



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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VISIONING WITH THE MARYKNOLL MISSION MOVEMENT

Fr. Jim Madden, January 2014

Love is a consciousness of belonging to another, of being part of a whole. To love is to be on the way toward integral wholeness, to live with an openness of mind and heart, to encounter the other—not as stranger—but as another part of oneself. When we enter into the heart of love, that integral wholeness of love that is God, we enter into the field of relatedness and come to see that we are wholes within wholes. This is the consciousness we need today, an integral wholeness of love that is open to new life; a being-at-home in love that can evolve.”

—**The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love**, *Ilia Delio, OSF.*

The most critical decision humanity needs to face in the first half of the 21st century is whether we will choose life or continue on the current path toward suicide for our human species and many other life forms.

A proposal I would offer for a new Maryknoll metaphor responding to the challenges and prophetic voices of our current age: Maryknollers can become Global Citizens basing themselves on the message of Jesus in John 10:10: “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”



Fr. Jim Madden offering Mass with the Aymara people of Peru

Our God is the God of LIFE! Most people on this planet do not enjoy a full life. Affiliates are contributing positively from our four pillars of Global Vision, Spirituality, Community, and Action. Let us reflect and act upon some global realities that block most people from enjoying a full life.

Jesus initiated the reign of God. The new cosmology is bringing amazing and sometimes overwhelming understandings to our theologies, stretching us to consider that the universe is far vaster than we had ever imagined. But we know that Jesus came to our planet. Our primary task as Christians and missionaries is to prepare for the reign of God which brings: happiness, peace, justice, reconciliation, the common good, etc.

Mother Earth and Ecology

Predictions are that before 2040, the earth's average temperature will increase over 2 degrees C. At that point, it will be impossible to reverse the process of global warming. This process will create a crisis that will surpass all other crises facing the human family.

I know Maryknoll Affiliates support the Christian stance that all life is a gift from our God of life. Many do this through affirming the integrity of creation: Hans and Barb Zurring of Missoula MT participate in various ecological projects; Kyle and Kathy Chandler-Isakson in Las Vegas live an exemplary eco-conscious lifestyle; Pat and Mary Denevan in Oaxaca promote organic farming and connect with their indigenous neighbors who live in harmony with the earth; Jo Albright attends the Indigenous Conference of the U.N. A few years back, the Affiliate Western Regional Conference was dedicated to the theme of respecting creation. Who else participates in local “Green” organization initiatives? By being born as a human being, Jesus has become part of God's own creation! We must honor creation.

Food and Water

Future wars will be based on access to food and water. China and India are buying land in Africa; 12.5% of the world's population goes to bed hungry; 24% of the world's population does not have access

Continued on page 6.

CHERISH THE PAST—ENVISION THE FUTURE

Most of this issue of the NSFA relates to Father Jim Madden, MM, who passed away this January. He initiated our Movement and formed Affiliate chapters in the US and Peru. Even if you didn't have the blessing of meeting him, we trust that you will be inspired by his article and the challenge which he wrote as his last words to us Affiliates. He envisions us growing, on a mission of love and life.

Please read Father Jim's message in its entirety and meditate on your role in the aspects he lovingly details. Perhaps your chapter could reflect on them as the basis for an upcoming meeting.

Note that one of his insights (see page 7) relates to social media and communications. Last fall, Affiliate Ken Eppes attended the US Catholic Mission Association conference. Ken brought home the strong message that "If mission is going to continue past our lifetimes, we must reach young people, and young people live in the culture of social media." Maryknoll Affiliate Executive Coordinator Bob Short also writes of the need for improved electronic communications for and among Affiliates. Please share your views at NotSoFarAfield.org, at www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates or phone 877-897-2386.

Good-bye Fr. Jim, priest, prophet, and father of our Affiliate Movement. Your vision still animates our Movement. **!Presente!**

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 in more than 30 countries.

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 call toll free 877-897-2386 or e-mail inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

MAC 2014 UPDATE

Hard to believe, but it's only a matter of weeks before MAC 2014 will be upon us! We hope that you have registered by now; if not, please do so as soon as possible through our website: MAC2014.org.



Plans are taking their final shape: Friday's schedule includes break-out sessions responding to Fr. John Sivalon's keynote address, "The Third Wave Emerging into the Future." Saturday's sessions focus on specific topics of interest to all who are involved with Maryknoll, a DVD presentation to highlight the varied activities of chapters from many areas of the US and the world, and a presentation on the work/activities of Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Each day of the conference offers many opportunities for Affiliates to build a renewed sense of community with members of chapters from near and far. We all experience the building of community through the sharing of prayer services and liturgies. At MAC 2014, these services will draw their themes from the Maryknoll Affiliates' four pillars. Of course, each evening will close with a social gathering to round out the day's activities.

We are truly hopeful that those who attend MAC 2014 will experience community with the entire Maryknoll family and carry that broader sense of community back to their local Affiliate chapters.



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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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SOCIAL MEDIA: A NEW MISSION LANGUAGE

Ken Eppes – North Texas Chapter

Social media is a culture with its own language. As missionaries, we must learn this culture and language, just as we learn the cultures and languages of peoples in foreign lands.

That was the wisdom of the United States Catholic Mission Association conference held in St. Louis in October, 2013. Much of it is applicable to our Affiliate chapters and ministries.

In his keynote address, Luis Cardinal Tagle, archbishop of Manila, said “Using social media, the word of God goes beyond boundaries to the world. It can penetrate even where practice of faith is restricted.” Where Internet service is unavailable, smart phones are ubiquitous, and young people everywhere are online. Cardinal Tagle’s own webcast, “The Word Exposed,” is viewed all over the world on Facebook and YouTube.

Another speaker, sociologist and media consultant Meredith Gould, PhD, insisted virtual communities are *real* communities. “The only thing you can’t do online is celebrate the Eucharist and throw dirt on a coffin,” she said.

Presenters spoke about various social media platforms. Facebook is losing popularity among young people. Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest are current choices. Different platforms are popular with

If mission is going to continue past our lifetimes, we must reach young people, and young people live in the culture of social media.

different ages, races, genders and ethnic groups. New platforms emerge, and their user demographics change, so organizations using social media have to be light on their feet. You can enter “social media usage statistics” into a search engine (e.g. Google, Bing) and find charts and graphs showing who is using what.

The website remains central. That’s where people find the links to your other social media. Web pages must be up to date. Stale information is worse than useless. It gives the impression that your organization is lackadaisical.

Presenters emphasized over and over that websites and all platforms must be interactive. Welcome feedback, even if it is angry. Find out why the person is angry, and you can perhaps begin a productive dialogue. Kathy Schmittgens, SSND, contended,

“You can love anyone once you’ve heard their story.”

Blogs are a great way to tell your story. You can relate mission stories and include photos and videos. Allowing readers to comment on your blog post can begin dialogues and be a forum for new ideas.



Notsofarfield.org, the online site for our Affiliate newsletter, uses a blog platform; comments are welcome.

Careful planning before getting into social media is a must. What is the identity and purpose of your organization? Why do you want to use social media? (To educate? To recruit laborers into your vineyard? To call to prayer?) Who do you want to communicate with? Which media platform(s) will reach them? What are you going to say? Brevity is important—the soundbite generation won’t read long treatises.

And, who will do the work? Who will contribute material? Who will monitor the media for appropriateness? You will need committed people to see your media effort through. It’s best to begin modestly with what you know you can set up and maintain.

One of the best things about social media is the price. Most of it ranges from cheap to free. A URL (website address) will cost \$10-12 per year. A web host can be free to about \$100 per year. The \$100 web hosts are exponentially better than the freebees. Most other social media are free.

Keeping the same name across all the platforms you use, and the same look as much as possible is important to keep the identity and name recognition of your organization firm.

Social media can be intimidating for some of us gray-haired Affiliates. However, the pervading tone of the USCMA conference was, “If mission is going to continue past our lifetimes, we must reach young people, and young people live in the culture of social media.”



See www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates for the Maryknoll Affiliates facebook page. Anyone can post or comment on it.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR'S DESK

COMMUNICATION IN THE AFFILIATE WORLD

Communication, good or bad, will significantly influence whether we succeed or fail as an organization, local group or as individuals.

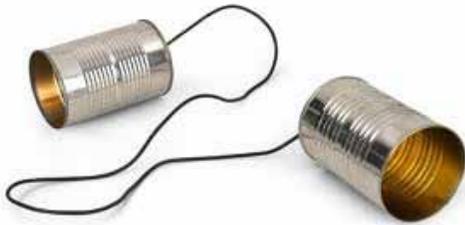
In today's world a hefty amount of communication is electronic via the Internet: email, texting, Facebook, Twitter, etc. For Affiliates, given that a few of us are over 17 years old, electronic media, particularly social media like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, could be foreign, perhaps frightening. Some among us might even have emotional or spiritual reasons to reject the digital world, feeling it is just too soul smothering and dehumanizing. I sometimes have those thoughts myself.

However, digital communication is not going away. Ultimately, I think any tool that enhances our ability to connect with each other, especially on a global scale, can have profound effects on how we learn from each other; on how freedom becomes a possibility; on how mission is given voice.

Lots of things are happening in the digital world for us as Maryknoll Affiliates. Our two Spanish/English newsletters are now both available digitally in blog form: No Tan Lejos del Horizonte (NTLH – notanlejosdelhorizontemk.blogspot.com) and Not So Far Afield (NSFA – notsofarafield.org). They are very impressive.

We are also in the process of updating our website to make it more engaging for all who click on it—a true celebration of our mission. Thanks to the tremendous work of Fred Goddard, the present website has a very sound foundation. We need to update the web site to make it easier to use and maintain, and more attractive to first time visitors. When the redesign is complete, we'll send out an announcement along with encouragement to visit it more regularly and increase our internal sense of community.

Electronic communication can help Affiliates, for whom global mission means so much, to connect with and support each other. In this way, we can more effectively engage with the world. —**Bob Short**



PILGRIMAGE RETREAT IN GUATEMALA

Joan Cruz – Long Island Chapter

I am sitting at my dining table on All Souls Day evening in the silence of my home, remembering with joy the time I spent in Santa Ana with a wonderful community of Maryknoll Affiliates. I want these memories to never leave my heart and soul. I am so thankful to have been part of this Affiliate mission pilgrimage to Guatemala. It was a time of prayer, forming community and being with those who are materially poor. We crossed borders to discover the meaning of mission spirituality, and we experienced walking with the poor by living among them in a simple mission house.

We played with the children, and families welcomed us into their humble homes. People blessed us and we blessed them in the name of our Lord. The children were so happy to be with us. All I could think of were the words of Jesus: "Let the children come to me."

I will always remember the rides in the back of the truck and how one day we got so wet from the rain. What joy I felt being with my new friends as we bumped up the dirt road. "I must live more simply," I felt. I will always remember the happy faces of the children as Matt gave them a ride in the open truck. I thought it was unsafe but learned differently—fear prevents joy.

We went to an orphanage and Maria, a teenaged girl, latched on to me. She seemed to need someone to be with at that time, and I guess I was that someone. I learned that God drops us off where we are needed.

At the beautiful basilica in Esquipulas, I prayed in thanksgiving for the healing of my son. It was an emotional feeling that my son didn't just get better, but that Christ healed him. We walked the Stations of the Cross up a steep cobblestone path in the name of the suffering immigrants. I didn't make it to the top, maybe as some migrants didn't make it across the border.

It was good to meet the Affiliates from Guatemala. They helped us to learn the meaning of faith and community and helped us to write our own prayers. They helped me to realize that the body of Christ is composed of all peoples.

The one thing I will always remember besides our new Affiliate community is the big white sign hanging outside the City of Joy in the Barrio of Santa Ana. It read, "Mary said, 'Do what He tells you to do.'" I was dropped into Santa Ana, and now I must do what He tells me to do.

The next immersion experience in Guatemala is scheduled for June 17-26, 2014. For details, please contact Kris East at KEast@maryknoll.org.



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

SENDING CEREMONY, ONCE AGAIN

Dan Driscoll-Shaw – Chicago Central Chapter

Our Chicago Central Maryknoll Affiliates community has been blessed to share many times in one of the highlights and most significant experiences of all the Maryknoll entities, the Sending Ceremony.

Our most recent Sending Ceremony took place December 15, 2013. We blessed Merwyn and Kirstin DeMello as they go forth to begin a three-year commitment in Afghanistan with the Mennonite Central Committee.



Chicago Central Affiliates extend their hands to bless the DeMellos.

We have done this several times. This time we were blessed to have our first sent missionary, Renate Schneider, back for a visit from Haiti. She and Celine Woznica were the “founding mothers” of our Chapter, and when we sent Renate we were not aware of how permanent her mission would be. It is always good to have her with us when she can be back in Chicago.

We also had held a sending ceremony for one of the backbones of our Affiliate movement, Ann Carr. We commissioned Ann to the border in Texas, before she moved to Philly.

We sent Neris Gonzalez to be strong as she and two other Salvadorans faced the generals who were the intellectual authors of the torture they had suffered in their homeland, unfortunately with the support of the US government. They were successful: a jury of American citizens in West Palm Beach, Florida, found the generals guilty and awarded the three \$59 million. However, they have not received a penny, as far as I know. I remember us planning to bless Neris upon her return, even before we knew the outcome of the verdict. She has since moved to South Bend, Indiana.

Last summer we joined members of St. Gertrude’s parish on the north side of Chicago to bless Craig and Anita Klug and their daughters as we sent them back

to Kenya as Maryknoll Lay Missioners. We had been privileged to have them as members of our Chapter while they were back in the States for advanced studies.

That brings us to the most recent time we were blessed to bless departing members whom we were sending to brothers and sisters we never have met. Merwyn DeMello, born in Kenya and raised in India, was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in East Africa, most recently in Zimbabwe, where he met his wife Kirstin, who is Mennonite. They have been very active members of our Chapter since they arrived in Chicago a couple years ago.

Fellow Affiliate Mary Sluka spoke for all of us when she said, “Merwyn and Kirstin, we will really miss you because you have brought so much life to our Chapter and put us in touch with so many important movements such as the Christian Peacemaker Teams, the Catholic Worker, and the Precious Blood ministry to post-incarcerated young people.”

“But you must realize,” responded Merwyn, “that this group was our anchor for all of those activities. In fact, when the Mennonite Central Committee asked who was our sending Church, we smiled and started to write, ‘our Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter.’”

We presented a small candle to Merwyn and Kirstin and invited them to light it when they were in prayer



The DeMellos are presented a candle to light during prayers. The chapter remembers them at meetings by lighting an identical candle.

or facing important decisions. We kept an identical candle with us, which we will light during our meetings to remind us of our communion in faith and mission with them.

Whatever is worked out by the Obama Administration and the Karzai government, whenever our US troops leave, we Maryknoll Affiliates will have a part of us in Afghanistan for the next three years.

Editor’s note: The Sending Ceremony developed for the DeMellos may serve your chapter as an example whenever you send a member to mission. It is available at <http://notsofarfield.org/2014/03/01/sample-sending-ceremony/>



“Visioning” – Continued from page 1.

to potable water; 22,000 children die daily because of hunger and poverty.

Since 1975, the whole world has produced enough food for all of her people. In theory, there should be no hunger anywhere. Hunger is caused by poor distribution and prices. Profit making should not be the deciding factor in providing food for humanity. Water is essential for life and yet fresh water and the oceans are being polluted.

I know Pat and Mary Denevan produce ecological food in Oaxaca; Hans and Barb Zurring promote local vegetable gardens; Alida Tejada and Fatima Carrera (Peru) process waste water into potable water; Affiliates work in community kitchens and help provide food for so many who live with hunger and food insecurity.

Maternal-Child Health

The reality of maternal health worldwide is still marked by risk and even death for many women in childbirth. Women often lack access to basic health resources even though they do the majority of work, often suffer domestic violence, etc.

Christians greatly value new births as a promise of future hope. Maryknoll Affiliates support this Christian stance that babies are good and a blessing for humanity. Who promotes “the right to life” in the sense of the “seamless garment” of Christ? “Children not only have the right to be born but they have the right to continue living!” (Archbishop Villegas, Peru). For more than 20 years, Kitty Madden in Nicaragua has promoted the dignity of women and saved the lives of many mothers and newborns.

Marriage

Families have long served as the foundational social building block of human society. Children reared in safe, loving, and nurturing families grow to be whole human beings who contribute to and improve civil society. By contrast, increasing numbers of children live in neglectful and fractured families at great risk and often grow up to harm one another and society as a whole.

Today in the US and Europe, there is much debate on the terms and definition of family and marriage. An often overlooked aspect in the discussion, however, is that the viability of marriage as a civil institution is now seriously questioned and less often practiced. *Sojourner’s* Jim Wallis in a recent blog on Marriage Equality writes:

I deeply hope that our country can come together around a new conversation—about how we can all recommit ourselves to marriage and all that comes with it—monogamy, fidelity, and, for many of us, parenting. We are losing marriage in this society. While there are many single parents who do a wonderful job taking on the challenge, I believe that if we lose a critical mass of healthy marriages and two-parent families, we are in very serious trouble.

The long-term impact of family and marriage dissolution results in critical social consequences. Wallis continues:

The nation’s soaring divorce rate is a matter of deep concern...[A variety of] factors contribute to a society moving away from marriage: a culture that glorifies recreational instead of covenantal sexuality; a non-commitment culture; a society that especially turns women and girls into commodities; a justice system that leads to mass incarceration of young men of color and breaks apart families; an immigration system that doesn’t protect family unity; and an economic system with too many jobs that don’t pay a living family wage, just to name a few.



Fr. Jim Madden with the Aymara artisan co-op that he fostered.

Maryknoll Affiliates promote the Christian stance that marriage is good and a blessing for humanity. Mary and John Moritz are involved in Pre-Cana formation and Paul Witte serves with the New Sanctuary Movement that strives to keep immigrant families from being torn apart by deportation.

Peace and Violence

Violence is growing worldwide: domestic, street, drug related, economic (2 million people in the US lost their

homes), ethnic and racial, national internal conflict (civil wars), international wars, political (Middle East), religious (persecuted Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, Iraq, India, China).

Maryknoll Affiliates promote many peace initiatives: Marie Dennis and Beth Begley through Pax Christi and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss with Rotary Clubs and the Peace Art Festival are just a few examples. Maryknoll Affiliates join with Maryknoll's efforts for peace and justice through the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns and our collaborative JustFaith effort. Kirstin and Merwyn DeMello in Chicago work with Christian Peacekeeper teams in the Holy Land, and Renate Schneider, in addition to her work in Haiti, has served as an international observer for national elections in Honduras.

Modern Slavery

Millions of women and children are trafficked world wide (including in the US) in sexual and work slavery. This happens through sophisticated international networks and also national and local realities. India, Pakistan, and Thailand have a concentration of trafficked people in factories and brothels. In other countries, adults are forced to work at wage levels that cannot support a single person, let alone a family (Bangladesh, Honduras, Mexico); migrants work in the US under threats of expulsion; China permits international human sex trafficking to solve its shortage of women.

Affiliates participate in the Christian condemnation and elimination of slavery in all its forms: Paul Witte, through his work to defend immigrants in Philadelphia; Fr. Carl Meulemans in his accompaniment of migrant farm workers in WI.

Social Media and Communication Technology

With the various forms of Social Media that have emerged, we have become a global village. We all know about everybody else. But we relate as distant entities. We do not connect in face-to-face relationships. Social media has great potential to assist us in effecting positive change through networking with others and collaborating with worldwide organizations. At the same time, however, we seem to be losing the ability to relate interpersonally.

This is an essential part of who we are as human beings! While living in ideal economic security and great comfort, people in Scandinavia commit suicide because of loneliness. Children often prefer to play with electronic 'interactive' toys rather than with each other.

For Christians, the Divine Trinity is a revealed relationship of Persons and all creation functions on the basis of relationships from the smallest cells to the most complex levels of life.

Can Maryknoll Affiliates find solutions to this emerging problem of communication without authentic relational connection? How do we deal with information gathering without authentic education for human development? (see Gandhi's *7 Social Sins*). I know that Guatemalan Affiliates help well-educated youth broaden their life learning experiences by serving in their country's indigenous communities. From that same chapter, young male Affiliates continue the formation work begun by Fr. Tom Goeckler with youth and gang prevention. Guatemalan and US Affiliates collaborate in the key communication tools of our Affiliate movement: *Not So Far Afield* and *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*.

Energy and Lifestyle

The latest news is that there will be plenty of traditional energy (oil and gas) in the US for the US, for now. We did not have this knowledge five years ago. As gas and oil is currently being used, however, we humans are destroying the environment and endangering the survival of our human species. (That's us!)

We return to the issue of the environment or "The gift of life and creation" for us Christians. Will Maryknoll Affiliates be leaders or followers in our change of lifestyle? Our lifestyle will change whether we like it or not. To promote fullness of life with Jesus, along with the teaching of our recent popes, Maryknoll Affiliates can be leaders.

Mission and Religion

Secularism promotes personal rights and challenges all religions, but all religions in some way also promote humanness. Life issues are beyond questions of religious affiliation. Life issues are beyond religion itself. Even nonbelievers are in favor of life.

Maryknoll Affiliates can cooperate with anyone who promotes, protects, defends, and saves lives. This includes any activity with anyone who addresses the forces threatening the life of the human species and our planet. These new challenges of the 21st century call all Maryknollers to participate in "partnerships without borders."

My hope is that our whole Maryknoll Mission Movement would discuss these issues together, with the attitude that we can live today as active global citizens with Christian values.



WORKING WITH JIM MADDEN ...

Ellen McDonald, MM – January 10, 2014

In 1991 I began a three-year service position in the newly created joint Maryknoll Mission Archives. I had barely been assigned a desk when Fr. Jim Madden came in looking for two things: the book, *The Maryknoll Movement*, by Fr. George Powers, and Sr. Barbara Hendricks' article on the Maryknoll charism. Jim liked to recall that moment as the beginning of our collaboration. Apparently I said something about being interested in what he was doing, and he immediately pulled up a chair to talk about it. He admitted that he wanted the Affiliates to be called "Maryknoll" Affiliates, but that that could only happen if the new movement was collaborative within Maryknoll.



Jim Madden and Ellen McDonald—co-founders of Maryknoll Affiliates.

From then on, with no previous idea, plan, or official blessing, we actually began collaborating just by keeping in contact and in dialog. Before long we presented a petition to our leaderships requesting that the Affiliate Movement be a collaborative Maryknoll activity. This was approved and immediately occasioned a number of changes in the Affiliate Advisory Board, originally set up by the Maryknoll Society. Meanwhile, Jim was working out of Chicago where he set up an Affiliate office, calling me to report and/or to consult about each step he was taking.

My contract in Archives ran from '91 to '94, placing my affiliate activity on the margins of that position compared to Jim's full time dedication to the Affiliate movement. He was tireless as he collected, compiled, and mapped out lists of potential Affiliates and Affiliate Chapters. He began traveling and meeting with small groups of persons who had or might have an interest in Maryknoll, sounding out their ideas about why one would want to be an Affiliate. When he gathered the countless pages of newsprint that listed peoples' ideas, he found he could organize the ideas under four headings that he later identified as the four pillars of the Affiliate Movement.

All of this is well-known history for many; what I really want to say is something about what it was like working with Jim. It has been said that it is difficult to literalize an

experience. That is surely my problem! One incident of my working with Jim has remained key for me, and perhaps it tells the story best. The first-ever Affiliate Conference, in 1993, I believe, with two delegates each from as many as possible of the then-existing Chapters, had just taken place in Chicago. When we returned to Maryknoll, Jim and I drove to somewhere in Connecticut and talked full speed about all that had happened at the Conference.

Once again I made what I thought was an innocent comment about something, and he asked, "Why didn't you say that at the Conference?" My spontaneous reply was, "Are you kidding? I live in fear of ruining your movement." Before I knew what was happening, he whipped the car off the road into a parking space and turned

off the ignition, all the while exhaling his famous "who...a" (long 'o'). I looked at him, puzzled. He tapped the steering wheel with the palms of his hands to emphasize what he was slowly saying, "If there is anything I don't want, it's that the Affiliates be seen as my movement."

What followed was probably one of the best conversations we ever had, turning an already good working team relationship into a better and more satisfying one in many ways. Jim always did his homework and did it well. He thought things through, relating issues clearly, giving the reasons or logic or experience behind whatever he was saying. I realized that day that after two years I was beginning to catch up with him. I was finding my place in adapting the Congregation's vague reference "to broaden participation in mission" and the Society's detailed mandate to "found Affiliates" into a collaborative opening of the Maryknoll movement to this new expression, the Maryknoll Affiliates.

When you are doing something good, the whole universe conspires to make it happen!

Jim was a good listener and I was learning to speak. He was clear in his vision but not set; he was open to being challenged and ready to make appropriate changes. He was also very patient and accommodating, not only with my work in the Archives, but also with time

I was giving to the Core Committee leading to the formal founding of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 1994. Jim was always aware, interested, supportive, and helpful in important discussions, confident that all collaborative activities could only further enhance the Affiliate movement.

A favorite expression I have adopted of late in today's new evolutionary consciousness is that "when you are doing something good, the whole universe conspires to make it happen!" This could not be more true than in my experience working with Jim and the Affiliate movement. How I happened to be in place in the Archives and fall into the Affiliate work with Jim is a mystery for the stars to explain. I can only attest to the fact that because it happened as it did, I find myself at this time experiencing great loss. I will go on missing Jim as a unique and special friend, a wonderful team partner, and an insightful and always enjoyable companion on the journey.



LEGENDS OF JIM MADDEN

Mef Ford – Greater Boston/New England Chapter

Stories were told at the wake of Jim's humility, inspiration, and vision. One described his courage. Once, in Peru, armed local leaders confronted Jim in a public square, accusing him of being a spy, challenging his presence. "Why are you here? You don't belong here," they screamed. Jim walked right up to the group, stood tall before them and flipped their challenge saying, "It is YOU who don't belong here. You have cheated and exploited the people. Why are YOU here?" The people then rose up and said, "He's with us and we're with him." Confronted by this cool, daring young priest and his supporters, they backed down. A co-worker later asked Jim if he'd been scared. "Terrified," he said.

Time was limited at the wake so what didn't get told were stories of Jim's good sense of humor and his style as co-creator and developer with Ellen McDonald, MM of the Affiliate movement. Jim saw everyone as equal and never condescended nor insisted on his way, so all creations were collaborative.

At the first national Affiliate conference in Chicago in the early 90s, I saw a need for this fledgling group to

stay connected and offered to put out one newsletter. Over the 10 years and 30 or so issues that followed, Jim was a faithful promoter and supporter. He did not try to rein me in in any way, not my style or my enthusiastic inclusion of a wide variety of material, including cartoons graciously but unwittingly shared by other publications.

He was leaven, an enthusiastic cheerleader for all participants in the movement and a pat on the back for any Affiliate who took initiative. Under this master organizer, the national, then international, network of local chapters took form. Allowing direction from the grass roots led to several years of Affiliate chapter members questioning – Who are we? What are we to do? What is an Affiliate anyway? And thus these base Christian communities gradually took their own shapes. Eventually, documents and rituals were created, biannual conferences took place, and the newsletter *Not So Far Afield* continues to connect, update, and inspire Affiliates.

All this is not to say Jim didn't have definite ideas or be prone to micro-managing details. When his term was finally up and he was to return to the missions, we pondered a fitting farewell to be held at the national conference that summer of 1997. What better than an Irish wake? The "body" was rolled in on a gurney half-covered with a sheet, and one by one Affiliates came up to publicly pay their respects.

The stories and words of appreciation were interrupted by audience board member John Neufeld's cell phone ringing. "Hello? Oh, Jim, is that you? Hi!! How is it there? Oh, good. (Long pause.) Ok, you want me to tell them to be sure to do what? And to make changes in ... uh huh. And we shouldn't forget to..." And no one laughed more heartily than Jim.

Lest you think this roasting exaggerated, at Jim's funeral Mass, the celebrant read excerpts from a document Jim finished a week before he died. It was a 7-page letter to the Affiliates [See page 1] outlining all the areas in which he thinks going forward that we can make a difference and how.

Yet, as sad as I feel at Jim's moving on, it was not grief that most moved me at the services. When the flock of celebrants processed into the chapel behind the casket, I was struck and moved to tears by the awareness of each individual life, stretching in long lines along the years and around the world, that has been given completely to uncovering and building up what is good. We are part of something more. Jim was just one of the world's multitudes who know that, and I feel privileged that my path intersected with his for a while.



Mef Ford shares memories of the early years with Jim Madden.

PERUVIANS CELEBRATE FATHER JIM'S LIFE

Maria Farfan – Arequipa Chapter

[Translated by Bob Short]

Our Mass in celebration of the life of Father Jim Madden was held in Arequipa, Peru, on January 16th, the day that Father Jim was waked [in New York]. Father Edmundo Alarcón, a friend of Father Jim, presided over the celebration. In attendance were Affiliates from the three chapters in Arequipa and some Affiliates from Puno, Peru.

You will always be with us, our dear Father Jim.

It was a very moving ceremony wherein many spoke of their shared experiences with him. Personally I am very grateful to Father Jim for his great support during some of the most difficult moments in my life. So, I have permitted myself to write a few lines, which I shared at the end of the Mass, and now share with you.

It is true that human beings know that life has an end, but that does not stop us from feeling bad when someone dear leaves us. Losing him has cast a shadow over our spirits. We understand that everything that exists begins and also ends. The time Father Jim was part of our lives was an intensely happy time. Everything about him was unique—his simplicity, his way of laughing, his expression, and his very unique character—all are unforgettable.

Photo reprinted with permission of Maryknoll Society.



Jim Madden laughs with an unidentified group of Peruvians.

We must keep in mind that what we are experiencing today is very sad, but at the same time we recall all the good times lived and shared with him. It comforts us just to know that he was so grateful for the life God gave him and was equally prepared to let go of that life and fall into the arms of God.

His absence does not mean that he will ever be forgotten in our lives because he did such memorable things. The love we feel for him will always live in our hearts.

**CHICAGO SHARES STORIES OF JIM**

Celine Woznica - Chicago Central Chapter*

Chicago Affiliates held a beautiful reflection this afternoon on the life and gifts of Jim Madden MM. After some initial sharing of stories and personal experiences with Jim, we let Jim speak to us as we read together his essay on “Visioning with the Maryknoll Mission Movement.” [See page 1.] We ended with the following chant:

At wind-swept gatherings of the Aymara community on the Altiplano, ¡Presente!

At cross-cultural celebrations that find the Sacred in all peoples and traditions, ¡Presente!

At chapter and conference meetings of Maryknoll Affiliates all over the world, ¡Presente!

At vocation seminars and one-on-one accompaniment, ¡Presente!

At Society gatherings, fellowship, and liturgical services, ¡Presente!

At Congregational collaborations and joint visioning, ¡Presente!

At local and national actions to live and promote social justice, ¡Presente!

As long as we live, he too will live; for he is now a part of us, as we remember Jim. ¡Presente!



*Posted on Facebook by Celine Woznica.

FR. JIM REKINDLED MISSION FIRE

Patrick & Mary Denevan - Mérida, Yucatán Chapter

Pat Denevan: I was 19 years old when I entered the Maryknoll Seminary in Mt. View, CA, to study Latin for one year. With a young heart burning with missionary zeal, I completed 8 more years of study and was ordained a Maryknoll priest in 1963. However, in 1970, after seeing the hopes of Pope John XXIII fading and the windows of the 2nd Vatican Council being closed, I decided to leave the priesthood. With a sad and confused heart, I left Maryknoll and was “reduced to the lay state,” according to the official document I received from Rome.

I began to live as an ordinary Catholic layman; with my wife, Mary, and two children, I finally settled in Portland, OR. Then in 1992 Mary and I traveled to Seattle to meet Fr. Jim Madden. I had known Jim in our seminary years where we called him the “All-American Boy.” He was blond, handsome, athletic, energetic, and had a terrific personality. When I saw him again that evening in Seattle he looked a lot older to me and showed the effects of the many years he had spent in the Altiplano of Peru. But he had the

same energy as before when he described to us the new vision he had about the Maryknoll Affiliates.

Jim's energetic enthusiasm for the Maryknoll Affiliate movement rekindled my mission vision. Mary and I returned to Portland to start an Affiliate chapter. We also came to know Sr. Ellen McDonald, represented the Maryknoll Sisters in the developing Affiliate movement. In 2001, Mary and I became Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) and came to Oaxaca, Mexico. When MKLM withdrew from Mexico, we decided to remain as independent missionaries. Today we operate our Oaxaca Ecology Project with two guiding principles: Take Care of the Land – Take Care of the People. We had continued a relationship with the Portland Affiliates but now are joining up with the Mexican Affiliate group in Mérida, Yucatán.

So, I guess you could say that I didn't really leave Maryknoll after all. I am no longer a cleric, but a Catholic layman. The apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis describes very well the importance of all of us being missionary disciples. Also, the book by Paul Lakeland, *The Liberation of the Laity*, gave me a much better appreciation of our role as the people of God. Today I see the Maryknoll Affiliate movement growing and reaching out in many new directions, carrying the message of Christ to humankind.

Rest in peace, Jim, your vision burns brightly in the world today.

Mary Denevan: Fr. Jim Madden was the first founder of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement and smart to find Sr. Ellen McDonald to join him. My first encounter with the Affiliates was when Jim came out to Seattle in the fall of 1992 to talk to a group, and we were invited to attend. My dad had just died and I remember feeling a real spurt of new life hearing about the Movement. Pat and I with some others started our Portland group in January 1993.

Jim nominated me for the board, and from there we went to Querétaro, México, in 1997 for a Justice and Peace Conference with all the Maryknoll branches. I came back to Portland, resigned my job and worked bringing groups down to Tijuana and south until Pat and I came to México as Lay Missioners in 2001.

We landed in Oaxaca January 14, 2002, and have just celebrated 12 years here serving the people of Oaxaca. I still identify as being a missionary...from my baptism. I am grateful to the various branches of Maryknoll for my formation and especially to Jim for helping me find the road home here in Oaxaca.

I expect that the Affiliates will continue to live the charism of mission with creativity and grace.



AFFILIATE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – 2013

Ann Carr - President

New chapters in South Korea, Cochabamba, Bolivia, and Lima, Peru, were recognized in 2013. The *Cochabamba Chapter* has close ties with Bolivia's Maryknoll Mission Community. *Korean Chapter* Affiliates work in mission with adults with special needs, abused women, children at risk, Hansen's disease patients, and others. The Lima, Peru, *Niño Jesus Chapter*, a group including dedicated catechists, educators and pastoral workers, has a rich history of formation with Maryknollers. Please greet these three new chapters and more than 40 new Affiliates at www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates.

Ties with Latin America. While excited by the rapid growth of chapters in Latin America, we ask: Are we doing all we can to support these chapters and ensure that our movement is integrated and connected? Patty Barneond (Guatemala), who serves as Board liaison to Latin America, will be working closely with Bob Short and the LA regional coordinators to ensure ongoing communication and connection.

Promoting Collaboration, the Board seeks ways to strengthen collaboration within Maryknoll and beyond. As Jim Madden has challenged us, can we become global citizens who are open to partnership without borders? Two current efforts are the JustFaith/Maryknoll collaborative project and strengthening ties with the MOGC. (Stay tuned for more info.)

The Media Committee explores ways in which we can grow the Affiliate Movement using electronic media. We are making progress on our first goal—to update our website. Hats off to our Executive Coordinator, Bob Short, for championing this committee and project!

MAC 2014. Albany Chapter prepares for MAC 2014, and the Board administers the conference scholarship fund. We look forward to a dialogue with the wider Affiliate community in June and invite your questions or concerns. One area to explore: How do Affiliates develop and sustain meaningful life in their chapters?

NEWS FROM THE KNOLL



Sr. Joan Campbell died on Dec. 14, 2013, after 66 years as a Maryknoll sister. Born in NJ and educated in PA, she served in Tanzania as a teacher/headmistress.

Sr. Elizabeth Lee, a Maryknoll sister for over 70 years, died on Feb. 4, 2014. Teaching gradeschool, ESL, and teachers of ESL, she worked mostly with Chinese populations in the US and Taiwan.

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