



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

May/June 2018

Volume 27 Number 3

BALANCE, THE EARTH, AND CONTEMPLATIVE DIALOG

Participants brought their personal symbols of balance to illustrate the Northeast Regional Meeting's theme. Holding the Maryknoll Affiliate meeting on Earth Day, April 21, provided an extra



A short tai chi session helped balance the day.

dimension, as did welcoming several members of the newest Affiliate Chapter from Springfield, MA. Over 50 people attended, including the Affiliate Board, with 15 chapters represented.

After an opening song and prayer for the Earth, Sr. Norie Mojada, MM, presented a brief review of Theory U from the Presencing Institute (www.presencing.org/#/aboutus/theory-u). About 25,000 people, including some Affiliates, had studied Theory U in an on-line course in 2015, and the Maryknoll Sisters are using the concept to aid in evolving their community. Theory U is a process which helps users open their mind, heart, and will to accept new input and let the future emerge.

Quoting Liz Sweeney, SSJ, who wrote on a model for communal discernment through contemplative dialogue (Summer 2014 Leadership Conference of Women Religious Occasional Papers), Sr. Norie

stressed the importance of contemplation and contemplative dialog to help us stay open to input from others and to listen with our hearts.

In small groups we examined and shared our individual spirituality as Affiliates. Many mentioned their connection with the earth and all its creatures, social activism, and an appreciation for an evolutionary consciousness. We discussed what each of us saw as Maryknoll spirituality: including global vision, care for creation, respect for other faith traditions, and especially hospitality.

In discussing their chapter's balance of the four pillars, Affiliates said their chapter provides a community, nurturing them in ways their parish community does

not. The Affiliate pillar of Global Vision was also very important. Every group emphasized Spirituality, but there was a lot of discussion about Action. Affiliates are very active, but chapters don't usually have a project they all work on. Several groups thought that if their



The Affiliate Board were introduced and answered Affiliates' questions.



An evening social hour allowed further conversations and reflection.

chapter had one project that they all worked on, it would help unify and animate their chapter.

After saying Mass, Fr. Russ Feldmeier, MM, helped us close the day, praying for several who would soon have operations and sending our blessings to all those we carry in our hearts.



ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Co-editor Paula here, filling in for co-editor Mary as she and her husband Manny are on the road. I like to refer to them as the Affiliate ambassadors-at-large.

This issue is filled with Action and Community. Chapters from South Korea to Petaluma to Houston have reflected on their Affiliate lives. Mary and Manny report on chapters they visited as they crossed the US to attend the Maryknoll Affiliates' April board meeting at the Maryknoll Sisters' in Ossining, NY. That included participating in the Northeast Region's conference on Balance (see page 1). To round out this issue, we have invitations to attend the Maryknoll Sisters' Mission Institute, to take an online class, to get involved in Quo Vadis, or to read a good book.

On Mary and Manny's return trek, they have visited several more chapters, which we'll hear about in the next issue. As they travel, they are organizing a Northwest Regional mini-conference on *active nonviolence* for September 22 in Portland. (See this page!) Mary says, "Y'all come!"

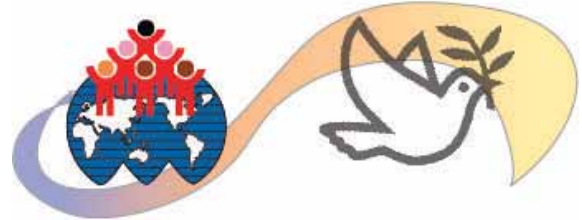
In our next issue, we will also recognize Affiliates who passed away in the last year or so. Please share the names of any Affiliates you know of who are no longer with us. And, as always, we want to hear what your chapter is up to. Drop us an email at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.



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.



MISSION – NONVIOLENCE

Mini-Regional Conference in Portland, Oregon Sept. 21-23, 2018

Gather with Affiliates and with others to learn *active nonviolent* approaches to addressing the challenges before us.

- **Friday, Sept. 21, 6PM** – *Maryknoll Affiliate Social and Barbecue*
- **Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 AM-5PM** – FREE Nonviolence Workshop (open to the public)
- **Sunday, Sept. 23, 12 noon** – *Maryknoll Affiliate gathering and picnic*

Food is provided for all events, including simple snacks and lunch on Saturday. Special diet? Bring what you can enjoy and eat with us!

*Housing and transportation are **NOT** provided.*

All events are FREE. Free-will offerings will be gratefully accepted.

To attend, email to **RSVP for each day** and for further information.

Mary at NSFAmary@gmail.com will accept your RSVPs, provide event addresses and housing suggestions, and answer questions.

Click for downloadable [flyer](#).



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.

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

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MINISTRY TO DETAINEES IN WASHINGTON

Pat Bader – Seattle Chapter

In early January 2013, I toured the Northwest Detention Center, one of the largest in the US (capacity 1,575 detainees), with a group of people interested in visiting detainees who have no family or friends in the area. The NW Detention Center, a for-profit facility, is located in the industrial area of Tacoma, WA, without any public transportation or services. It is operated by GEO Group (NYSE symbol GEO) under contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), under the Department of Homeland Security.

A not-for-profit organization, Advocates for Immigrant in Detention Northwest (www.aidnw.org), located in Tacoma, trains volunteer visitors and assigns a detainee whom they visit frequently until the detainee is released or deported. Other not-for-profit organizations also have programs for visiting detainees at NW Detention Center.

No background checks are required for visitors. Shortly after completing a two-hour information and training program, I was assigned my first detainee, Carlos (not his real name), who was apprehended after being stopped for a burned-out tail light. I signed in at the Visitors' Waiting Room, giving the name and A-number (A = alien) of the detainee I was about to meet. Each of the 19 small visiting booths, 15 for men and 4 for women, has two chairs separated by a glass partition and an intercom telephone to talk with the detainee.

After visiting with my detainee for about an hour, I felt more comfortable with the visiting process. We began to develop a friendship and exchanged information about ourselves. As a volunteer visitor, I don't ask the detainee about any sensitive information, nor did I share any, for our mutual security. I visited every other week for about three months until my detainee informed me that he had exhausted his legal options and was being deported. I was saddened that I would no longer be able to visit him and encourage him during his detention.

During the next four years, I visited over 10 detainees, men and women, all of whom were eventually deported. (Some detainees are released or bonded out.) Although I grieved at their deportations, I felt



that I had connected with them and had given them some encouragement during our visits as well as praying for them during and after their detention.

The AIDNW organization also manages an RV Welcome Center parked outside the Detention Center for detainees released each day. Volunteers offer a friendly place where detainees receive help phoning families, making bus or plane reservations, filling out post-release forms, etc.

Food, clothing, and backpacks are provided. For those unable to travel immediately, AIDNW has men's and women's transitional housing where detainees can stay until travel arrangements are finalized. Joy and gratitude permeate the Welcome Center as detainees anticipate being reunited with family and friends after confinement in the prison-like facility for weeks, months, or years.

A Worship Service program, sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle with the assistance of eucharistic minister volunteers, allows detainees to reconnect to or continue their spiritual life while away from their spiritual community. The volunteer ministers conduct five services for men and two for women weekly. Prospective ministers are vetted and then receive training from the Archdiocese and GEO.

Volunteering at the NW Detention Center has given me a greater respect for the detainees as people on their journey through life with hopes, aspirations, and challenges similar to mine. They inspire me with their faith in God and resilience while in detention.



Maryknoll Affiliate
Website Update

**Don't miss the
Monday Affiliate News!**

Sign up for your weekly email here:

<http://maryknollaffiliates.org/contact/sign-up-to-our-newsletter.html>



PETALUMA AFFILIATES ON A MISSION

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Several of the North Bay Affiliates had been on mission in southeast Asia. Now their mission *not so far afield* is helping a Haitian refugee family in California. Last November, the NSFA told about Bob and Nancy McFarland being willing to open their home to a refugee family.

Nancy and Bob had begun to work with a rapid response team to help undocumented immigrants. One family who fled Haiti for their safety had traveled through many countries before reaching California. They learned that this family of four—a father, his wife who was 9 months pregnant, and their 2- and 4-year-old children—was sleeping on half of the living room floor of someone else’s apartment. Even though the McFarlands had health concerns and would soon be traveling to the 2017 MAC in Guatemala, they had a spare bedroom and could not refuse to help.

The McFarlands’ cautious “Yes” was echoed throughout the community. They were gratified when 17 of their associates immediately volunteered to help materially and with transportation. The father, Jean, spoke to another faith community that collected \$1,800 to help the family pay expenses. Another Affiliate gave the family a car he could no longer use. Now Jean has passed his written driver’s test but not yet the actual driving test allowing him to use the car he’s been given.

The family is applying for asylum because of the violence they experienced which forced them to flee Haiti. Although lawyers volunteered some of their time, the asylum application will still cost about \$5,000. Affiliates transported and accompanied the family to the immigration hearing, carrying the 25 pounds of paper applications for the 4 refugees.

“A healthy baby was born to the family and it was like a real Christmas story. Jesus was a refugee,” Nancy reminisced.

The community has come together to support the family of five. That evening during our pot luck dinner, Bob took a phone call and made a quick exit to drive Jean to his new job.

Helping the refugees has reinvigorated this Affiliate chapter. Their presentation last fall about immigration issues at a local parish has attracted several new members. They have connected with other organizations who are also concerned about immigrants and refugees. These Affiliates remember their immigrant roots and eagerly share their love, time, and energy.



Fr. Russ and Francesca Yang, Chapter Coordinator, above, with two Affiliates

SOUTH KOREA MEETING NOTES

Fr. Russ Feldmeier, MM – Maryknoll Affiliate Board

The Korea Affiliates held their monthly meeting on April 7, 2018, at the Maryknoll Sisters’ residence in Seoul. Fifteen members, including two newcomers, spent the afternoon sharing on their personal lives and actions since the last meeting a month ago. Russ Feldmeier attended and presided at Mass.

The questions below were used as a framework for the sharing:

1. How, as a Maryknoll family, can we better understand the needs of the people we are called to serve?
2. What are essential values needed for a Maryknoll family?
3. What do we need within ourselves to ignite the magic within the Maryknoll family?
4. How does our personal spirituality contribute toward building the Maryknoll family?

They had a wide-ranging discussion. One person talked about the need to listen to the people we serve. He works with youth at Sogang University, a Jesuit University in Seoul, and facilitates pilgrimages and other programs. Others spoke of the value of the Maryknoll family and the way Maryknoll missionaries in Korea influenced them. In general, they talked about the value of the Affiliate chapter where we can all meet and which helps us to grow. Since this was right after Easter, they talked about the Paschal Mystery of new life even through suffering.

The hot issue for the day was the #MeToo movement, which has had a powerful impact in Korea recently. It has been an opportunity for Koreans to deal with the patriarchal aspect of Korean society, and a number of the Affiliates shared on the impact it has been having on their own lives and on the society at large.

There was a great deal of energy at the meeting, and the sharing was rich.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN IN MISSION

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

A friend asked Bertha, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Tanzania for many years, how Tanzanians interpret the Good Samaritan story. Seeing her answer as relevant to all in mission, she shares her thoughts with us.

It is an immense challenge for missioners to respond appropriately to cultures that we don't fully understand or appreciate. This challenge is acute for short-term missioners but affects all.

This question evoked many memories for me. The interpretation that to Tanzanians, "my neighbor is whoever helps me," rather than "whoever needs help," is understandable. Colonial experience impressed on Tanzanians the self-image of helplessness, neediness, and dependence on foreigners. Though they spontaneously reach out to each other without even thinking about it, there's a difference between how Tanzanians relate to each other and how they view themselves in relation to the rest of the world.

My Good Samaritan story: Just after an RCIA class focusing on the Good Samaritan parable, my class and I encountered an old woman passed out in a drunken stupor on the street outside the church.

Having just pondered the parable, we couldn't rightly just pass by. Because everyone else knew the woman and her history, passersby just laughed



and went on their way. The Tanzanian catechist offered no solution to the situation. So, several of my young adult students stayed with her while I walked the five blocks to my home to get my car. On my return, the students lifted the lady into my car. I drove to the trail that led up to her home and the students carried her up the steep hill to her home.

I don't recall that we discussed this encounter during our next class, but I still distinctly remember the event. Had I not been the class facilitator, I fear I would have joined the passersby and gone on home without intervening. I still worry that by getting my car, I again

taught that Tanzanians are dependent on outside help, that they are excused from helping.

What do you think a missioner should do in this situation?



CONNECTING IN ANAHEIM

Wherever two or three are gathered...

The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress in Anaheim is a unique annual gathering of 30,000 enthusiastic Catholics, including Maryknollers. Weeks in advance, Hugh Menton, Regional Coordinator for California chapters, invited other Affiliates to join the Los Angeles Maryknoll Affiliates at the Maryknoll booth and have lunch together on that Saturday.

Tim Moffett and Kathee Bautista from the LA Chapter visited at the booth. The last issue the NSFA reported on their lunch meeting in Los Angeles with Daniel Caño, Mayan Spiritual guide at the 2017 MAC in Guatemala. Kathee updated us that her daughter, Kimberly Bautista, a film maker and activist who has done significant work in Central America and the US, met Daniel at that meeting. When Kimberly recently traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, she and a friend continued to Guatemala and met again with Daniel, this time in his village, further exploring their mutual interest in indigenous spirituality. As we learned at the 2017 MAC, we are all connected, and the impact of our actions can be widespread.

Karen Bortvedt, returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner from Portland, Oregon, who served in Cambodia, was also at the Congress. She talked of her new role as a recruiter for the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, which keeps her on the road. Please contact her (kbortvedt@mklm.org) if you know of someone who might be interested in joining the Lay Missioners. Carolyn Trumble, a returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner who worked in Brazil, also formerly from Portland, is now based in the California Bay Area as a mission educator for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. She encouraged Affiliates to learn more about their Discover Your Neighbor program at: discoveryourneighbor.org.

Ever-enthusiastic Sr. Arlene Trant, MM, asks Affiliates to encourage their local Catholic schools to participate in the Maryknoll Sisters mission education programs. They can contact Sr. Arlene at atrant@mksisters.org.

Outside the conference hall, we talked with people who were in the rally for the abolition of the death penalty organized by Pax Christi.



HOUSTON UPDATE

Bob Kleeman – Houston Chapter

Bob addresses the Hurricane Harvey floods, ongoing mission trips, and volunteering at Casa Juan Diego. Some Houston Affiliates are doing other mission work, too.

Dick Horstman, Ruth, and I are working with a local parish along with Catholic Charities and the Archdiocesan Mission Council to assist in rebuilding flooded houses near Angleton, south of Houston. So far, the families most in need—the poorest of the poor—have been identified, and the diocese has given us permission to use a six-bedroom house to accommodate incoming mission groups. This house, previously owned by the Basilian Fathers, who have turned their parishes over to the archdiocese, will now be a place for volunteers coming from around the state and country. Eight months later, many houses are still not livable, mostly because the people don't have the money to buy materials. Catholic Charities has some funds available, and we are working with them to get the money to home owners.

Dick Horstman, a newer Affiliate, is in contact with Louise Zwick, co-founder of Casa Juan Diego* (CJD) with her husband, Mark, who passed away in 2016.

He is arranging to have a high school group replace a roof on one of the men's houses. Louise seems to never change, but she misses Mark very much. She says that he usually made the "big decisions," so she continually asks him for help to carry on and make the right choices. She has been blessed with some longer-term volunteers and that has helped a lot.

I volunteer each Wednesday to "run the sandwich route" at Casa Juan Diego. Our parish makes about 75 sandwiches three times a week for delivery to CJD, which are distributed to the migrant workers on street corners waiting for work. Along with those men, we usually find a few groups of homeless people who always welcome a sandwich and fresh fruit and a bottle of water.

Dick and his parish still go on missions to Eagle Pass, Texas, as are groups from four local Catholic high schools. The high schoolers do a lot of home repairs, including roof replacements. Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM, goes on most of these missions and also on mission trips with the various medical missions to Honduras, south Texas, and Costa Rica.



*For more about CJD, see July/August, 2017 NSFA—
<http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/not-so-far-afield/item/1665-%E2%80%9Cif-we-had-any-guts,-we%E2%80%99d-start-a-catholic-worker-house%E2%80%9D.html> and CJD.org

SOUTHERN (MARYKNOLL) HOSPITALITY

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

New Orleans area Affiliates (Gulf South Chapter) bring to life the Maryknoll charisms of hospitality, spirituality, mission accompaniment, global vision, social justice, as well as compassion, mercy, and acceptance. Ten Affiliates gathered on short notice

at Matt and Janet Rousso's home to visit with the Hotchkisses this April.

Even Affiliates who were not able to join us were emphatic in their support of social justice. Ben Gordon sent an email that he was attending a meeting addressing the incursion of tourist facilities into his working-class neighborhood. Another Affiliate was on her way to participate in the People's March in Memphis commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King.

This evening, while we met, Kim Nunez (See her article, next.) received an emergency call about a high school student with a medical issue. The student's mother had already been deported and the student was freaking out that her father was next and she would be left on her own. The importance of her upcoming school tests vanished in the face of her struggle for survival. Charlie Freel and Matt also have accompanied Guatemalans to immigration hearings.



Photo by Manny Hotchkiss.

Affiliates who gathered included (L to R): Matt Rousso, Barbara Sallettes, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Janet Rousso, Fr. Doug Brougher, Vivien and Ed Michaels, and Kim Nunez.

Continued on next page.

We discussed Affiliate issues: growth and the future. A personal invitation brought most of these Affiliates to the chapter, but it was the welcome, the community, and the spiritual nurturing that kept them coming. Some saw the future of Maryknoll in the Affiliates and Lay Missioners as the average age of the Maryknoll priests and sisters continues to increase. Matt said the role of Affiliates is to imbue our spheres of influence with a mission attitude that we are disciples, missionaries, reaching out to accompany the poor and each other. Charlie Freel mentioned that their local bishop says his central job is creating a missionary church, as does Pope Francis.

Barbara Sallettes says she sees great examples of compassion in the *Maryknoll* magazine. She shared that in some social groups she watches her words to avoid criticism but feels free and accepted at the Affiliate meetings.

Southern Louisiana is about one third Catholic but many Catholics are strongly influenced by Louisiana's red-state attitudes. All present said they were pro-



BRINGING IMMERSION HOME

Kim Nunez – New Orleans Chapter

When I was first invited to go on a Maryknoll Affiliate mission immersion trip, I thought, “What gifts do I have to bring to this experience?” As I began to understand that it was an accompaniment journey to Guatemala, I felt better about my lack of skills and the fact that I did not speak Spanish. We had an amazing experience of ‘being with’ the people we met and spent time with. A part of my heart is still in Guatemala, and even before leaving, I knew that my world view had forever changed. I would never again look at anything global in the same way.

I carried the experience of the immersion mission around with me in my heart and soul. Talking with people who I knew would ‘get it’ helped, but I also knew that I was called to do something else—but I wasn't sure what that was yet. It would take another two trips to Guatemala before it became apparent.

I work with at-risk children and their families, and I was called to a school when a student was having an anxiety attack. I discovered that the child was petrified—mom had already been deported, and she was afraid that dad would be too. She, however, was

life. And, like Pope Francis, they understand that there are a number of pro-life issues that call them to action. Vivien emphasized being compassionate whether we consider ourselves liberal, progressive, or conservative.

In addition to leading several immersion trips per year for seminarians and other trips for Affiliates, Matt has led discussion groups on books and on current issues and how they relate to our faith. Matt and Janet Rousso also generously provide a gracious, convenient venue for many of this chapter's Affiliate meetings. Their next Affiliate meeting will include a “Dreamer” seminarian who was recently able to renew his DACA status.

Our evening ended as it began, in prayerful gratitude for the fellowship, our many blessings, and our affiliation to Maryknoll. This Affiliate small mission community is a spiritual home, a safe place to discuss, to pray, and to be informed, and they welcome newcomers or visitors.



a citizen and afraid she would be left behind with nowhere to go and no one to take care of her.

But I am telling the story more quickly than it actually happened. It took a while for the child to trust me and share that information with me. Since I am considered to be ‘part of the system’, many undocumented people do not want to trust someone in my position.

During one of the meetings, now that I can understand a little bit of Spanish, the interpreter asked me if I understood some of the conversation. I explained that I had gone on several mission trips to Guatemala, how much I loved it there, and that that was where I had begun to understand the language. Immediately I could sense a change in the room—the beginning of trust had happened.

Word has now spread in my community that I am ‘safe’. So now my work with the undocumented has grown. Although I don't usually share something personal in a meeting, I realized that without my mention of the immersion mission trips, I am not sure I would have been trusted like I am now; in fact, maybe this is indeed what I am called to do with what I brought home from my mission experience.

I am so grateful for what I learned from the people of Guatemala and the undocumented community I now work with. I think we are both learning from and growing with each other, and what an amazing thing that has been!



FINDING OUR WAY

Kitty Schiltz – Seattle Chapter

For our March meeting, Seattle Affiliates attended the **Second Annual Immigration Summit**, held at Seattle University on March 10, as a way to find a project we could do together. We provided a table where we exhibited Maryknoll information and talked with attendees.

The Immigration Summit



Fr. Steve Sundborg, SJ, President of Seattle University, gave us a warm **welcome**, followed by **keynote** speaker Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos, PhD, from Seattle University. She referred to Exodus 22:21, when Yahweh told the Jews to treat the foreigner well, remembering that they were once foreigners in Egypt. She then talked about memory and making the past present. How we treat others is how we are judged. What does God see? A quarter of a billion people are on the move and marginalized today. Dr. Catherine said that we sometimes use *legality, merit, and fairness* to hide our fear and defensiveness in dealing with strangers, even in the church.

Discussions

Morning: Affiliates at our table talked about our immigrant history. We had been given questions before the conference to help us reflect on our immigrant ancestors, the reasons for their migrating and the challenges and difficulties of being strangers in the US. We each had time to tell our stories.

Afternoon: Each table came up with an action plan for what the group could do to unblock barriers and move walls. Who is my neighbor? Where do I stand? Who do I stand with? Pat Bader and Jerrie Drinkwine joined their respective parishes' tables for this discussion.

We all considered how we pray, learn, act, and give to the Migrant Family in our midst as a parish community. The Affiliates discussed how we might pray, learn, act and give as Affiliates. We suggested that we could pray for immigrants at our monthly meeting. Janet

Quillian and Alicia Gonzalez-Capestany will look into areas for action. Janet suggested we inquire at St. James Immigrant Assistance program for ideas, a presenter for a future meeting, and other suggestions. She will report at the next meeting on her contact with this resource.

Last Month's Meeting

In February, we focused on "Visioning the Affiliates," the Easy Meeting provided in the September/October 2017 *Not So Far Afield*. We felt that we needed to work on some project together because just meeting once a month was inadequate in helping us feel part of the Affiliate movement.

The visioning continues, and we are confident that we will find an action to bring us deeper into community. We looked at what was important to us of the four pillars and saw that they all work together. A local project on justice brought us to the idea of learning what we might do about migration. While at the summit, we also explored what we might do about homelessness. Our next Affiliate meeting will further the vision of where we go from here...next year or in the next five years.



A CALL TO ACTION

Bill Murphy – Boston Chapter

For the last couple years, a small team has been working with me to develop "Quo Vadis—the Next Step," a program that helps returnees from cross-cultural experiences process and carry forward their new connection to others. Now we need your help.

- Can you: **Identify** groups that send people on immersion experiences but have no follow-up for returnees—for example, colleges, high schools, or parishes?
- Help **organize** workshops in your area?
- **Facilitate** workshops after attending a training session?
- **Help** in other ways?

Please contact Bill Murphy (jbzmurphy@rcn.com) or Bob Short (affiliatebshort@gmail.com).



MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

“Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword.”
 —Matthew 26:52

Students at Parkland, Florida’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School experienced the truth of this biblical statement. Survivors of the mass shooting that killed their classmates see the American culture swimming in the use of modern swords—guns, weapons of war, and violent entertainment—and are saying, “Enough!”

What did we do after Columbine happened, or after the little children died at Sandy Hook? Now the high school students from Parkland are saying, “Enough!” This time, more of us are joining our voices to theirs.

In Tucson, we joined an estimated 10,000 people carrying homemade signs and saying, “Enough!” in the March for Our Lives. Tucson and Arizona are not typically considered liberal areas, but the March demanded tightening of gun controls. We were there on March 24, voting with our bodies and energy and homemade signs. We were saying there is enough evidence that the American obsession with guns and violence is killing us and must finally be addressed.

Although the recent mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, ignited the March for Our Lives protests, many more thousands of Americans are killed each year by gun violence: including suicides—over 30,000 Americans per year. “96 Americans are killed by guns on an average day,” according to one handwritten sign.

Many of the signs targeted the **NRA**:


- **Not Relevant Anymore**
- **No Rifles for Assault**
- **No Respect for Anyone**
- **NRA \$** grabbing legislators hear our roar – Watch us vote!

The sign, “**No Republican Answers,**” blamed the GOP for legislative inaction. Voter registration volunteers wandered through the crowd signing up prospective voters, saying, “Remember in November.”

One student’s sign brought tears to my eyes. It listed the dates on which students were shot, followed by “Am I next?” One child’s bike sign just said, “Guns are Bad.” Many teachers’ signs rejected having weapons in schools and asked instead for books, training, and counselors. Another sign, “Active Shooter Drills Aren’t Normal,” emphasized that even students in “safe” schools still suffer from the gun violence.



A Catholic newspaper in Tucson featured Catholic school students commemorating the deaths from school shootings and asking for better gun control. Pope Francis recently commended youth who are raising their voices and encouraged them to continue speaking up. The USCCB backgrounder on gun violence echoes the words of Pope Paul VI, “If you want peace, work for justice,” and also asks for a ban on assault weapons, better gun control, and safety for students.

May we continue these efforts to help turn the tide against gun violence, to help our society put down our weapons, to live nonviolently as Jesus taught. 

LEARN HOW TO TRANSFORM CAPITALISM

The Presencing Institute has just begun a new series that may interest Affiliates: “Transforming Capitalism.”

Several years ago, a group of Affiliates, along with 25,000 people around the world, participated in the Institute’s on-line course, “U Theory,” discussing the process of developing emerging ideas. Now they are offering the free “Transforming Capitalism Lab”:

For the next 18 months, we’ll host monthly live sessions, share some of the most inspiring stories from around the world, and equip you with methods and tools that will help you turn your own emerging ideas into action.

The first live session aired on April 12th from 10am -11am EDT, but materials from this session are still available.

For details, go to <https://www.presencing.org/#/transforming-capitalism-lab/stories>. 

A REVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JOY

David Schaffner – Affiliate Board Chair

The Book of Joy—Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams, Avery, 2017.

On a recent “Landmark Birthday,” perhaps better characterized as a “Pre-Tombstone Birthday,” a good friend gifted me a copy of *The Book of Joy*. This book is the result of a week of conversations between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu at his Holiness’s home in Dharamsala, India, where he has lived since his escape from Tibet in March of 1959. Author Douglas Abrams has worked with Archbishop Tutu on other projects and does a masterful job of providing a framework of directed conversations over a five-day period.

Along with an introduction that highlights the great friendship and compatibility of these two major figures from different religious traditions, the book is divided into two major sections: “The Obstacles to Joy” and “The Eight Pillars of Joy.” As a sampling of the book’s content, the “Obstacle” section has chapters titled “Sadness and Grief: The Hard Times Knit Us More Closely Together,” and “Envy: That Guy Goes Past Us Yet Again in His Mercedes-Benz.”

I won’t give away all of the Eight Pillars, but one chapter is on Humor. Listen to the mischievous banter of these two ultimate jokesters.

The Archbishop pretended to scold him: “Are you listening?”

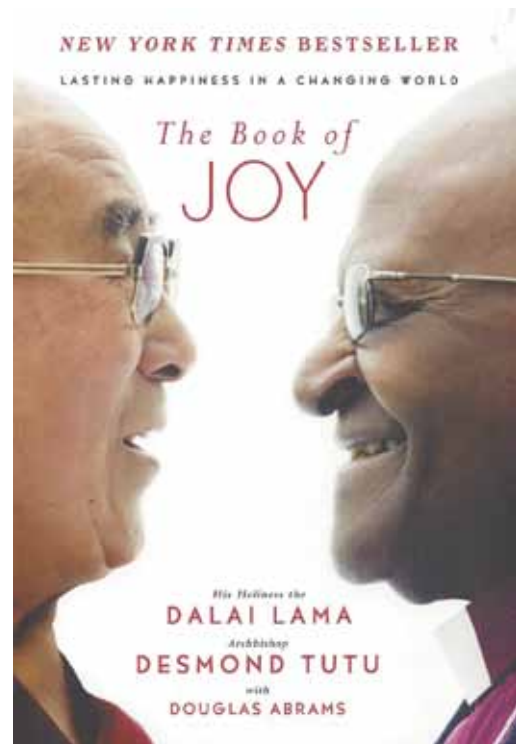
The Dalai Lama, who had missed the Archbishop’s comment, launched in with, “So that shows, really...”

The Archbishop continued to pretend that he was offended. “You see? He’s not listening.”

“Unless you use the stick, I will not listen,” the Dalai Lama said laughing.

“But I thought you were nonviolent!”

A strength of this book is how Abrams weaves writings of philosophers, theologians, and scientific researchers into the dialogue between his Holiness and the Archbishop. For example, from a psychologist, “Grief is the reminder of the depth of our love.” In one of the eight pillar chapters, one on Gratitude, research by UC Davis professors found that “...grateful people do not seem to ignore or deny the negative aspects of life; they simply choose to appreciate what is positive as well.” “People with a strong disposition toward gratitude have the capacity to be empathic and take the perspective of others. They are rated as more



generous and more helpful by people in their social networks.”

The last chapter is titled “Joy Practices” and is bookended with practices that Tibetan Buddhist monks typically do at the beginning and end of each day. Other approaches to meditation and mindfulness are provided in this rather extensive chapter of over 40 pages. As I reviewed the book for this article, it became obvious that I need to re-read it a little at a time so that the fullness of the wisdom of these two remarkable individuals can soak in.



MAXWELL MUSINGS

Before his illness, [Affiliate] Bob would often go sit in the Motherhouse Chapel in the afternoon. Sometimes he’d write on small slips of paper he carried in his pocket. Here are some of his jottings.—Liz Maxwell



- I am no more, no less in the presence of God in chapel, but senses and emotions are involved in feeling myself to be in the presence, and yet God does not hear me any better in chapel.

- It is good to sit in Mystery. The mist stops our brains.

- God help me to fully **be**, the doing will follow.



News from the Board

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER RETURNS

Russ Feldmeier, MM



I first got to know the Affiliates when I was doing formation work in Chicago (1990-94) and was asked to join the founding Affiliate Board to help with the beginnings of the Affiliate Movement. It was a time of great excitement as this new Expression of Maryknoll came into being.

To share a bit about my background, I was born in Boston, raised in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and spent many of my early years in St. Paul, Minnesota. I joined the Peace Corps after college and graduate school, and as a volunteer and staff member in Korea, I got to know Maryknoll Missioners there. I joined Maryknoll in 1975 and after ordination in 1980, I was sent back to Korea on mission.

I am now a member of several Affiliate Chapters. Presently I live in Chicago and attend the Chicago Affiliate meetings. I also attend the meetings of the Contemplative Affiliate Group and the Kenya Affiliate Chapter, both of which meet virtually using Skype. And I have been connected with the Korea Affiliate Chapter for years, so that when I visit Korea, I attend

their chapter meetings. In addition, I am the Society General Council member who relates to the Affiliates, and therefore I am again on the Affiliate Board.

Last November at the Guatemala MAC Conference, I once again felt excitement as I experienced the breadth and depth of the Affiliate Movement at this time in our history. My hope for the Affiliates is that chapters will be able to engage new members (especially younger persons) in the Maryknoll Movement and be leaders in the emerging role of laity as Missionary Disciples with a Global Vision.



AT OUR APRIL BOARD MEETING

Among other items, we heard from the ad hoc committee established last November to consider, "Where do we want to be in five years?" The committee, which has met several times via Zoom, continued their deliberations after the board meeting, on Sunday afternoon and Monday. We thank them for their energies and wisdom as they work to provide the background and a framework for the visioning process. The October Board meeting will devote a two-day retreat to discussion of this question.

Several chapters have asked themselves where we will be in five years and have provided input to the Board. If your chapter has not yet had this discussion, consider using the [Easy Meeting](#), "Visioning the Affiliates," in the Sept/Oct 2017 *NSFA*. We all will be facing the challenges presented by our evolving world.



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2018

Once again, the Maryknoll Sisters are offering a full slate of pertinent workshops. Register soon to obtain a space. (A limited number of tuition scholarships are available.) Coming in May and June:

- * May 6-10 (four-day program)
**Navigating Life's Transitions:
Resilience and the Pilgrims' Journey**
Marianne Danilo, PhD
- * May 13-18
**Future Dreaming:
21st Century Possibilities for Christian Living**
Alice L. Camille, M.Div Rev. Paul Boudreau
- * June 3-8
Spiritual Resources for Interfaith Peacemaking
Yehezkel Landau, D. Min

- * June 10-15
**Under the Baobab Tree:
Spirituality Nourished by Nature**
Janice McLaughlin, MM, PhD
- * June 17-22
**Facing into Chaos: Deepening Communal
Contemplation, Transforming Consciousness**
Nancy Sylvester, IHM, MA
- * June 24-29
Mission, Margins and Intercultural Living
Anthony Gittins, CSSp, PhD

See the July-August topics at <https://www.maryknoll-sisters.org/mission-institute/mission-institute-classes/>.

Application forms, on-line registration, and program descriptions are also available there. Or you may obtain information by telephone: (914) 941-0783 ext.5671, or email: missinst@mksisters.org.



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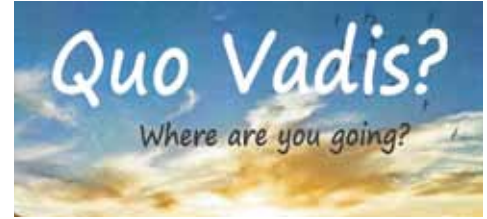
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Your help is needed. See page 4.

