



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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A JOYFUL NEW WAVE

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

The Maryknoll Affiliate Conference has been described as a gathering point for cultures, countries, and communities rooted in the Affiliate pillars—spirituality, community, global vision, and action—as well as by their affection for each other. We come together to encourage and strengthen ourselves in building a society of brothers and sisters that make present the the Good News of the Gospel here and now.

Two reasons come to mind why MAC 2014—*Maryknoll Affiliates: The Third Wave Emerging into the Future*—was truly a special moment in the 22-year history of the Affiliate movement. The first is the sudden passing in January of Affiliate co-founder Fr. Jim Madden. His faithfulness, courage, expansive mission vision, and advocacy for the Affiliate movement will be greatly missed for years to come.

The second reason became apparent during Fr. John Sivalon, MM's keynote address. He clarified that Fr. Robert Schreiter, CPPS, first used the term, "Third Wave" of mission when he spoke on "Mission ad Gentes," associating the "Third Wave" with changes in contemporary society due to globalization. John expanded on that:

But I believe that besides these socio-political-economic changes, a much deeper change has taken place... Thus, this radical shift in our understanding of the universe has ushered in what we need to comprehend as a new wave: a dramatic new paradigm of mission, God, ourselves and the world around us. I also believe that the Maryknoll Affiliates are uniquely positioned... to be carried forward into the future by this new wave.

Unquestionably, much of the keynote was new for many present, and yet, by measure of the attention given and the applause that followed, virtually everyone understood. It spoke authentically to their life experience.

Mirroring the above passage, Pope Francis recently wrote, "This epochal change has been set in motion by the enormous qualitative, quantitative, rapid and

cumulative advances occurring in the sciences and in technology, and by their instant application in different areas of nature and of life."

The old operative model of creation saw the world as a machine of disjointed parts with individual, autonomous species relating to each other in a functionalist, stratified way. From this perspective, some people were more important, more useful, and more profitable than others. It opened the way for ideologies and institutions—including government and religion—to readily subjugate and dispose of people for purposes of profit and/or control. Individuals assumed a fixed, rather rigid, identity via their ethnic and religious background, social class, work status, and the like. Institutions were seen as sacrosanct even when they did little to serve the common good.

The new paradigm aligns much more closely with Gospel values, with how Jesus preached and lived. Every aspect of creation is understood to be in relation to the other, often intimately so. There is a beautiful unity in diversity. We are all one from the same Source. This makes it very difficult to exploit and subjugate the other person or any part of creation. It also helps us to know that we are on a sacred pilgrimage.



Father John also said, "Maryknoll Affiliates are well positioned to be carried into the future by this new wave of mission." This may be because the Affiliate model is fluid, without rigid vocation identities. It has enough structure to hold it accountable and provide solidity and form, but not so much as to make it burdensome. It is flexible, adaptable, and mostly unencumbered by formal obligations that don't necessarily promote mission. It is economically frugal, and relationships (the relational nature of all things) are key. As such, the model allows for and genuinely welcomes all vocational expressions with emphasis on horizontal, supportive, faith-filled community.

MAC 2014 was a lived example of this. People of many nations, ethnicities, races, social, and economic distinctions, came together as one community of equals to support each other and celebrate, truly celebrate, our mutual commitment to mission. A felt sense of joy that comes from striving to live the Gospel was clearly present throughout the conference.



CROSSING BORDERS



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN REFUGEES

“I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.”

CROSSING BORDERS

The Maryknoll Affiliate mission statement says that we Affiliates cross borders. This issue emphasizes some of the many ways we do that. Executive Coordinator, Bob Short gives a deeper explanation of the message of MAC 2014 and the New Wave, as do the Affiliates in the Spanish No Tan Lejos del Horizontes. Crossing Borders means new ways of seeing the world, resisting the injustices, working constructively to live new ways, engaging the power structures, transforming ourselves and being the new wave of mission.

We can cross borders electronically, too. Almost 100 people have responded to the Affiliate Media Survey, but if you haven't, there's still time! Download the form at <http://notsofarafield.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/p11-2014-affiliate-media-use.pdf> We'll report the results in the next NSFA issue.

Send us your comments and experiences crossing borders, or anything you see of interest to Affiliates at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.

While Congress makes no progress on immigration reform, thousands of children from Central America are fleeing violence and poverty. Many of them make it to the U.S. and are detained by Immigration officers. So many children have come that a crisis has evolved in even

housing them.

This August a coalition of interfaith and immigrant groups in Portland rallied several times at a downtown plaza. One father said his teenage son had fled threats on his life by a gang in Central America and tried to be reunited with him in Portland. However the son is now being held at an immigration detention center in Tacoma, Washington.



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 inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

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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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RESPONDING TO THE CULTURE OF DEATH

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –
Portland Chapter

I was most impressed and very depressed, almost paralyzed, by the incomprehensible scale of the nuclear waste projects we saw this summer on our free tour* of the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. How can I respond to the massive waste, environmental destruction, and disrespect for life that permeates these projects and indeed our whole society?

During World War II, Hanford employed over 50,000 people to produce plutonium for the bomb that incinerated the people of Nagasaki. Hanford continued producing materials for nuclear weapons until 1989 and, in the process, generated millions of tons of toxic waste.

Now the federal budget includes over two billion dollars a year for the cleanup, which is expected to continue for 40 years. I don't begrudge the funds to clean up this gargantuan mess, which has contaminated and continues to threaten the Columbia River and our aquifer systems. This is the price we must pay because we made those weapons of mass destruction.

I am upset though, that while Hanford is in the cleanup stage, other massive nuclear weapons projects are being started. My research showed that the Ploughshares Fund projected in 2012 that plans for nuclear weapons and related programs could cost American taxpayers approximately \$640 billion over the next decade. \$640 billion is equivalent to about \$2000 for each man, woman, and child in the US.

New nuclear weapon projects may be more careful with their waste disposal than in past decades, but the product of their project will be even more deadly than that used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Several popes have emphasized that these weapons flow from our culture of death.

*US citizens may register for the free tour at <http://www5.hanford.gov/public tours/>



“The Old and New Faces of Nuclear Weapons, Commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki and exploring the changing nature of nuclear weapons” was presented by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, in Portland, Oregon, on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, August 6, 2014.

Our response

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns website shows that the UN has designated Friday, September 26, 2014 as International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The Portland *JustFaith* and Maryknoll Affiliates support their efforts, but we have identified another way to respond to the culture of



death in Oregon. We see the death penalty in Oregon as another facet of the culture which supports our country continuing to build death-dealing nuclear weapons. We will campaign for a chance to vote on and abolish the death penalty as a local way we can challenge the culture of death. As our part of Campaign Nonviolence, September 21 to 27, we will advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in Oregon. The Campaign Nonviolence website advertises nonviolent actions on a variety of social justice topics in hundreds of cities that week.

We invite you to take part in Campaign Nonviolence by joining or organizing an action in your area during the week of September 21 to 27.





STILL TALKING ABOUT MAC 2014

Translated from
No Tan Lejos del Horizonte,
August 2014

Fatima Carrera, Perú: Meaning of the Third Wave: I think it's time for the Maryknoll Affiliates to appropriate the true meaning of its role as laity and take our special role in society. It's time to discern the signs of the times and in our daily work to be signs pointing to a just and equitable society, to defend human rights, to form a body of opinion about the country in which we find ourselves, to enforce the rights of people who have no voice, to be the hands and ears of God among the people.



Kitty Madden, Nicaragua: Being reunited with Affiliates from the Latin American countries and the US was definitely the best part of MAC 2014 for me. No matter who was sitting next to me at meals or lectures, on the bus, in moments of prayer or socializing I always felt I was participating in a community that shared the spirit of mission and spirituality connected by prayer and the pursuit of peace and justice for everyone. The support was very important and was evident in moments of prayer and liturgy. A key issue for me was being able to share our personal work stories among the Chapters; it also helped to ground our everyday theory.

For me the so-named "third wave" is an invitation to move "beyond the borders" and become aware of what we share in common as citizens of the world and of the call we have to work together for peace and justice for all. It is vital to respect the different ways to get to God; it is a call to value all religions and to establish a dialogue and learn from each other. It is vital that we care for Mother Earth. My hope is that we all learn about and through the Institute of the Third Wave of Mission briefly introduced by Matt Russo and Father Gerry Kelly. I think it would be wonderful if the next MAC meeting takes place in Latin America.

Alberto Bailetti, Perú: It was a significant event in my life. It was an opportunity to hark back to my baptism, but becoming aware that this sacrament made me a missionary of God. To recognize that essentially this implies a commitment to love God and our neighbor, especially the most vulnerable; with those who are reflected in the face of the Infant Jesus in the arms of Our Lady on the Holy Hill in Ossining, New York. I am also happy to have shared at MAC 2014 this same dream with the other members of the Maryknoll family in this new wave of mission.

DECALOGUE

Guatemala Chapter

Inspired by the message of the Third Wave Emerging into the Future, we want to:

1. Create open, inclusive communities that live in solidarity with this broken world, sharing the mission of God—to offer loving hope for the future.
2. Commit to "move" the waters, to be filled with renewed energy, to generate the "wave" from spirituality, global vision, and community action.
3. Look for dialogue and create opportunities to relate to people of diverse cultures and religions.
4. Follow and fulfill our baptismal mission based on the love of God.
5. Feel the need for an inner change that leads us to understand that God calls us to serve communities in this new era from a new paradigm.
6. Be filled with energy to undertake the Sacred Pilgrimage in a movement with an uncertain future, which is fine, because it will flow with the waves.
7. Understand that society is being moved by a different wave and that the Maryknoll Family is being reborn to welcome the new wave.
8. Take the opportunity to build strong, committed communities from the Maryknoll spirit, a community surrounded by the real world.
9. Know that a fraternal spirit leads us to be open to what is new: to search out the other, to go out into the street, to go to the periphery, to cross borders.
10. Be filled with energy that invites, motivates, and moves us to see what is happening in the world, focusing on those closest to us and treating them respectfully while promoting new ideas and projects.



JOIN BDS

Manny Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

The recent and repeated bombings in and around Gaza in the Holy Land expose the ineffectiveness and immorality of violence. I have heard folks say, “If only they would try to settle their differences using nonviolence.” BDS is a nonviolent way for those who are suffering in an unjust and untenable situation to join with those who are complicit. I first saw the injustices in Israel and Palestine in 2007, when I traveled there with Fr. Jack Sullivan, MM, and a group of Maryknoll Affiliates. We saw the suffering and the nonviolent response of the Palestinian people.

Since then I have learned about BDS, which stands for **Boycott, Divest, and Sanction**. **Boycotts** target products and companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights. **Divestment** means removing financial investments from corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights. **Sanctions** demonstrate a country’s disapproval for another country’s actions.

The formal BDS movement started July 9, 2005, a year after the International Court of Justice gave the historic advisory opinion that Israel’s Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) was illegal. The BDS call was endorsed by over 170 Palestinian political parties, organizations, trade unions, and movements, representing refugees, Palestinians in the OPT, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. They called upon people of conscience all over the world to launch broad Boycotts, implement Divestment initiatives, and to demand Sanctions against Israel, until Palestinian rights are recognized in full compliance with international law.

The call for BDS asks Israel to meet its obligations under international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall.
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

Anyone can join the boycott by refusing to buy products made in Israel or made by Israeli companies. Boycotts have also been organized against US companies that provide security and infrastructure for the Israelis in the OPT. A growing number of artists and athletes and their organizations have refused to exhibit or play in Israel. The Presbyterian General Assembly recently voted in favor of boycotting goods made in Israeli settlements in the OPT. The Jerusalem Post announced that the European Union has refused to accept Israeli exports of meat, poultry, fish and dairy products from areas of the OPT.



Jewish Voice for Peace was at the Gaza memorial August 10, 2014, in Portland, Oregon.

Individuals and institutions can request that their investment portfolios and pension funds are not used to finance companies complicit in the occupation. I sold my stock in companies I believe are complicit. Haaretz said, “The United Methodist Church’s pension

board is selling its shares in G4S, a British company that supplies security equipment to Israel for use in prisons and in the West Bank.” The Gates Foundation also divested from G4S.

It is especially appropriate that Americans participate in the BDS campaign. The US is complicit in the destruction and occupation of Palestine by providing over \$3 billion of military aid to Israel annually, and by protecting Israel from UN sanctions with their veto in the UN Security Council. By calling for sanctions against Israel, campaigners educate society about the violations of international law and seek to end the complicity of other nations in these violations.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminds us, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.” If you want to work for justice, join BDS.

For more information and to join the BDS campaign go to <http://www.bdsmovement.net>. See an eye-witness account in Gaza: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOk_KaaXc9E&feature=youtu.be



AN URBAN HOME-RAISING AND SO MUCH MORE

Kyle Chandler-Isacksen – Reno Chapter

Be the Change Project and House Alive! conducted a joint three-day cordwood cob-house-raising workshop in early May, in Reno, Nevada. “Cob” is a slow and laborious building technique, and, as far as we know, this one-day effort was a first. Interest and registrations in the months leading up to the “One-Day Cob House” event were great, and we gathered on Friday morning with 60 people and high hopes.

We raised a 180-square-foot cob cabin that weekend, but what we really built was a beloved community.

Friday, our set-up and skill-building day, included a tour of our *Be the Change Project*—an electricity-, car-, fossil fuel-free urban homestead dedicated to service and simplicity. (See the May/June 2012 NSFA, page 4, for the author’s description of *Be the Change Project*.) On the tour we shared the broader vision behind *Be the Change* and this most unusual of natural building techniques. Saturday was the build day, to start at 6:30 am! Sunday was to be a light day of cleanup, a little plastering, reflection, and goodbyes.



Photos courtesy of Ellie Hays

We had risen at dawn Saturday morning—all 60 of us—and started building at 6:30am. The workshop participants were a wonderful, interesting, and hard-working group from all walks of life: a team that builds houses for the homeless, a couple from a Jewish urban farm and education center in Berkeley, a family with three girls from the foothills of California (the girls orchestrated the Friday night talent show all on

their own), older women homesteaders, young single guys just getting started in natural building. Progress had been good, about 10 inches an hour. We had assembled the roof on the ground without a hitch.

Weather Woes

But alas, the weather was against us. May in Reno is a tricky time of year with any kind of weather possible. I had checked the weather forecast daily for the past 10 days and had seen it go from good to bad to worse. While Friday, the first day of the workshop in which we did skill building, harvested clay, and gave the tour, was pleasant with sunshine and a light wind, Saturday called for afternoon rain and temperatures dropping throughout the day. And that’s just about what we got.

It was three o’clock on Saturday afternoon when I left the building site on my bike to get a line level from my house two blocks away. Five minutes later, I was pedaling my way through marble-sized hail that ricocheted off me and the road. My heart sank! I figured our ambitious effort to raise a cob house in one day was doomed.

“Ah, well,” I thought as I biked back to the site, “We gave it our best.” Our planning and organization had been outstanding; our lead instructors, James and Coenraad of House Alive, some of the best around; our group of 60 outstanding—a healthy mix of folks with cob, Earthship, and carpentry experience. “Maybe tomorrow we can get the rest done,” I thought. “We can tarp it, hope for better weather, and pile into the main house to get warm. After all, a cob house in two days is pretty amazing, too.”

But then I heard it: cheering! Sixty joyful voices were raised against the hail in a chorus of whoops, whistles, and hollers. They were celebrating the hail and the hard weather that was pushing against them. I turned



into the site, leaped off my bike, and dashed to the building. Hands blue and pink from the cold were piling cob higher, muddy shoes were dancing atop batches of cob, cordwood was being handed up the walls, and people were straddling bales and barrels and ladders to get to our highest layer of wall—all with smiles. It was going to work. We were going to do it. A cob house in a day!



Reno Affiliate Ellie Hays lends her support to the build.

the Galapagos Islands just to be at the workshop, and wound up co-leading it. And what about those kids who organized the campfire talent show! I think all of us sitting there at that moment would have agreed with what another friend said the next day, “I feel like anything’s possible with this community.” We raised a 180-square-foot cob cabin that weekend, but what we really built was a beloved community. We feel so blessed.

Cob Building Workshop Wrap-Up

We called it quits on Saturday at about 6:30pm and considered the day a great success. We had raised walls six and a half feet high and built and hoisted, with 100 hands, a roof to top those sturdy walls. We were tired and cold but also jubilant from a good day of side-by-side, meaningful work.

The cabin will be used to host interns, guests, and maybe even a new resident to be part of our growing community. With earthen plastering, light straw clay infill of the box-beam, and an earthen floor, there is still much to do. But it will be done with the help of many more hands and hearts experiencing the joys of natural building and of a living community. It will also be an object of great beauty, something most of our modern homes sadly cannot claim.

Most folks were gone by 1:00 on Sunday, but a small group of us locals and friends remained. We were lazing about, munching on leftovers and reflecting on the weekend, still in awe at what had transpired. Someone mentioned the hand blessings led by Katy. Another shared how one participant found the workshop by Googling “Cob Party.” We laughed about the face painting and agreed the African drumming group was incredible. I remarked about how cool it was that James (of House Alive) flew to Reno from



Future Builds

Next year will bring another “One-Day Cob House” build, near Reno. if you are interested in being part of our next phenomenal workshop, please contact me at kisacksen@gmail.com.

Note: You will find a wonderful 10-minute video of the event on YouTube if you search for “One Day Cob House.”



ADVOCACY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE POWERFUL

Penny Robinson – Fox Cities-Wisconsin Chapter and President, ESTHER

One of the best ways to mission is advocating for systemic change. Active members of Fox Cities-Wisconsin Chapter have all advocated through ESTHER, an Affiliate of the state organization WISDOM. We are an interfaith community-organizing group that works for social justice, and we are affiliated with the national organization, Gamaliel.

Social justice means that everyone has a place at the table of opportunity and is not continually dependent on charity. Successful advocacy frequently depends on developing relationships with legislators. The first time I visited our state senator with a large group of Latino immigrants, I was not prepared for his yelling at us that they didn't belong here and should go home. I had to fight back the tears. However, after numerous other meetings, I realized that was his style. Now that he knows us, he is much more cordial.

Building relationships takes time and more than one visit. Plan your visits to start building relationships and advocating for and with the marginalized:

1. **Research and understand the issue.** The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns (MOGC) is a terrific resource. Know the official's position. Those of us who have worked with the marginalized may know more about an issue, such as immigration reform, than our legislators. We can educate them as well as the public.

2. **Try to take several others with you**, especially constituents and those directly impacted by the issue, such as undocumented immigrants or someone doing direct service. Mention the faith communities and group affiliations of participants. Some officials like statistics, but most are touched by individual stories. Wisconsin's

Photo courtesy of Penny Robinson.



Maryknoller Ed Klecker (2nd from right) and ESTHER member Dave Robbins deliver immigration petitions to Rep. Ribble's staff.

transportation secretary often repeats a story he heard about a disabled couple who NEED public transportation to go everywhere, including jobs.

3. **Remember, you do not stand alone!** When you get Action Alerts from MOGC or other organizations, remind the official that many people in your organization have similar views. But don't say that Maryknollers support a particular position unless it is affirmed in MOGC statements. State that the Catholic Church and every mainline church support your concern, **if this is the case**. Mention others who are working on this issue: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.
4. **Agenda.** Some have found it helpful to divide up the following agenda among different individuals.
 - Thank the official (or aide) for their time confirm the time allowed, and make introductions.
 - Lay out the simple agenda. Give a brief background of the issue.
 - Let the impacted individual(s) tell his/her story.
 - Make your "ask" of the representative, i.e., Will you support..?
 - If yes, thank him/her. If no, ask for another meeting or if they will study the issue or meet with someone else, etc.
 - Thank him/her for their time.
 - Leave behind some kind of handout about the issue and your contact information.

It may be helpful to assign a timekeeper to keep the agenda on track.

5. **Stick to your principles and values, and be clear with your "ask"**. It is your Representative's job to decide where the money should come from to fund your program (but not from programs that protect the poor and hungry!).

6. **Follow up your visit with a thank you note** reminding them of the issue and any actions

Continued on next page.

that were discussed. A local newspaper could be copied. Be sure to thank them for a positive vote or other action.

A personal visit is most effective, but we can also advocate through personal letters, telephone calls, email, and **prayer**. However, as we heard at a recent rally for the refugee children from Honduras, prayer is not enough! Also, consider returning a few months later to ask the legislator how the issue is progressing and if there is anything you can do to help him/her. Sometimes they need local people to be very vocal. Letters to editors, peaceful demonstration, a postcard campaign, or emails from many supporters help to bolster the position.

With support from other local, statewide, and national groups, ESTHER actually got an important policy change for medium-sized public transit systems in the last federal transportation bill. We followed up on a local public meeting offering personal testimonials and stories with many face-to-face meetings both in Appleton, Wisconsin, and Washington, DC.

Note: These advocacy tips were inspired by ESTHER, WISDOM, and Gamaliel training and from Matt Cato, Director of the Office of Life, Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A BOARD MEMBER?

John Meyer - Maryknoll Affiliate Board Nominations Committee

We are currently seeking nominations of individuals for appointment to the Maryknoll Affiliate Board. We need members who are dedicated to serving the Affiliate movement and who will share our commitment to building a strong and sustainable organization.

They should promote the charism of Maryknoll and remain steadfast to the four pillars of the Affiliate movement. Please tell us if you or someone you know can offer that dedication and have the desire to serve as a Board member.

Board members are primarily responsible to participate in the development of policy and in major decision-making at board meetings. The Affiliate Board is accountable to write and approve policies that clarify our purpose, principles, and goals; to provide clear and concise guidelines to measure progress on goals; and to set priorities for subsequent action.

The following information may be helpful to someone considering agreeing to nomination:

1. Term – Appointment to the Board will be for a three (3) year term with the option to renew for another three (3) years.
2. Meetings – Board members attend two (2) Board meetings per year and participate in conference calls as needed.



3. Board member Duties– Apply Leadership, wisdom, and creativity to policy development; contribute to the generation of sound decisions regarding the future direction of the Affiliate movement; serve actively on an ongoing basis on one or more Board committees.

4. Transportation – Board members are responsible for their own transportation to and from Board meetings, which usually are held in New York.



Nominees should have been an Affiliate for at least one year and have developed familiarity with the Maryknoll entities (The Society of the Fathers & Brothers, Congregation of the Sisters, and Lay Missioners). It



is essential that a Board member possess basic computer and electronic email skills (composing, sending, opening, and attaching documents).

Nominations to the Maryknoll Affiliate Board are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be considered as vacancies arise. The Nomination and the Executive Committees together review and select nominees.

Please submit your nomination to John Meyer at meyerjama@hotmail.com. Along with the nominee's name and contact information, please include a brief summary of the nominee's qualifications and a letter of recommendation from his/her chapter. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledges the responsibilities of serving on the Board, and will actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the Board.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration as we move forward to shape a strong future for the Maryknoll Affiliates movement.





LESSONS FROM A GARBAGE DUMP: A BOOK REVIEW

Marie Venner – Denver Chapter

Faith and Struggle on Smokey Mountain: Hope for a Planet in Peril by **Benigno Beltran** (Orbis Books, 2012).

A recent Affiliate Board weekend was described as one of joy and hospitality. In his new book, Benigno Beltran uses these qualities to describe the lives of the people who live on Smokey Mountain, in the Philippines, outside of Manila. Hope and joy pervade his descriptions of the spiritual lessons he has learned in his embrace of the Smokey Mountain community.

If you've seen the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*, or if you've been to a large dump in the US, you have a mental image of what several thousand tons of garbage dumped each day looks like. On Smokey Mountain, more than 25,000 people scavenge such trash heaps in order to survive.

After seven years at the Gregorian University in Rome, Benigno Beltran was assigned to teaching theology in Manila. During this assignment, he learned about the people on Smokey Mountain. Looking for deeper roots for his faith, he reached out to them to learn of their spirit and the unique challenges to their lives. In his words, he found their dependence and trust in God an "awesome experience—at once tremendous and terrifying, fascinating and repugnant, energizing

and enervating." For him, the experience was "filled with unspeakable sadness but also with passion and deep meaning. It was a journey through the heart of darkness, a pilgrimage through the crucible of despair to emerge into joyful hope in the end."

Beltran writes of this journey in the most personal of terms, all the while weaving in highlights from 30 years of theology and stories from his religious community, Society of the Divine Word (SVD) Fathers. He helped to organize, educate, and empower his "scavenger residents." He makes connections to the social issues we face, both in the US and globally. Ultimately, his story becomes ours as Maryknoll Affiliates.

Faith and Struggle on Smokey Mountain was so moving and resonated with me so deeply that I bought ten copies as Christmas gifts for friends and family. I plan to buy more. Orbis' publication of such stories—journeys in the field—has been one of its greatest achievements.

Pope Francis has called us "to go to the margins." Beltran's book takes us to those margins, helping us to grow and make connections with our brothers and sisters in Manila.



**Mary Most Holy,
Mother of All
Nations,**

*help us remember
that the universe
is all one song of
praise*

*and we are all
created to be the
beloved of God.*

*Make us all one in
the Trinity.*

All nations. No nations.

No boundaries, only expanses.

No borders, only homelands.

No separations, only communion.

As it was in the beginning. Amen.

—Megan McKenna

Maryknoll Book of Prayer, p. 206

from *Mary, Mother of All Nations* (Orbis Books, 2000)

CHAPTERS IN ACTION

TANZANIA EVENTS

The Mwanza, Tanzania, Maryknoll Affiliates are a very active chapter, sharing their time, talent, and treasure with various groups of young people especially. At MAC 2014 Costansia Mbogoma shared a PowerPoint presentation with us with great photos of the chapter's activities.

Editor: We learned that Costansia's daughter was recently in a serious auto accident in Tanzania. Please pray for her speedy recovery.



Blessing Sr. Peg Donovan, MM, as she returns to Maryknoll.



Working at a girl's school in a remote village.



Serving young women a Christmas dinner at a rehab center for street girls.



Orphans and an immersion group led by Matt Dulka for Maryknoll. Chapter members visit these orphans twice a month and help with tuition.



NEWS FROM THE KNOLL



Joan Michel Kirsch, MM, at age 94, died July 28, 2014, after 70 years as a Maryknoll Sister. From West Virginia, she was one of the first four Sisters on mission in Tanzania and also served as a secretary in Uganda and at Ossining, NY.

Two priests passed away in August: **Rev. Herman W. Cisek, MM**, who was 81 years old and a Maryknoll priest for 49 years; and **Rev. Joseph W. Halpin, MM**, who was 88 years old and a Maryknoll priest for 62 years.

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