House, which has served the Houston area for the last 60 years, Father Rodrigo searched for a new location in Houston. As providence would have it, Father was able to establish a new house in a Chinese area of the city. He was glad to reconnect with a Chinese priest whom he had met in China, and he will be able to continue to show his love for the Chinese people.

Sr. Mariam Bannon, CCVI, will also be assisting mission promotion in south Texas. She will reside in San Antonio and work with Father Rod as a mission promoter/educator. Sister had been a lay missionary for many years in Mexico before joining the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, where she will make her final vows next year. We are fortunate to have Father and Sister to continue Maryknoll's mission in this area.



Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa.

Photo from maryknollsociety.org/



BREAKING NEWS

HAITI MISSION UPDATE

Since Renate Schneider's article in the Sept/Oct 2022 NSFA about Haiti, the situation has become critical. Not only is it not safe for volunteers, but the general population is experiencing a reign of terror: food scarcity, lack of electricity and fuel, unsafe water leading to cholera, and violence by the gangs that rule in many areas. Renate's Haitian Connection newsletter (<https://haitianconnection.org/newsletters>) explains the situation more fully.

The recent newsletter also contains photos of hopeful young people and programs to help people in Jérémie and some more rural areas. Local Haitian Connection staff continue with programs that focus on empowering Haitians to help themselves and each other.

Is there any action Affiliates can take at this time? We can help by:

- Continuing to fund Haitian Connection programs through our donations,
- Contacting our US government representatives and UN ambassador to request the kind of intervention that will keep the people safe while a new government is established,
- Remembering Haiti's people in our prayers.

To donate, visit www.HaitianConnection.org and go to **How You Can Help**. If you would prefer to donate by mail, please address checks to:

Haitian Connection
5300 South Shore Drive # 27
Chicago, IL 60615

Questions? Email Renate Schneider at HaitianConnection@gmail.com.



ON HOPE AND HEALING

*Excerpts from a message by
Fr. Richard Frechette, CP DO,
Port au Prince, Haiti*

"...Some dynamics work against the healing of hope. ... we can get used to bad news, addicted to bad news, and eventually prefer bad news."

"Another danger ... is when there is an absence of hope in the spirit of the times."

"Rather than getting swept up, we need to be the protagonists of hope."

"Thank you as always for your support for our work in Haiti, which enables hope to take action."

GULF SOUTH END-OF-SUMMER GATHERING

Rick Treuting – Gulf South Chapter

The Gulf South Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates gathered on Saturday, September 3, at the home of Mary Ann Becnel in Bay St. Louis, MS, for our annual end-of-summer meeting. During July and August, we do not meet, so it was delightful to be back together. We started the meeting by responding to the questions, “*Why have you missed getting together as Maryknoll Affiliates in the last couple of months?*” and, “*How does it feel to be back together?*”

Several members expressed that they missed the experience of being with their Maryknoll faith community and the spirituality it engenders. Others talked about being supported as missionary disciples and how the monthly gatherings offer great testimonies of discipleship.

We then studied and shared individual reactions to an essay entitled, “*The Sacramentality of the Universe*”. As a chapter, we are focusing this year on living up to the joys and challenges of *Laudato Si*. It is becoming more and more clear to us that Christ’s presence, the ultimate sacrament, is found in contemplation and meditation upon the wonders of all of creation that surround us. This is the motivation for listening and responding to the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor. At our gathering, we committed to devoting about 40 minutes to the “*Laudato Si Action Platform*” at each of our October through May meetings. We will be identifying prayers as well as both individual and group advocacy actions to better respect and care for creation. Days of reflection on this encyclical and other works of Pope Francis (such as his Mission Day message) will be conducted monthly for affiliates and others at our archdiocesan retreat center.

After a scrumptious pot luck lunch, we devoted some time to reporting on how our individual ministries are going. Charlie Free is supporting assistance to immigrants at the Texas/Mexico border. Janet Rouso, Brian Comboy, and Marie Bastien are back tutoring at the St. Vincent de Paul Learning Center. Barbara Salettes and Marie Bastien are working on family literacy with Catholic Charities. Matt Rouso is teaming up with the rector of St. Joseph Seminary College to

teach missionary discipleship and organizing mission immersion programs in Guatemala or Appalachia for the college seniors.

Bud and Debbie Waldmann work in their parish’s marriage preparation and enrichment ministries as well as volunteering at the Lantern Light ministry daycare center for homeless in New Orleans. Chris Cahalan works with her parish’s food bank and her husband Kevin is a catechist with 11th and 12th grade students who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Maria Victoire is doing



Members missed “being supported as missionary disciples and how the monthly gatherings offer great testimonies of discipleship.”

Environmental Justice Advocacy with groups in the Gulf South area.

As a missionary disciple, Mary Ann Becnel is living out ways to show solidarity with the poor near her home. This includes worshipping at a local African-American church and helping the parish with their fund raisers and socials. Kim Nunez does social work in area schools. Susan and Rick Treuting are cooks and meal delivery ministers in their parish and assist a local food bank with collecting and distributing food packages. Jimmy Huck is associate director

in Tulane’s Latin American Studies program and reads for the blind on Saturday morning radio. One of our Affiliates, Ben Gordon, has been diagnosed with a form of cancer. This will impact his zealous engagement in a variety of social justice initiatives in the New Orleans and South Louisiana area. Missionary discipleship doesn’t always mean going abroad.

The gathering ended with some business, scheduling upcoming meetings and our annual Advent retreat, and praying for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and inspiration.



**PAX CHRISTI USA RECOGNIZES
AFFILIATE MARIE DENNIS**

Ginny McEvoy – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Chair

Pax Christi USA celebrated Marie Dennis, a member of the Baltimore-Washington Affiliate Chapter, as the 2022 Teacher of Peace at its 50th Anniversary National Conference in Washington, DC. The award *recognized Marie’s long-standing witness and leadership within the Catholic peace and justice movement and her efforts to deepen the Catholic Church’s commitment to nonviolence as a core value of the gospel* (paxchristiusa.org). Marie was introduced by Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM, of the Assisi Community, an intentional Franciscan community in Washington, DC, which Marie helped to form and where she still resides.



Fr. Joe described Marie’s early roots in upper middle-class northern Virginia as a mother of six with a growing awareness of social injustice. This awareness led to her journey from living simply and embracing social justice to leading Maryknoll’s Office for Global Concerns, serving as co-president of Pax Christi International, and now chairing its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. Along the way, Marie authored or co-authored seven books, was editor of *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence* (Orbis Books, 2017), and co-edited *Advancing Nonviolence in the Church and the World* (Pax Christi International, 2020). She has served on the national boards of JustFaith Ministries, the Alliance for Peacebuilding, and *Sojourners* magazine, to name just a few of those who have benefited from her wisdom. Marie has received numerous awards and holds honorary doctorates from Trinity Washington University and Alvernia

University. Earlier this year, she was honored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network with the Robert Holstein Award along with Fr. Bryan Massingale.

Franciscan Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., described Marie as a *perfect Teacher of Peace in Pax Christi’s Jubilee Year. She has lived and taught nonviolent spirituality for decades...* After he presented her with the award, several videos carried messages of congratulations from previous Teachers of Peace: Fr. Bryan Massingale, Bill Quigley, Fr. Pete Dougherty, and Shelley & Jim Douglas. After receiving the award, Marie temporarily set it aside to address those present. I urge you to read her own words in accepting this award at

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2022/08/08/marie-denniss-teacher-of-peace-2022-acceptance-speech/>

On behalf of Maryknoll Affiliates, I want to add our thanks and congratulations to Marie as Pax Christi’s 2022 Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Marie, thank you for the gifts that you have shared with us and for your wisdom and inspiration at our national and local meetings. Thank you for your witness to peace and nonviolence, and for the relentless reflection of kindness, compassion, and humility in all you do, with all you meet. Thank you for the gift you have been to us, we are forever grateful!



**WITNESS TO HOPE:
“NONVIOLENCE IN VIOLENT TIMES”**

On September 25, 2022, Pax Christi International hosted a celebration of Marie Dennis’s 80th birthday. Speakers included Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, and Jim Wallis.



Among the birthday party guests: (l-r) Genie Natividad MM, Maryknoll Sisters’ Vice President; Marie Dennis, Baltimore-Washington DC; Jean Fallon, MM, Pax Christi Ambassador of Peace; and Teresa Hougnon, MM, Maryknoll Sisters’ President.



STOPPING ASSAULT RIFLE SALES

Manny and Mary Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

We gathered outside a gun shop to honor the 94th birthday of James Lawson, famed civil rights and labor organizer and advocate for nonviolence, on September 22, 2022. Some Portland area residents and a couple of Maryknoll Affiliates gathered with signs saying, “Ban Assault Rifles.”

A few days earlier, Tom Hastings, a professor of conflict resolution at Portland State University, had advertised the event. He had talked to the owner of the gun shop and asked that the shop stop selling assault rifles. The owner declined to continue the conversation, and Tom said he’d return at 3:30 PM September 22 for a second conversation and would stay until forced to leave.

After the first meeting, Tom and his cohorts met several times by Zoom to talk about the nonviolent campaign. Tom commented, “My only strong request is that participants at any level abide by a good nonviolent code for the day.” (see below.)

Press releases were sent to local media outlets, and Tom informed the police of his plans. An interview on KBOO, a local community radio station, was planned. Tom was ready to be arrested if need be. Most of us planned to stay safely on the sidewalk with our signs and did not plan to be arrested.

Twelve of us showed up at the gun shop on the appointed day and found that the gun shop was closed, although their door sign said they were normally open Thursdays. We congratulated ourselves on being successful in preventing the sale of assault rifles, or any guns, from that store that afternoon!

We know one demonstration is not enough to create lasting change. We will be discussing the next step in the nonviolent campaign to end the sale of assault rifles. (See related article.)



CODE OF CONDUCT

For Nonviolent Event Participants

- I will treat everyone with respect.
- I will not raise my voice nor call people names or any other "calling out" tactics, but instead call them in.
- I will have nothing that could be construed as a weapon except for the power of gentle nonviolence.
- I will not damage property.
- I will not hurt anyone, either physically or by ad hominem attack



VOTER'S CHOICE

Candidates who use violent rhetoric, or attack opponents without offering solutions, are showing how they'll govern if elected.

OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE*

I think about the *Camp David Accords* /
 I think about the *Oslo Peace Accords* /
 I think about the fall of the *Berlin Wall* /
 I think about the exclusionary nature of border walls /
 I think about the resonance of *détente* /
 And the power found in sitting down to talk /
 I *think* about peace and nonviolence /

I see men never striking women again /
 I never see another Cain /
 Rise up to strike down Abel / A fellow brother /
 I see no more need for COPs /
 aka Citizens on Patrol in the city wherein they live /
 I see people loving their neighbor as themselves /
 I see peace and nonviolence /

I hear the poem *The Rose of Peace* by William Butler
 Yeats /
 I hear loud and clear John Lennon's magnum opus
Imagine /
 I hear Sting singing, *if the Russians love their children too* /
 I hear *Give Peace A Chance* by the Plastic Ono Band /
 I hear Marvin Gaye's singing *What's Going On* /
 And Maya Angelou's poem *The Rock Cries Out to Us*
Today /
 I *hear* peace and nonviolence /

I remember the nonviolence preached by Martin Luther
 king Jr /
 I remember Rodney King asking, *...can we all get*
along /
 I remember reading where Jesus said, *Blessed are the*
peacemakers /
for they shall be called the children of God /
 I *remember* peace and nonviolence /

I think / I see / I hear / I remember /
 Again / Again /
 Lest I forget / Lest you forget / Lest we forget about /
 Peace and nonviolence /



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 Westside Ultraviolet

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 Commissioned for the Building
 Peaceful Communities event.

Emmett Wheatfall is poet living
 in Portland, Oregon who reads,
 writes, publishes, and performs
 poetry. For more biographical
 information, visit [http://
 emmettwheatfall.com](http://emmettwheatfall.com).

LOVE YOUR ENEMY

Jesus commands us to love our
 enemies not just because it's right;
 not just because it's moral; and not just
 because it's the only practical solution;
 but because God loves God's enemies.
 That's the very nature of God, he
 explains. Jesus wants us to be "sons
 and daughters of your God in heaven,
 for God makes God's sun rise on the
 bad and on the good, and causes rain
 to fall on the just and on the unjust"
 [Matthew 5:45]. God practices
 universal, nonviolent love, and as sons
 and daughters of this God, we—
 everyone—must do the same.

—John Dear, in Fr. Richard Rohr's
 Daily Meditation, July 21, 2021

**SOLIDARITY . . .**

... is love crossing the borders drawn
 by self-centrism, in order to enter into
 the situation of the other, for the
 purpose of mutual relationship and
 struggle that heals us all and enacts
 God's beloved community.

Solidarity is the voice that finally
 comprehends: "You are not the same
 as me, but part of you lives in me. Your
 freedom and mine were always
 inextricably entwined. Now I see it, and
 because of what I see, I choose to live
 differently. I will go there, with you, for
 your sake and for my own."...

—Stephanie Spellers, in Fr. Richard
 Rohr's Daily Meditation, April 8, 2022



BUILDING HUMAN SOLIDARITY: THE VOICES OF WOMEN

A Global Interfaith Series 2022-23

Marita Grudzen – Kenya Chapter

The *Voices of Women* series brings together women who speak to the issues of solidarity and survival in today's world. Available live or on YouTube, it is organized and moderated by Marita Grudzen. These interactive presentations will also be explored at the February 2023 global interfaith conference, "Walking Together in the Spirit of *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*."

Four entities—Global Ministries University, the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies at Tangaza University, Harmony Institute of Kenya, and the Tevere Institute—co-sponsored these bimonthly, hour-long sessions offered from March through September. (See www.youtube.com/c/InternationalConferenceonFratelliTutti.) Each features a woman leader from the USA and one from Africa, from different religious traditions, each distinguished in her field by her experience, expertise, insights, and world view.

Who are these women and what are they bringing to us? Our first two speakers set the stage for the dynamic presentations that followed:

Nihal Saran, a computer engineer with degrees in computer science and theology, combines teaching at Santa Clara University with community activism in the areas of women's rights and social justice. She presented, "Development of Programs for Refugee and Immigrant women: Addressing Issues of Their Gender and Social Status."

Nantando Hadebe, a theologian and international coordinator for 'Side by Side,' a faith movement for gender justice, is a member of The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians. She spoke on, "How the 3 Cs of Culture, Constitution, and Christianity Shape Women's Lives."

The next two inspiring talks were presented by Maftah and Milazzo.

Munira Faraj Maftah, prominent interfaith leader and public human rights activist with paralegal training in Kenya, describes a program in which she championed girls living on the very edges of their community with no sense of identity, belonging, or purpose and vulnerable to recruitment by extremists. Munira leads us through the process in which these girls, over



the course of a year, are transformed into young women with an identity of personhood, a capacity for decision making and financial planning, and the means to become productive members of their community.

Rosemarie Milazzo, MM, a Maryknoll Sister who also worked with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), stuns us with detailed stories of women in Tanzania, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kurdistan, Iraq, and refugee camps in Greece. Women in Tennessee demonstrated with CPT against Aerojet Ordinance, a uranium company. Also, at the US Southern Border and in Mexico, she worked with women who exhibited extraordinary faith, courage, and commitment.

Rosemarie closed by saying:

I believe the only really valid thing that can be accomplished in the direction of world peace and unity at the moment is the preparation of the way by ... people like the women I mentioned. These women are signs of peace. They do much to open up the minds of their contemporaries to receive new seeds of thought. They are pioneers, preparing the human family for new possibilities.

At a crowning presentation for the series, Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace, will speak on the Voices of Women, bridging to the upcoming global interfaith conference—*Walking Together in the Light of Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti*, which takes place February 2-4th, 2023. Karam's presentation will also be broadcast on the YouTube channel, on January 18th. (see www.youtube.com/c/InternationalConferenceonFratelliTutti).



CROSSCULTURALLY INTERTWINED

Intercultural Regional Coordinators' Meeting Report

Responding to Pope Francis' call to live interculturally in synodality, the Executive Committee invited the Regional Coordinators of Latin America and the United States to meet and to share their unique cultural experiences and their vision of the Maryknoll charism via Zoom on Thursday afternoon, September 22, 2022. A beautiful invitation was prepared by Leticia Arriola, a young Guatemala Chapter Affiliate.

Meals are an excellent way to promote a diverse and intercultural dialogue, so everyone was asked to bring a meal or food from their culture, city, or country. After an intercultural prayer—"Today we have gathered, and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue..."—each one gave his/her name, the food dish of his/her culture and on what occasions it was eaten, expressing his/her way of thinking, feeling, and acting. This led to identifying common elements used by all, as well as different elements. We gave thanks to Mother Nature for giving us delicious food in a diversity of meals, leading us to feel ONE in this sharing.

The intercultural dialogue (English and Spanish) was difficult, but not impossible. Bilingual members collaborated to achieve a horizontal dialogue, which resulted in mutual encounters and mutual understanding. For this reason, the time calculated for the meeting was extended, and we were able to carry out most of the activities on the agenda.

When we divided into small intercultural and language groups, we discussed two questions with the intergenerational collaboration of Jimena Celis, a young Guatemala Chapter member, who coordinated the technological aspect and made it possible for each group to write their answers.

1. What have been the joys of working with Chapters? The responses:

That we carry out many activities; that we share our gifts; that we bring joy to people living on the peripheries; the experiences of solidarity with young people; the strengthening of the Affiliate pillar of Action; feeling happy that our Chapter welcomes the



intercultural and intergenerational; that we are enriched by the experiences of each of us; the constant communication through the media of the Chapter; that by sharing with the Affiliates on Zoom, people feel motivated to participate; the feeling of being ONE as a Maryknoll family.

2. What difficulties and obstacles have you encountered in the Chapter? The responses:

The active participation of all by Zoom was not always possible, as some did not feel motivated to participate, and the pandemic isolated some Affiliates from their Chapters since they could not gather in person. [Responses were fewer due to lack of time.]

In the plenary, the group commented on the meeting and the group discussions: JOYS: Meeting with different cultures gave us an opportunity to open our minds and our hearts. Zoom created an opportunity to meet with people around the world in spite of the pandemic; it is truly wonderful to meet cross-culturally. DIFFICULTIES: The pandemic has made it difficult to come together, although we have managed to do so on Zoom. We are seeking to have more young people participate so they can join the senior members who participate in the chapter and chapter activities.

In the end, we realized that the different languages, which we considered an obstacle, motivated us, as Maryknoll Affiliates, to value this moment of intercultural communication; it intertwined us, united us, and motivated us to meet again in January.

The meeting ended with a prayer of thanksgiving and the blessing of each other, to keep Maryknoll in our hearts and to share it with others. "With grateful thanks, we ask this in the name of our God, beyond all names. Amen."



News from the Board

NEW BOARD MEMBER

My name is Claris Zwareva. I was born in Zimbabwe and have been a Maryknoll sister for 37 years. I am an educator, a nurse, and a spiritual director.



I graduated from St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Reading, PA. While in Reading, I met Sister Maura Clarke, MM, at a seminar on global awareness. During the seminar, Sister Maura offered a role playing exercise to awaken awareness of world hunger and

injustice. The impression she made inspired me to join the Maryknoll Sisters in 1984.

In 1986, I was missioned to Bolivia where I worked for 26 years in various ministries. The first two years I served in the Parish of Santa Rita and Santa Monica, a mission of the Augustinians. My focus was on health promotion and preventive education. I opened a smaller clinic associated with the Santa Rita clinic that then became Clinica Santa Monica.

I have nostalgic remembrances of climbing the steep hills of Alto Chijini in order to reach the sick and homebound as well as to teach preventive health to women, children, and youth. Two years later, I moved to Cochabamba where I engaged in similar ministries, including Parish ministry. In addition, I took on the role of Executive Secretary of the Institute of Bioethics of the Catholic University of Bolivia.

In 2011, I went to Haiti with the Medical Missionaries, a group of doctors. My last ministry before being elected to leadership was as the Maryknoll Sisters' main representative to the United Nations and Associate with the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

(See more details at <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/sisters/sister-claris-zwareva/>)



Henri Rousseau, The Sleeping Gypsy, 1907. Courtesy Museum of Modern Art, NY

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY AND WORLD?

Students 12-18 years can win cash prizes by answering that question for the Maryknoll Essay Contest at [MaryknollSociety.org/essay](https://www.maryknollsociety.org/essay). Encourage your family members to apply by November 14, 2022.

“What is your Dream for a better community and world?” could be a great conversation topic with family or friends. An Affiliate chapter meeting based on sharing members’ Dreams would also be inspiring.



Farther Out...And Further Afield by Jim Coady



Teenage complaints in the wilderness.



NTLH—A BONUS FOR NSFA READERS!

The NTLH, *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, is a beautiful and thoughtful communication available through links on MaryknollAffiliates.org, under NEWSLETTER. The NTLH has different themes and articles than the NSFA. Please check out the most recent issue [here](#). The NTLH is in Spanish, but amazing technology (e.g., translate.google.com) allows easy translation on-line. The 20 percent of US Affiliates who report some facility with Spanish are especially invited to explore this inspiring newsletter.

An NTLH story not to be missed in the July-September 2022 issue is “**Bandera Blanca y Atol con Canela.**” This original story by invited author Guadalupe del Valle is about a little girl who loves lots of cinnamon in her atol, and the lengths her parents go to, to care for their family. Also, see the thank you to Fr. William Mullan, MM, for his years of service to the Indigenous in Guatemala. Other great articles deal with climate change, synodality, and composting.

