



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2014

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REVERSE CULTURAL IMMERSION

Dan Driscoll-Shaw – Chicago Central Chapter

Maryknollers are experienced in immersing ourselves in another culture. Our Chicago Central Chapter recently helped seven Chinese priests and sisters immerse themselves in the best of our American culture, at least for a day. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we invited them to share in our traditional Thanksgiving feast.



Photos courtesy of Celine Woznica

The servers stand ready.

The feast was held at the Maryknoll Society house with Father John Eybel, Brother Mark Gruenke, and Maryknoll seminarians preparing the turkey as well as hosting the dinner. The Maryknoll Sisters, who live nearby, joined us, and everyone brought a dish to share. The Chinese guests mingled with members of the larger Maryknoll community at six different tables.

We are fortunate to have these Chinese priests and sisters close by. They are either studying English at DePaul or Theology at Catholic Theological Union.



Breaking the wishbone—who will get their wish?

One is enrolled in the Pastoral Counseling Program at Loyola. They are very much involved with Maryknoll, both the Society and our Affiliate group.



The Chinese guests were shared among six different tables.

Six of the seven are in Chicago as part of the Maryknoll Chinese Scholars Project, which brings them to the US and enrolls them in the different programs in order to prepare them academically to better serve their native church when they return to their homeland.

Our Affiliate Chapter has met with the Chinese students on several occasions. **Mary Sluka**, of our chapter, is on the Board of the US Catholic China Bureau, an organization founded by Maryknoll and the Jesuits to support our church in China. Two of our members, **Tom and Florence McGuire**, are in frequent contact with the Chinese students, especially editing the papers that they must present in their class work.

Before we ate, **Don Woznica** explained briefly the history of this uniquely American celebration and then called for prayers of Thanksgiving in our different languages. We heard God called upon in Spanish, Mandarin, Kekchi, Portuguese, Swahili, and Korean, among others. Don then invited us to each give a reason for our thankfulness at our individual tables.

“I thank God for Maryknoll. If no Maryknoll, me not be in America,” expressed Sister Jean Qi at our table. She later wrote in an email, “Thank you very much for the warmly treatment. Thank everyone I met yesterday. I am really touched by your friendliness and kindness.”

I think we can say: **Mission accomplished!**



Note: Chicago Central Chapter’s annual dinner for the Chinese CTU students is already being planned for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, 2014.

A TIME FOR WHOLEMAKING

Wholemaking permeated the Maryknoll Sisters' General Assembly according to **John Moritz**, Maryknoll Affiliate and Southeast Regional Coordinator. John reports on his participation at the General Assembly in this issue. In our next issue, **John Meyer**, Phoenix Affiliate and Board Member, will reflect on the "Dream" of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Chapter Meeting. The Affiliate Board also envisions our wholemaking and will be asking for Affiliate input.

This issue demonstrates that Affiliates are part of the wholemaking: in Chicago, sharing a Thanksgiving meal with Chinese visitors; in Cambodia, sharing time with missionaries; and locals in Bolivia and Nicaragua sharing their time with children and pregnant women.

On the streets of cities across the US, Affiliates address wholemaking by recognizing our need for nonviolence and to care for creation.

Be watching for the launch of the new Affiliate web site, which acknowledges the whole of the Affiliate world and celebrates the crucial role of Latino Affiliate chapters.

With your help, *Not So Far Afield* aspires to be part of the wholemaking. Please send articles about your efforts to NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.

The 2015 Appeal letter is coming soon to invite you to help keep the Affiliates financially healthy.

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.

**SUMMER 2015
WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE**

The active Seattle Maryknoll Affiliates invite Affiliates from around the world to the **2015 Western Regional Maryknoll Affiliate Conference!**



Theme: "Love in Action – Mission on the Margins"

Dates: August 7, 8, and 9, 2015

Location: Seattle, Washington, at Seattle University, which has a beautiful campus within walking distance of downtown Seattle and Pike Place Market, with views of Mount Rainier and Puget Sound.

Now is a great time to plan for next summer in the Pacific Northwest.



*Denver Affiliate **Marie Venner**, who serves on several professional committees related to climate change and has written passionately about it, asks: **Are any Maryknollers planning on going to the climate meeting in Lima in December, 2014?***

(Please reply on Facebook or email NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org)

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner
 Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson
 David Stocker

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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EL SALVADOR: MINING STRUGGLES CONTINUE

Joe Hastings – Maryknoll Lay Missioner, El Salvador

(Edited from MOGC NewsNotes July-Aug 2014)

The Oceana Gold mining company, owner of the El Dorado mine, uses its deep pockets to influence politicians, coerce support in communities desperate for funds, and intimidate opponents. A decision on the legal future of the mine is now with the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), a World Bank “court” in Washington, DC, far away from anyone who lives in the threatened areas of El Salvador.



Image from “The Mysterious Death of Marcelo Rivera”
—See footnote #3.

In March I joined a delegation to raise awareness of the mine’s threat to water, agriculture, and government transparency in El Salvador. We met with Hector Barrios, attorney and activist in San Isidro, a small town in Cabañas, 10 miles from the El Dorado mine, also the poorest province of El Salvador. People in Cabañas make their living on small farms, and they can’t do that without water. In just the exploratory stage of the El Dorado mine, Pacific Rim’s test wells depleted the water in local hand-dug wells that families depend upon.

By Pacific Rim’s own estimates, the El Dorado mine will use about 73 million gallons of water each year, or about 237,000 gallons a day, and excessive quantities of cyanide to dissolve the ore.¹ The mine site sits high in the Rio Lempa watershed, which irrigates about 45 percent of the nation’s arable land. A threat to water there is a threat to El Salvador’s farming, ranching, and fishing. Pacific Rim estimates that for every ounce of gold extracted, one ton of rock must be “removed.” With a potential 25 million ounces of gold, the El

Dorado mine would earn fortunes for its investors but would devastate the region within a decade.²

For area residents and journalists, pushing back against the mine is more than dangerous. The San Isidro community center bears a mural of Marcelo Rivera, a schoolteacher who was active in opposing the mine. Rivera was “disappeared”—tortured and strangled in June 2009.³

In May, El Salvador’s Federal Attorney for Human Rights, David Morales, reported a rise in violence in towns around Pacific Rim’s mine. But threats haven’t deterred local people who use every method to raise awareness of the mine’s threat to water, painting murals conveying their concern for the region’s water, and helping young musicians record songs on the issue.

The Salvadoran Catholic Bishops’ Conference in 1997 stated simply, “metallic mining is not viable in the country...no material benefit can compare with the value of human life.” Caritas El Salvador, the human development agency of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, has joined local groups in educating about the mine’s potential threats, assisting Salvadorans who make their opposition to the mine known to the government. Their message is summed up in a popular poster seen around the country: “We can live without gold. We cannot live without water.”



² Editor’s note: International “free” trade agreements including CAFTA and the Trans Pacific Partnership now before the US Congress offer multinational corporations the chance to seek damages from nations who resist development. Nations that receive International Monetary funds or World Bank loans are at risk of corporate reprisals for deciding to defend their natural resources. Link for more info: <http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/08/19/pandoras-box-of-corporate-power/>

³ The author recommends that readers view the short documentary on YouTube, “The Mysterious Death of Marcelo Rivera” by Jamie Moffat, to gain further insight into the story. Here’s the link: <http://youtu.be/yvXm52BhSHQ>

¹ It would be hard to overstate the danger of the numerous toxic chemicals involved in gold mining. Lax regulations lower the cost of extraction in countries without environmental protections. For more information, visit: <http://www.earthworksaction.org>.

THOUSANDS OF STARS IN BOLIVIA

Jason Oberfell – Cochabamba, Bolivia Chapter

Translated from "Hay miles de Esterellas en Bolivia," which appeared in the October 2014 issue of No Tan Lejos del Horizonte.

Estrella (Spanish for Star) is a girl in the Educational Support Program of the Parish of Our Lady of La Salette in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She's probably not one of the best students in her school. Sometimes it's hard to motivate her when she has a task. One day in particular, she had to work on a project for Mother's Day. As she made no progress, I tried to help her think with a question. "How are moms?" I asked. "Bad," she said. I thought she was joking with her answer. So I told her to continue working and I would return later.




Jason with students in the Educational Support Program

After a while, Estrella was still struggling with her project. I told her I would help her. We could draw anything she wanted and maybe think about a message for her mom. She had made little progress and was almost crying—she had tears in her eyes. I had no idea what was wrong, but thought she was frustrated by the quality of her work. I started to suggest ideas, because the time allocated for school support was ending. As she continued to cry, I realized that something was wrong with her, and it was not only the school project. I asked what was wrong and waited. I sat beside her as the session ended and other students went to lunch. I asked again, to remind her that I was willing to listen.

Gradually, she began to speak. Estrella was concerned about the quality of her project. "Why?" I asked. She said, "My teacher will be mad at me and then I will tell my mom, and she is going to hit me."

There it was—the root of everything. Estrella could not write wonderful things about her mother, because her mother was not wonderful for her. However, if Estrella were to not write good things about her mom, she would fail in her task, and if she failed in this, her mother would beat her. A vicious cycle of reality was turning in the head of this ten-year-old girl.

Stories like these are the reason members of Maryknoll in Bolivia, including myself, a Maryknoll Affiliate in Cochabamba, participate in the project of human rights along with other religious congregations. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a project of the United Nations (UN) that reviews the human rights situation in each member country. This year, the UN will assess the situation in Bolivia. Our group, composed of Franciscan missionaries, Christian Brothers, Divine Word, Maryknoll, etc., decided to prepare a report for the UPR, and we focus on the situation of violence against women and children in Bolivia. Our group has relationships with the people affected, and the UN is planning to conduct an evaluation. We see it as an opportunity to gather experience and develop recommendations that could help improve the situation for children like Estrella. 

CASA MATERNA MARY ANN JACKMAN CELEBRATES 24 YEARS!

Catherine (Kitty) Madden – Affiliate

In Nicaragua's Northern Highlands, since Casa Materna began in 1990, Maryknoll has been present through the Sisters, Fathers, Lay Missioners and later the Affiliates. This October 31st we celebrated the 24th anniversary of the Casa, and 23 years of service to over 17,000 rural mothers with high-risk pregnancies. To all of the Maryknoll family we give thanks for the many ways in which you have accompanied us, spiritually and financially, during these first 24 years.

While the Casa has no formal volunteer program, we welcome small groups to come for 7-10 days to experience the reality of Nicaragua and the various aspects of the Casa services. For more information about visits and a participation in a "ministry of presence," contact co-founder and Maryknoll Affiliate Kitty Madden at kittynewmoon@gmail.com and visit www.casamaterna.org



The Casa Materna Mary Ann Jackman staff

MISSION AND WHOLEMAKING IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY



Ann Carr – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Chair

Several challenging and grace-filled moments are currently shaping the life of the Affiliate movement: our June MAC 2014 conference, the recent Maryknoll Society Chapter, the Maryknoll Congregation General Assembly (GA), and world events ranging from tragic wars in Syria to the inspiring leadership of Pope Francis. Aware of these influences, the Affiliate Board gathered October 17-19 to engage in a process of visioning, direction setting, and needs assessment for the Affiliate movement. We want to listen deeply and create a process inviting all Affiliates to discern with us. Where and how do we see the Affiliate movement now? How are recent experiences shaping our future direction?


We received reports from Board member John Meyer and Regional Coordinator (RC) John Moritz, respective representatives to the Society Chapter and Sisters' GA. Each felt welcomed and shared his gratitude for the inspirational stories and courageous visioning of Maryknoll missionaries. Already happening in some ways, a strong desire for collaboration with the Affiliates is emerging. Believing there will be more opportunity and invitation, we ask: How might we hope to respond? What is our capacity to enter into mutual and life-giving collaboration?

Next we began our visioning process. We were very fortunate to have Mary Ragan, a gifted facilitator and long-time friend of Maryknoll, accompany us. We attempted to: (1) understand the **present reality** of the Affiliates (How do we build relationships, local connections, collaboration? How does our flexibility allow for initiative and creativity? What is the right balance of openness and structure? How do we embrace the gift of uncertainty?), (2) **open ourselves to recent events, new voices** that are shaping us, and (3) plan for **steps into the future**. We asked:

What do we want to say to the Chapters? What do we hope to hear and learn from them? How might we celebrate and challenge ourselves as a movement?

We identified four focus areas to discuss:

1. **Maryknoll Affiliate Identity:** How are the Affiliates a unique expression of the Maryknoll charism? How do we understand and strengthen our relationships as Affiliates to Affiliates, Affiliates to Maryknollers? To explore this with you, we envision a two-fold process: an **individual survey** of self-assessment and a **Chapter discernment and reflection process**. We want to explore together who we are now. An ad hoc committee from the Board (Mary Massaro, Dave Schaffner, Rich Lessard, Joe Symkowick, myself) and Executive Coordinator Bob Short will be working on this; please look for future communications from us.
2. **The Regional Model:** In 2011, we affirmed that the regional model helped strengthen and support local and regional connections. Three years later, as we continue to dialogue with the Regional Coordinators (RCs), we'd like to hear from everyone about the strengths and challenges of the RC model. Is it working? Does the model bring value? Does it enhance the lives of the Chapters and individual Affiliates?
3. **Evaluation of MAC 2014/Plans for MAC 2017:** Reviewing the composite evaluation of the June MAC 2014 conference, we were very impressed that 45% of attendees gave feedback! Wow! Obviously the MAC continues to be a very meaningful event. We also explored various options for MAC 2017. Several Chapters have inquired about hosting MAC 2017, and a subcommittee (Patty Barneond, Rich Lessard) and Bob Short will investigate our possibilities.
4. **Feedback from the Latin American Chapters:** With additional input brought to us by Patty Barneond (Guatemala), we were thoughtfully challenged by some of the Latin American Affiliates who believe the Affiliate movement is often US based and has a US way of being. The Board affirmed a strong desire for the Affiliates to be a truly global and integrated movement. We hope to seek together how we might connect more thoroughly with all Affiliates, whether they be in Latin America, Asia, Africa or the US.

We very much hope to be carried together with you into the future by a new wave of mission. May we be open to the Spirit and the surprises that await us. 

JOY OF THE GOSPEL... IN CAMBODIA

Rich Lessard – Albany Chapter;
Affiliate Board Member

Around the world in 18 days! My wife, Denise, and I recently participated in the [Maryknoll Lay Missioner's Friends Across Borders \(FAB\) program in Cambodia.](#)



FAB travelers, with Denise and Richard Lessard on the far right, before the stone faces of the ancient Bayon Temple

"So, how was your trip?"—I find myself entertaining this question in my first weeks home. How do I capture the essence of this Cambodian FAB experience? How do I explain the transformation working inside me? After a chuckle—they don't realize how loaded the question is—I exclaim, "It was great!" an accurate, though short, response. But if the questioner is interested, I'll explain that the trip was a mission awareness experience and that we visited with a number of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Sisters, and Fathers. I'll highlight some of their various ministries, and provide some context to the plight of the Cambodian people, past and present. Often, I'll mention my [blog](http://lessardscambodiantrip.wordpress.com/) (http://lessardscambodiantrip.wordpress.com/) of each day's activities. This response still doesn't capture the richness of the experience, though.

Initially, it's really hard to process the profound effect of such an experience. It takes

time, reflection, and patience with oneself; you need to marinate in the experience—mind, body, and soul—to figure out what happened to you before you can convey it to others. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, "Trust in the slow work of God... your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them ... Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be."

One day at work, a coworker politely opened a door for me and allowed me to pass through. At that moment, "crossing the threshold" popped into my head. "Hmmm," I thought, "a nice analogy for my experience in Cambodia." Having been an Affiliate for about eight years now, I've met many missionaries and heard their stories. And before that, I've been on three Sister Parish visits to Guatemala—all wonderful experiences in and of themselves, but this FAB trip was different. For the first time, I really crossed over the threshold from the environs of my own familiar and



Students Ambassadors sharing their dreams with Denise



Rich and Denise meet a teacher and student at LaValla School for Young People with Disabilities.

comfortable world into a world touched by mission life, if only for a short time.

Throughout Cambodia's history, from the Khmer Empire—an advanced civilization ruled by kings—of a thousand years ago to the recent horrific and tragic era of the Khmer Rouge, there has been one constant: the suffering of its people—at the hands of their own leaders and those of foreign invaders. In addition to the lasting effects of the Khmer Rouge's destruction of social, political, judicial, medical, educational, administrative, and spiritual systems, Cambodians today still suffer from the shortsighted and corrupt policies of government officials. The resulting lack of security, lack of hope, and pervasive fear have



Cambodian women harvest water lilies.

scarred the individual and collective psyches of the Cambodian people, many of whom find themselves marginalized and impoverished.

The compassion and missionary spirit of Maryknoll thrive in this environment. In response to the pain and suffering of the Cambodians, the Gospel is lived fully and joyfully, and the mission of Jesus is truly evident. We witnessed it through the Maryknoll missionaries we encountered; we saw firsthand their expression of peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy as they respond to the needs of the people they serve. In the midst of so much pain and suffering, in their face-to-face encounters—there was an infectious joy!



Children at LaValla School introduce Rich to rambutan.

The great pilgrim routes are dotted with shrines, monuments and markers to identify places where pilgrims pause to rest and pray and to give thanks for the holy ground they've covered. Truly, this FAB experience was a pilgrimage. As I look back over the holy ground we covered, I am filled with gratitude for the many joys which have marked our pilgrim route. I saw joy in the face of the HIV+ resident I met in the shantytown of Anlong Kngan Resettlement Community. With the gift of a scooter from Maryknoll,

he can work to support his family. I experienced joy getting down on my hands and knees and butt and playing with the little children in the Boeung Toumpun Education program. My head and heart are full with memories of joy.



LaValla's librarian (former student) and Denise share a big hug.

How awesome it was to be with the missionaries and to share in their lives for even the briefest of time! This is a gift I will surely treasure. Knowing them has enriched my life. Being with them has been a blessing. I pray our paths will cross again.

Editor's note: This is an edited version of Rich's experience. His full article is at <https://notsofarfield.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/joy-of-the-gospel-cambodia.pdf>.



...the Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction.
 - Pope Francis, December 2013



The shantytown of the Anlong Kngan Resettlement Community

WHOLEMAKING AT THE MARYKNOLL SISTERS' GENERAL ASSEMBLY

John Moritz – Southeast Regional Coordinator,
Northeast Florida Chapter

I thank the Affiliates and our Board for the privilege of representing them at the General Assembly (GA) of the Maryknoll Sisters. 144 voting Sister Delegates came to set their directions and policies, and to elect new leadership for the Congregation. Other official but non-voting participants included: Fr. Jack Sullivan – Society, Margaret (Peg) Vamosy – Lay Missioners, and Mary Elizabeth (MEF) Ford – Full Circle.

The Sisters gave a standing ovation to the keynote address by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. Her points included:

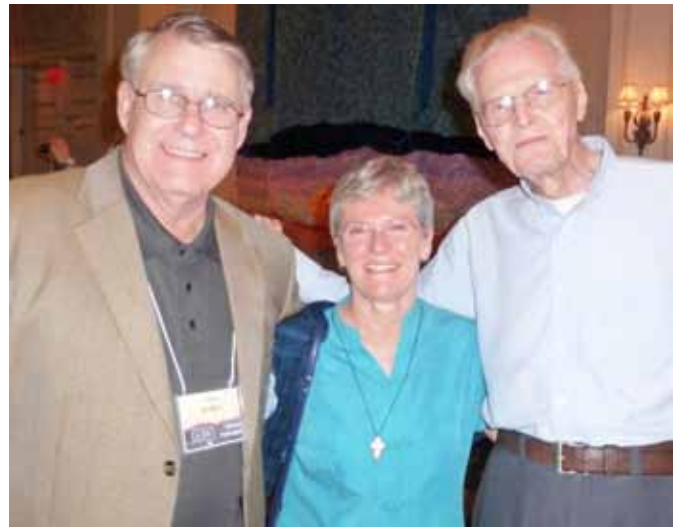
- We are all entering the unknown; this requires great faith compared to a theology that sees itself as having all the answers.
- We are all bound together and our actions affect the whole.
- Creative attraction, or love is the developmental force of the universe.
- God is Love, the energy of creative attraction in which we are co-creators.
- Jesus, the second big-bang, brings us to wholeness, salvation.
- As we are made whole in Jesus, we co-create wholeness around us, thus mission.

After much discussion and finally consensus, the Assembly created the following statements:

VISION STATEMENT: *The Maryknoll Sisters envision One Earth Community where the co-creative energy of Divine Love flows freely, nurturing wholeness of being in an expanding and evolving universe.*

MISSION STATEMENT: *We Maryknoll Sisters have been engaged in God's mission and nurtured by the spirit of Mother Mary Joseph for over a century. In this time of global awareness and accelerating change, we have been called to reflect on evolutionary consciousness and its impact on our understanding of our charism and our response in mission.*

Recent insights have enabled us to recognize that we are One Earth Community where the energy of God's love flows freely, nurturing the wholeness of being. Wholemaking is the overarching mission task for our time. This mission imperative requires partnering, collaborating and networking which will enable us to respond effectively to emerging and urgent needs, particularly on the margins of society.



John Moritz, Peg Vamosy, MLM, and Jack Sullivan, MM at the General Assembly

We acknowledge that we as individuals, communities and as a Congregation generate energies that affect each other, as well as the global community. Therefore we need to heal and transform ourselves as we strive for healing and peace in our world.

We choose to engage our energies in mission by promoting the free flowing of God's love to:

- Transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace;
- Oppose modern-day slavery and attend to the healing and empowerment of survivors;
- Build bridges of understanding and acceptance to promote inclusivity among cultures, religions, society and within the Catholic Church;
- Promote the healing of the earth and the sustainable use of all natural resources; and
- Affect economic, political and social structures to benefit indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and the voiceless in society.

VALUES STATEMENT: Wholemaking, Contemplative Awareness and Reflection, and Missionary Spirit were addressed. A number of specific Proposals were also agreed upon.

NEW LEADERSHIP: The Sister Delegates also nominated and elected a new Congregational leadership team (CLT): Nonie Gutzler (Taiwan), President; Norie Mojado (Contemplative Community) Vice President; Anastasia Lott (Rogers Community) and Teruko Ito (Guatemala), Team Members.

AFFILIATES PRESENTATION: I had the opportunity to co-host with Ann Hayden a meeting to share information about the Affiliates and for Sisters to share their experiences with Affiliates. We had a very

lively discussion with about 50 Sisters. The amount of interest and enthusiasm shown was impressive. We heard wonderful stories about groups becoming loving mission communities. I cannot tell you the number of times I heard comments like, “I want to become more involved with the Affiliates,” or “How can I start an Affiliate Chapter?”

I was deeply moved by the spirit of acceptance, welcoming and love shown to me during this time. The Sisters actively sought my input in the discussions and valued the perspective of the Affiliate Movement. Words that seemed to weave their way through the assembly were “whole” and wholemaking.

Prior to attending the GA, I looked upon this as an opportunity to experience what Church may look like in the future. What would an evolving Cosmic Christianity look like? The Maryknoll Sisters are experiencing a paradigm shift that probably won't be seen in the Church at large for many years to come. I know from this experience that I am definitely still in process. After hearing Iliia Delio, I believe that the God story and the ongoing creation story are being told in a better way, yet there is still a lot of old story left in my brain and maybe more in my emotions. It was certainly a broadening experience for me.



MARYKNOLL TODAY

AND THE MARYKNOLL OF TOMORROW

Sr. Ann Hayden, MM – Affiliate Board Member

It is clear that Maryknoll's role in God's mission is, like many human endeavors in these times, arriving at a “profound historical turning point.” This phrase was used by Joe Holland in his presentation at the 2012 “Mission in the Future” symposium, held at Maryknoll, NY. The event was prepared by the four Maryknoll entities: the Affiliates, the Lay Missioners, the Fathers and Brothers, and the Maryknoll Sisters.

The collaboration which made this symposium possible, could, if expanded, be an impulse for Maryknoll's sustainability into the future. It was built on an important characteristic of Maryknoll today—the common call of our baptism, a call reflected in a diversity of vocation. It is the call to an authentically lived, committed discipleship in the mission of God.



Partnership, much like friendship, is based on unreserved trust and respect. It is nourished by compatible concerns, codes of conduct, and communication styles. It requires mutual reliance on

complementary skills shared generously for the sake of the other and for the common good. Partnership flourishes when we are attentive to the other and offer mutual support; when we are honest, open, and real with one another; when we are aware of, and appreciative of, the differences among us; and when we can build positive efforts around a shared purpose.

That the practice of partnership among Maryknollers is inconsistent around the world, and, worse still, undernourished in many areas of our life experience, is a sign that partnering poses a challenge. It requires us to examine our mindsets regarding mission, our roles in the church, and our norms of relationships between men and women, lay and cleric, as being equal partners in God's mission.

The charism and spirit of Maryknoll has always been directed to mission within a global as well as local context. For over 100 years, our common roots have continued to nourish our conscious efforts to adapt and re-focus our mission efforts to better respond to the signs of the times as we meet the needs of the poor and marginalized.

As we come face to face with our “own profound historical turning point,” we must engage our vulnerabilities no less than our strengths; our shadows as well as our lights. Doing so is no longer a choice. We must move with true wholeness into a future that calls us deeper into God's mission in ways we can only imagine, and along paths we do not yet recognize.



Imagination is a wonderful, freeing gift. It is the stuff of mystics and prophets, contemplatives and missioners. Trust in the call, and courage to see and act on new vision, are what grow commitment. And, in our lives as missioners, what sustains is the keen awareness of the presence of God in all we encounter. The “epiphany experiences” of the authentic life provide the interconnections of the diverse expressions of vocation within mission.

The Maryknoll of tomorrow demands that we engage our Maryknoll diversity with respect and compassion. It requires our conscious witness and service to inclusive giving and receiving at the table of life, blessed and broken open for the sake of the whole. When we do so, the practice of mission will grow in authenticity.

This is the Eucharistic community that Maryknoll can become. Can we see and embrace the something new that God is birthing in our midst?



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

Many Affiliates and chapters were involved in actions the week of Sept. 21 to 27 on behalf of Campaign Nonviolence and Climate Change.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH – NEW YORK

Jo Albright – Subway Chapter



Two days before the People's Climate March, I learned that groups were to meet at specific locations, such as religious groups at Columbus Circle. Riding there in a half-filled subway car, I was relieved to immediately see a Maryknoller! I didn't see many more until the march started, when **Beth Begley** and I were trying to maintain a curbside seat.

The "biggest climate march in history" left Central Park and headed toward lower Manhattan and the NYC waterfront on 6th Avenue. Crowds watched and cheered us as we went by. It was hard to keep up with the banner-carrying Maryknollers, mostly priests. I saw Affiliates **Margaret** and **Adel**, with a group from their parish.

The pace changed and other than brief chatting I ended up charging downtown, my feet beginning to feel tired. I don't usually quit, but some were jumping the barriers and leaving. I wanted to meet with the indigenous people at the end of the march, but that was not to be. When we reached the plaza at the Javits Center, it was jammed-packed, with many more marchers than they were prepared for—400,000, not the 100,000 predicted!

On the way to the subway station, as I headed home, I saw another huge procession of marchers heading where I had just left and wondered if they were the rest of our group. So many people were dedicated to, "to change everything, we need everyone!" I was pleased to have completed this once-in-a-lifetime event.



DENVER INTERFAITH GATHERING

Larry Griffin – Denver Chapter

The Denver Maryknoll Chapter joined Pace e Bene and Pax Christi Denver on the steps of the Colorado capitol for prayer, song, and a call for non-violence on September 21st. The inter-faith group included Moslems, Buddhists, Protestant and Catholics, who joined with similar groups in cities across the US to celebrate this Peace Day.



LA AFFILIATES AND CAMPAIGN NON-VIOLENCE

Kathee Hennigan Bautista – Los Angeles Chapter

Greater Los Angeles and San Diego Chapter Affiliates became familiar with peace activist Fr. John Dear's work while preparing to co-sponsor the 2010 Western Regional Affiliate Conference. Since Fr. John was our keynote speaker, both chapters began studying his latest book. He spoke passionately about following the non-violent Jesus and offered us the opportunity to take the vow of non-violence. Many of us continued studying his work and listened to his speeches when he spoke in our area.

This past winter, Fr. John toured on behalf of Pace e Bene and Campaign Nonviolence, which he currently represents. The movement's goal is to mainstream non-violence by ending war, poverty and global warming. He encouraged our chapter to focus on the study guide *Engage: Exploring Non-violent Living* at this year's meetings. The tenets of non-violent living are to seek peace within oneself, to build non-violent relationships with our neighbors, and to take public action to build a non-violent society. In June, we joined with Pax Christi of Southern California for an intense weekend exploring non-violent living. Together we envisioned a community where peace is a mainstream goal. We participated in exercises and role-plays to teach us how to resist violence and handle conflicts in a positive manner. We also began planning to participate in public actions for The International Day of Peace and Campaign Non-violence.




Greater LA Chapter members at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels.

In September, Campaign Nonviolence coordinated public actions organized by grass roots groups to mark the International Day of Peace. Affiliates and other Maryknollers took part in many of the 228 actions of all sizes throughout the country.

Greater LA Area Affiliates participated in several events, including Paths to Just Peace: An Interfaith Celebration of International Peace Day. Guest

speaker Kathy Kelly, peace activist, author, and co-coordinator for Voices of Creative Non-violence, spoke of average people living in Afghanistan, Gaza, and Iraq. She shared how these desperate people are for the US to stop bombing them. The event also included an interfaith panel discussion. Affiliate **John Jerpe** organized an action with Veterans for Peace at the Port Hueneme Naval Facility. We also joined Pax Christi and Campaign Nonviolence for a Peace Witness at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels.

Campaign Nonviolence plans to be a long-term movement to promote peaceful solutions to the problems we face in our violent world. 

“PEOPLE-PLANET-PEACE”*

Ellie Hays – Reno Chapter

Reno Affiliates worked with several local groups in the Reno-Sparks-Carson City area to put on “People-Planet-Peace,” held September 27, 2014. The event was designed to connect the many people and organizations in the area who already work on the big issues of violence, including the violence of poverty, of environmental destruction, and of war.



Photo by Rita Sloan

Interfaith participants, with Reno Affiliate Ellie Hays at right

Excellent speakers—Fr. Chuck Durante of the Catholic Diocese, Barry Peterson of University of Nevada—Reno’s Peace Studies, **Kyle Chandler-Isachsen** (featured in the 2014 Sept/Oct *NSFA*) of Be the Change Project, words from an interfaith contingent, as well as performances by three musicians and a Native American chanter rounded out the activities.

Reno, Sparks, Carson, and the Nevada State Governor’s office made Peace Day proclamations that were on display, and participating groups offered involvement opportunities. Participants wore blue scarves, and a plastic bottle sculpture demonstrated the problem of using plastics. The event was publicized with an opinion piece and letters to the editor in local papers, plus coverage by Channel 4 KRNK News.

*First appeared on the Peace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence website. 

SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – *NSFA* Editor

You spoke and we hear you!

Thank you, media survey respondents. Looking at the results of the survey, we received some surprises, but in other cases our suspicions were confirmed. We weren’t surprised that most of you use email and that most chapters use email for their communications, but we were surprised that very few of you routinely go to Facebook.


You confirmed that the MaryknollAffiliates.org website is not well utilized. The Board has already authorized updating our website to make it much more welcoming and easy to use. The survey confirmed what Bob Short presented at the Conference: Affiliate databases need consolidation. Many people asked to be added to the Monday email which a large number of Affiliates already enjoy. Several people commented that before taking the survey they hadn’t realized that the Affiliates had a Facebook page, or that the *Not So Far Afield* is also available at NotSoFarAfield.org.

Most of you enjoy reading *NSFA* and *Maryknoll* magazine. We shamelessly believe all the nice things you said about the *NSFA*! You preferred the paper copy of *NSFA*, but many folks enjoy both the paper and electronic versions. (The electronic forms of the *NSFA* have color photos and are searchable.)

Some of you volunteered to help with Affiliate communications in various ways. Thank you. We’ll be contacting you, but contact us if you get impatient.

Chapter activities and short-term mission opportunities headed the list of topics you wanted to see in *NSFA*. Other suggestions: immigration/migrant worker issues, human rights, attracting new members, service ideas, book reviews, partnering with other groups, interfaith encounters, race issues, missionary activities, returning missionaries, ecology/environmental actions, inspiring movies, the new cosmology, micro-aggression, news from international chapters, the role of women in the church, and animating chapters. The *NSFA* depends on you for articles on these interesting topics.

Actions suggested by the survey results:

- You copy us on your chapter meeting summaries (NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org).
- We update our *NSFA*/Monday email databases.
- We notify Affiliates when the new website is up.
- You send us your articles and ideas, especially on the topics listed above. 



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Ann Carr, Maryknoll Affiliate Board President, recently traveled to Honduras and met Cecilio. Her insights on the October 2014 Maryknoll Affiliate Board meeting at Maryknoll, NY, are on page 5.

