



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

July/August 2018

Volume 27 Number 4

Photos courtesy of Pam Cibik



Kathy, Gerry, and Pam in Guatemala
A JOURNEY*

Kathy Ress, Pam Cibik, and Gerry Mullaney –
Northeast Ohio Chapter

This is a story of three friends and a journey. The friends are Kathy, Pam and Gerry. The journey begins in 2003 and continues—it spans four continents and 9 countries. The backdrop is Maryknoll. Who were these friends when we embarked? Who are we now? What happened in between? Where are we now?

Kathy, Pam, and Gerry knew each other for some years before the journey. We shared traditional Catholic, Christian roots. We shared professional identities as mental health clinicians. We were good people who cared for our families and provided service to our clients in American society.

Then we encountered Maryknoll. Kathy had a head start as the sister of Judy, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, who served in Chile. Kathy and Judy hosted us on a visit to Chile over the new year in 2004. There, we learned some important history—including the darkness in our Church’s history of complicity in the abuses of colonialism and in our country’s foreign policy which provided comfort to Augusto Pinochet with his abuses of human rights in the 1970s and 1980s. We saw light as well in the challenging and healing posture of Maryknoll.

Following this adventure in Chile, we became intrigued with Maryknoll. We began a series of Friends Across Borders visits—to Tanzania in 2007, to Cambodia in 2010, and to Bolivia in 2012. These were not the mission trips of “doing for others” that family and friends expected. We enjoyed a richer experience of walking with sisters and brothers of different cultures and sharing and learning.

We colored and played with the street boys of Mwanza, Tanzania. We experienced the exuberant music and an African blessing extended through the outstretched hands of the entire Sunday Mass congregation. We witnessed Liz Mach’s loving and healing touch for her fistula girls at Bugando Hospital.

In contrast to Tanzania, in Cambodia was the quiet serenity of Hindu and Buddhist history and culture. We

learned of darkness again—the cruelties of Tuol Sleng prison and the killing fields during the Khmer Rouge terror. Again Maryknoll showed us light in the work of Father Charlie Dittmeier, who is bringing the previously unserved



Gerry, Pam, and Kathy
in Bolivia



Gerry enjoys a meal in Bolivia


Continued on page 6.

*This article was first published in Maryknoll Lay Missioners’ *Voices of Compassion* as “A Memorable Journey,” p. 22, Volume 18, Issue 1.

ACTION AND ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE

Action is a key pillar of the Affiliate Movement, as are Spirituality, Community, and Global Vision. We Affiliates are action-oriented, loving and concerned about the world—the whole world. But sometimes we struggle to know how best to pursue our concern, even outrage, at the issues of the world. This NSFA provides ideas on some of those issues: climate change, racism, massive incarceration, detention of immigrant children, and separation of children from their parents. Affiliate chapters provide a home where we can share our outrage, incubate our ideas, and develop an action plan.

The Northwest Regional mini-conference, **Mission Nonviolence**, to be held Sept. 21-23 in Portland, Oregon, will provide tools to follow the nonviolent Jesus into Action. [See page 7 for more information.] We hope you will join us for training in nonviolent methods and an opportunity to meet others who also practice active nonviolence.

What is your chapter leading you to take action on? Share your ideas with us at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org or at the Maryknoll Affiliate Facebook page. 



The midyear [Maryknoll Affiliates Appeal](#) letter has gone out to all Affiliates. We still need about \$8,000 to cover next year's operating expenses. Please be generous!

Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God's call to participate in Jesus' mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God's creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God's unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples.

Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service around the world. If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or e-mail him at rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.



#FAMILIESBELONGTOGETHER ACTIONS

Our Affiliate Global Vision helps us to see immigrants as brothers and sisters in need of our care and understanding. We are all members of families and cannot imagine the horror that families separated at the border are experiencing, the newest chapter in their migration tragedy.

The fate of [Marco Antonio Munoz](https://www.washingtonpost.com) (find on <https://www.washingtonpost.com>), who was found dead in his cell after being forcibly separated from his 3 year old son at the US border tears at our hearts.

The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns provides some concrete actions we can take. See [Maryknollogc.org](#). We urge you to join the many organizations demonstrating in the streets, to advocate to the government officials for immediate compassionate immigration reform, to provide physical and emotional support to refugees in our communities, and to lift up our united voices in prayer in our churches for our detained sisters and brothers.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: David Stocker Bob Short

We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners, as well as suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. We publish articles as appropriate in conjunction with issue themes.

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

Please send any letters to the editor, articles, photos or inquiries to the address below. You may also contact us if you no longer wish to receive Affiliate mailings, prefer to receive them by e-mail or read them on the web, or if you have changed your address.

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THE STATE OF MY HEART

Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland
– Washington, DC Chapter

I attended the most recent Maryknoll Affiliate Board meeting at Maryknoll, NY, as a new board member. It was a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with the other board members and see firsthand the level of dedication and hard work that is required to support the Affiliate members who carry out the Affiliate mission in their individual communities. Prior to arriving at the meeting, I certainly had many questions. What could I contribute to the board? Did I have enough experience as a Maryknoll Affiliate to be an asset and an effective board member? It is through this lens that I viewed my trip up to Maryknoll, NY, from just outside Baltimore, Maryland, on Thursday, April 19, 2018.

I arrived at Maryknoll on a cool and cloudy afternoon, and later that evening, after the other new board member—Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios from Guatemala—and I received a warm welcome, the work of the board was underway. The meeting began with reflections from every board member regarding salient events and people who shaped their lives.

The next morning started bright and early with a centering prayer. Then our discussion focused on reviewing highlights from the outstanding Maryknoll Affiliates Conference (MAC) that was held in Guatemala this past November. During that discussion, Rosa Beatriz, who had led the conference organizing committee, shared lessons learned by both the conference organizers and the attendees. Even as I sought to get up to speed regarding some of the organizational details, I was challenged to begin thinking about more amorphous topics, such as the Maryknoll Affiliates' identity, and formulating ideas regarding a vision for the future of the Affiliates.

We discussed how to identify an Affiliate group that could host MAC 2020. Later, Kevin McCarthy from the Springfield, Massachusetts, Affiliates chapter, who works for the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers in mission education, reviewed the colorful and engaging mission formation materials that have been developed for students in elementary and middle school as part of the Discover Your Neighbor series (<https://discoveryourneighbor.org/>).

At our afternoon meeting with our website administrator, Tobias Rinsche, via the Zoom video

conferencing platform, we had a thoughtful and informative discussion about how we might update the Maryknoll Affiliates website.

Since the weekend board meeting coincided with the Northeast Regional Maryknoll Affiliates meeting, on Saturday we had the opportunity to engage with several Affiliate chapter members that reside in the Northeast region. The theme of the conference was “Balance,” and the attendees brought with them items that represent balance in their lives. The liturgy of the Mass offered that afternoon by board member Father Russ Feldmeier, MM, from Chicago, was on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. His homily was both humbling and spiritually nurturing.

The board meeting wrapped up the following day, Sunday, with a spirited and frank discussion regarding the many challenging issues that need to be addressed by the board in the coming months and years. All in all, I left the meeting with a realization that despite the busy agenda, the board has accepted its role as servant leaders with grace and love. I have faith that, with God's help, I will discern how I can be an asset to the board and work to help spread knowledge about the Affiliate movement far and wide.



CONTINUING BUEN VIVIR

Kitty and Roger Schiltz – Seattle Chapter

This is an invitation to continue in the spirit of “Buen Vivir”. (We miss you. How are you doing?) We can each share what we are doing personally *globally, spiritually*, and in *action* in this beautiful Maryknoll *community*.

Our sharing: Maimuna is a lively young girl living at St. Agnes Chipole Children's Home, Tanzania. We met her in 2012 when she was an infant brought to the orphanage because she wasn't expected to live. Since then, when visiting the children, we have been charmed by Maimuna's sense of fun and spirit. She is always at the center of activities playing with the other kids her age, peeling peanuts, and carrying wood, a smile always on her face. She is just beginning elementary school with life ahead of her.

Please add your stories by emailing NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org or posting them at <https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates/>.



AMAZING AFFILIATES

Dan Heuer – Westchester Chapter

Rudy Cypser, an extraordinarily gifted visionary and longtime Maryknoll Affiliate, passed on to New Life in February. He was 94 years old and is survived by Betty, his wife for seventy years. Together they led extraordinary lives of service to others. They were passionate in promoting restorative justice policies in many prison systems throughout the world, and they directly impacted the lives of many in prisons.

Rudy understood complex problems on many levels and then developed effective approaches to improve human service systems. He and Betty conducted bible study groups in prisons for 30 years and also conducted Alternatives to Violence training for inmates for many years. Rudy, working together with others, spread the Alternatives to Violence program to sixty countries in the world. He was deeply motivated by compassion for others and by his Christian faith in the goodness of the human person.

Rudy and Betty traveled to 26 countries in Asia and Europe and studied prison systems in Canada on a quest to learn about restorative justice programs in those countries. Then they took on an advisory role with a Committee of the Catholic Bishops of New York State and were effective in assisting the bishops in bringing about improvements in New York prisons.

Even into his 90s, Rudy was active with Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). He organized international conferences in Thailand and Africa, and he edited the CURE newsletter, injecting restorative justice approaches for prisons in many countries. CURE is a non-governmental organization connected to the United Nations. Rudy and Betty attended many CURE meetings at the UN.

The Cypseres were longtime members of Pax Christi and received an award for outstanding achievement from Pax Christi Metro New York. They received the award along with Martin Sheen, the well-known actor and human rights activist. Having a cosmic vision, they admired the Jesuit mystic Teilhard de Chardin and wrote a book about him.

Rudy and Betty had a strong identification with Maryknoll. They lived in Katonah, near the Maryknoll Center, and were leaders of the Westchester Affiliate Chapter for many years. Rudy often spoke of Maryknoll values, especially compassion for others.



Photo courtesy of Dan Heuer

Betty earned a Masters Degree in Theology from Maryknoll Seminary. Rudy and Betty both worked at the Maryknoll Pachemama Farm and distributed food grown there to nearby food programs for the needy. Rudy's funeral was held at Maryknoll Seminary.

Rudy had a PhD degree in electrical engineering, held very responsible positions with IBM for many years, and published two engineering textbooks.

I produced a 45-minute video documentary featuring Rudy and Betty and have uploaded it to YouTube. If you wish to view it, click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/tlyW5oB4fwU>. As the introduction is lengthy, you may wish to fast forward to the seventh minute where Rudy and Betty begin to speak. If you would like to have DVD copy of the documentary, contact me at heuerdg@comcast.net.



LOOK FOR ACTIONS IN YOUR AREA!

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Campaign started by Martin Luther King, Jr. and thousands of Americans, alarmed at their government's blindness to human need. As his Poor People marched, Dr. King paused to answer a plea for support from sanitation workers on strike in Memphis. There an assassin snatched his life on April 4th. Dr. King was assassinated before the March, but others took the lead. Now a new campaign continues his legacy.

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN: A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL

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

is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

Campaign Nonviolence, *Sojourners Magazine*, and Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation have all endorsed and joined with it.



THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND*

Tom Hastings – Portland, OR

Tom H. Hastings teaches Conflict Resolution at Portland State University and directs Oregon Peace Institute's program, PeaceVoice.

I traveled to North Dakota to join others in supporting a gentle man who tried to help everyone. For that, he was convicted of several crimes and will be heading to a North Dakota prison.

Michael Foster was born and raised in Texas, in an oil family. His crime in North Dakota was turning off the Keystone pipeline in a symbolic but real call to all of us to do what we can to stop global climate chaos.

That North Dakota valve turn was one of five similar actions last October—two women, three men, five valves on lines in Washington, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota, all done in resonance with the Break Free from Fossil Fuels campaign.

We see the consequences of paying no attention to our oil consumption:

Harvey drowns Houston, fires rip through the West, every hurricane is more intense than it otherwise would be, droughts last longer, lakes are drying up, the seas are rising and surging, and, with fracking, even earthquakes are no longer a pure act of God. Most previously natural disasters are now unnatural disasters, made worse by our hand more than the hand of God or Mother Nature.

The Trump regime is doing worse than nothing: rolling back the tepid regulations the Obama administration brought to bear and yanking the US out of a world agreement, the Paris Accords, is exacerbating the problem. Rick “Never-met-an-oil-well-I-didn’t-like” Perry serves as Secretary of Energy, and Scott “That-pollution-smells-like-money-to-me” Pruitt is running the Environmental Protection Agency—into the ground. Trump promises to bring back dirty coal. It is satanic, frankly, with zero regard for future generations, for the children of the world. Who will confront this man without any discernible conscience?

Michael Foster, Leonard Higgins, Ken Ward, Emily Johnston, and Annette Klapstein will. They have.

I attended Michael’s trial as much as possible, although I couldn’t be in the room in the beginning because I was scheduled as an expert witness, and

we were sequestered until we testified—or until the judge disallowed us...which she did.

Michael was facing 23 years in prison on four charges. Three of us were there to provide expert testimony in three topic areas to help the judge and jury understand why Michael should be acquitted. Two of us were there to speak to different aspects of nonviolence and one was on hand to speak about the urgency of a rapid change in our general habits and a specific exam of the dirty tar sands oil that flows through the Keystone pipeline. Climatologist James Hansen is 76 years old and is the one who announced, “global warming has arrived” in 1988 when he worked as a scientist at the Goddard Space Center. Every single prediction he made then has come to pass. He is arguably the world’s top scientist in that area—certainly the most famous. He’s Trump’s age, only with a long-view conscience and integrity.



The court could not be bothered to listen to this eminent scientist, someone who could have helped the judge and jury become familiar with the emergency that we see unfolding all over nowadays, made much

worse by the dirtiest sort of fossil fuel—tar sands oil.

The contempt for anyone coming to North Dakota to “tell us how to live” (the prosecutor’s attack on Michael, who is now from Seattle) was palpable. The judge allowed the prosecution’s expert witness, demonstrating some spectacular inconsistency and hypocrisy. As one who woke up a few times to unbreathable air and everything in my town covered in forest fire ash, I say to North Dakotans, you need to fix this. We will do our part but you need to do yours. Most of us know at least one or two people in Houston, or in the Santa Rosa area, or in Miami or Puerto Rico. Are we Americans who value all other Americans or are we not?

But the prosecutors were dismissive. Foster only faces 23 years, why give him a chance to reason with jury members? Let’s not confuse them with the facts.

The trial in tiny Cavalier, North Dakota, in remote Pembina County, was heartbreaking.

*Abridged from Tom Hastings’ post at HastingsNonviolence.blogspot.com/2017/10/this-land-is-your-land.html

Note: On February 6th, Judge Laurie A. Fontaine sentenced Foster to three years in prison, including two years deferred. He was taken into custody and began serving his sentence that day.



Journey, Continued from page 1.

and rejected hearing-impaired population into connection with Cambodian society. Father Kevin Conroy is establishing psychological healing in a country in so much need of these services. Bolivia provided an opportunity for contact with the indigenous—the Aymara and Quechua—and their gifts of welcome with blankets full of food, woven goods, and dance. The personal encounters provided deeper meaning: the old man on the shore of Lake Titicaca expressing his happiness that we visited his village to be with him; the prisoner in Cochabamba showing his appreciation for our attendance at Easter Mass with the community of prisoners.

Beginning in 2014, our journey continued with travels to Latin America with the assistance of two other organizations—GATE (Global Awareness Through Experience), and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. These stops included Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, and the United States border with Mexico. Again, we were witnesses to darkness—the decades-long genocide in Guatemala with US government complicity, the cruelty of the Cuban embargo, and the ongoing suffering of Mexican migrants who seek a share of God’s gifts across their border with the United States despite US “keep out” efforts. Again, there was light—the Saints—Stanley Rother in Guatemala and Oscar Romero of El Salvador—the migrant outreach of the interfaith border ministry in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Mexico, the universal education and health care in Cuba. Most of all, again, the brightest light was that provided by the people who welcomed us and appreciated our witness to them and their experience.

So here we are now—what are we to make of all of this? Our world is bigger and more complicated than

was our experience before the journey. It is filled with pain and darkness, both past and present. It is also filled with light. We—Kathy, Pam, and Gerry—agree that the most memorable and meaningful light has been our encounters and connections with our fellow human beings—indeed our sisters and brothers—across different cultures and life experiences who share our humanity—who live and love and suffer as we do—and who can appreciate and share with us as I hope we do with them. In this journey, the spiritual connection among the three of us has deepened as well. We continue this journey through the establishing of a Maryknoll Affiliate chapter in Northeast Ohio.



Kathy in Cambodia

Finally, as we found God present in these cultures and people, in their struggles, in their gifts to us, and in the loving and healing works of saints, we can conclude that God is bigger and better than we imagined, bigger and better than the darkness and pain of life. We are challenged to live believing this. We are challenged to contest walls and to continue living lives of encountering and connecting with all of our sisters and brothers.



Pam in Tanzania



Friends Across Borders

Are you ready to plan your own immersion experience? Find out about upcoming trips at:

<http://www.friendsacrossborders.org/>

ACTIVE NE OHIO CHAPTER

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss - NSFA Co-editor

Members of the NE Ohio chapter live near Cleveland and meet monthly in members' homes. A couple members have retired, but most of them are still helping people on a daily basis in their professions as therapists, a nurse/yoga instructor, and a lawyer. They were quick to advocate for immigrants and refugees, gun control and concern about shootings, and the poor and hungry.

Curt and Jan Alberti and Pam Cibik were in the recent massive March for Our Lives in Chicago. Pam insisted, "We've got to support the young people who are demanding safety and better gun control."



NE Ohio Chapter members meet with visiting Affiliates. Standing, l to r: Gerry Mullaney, Curt Alberti, Kathy Ress, Mike and Aileen McDonald; seated: Pam Cibik, and visitors Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss.

Kathy Ress participated the Ecumenical Advocacy Day in Washington DC—co-sponsored by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns—that addressed both immigration and gun control. (Watch for her article, "Advocacy for Immigrants," in the next issue.) She participates in a local group that succeeded after eight months and thousands of dollars in legal and other fees, in having one man released from ICE detention. Her parish is discerning being a sanctuary church.

Kathy, who said, "This is a welcoming community," decried the fact that the number of refugees that will be admitted nationally has been cut in half, reduced from about 100,000 in 2017 to only 50,000 for 2018. Recent refugees to the Cleveland area have come from Bhutan, Nepal, and Vietnam. Curt said he has provided legal assistance to refugees setting up businesses such as convenience stores. Pro bono legal work is easy for him to find.

Aileen McDonald talked of her and the chapter's support of a program that provides hungry people

morning coffee and snacks and a nutritious sack lunch. Two days a week a hot meal is offered. Some refugee families especially come for the groceries available one day a week.

Pam was concerned that many Catholics don't know about Maryknoll and thought that Affiliates could address this. Chapter members have met their diocesan Director of Missions and hope to better connect him and the diocese with Maryknoll.

Since many in this chapter have made immersion trips, some with Friends Across Borders (FAB), organized by the Maryknoll Lay Missioners (See "Journey" on page 1), they also have relationships with many Maryknoll Lay Missioners, such as Dwayne Fernandes working in El Salvador, who recently visited the chapter and received their donation for his work. Gerry Mullaney emphasizes that the immersion trips have increased his global vision. The trips have "expanded my world. They give me another way to look at events. I have learned there is another perspective than those in the news or history books."



Mission Nonviolence

*Moving our Broader Community
to Nonviolence and Peace*

Mini-Regional Conference

Portland, Oregon

Sept. 21-23, 2018

All **Maryknoll Affiliates** are invited!

Friday, 6PM – Affiliate Social and casual dinner

Saturday, 9-4 – Active Nonviolence Workshop

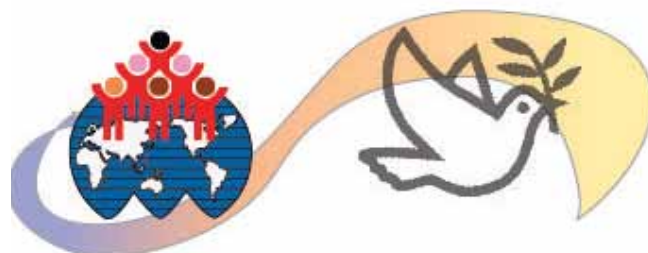
Sunday, 12:30PM – Affiliate gathering and lunch

For details, contact Mary at

MissionNonviolence18@gmail.com

To RSVP, use the downloadable form at:

<http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/supplemental-materials.html>



CURRENT ORBIS OFFERINGS

John Moritz – NE Florida Chapter

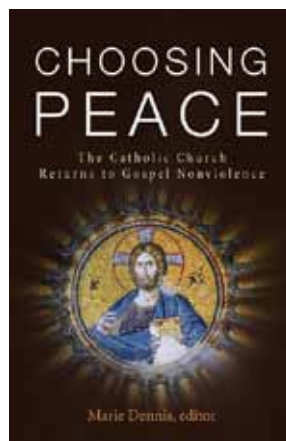
What do the Orbis authors offer to us *Affiliates*, both as individuals and as an expression of Maryknoll, lately? Here are four books that are very different, yet each makes a significant contribution to the discussion of issues and concerns facing the Affiliate world of today.



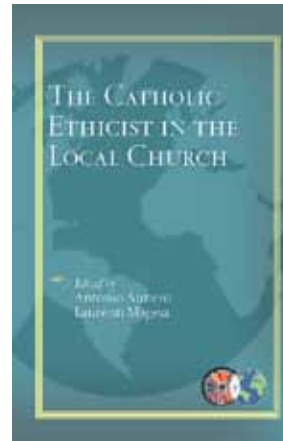
The Courage To Be Happy, by Pope Francis, is written for youth by an old man who hasn't forgotten the best parts of being young. It is a spirituality of ascent for people in the first half of life. Pope Francis both understands and appreciates what the Gospel is calling youth to. Perhaps some of us who have moved into the second half of life have forgotten to hold onto that

enthusiastic hope that once inspired us. This book will rekindle the fire of missionary zeal in all of us.

Choosing Peace, edited by Marie Dennis. It's said that Maryknollers are better at declaiming than proclaiming. *Choosing Peace* looks at our prophetic voice of declaiming violence and proclaiming just peace. This assemblage of letters, essays, and reflections, written in conjunction with the April 2016 Conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace, proclaims the Gospel through many examples of positive, proactive voices for peace while declaiming a "fallen world" of war and systemic violence.



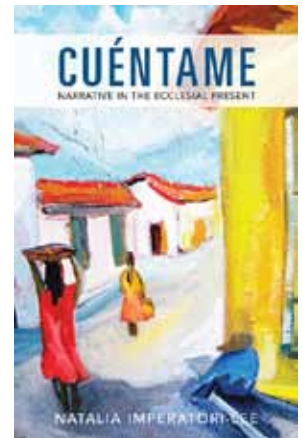
The Catholic Ethicist in the Local Church, edited by Antonio Autiero and Laurenti Magesa, explores the relationship of the local church with the universal church as a basis for understanding the complex and dynamic ecclesiology which Pope Francis is asking us to not only appreciate but live. The existential periphery, (read: *The Field Afar, Not So Far Afield*, mission, where you and I live) becomes the center point of our lived church experience. The notion of



local magisterium rests on this understanding. In our complex world, culture, economics, and social structure all influence our moral decisions. It is not possible or effective to attempt to make anything more than broad statements at the universal level. So we are asked to reflect upon where lies the moral magisterium responsibility. The book presents local issues and questions from around the globe to illustrate this as a more mature approach to what it means to be church.

A side note: one interesting essay in this book deals with "digital localities." With the growth of virtual communities and new ways of being Maryknoll Affiliates, what are the ethical questions surrounding the growth of the digital realities, electronic "places" with a sense of group identity. What are the components required for virtual communities to be real communities?

Cuentame: Narrative in the Ecclesial Present, by Natalia Imperatori Lee, is a "Latinx Church Experience for Gringos." It introduced me to a whole vocabulary that I didn't know that I need to know. This introduction to Latina/o church experience is written in English for an English-speaking audience. Imperatori Lee, of Cuban American heritage from Miami, uses narrative as a



basis for her understanding of church. Our family story becomes the Story for us. Together our stories become the Story for the Church. And the Story is the truth, the Good News. Put in theological language, *Sensus Fidelium* is the basis of a narrative ecclesiology which the church has consistently taught to be infallible in its belief. Her narrative is an alternative story to the mainstream Catholic American story that has great truth and value. It places the sacredness of everyday life (*lo cotidiano*) as the source of holiness in the church. This storybook shares a vision that seems simple yet is profoundly perceptive. Imperatori Lee is a true teacher who puts rare understanding within the grasp of the many.

Affiliates receive 40% off at Orbisbooks.com.



RACE, GENETICS, AND SPIRITUALITY

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

The present-day consensus among biological and social scientists is that race is a social construct, not a biological (genetic) one. It is estimated that as a species, we humans share 99.9% of our DNA with each other. The few differences that do exist reflect variances in environments and external factors, not genetics.

We might assume that the advances in human genetics and the evidence of such trifling differences (0.1%) between all people would put an end to racist arguments. On the contrary, genetics has been used to further racist and ethnocentric views and, for those so inclined, offer justification for discriminations and atrocities. As we know more than ever in these times, for many in power, facts and solid evidence are of little consequence when it comes to behavior and policy. What is it about race (primary eye and skin color and height) that has so very deeply tarnished our history and our relationships with each other?

Brother Pacificus, my English teacher in sophomore year, once posed the following question to the class: “Would you take a bath in the same water that a person of another race has just used for his or her bath?” As young teenagers, the entire class was confounded by the question, to say the least. I can’t imagine that any of

us would have been all that excited about a second go in anybody’s bath water. Looking back, I now have to wonder if Brother Pacificus was trying to tell us that there is at least a residue of racism in all of us.

As Maryknoll Affiliates we strive to envision what God’s justice could and should look like in our global world. From that prophetic perspective, we set out each day to work in ways big and small towards dismantling systems of oppression—structures, institutions and human realities—that promote racism and other forms of hatred that are so contrary to who we say we are. Some days that can feel overwhelming.



We return again to the scientists’ statement that humans share 99.9% of DNA with each other. That strikes me as a deeply spiritual, even mystical revelation. If we truly understood that we, all humans, are so deeply connected, it would seem unimaginable that we could be anything but kind and accepting of each other. There is a deep hunger in each of us for connection as kindred souls—honoring our differences and celebrating our oneness.

At the same time, history tells us that there is a great deal to overcome, including in ourselves, to realize this actuality. I think we’d all say that the struggle is worth it and the alternative devastating...such as a policy that separates children from their mothers and fathers.



NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Gloria Tan – Santa Maria Chapter, Wilmington

The Affiliates of Santa Maria in Wilmington, NC, are currently involved in many activities. We prepare lunches for needy people who have no homes and we

work together to help families in need by dispensing basic necessities. At the same time, we continue taking Communion to the Hispanics we find in the New Hanover Hospital. Here in Wilmington, we pray the rosary before Mass and attend the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament once a month. Blessings from all of our Chapter.

Gail Kelley adds that she has been invited to attend all the Wilmington Chapter meetings and made it to a recent meeting. She explains that Gloria Tan was the Chapter Coordinator for many years and attended an Affiliate conference with her. Since Gail accompanied the Spanish-speaking Wilmington Chapter during their first orientation, Gloria asked her to give a review orientation, which will happen soon, because only three of their current active membership participated in the first orientation.



Photo courtesy of Gail Kelley

Santa Maria Chapter of Wilmington Affiliates, with Chapter Coordinator Gloria Tan, front row far left, and visitor Gail Kelley in front row, third from left.

DOING MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

Maryknoll Affiliate groups and Parish entities have been asking what it means to do mission in the modern day. Much has been said in recent years at Affiliate gatherings about the Third Wave, agreeing that we are in a new age of mission. There was a time when mission was the special domain of those in religious life. Bishop James E. Walsh of the North American Mission Society, better known as Maryknoll, once said, “To be a missionary is to go where you are needed but not wanted and to stay until you are wanted but not needed.” Pope Francis has called upon the church to begin a new chapter in evangelization; writing in *Evangelii Gaudium*, he reiterates the basic reality that we are all called to mission by virtue of our baptism. Thus, we must continue to go where we are needed—at home or abroad; perhaps wanted, perhaps not.

**There are as many ways
of doing mission as there are
baptized individuals.**

How do we do this? I believe the answer is personal and that many people are doing mission and not realizing it! My prime example of this is those who volunteer in our local parishes, working in the food pantries, teaching CCD, etc. If that’s not mission, nothing is.

Among the many forms of doing mission is the Affiliate-directed program in Guatemala City, Caminando por la Paz. What do we do? The primary focus since 2010 has been educating children in one of the most marginalized barrios of Guatemala City. Some local children are placed in local schools. We offer tutoring for any child in the neighborhood, and for many this is their only educational opportunity. Recognizing that nutrition is a major problem, we serve a nutritious meal to the kids when they come for tutoring.

The local needs are great, and we strive to do as much as possible. Working with others is an important part of any mission. Thus, we have appropriate connections to donate bread weekly to the area’s needy families. Our strong ties with “Shoes to the World” have allowed us to distribute over 400 pairs of shoes in the past two years. You can learn more about them at www.shoestotheworld.com.



Affiliate and Caminando por La Paz worker Carlos Miranda and his son visit with Ron Covey, right.

At times we serve as a Catholic Worker House. Additionally, there are community service projects too numerous to mention here.

When we think of mission, we cannot help but ask, “What about spirituality?” At Caminando por la Paz, our spirit-directed attitude is: “We are here to make one little corner of the world a little better.” There are, of course, the usual outward signs of spirituality. In Central America a tradition of a weekly holy hour is common. We have a weekly hour, akin to Bible study, for adults, and a monthly directed holy hour for the local children. Occasionally we take our neighbors and staff on a spiritual journey. During these times we have relaxation and meditation, and we close with a religious exercise. You will always see our people participating in the activities of the local parishes.



You can learn a lot more about us and our activities at www.fathertomsmission.org.

A major portion of our economic support comes from sales of our premium Honduran coffee at www.fathertomsfamilycoffee.org. Proceeds additionally assist the producers in Honduras.

There are as many ways of doing mission as there are baptized individuals. We hope that learning of our mission activities will stimulate you to define your own mission.



News from the Board

A HISTORY OF SERVICE

Ginny McEvoy – Long Island Chapter

I have been involved with the Affiliate Movement since it began. The first Affiliate Board, begun by the Maryknoll Fathers with Jim Madden as Coordinator in September 1991, was very different from the present one, with only representatives of the Society. In April of 1992, I joined Sr. Ellen McDonald, MM, at the third Board meeting, in Chicago. Following this meeting, Sr. Ellen became Co-Coordinator of the Affiliate Movement, and I represented Full Circle. In June of 1994, I resigned and moved to Florida to take care of my mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. At that time, there were thirteen Board members—seven were Affiliates and six were Maryknoll members, two from each entity. The present Board, with four Maryknoll entity members and eight Affiliates, has space for more Affiliates if you are interested in becoming a member.



When I first served on the Board, I belonged to the Westchester Affiliate Chapter. However, when I returned from Florida, Ronnie Gilligan invited me to

join the Long Island Affiliate Chapter. There I have had the opportunity to help plan meetings, to create prayer services, to enter into community at our chapter meetings, and to engage in a short-term trip to Zimbabwe. This has enriched me, deepened my spirituality and enabled me to bear witness to the gift

of Maryknoll in my life. This group supported me as I coordinated the first Memorial Mass for deceased Affiliates held at Maryknoll on March 4, 2017, an event that I hope will be repeated at Maryknoll or at a regional meeting.

In April of 2016, with the encouragement of the Long Island Affiliates, I was accepted as a member of the current Affiliate Board. The Affiliate Board is, I feel, the nucleus of the Affiliate Movement; a unique representation of Affiliate chapters who gather from

all over the world together with members of the other Maryknoll entities. Membership in local chapters can be insular. Belonging to the Board is an opportunity to engage in the ongoing projects of Affiliates at both the national and the international level. It enables me to connect with other groups, renew my commitment to Maryknoll, and enter more fully into the movement that I helped to start more than twenty-five years ago.



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2018



The Maryknoll Sisters' Mission Institute offers two more months of great workshops.

Coming in July/August:

- * July 8-13 – **Maureen O'Connell, PhD**
From the Upper Room to Pentecost:
A Feminist Ethic of Racial Mercy
- * July 15-20 – **John Dear, MA**
Following Jesus on the Path of Nonviolence
- * July 22-27 – **Larry Lewis, MM, PhD**
Our Incompleteness is our Dignity:
Faith Confirmed in Film

In California—

At Los Altos:

- * Aug. 14-17 – **Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, PhD**
Creating Communities of Hope on a Global Scale

At Monrovia:

- * Aug. 19-24 – **Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, PhD**
Creating Communities of Hope on a Global Scale

For application forms, on-line registration, and program descriptions, go to <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/mission-institute/mission-institute-classes/>.

Or you may obtain information by telephone:

(914) 941-0783 ext.5671

or email: missinst@mksisters.org.



MISIONEROS LINKS

The May/June 2018 *Misioneros Magazine* of Maryknoll features MAC 2017 and also tells of an Affiliate in Peru. See the articles online:

<https://misionerosmaryknoll.org/2018/05/afiliados-maryknoll-celebra-25-anos/> and

<https://misionerosmaryknoll.org/2018/05/afiliados-peruanos-continuan-labor-de-padre-byrne/>

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