

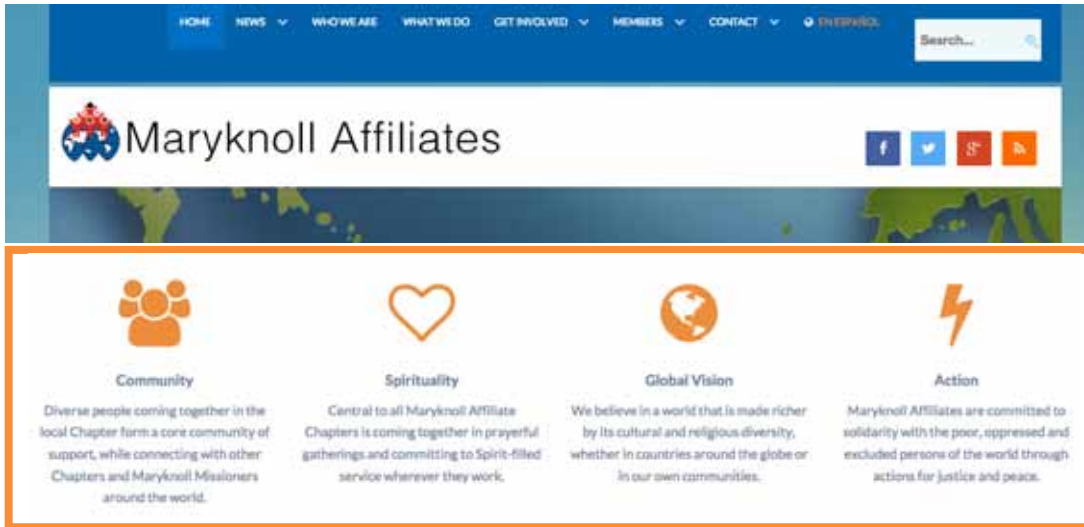


# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

March/April 2015

Volume 24 Number 2



**Automatic Monday Morning Updates:** Each Monday morning, Affiliates can receive an email of news and of many additions to the website in the previous week. If you have not been receiving the Monday Morning Updates, you can sign up on the new website:

- At the **Contact** tab at the top right of any page, select “Sign Up for Monday Morning Updates.”

- Provide the requested information (Name, Email Address, Chapter).

- Click “Subscribe.”

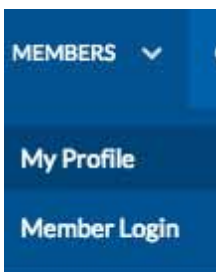
In future articles, we’ll highlight other website functions. Take a few minutes to visit the new website, click on the various tabs and headings, and become familiar with what it offers.

## NEW AFFILIATE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Bob Short –  
Executive Coordinator

The new [www.maryknollaffiliates.org](http://www.maryknollaffiliates.org) is up and running! Opening the site, you will see that it looks and feels significantly different from the old website. The Affiliate Four Pillars: Spirituality, Community, Global Vision and Action, are prominently displayed on the home page. Visually, the formatting—multi-colored layers and many more photos—engages the viewer from the outset. Navigating the new website is simpler and more intuitive. Our Affiliate site is bilingual and will carry copies of both newsletters, *Not So Far Afield* and *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, on both the English and Spanish home pages.

### Two Areas to Check Out:



**Member Login:** To access protected information, log in under the Member tab and at the bottom of each page on the new site are Member Login links. If you were registered for the old website, you can log in as before. If not, you can register on the website and login information will be emailed to you. (If you remember

your User ID but not your password, please contact me, under the Contact tab, for a new password. Once you are logged in, you can change your password.)

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Please let us know if you encounter a significant problem or if you’re able to offer help with the website, either technical or with items to post.

The Media Committee (**Ken Eppes, Paula Schaffner, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Ann Carr, Kathleen Gribble, and Bob Short**), which has been meeting for about a year assessing the web site, express our wholehearted gratitude to **Fred Goddard**, the Affiliates’ “electronic founder.” Although significantly different, the new website utilizes the same foundational platform (Joomla) that Fred employed, as well as many of the categories and much of the functionality he originally provided. This made web designer Tobias Rinsche’s work of updating easier and much less expensive than it could have been.



**A NEW WAY OF SEEING**

This NSFA issue urges you to consider new ways of seeing. Executive Coordinator Bob Short introduces the new Affiliate web site, which provides new ways of seeing and learning about the Affiliate movement. [Check it out!](#) Bob also shares his evolving perceptions from his recent time with Affiliates in Bolivia and Peru.

Fr. John Martin, MM, writes that interfaith dialog has expanded his perspectives. Several Affiliate gatherings, regional and local, featured in this issue, will bring an expanded view of the Affiliate world. Indeed, the Maryknoll Affiliate pillar, Global Vision, is a new way of seeing, a way of seeing that includes everyone, especially the marginalized.

We report on the U-Lab on-line course (see page 10) to which Gene Toland invited Affiliates in the previous NSFA. Similar to the Maryknoll approach to mission, this course emphasized sensing from the margins, aligning with those most impacted by a potential change, and letting the group’s creativity evolve the new ways of seeing.

New ways of seeing will lead us to growth and understanding, to sensing deeper truths, and to seeing broader connections. Please send your experiences, your expanded perceptions, and your views to [nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org)

Photo by Jean Heuer



**BETH THE COLLABORATOR**

Beth Begley, a very active Affiliate, Exemplifies the partnering of Affiliates with other organizations. As a Pax Christi International UN Team member, she recently wrote,

“Pax Christi International’s Vibrant Presence at the UN,” for the Pax Christi Winter 2014 newsletter: <https://paxchristiusa1.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/winter2014newsletterweb.pdf>. The article discussed the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace, and Security and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review.”

When asked what value she sees in partnering, Beth commented: “What I’m seeing are ever more converging and interwoven networks. Maryknoll Global Concerns is a member organization of Pax Christi International and there is a collaborative group in DC of Pax Christi International–USA, the DC Maryknoll Office, Sisters of Mercy, Columbans, and more who work together to inform and to help shape US policy. At the UN, committees of NGOs collaborate as well. I hope in our upcoming survey of ourselves as Affiliates, we will explore our various involvements and passions. This seems to be very much a sign of our times as we evolve...I have often thought, ‘How can we collaborate in terms of organizational structure and relationships?’ I think now that it is a matter of staying loose and flexible enough to respond to the opportunities and the challenges as they appear. What is your experience and your hope?”



**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](mailto:inquiry@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.

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311  
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311  
[nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org)

## MEETING THE WORLD IN SALT LAKE CITY

John P. Martin, MM\*

This year, from October 15-19, the grand-daddy of all inter-faith assemblies will convene in Salt Lake City to celebrate “Reclaiming the heart of our humanity: Working together for a world of compassion, peace, justice and sustainability.” This Parliament of World Religions has quite a history, and I have gained much from my association with it.

The first Parliament of World Religions took place September 11-27, 1893, and was a resounding



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

success, with 4,000 participants and representatives from forty churches and traditions. With its goal to bring together in one place the many religious traditions of the world, it was hailed as a pioneering event. The goal was to express the harmony that can and should prevail among believers in God, despite our different garbs and tongues, traditions and rituals. Some established Christian churches were repulsed by the idea that leaders of non-Christian traditions would be included. Still the organizing went on.

Despite the bias toward European and North American Christian presence and organization, the breadth of topics and the extensive participation of believers of many traditions from many lands accounted for the very positive reactions to this event. It was perhaps the largest and most influential interfaith gathering among peoples of the world to date.



This Parliament resulted in the founding in 1900 in Boston the International Association for Religious Freedom (<https://iarf.net>), the first-ever international interfaith group. In 1936, Sir Francis Younghusband founded the World Congress of Faiths and in 1960, the dream of Judith Hollister came true in the Temple of Understanding. 1970 saw the birth of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (now Religions for Peace). Their present secretary general is former Maryknoll Lay Missioner William Vendley, and our John McAuley, MM, worked there also. This legacy includes countless groups organized within many religious traditions dedicated to the dream of religious harmony and collaboration among all believers.

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) from India was an instant success from the start of his speech addressed



Religions for Peace—  
<http://www.rfpusa.org/>

to “Sisters and Brothers of America.” His guru Swami Ramakrishna was a reclusive renunciant in Calcutta, West Bengal, whose lineage has been propagated by the organizing efforts of his most famous disciple in the West as well as in India. I was honored to visit his ashram and be the guest of the Ramakrishna Order while in India.

Swami Paramananda (1884-1940), an early disciple of Vivekananda, came to the United States in 1906 and established an ashram in Cohasset, Massachusetts. He later selected his niece Mataji Gayatri Devi (born in Barisal, Bangladesh) to direct the community at his passing. Knowing her was a privilege; she initiated me as a sannyasin (renunciant), and I maintain contact with this inspiring community.

I attended the congress in Bangalore, India, organized by the four interfaith groups cited above. I had lived in Bangladesh from 1975 through 1981 and had been living since 1991 in West Bengal, so I already knew the Bengali language. The long discussions on the proposal from Hans Kung, “A Global Ethic,” were a salient feature of this congress.

Increasingly, I see how these events and encounters have enriched my life. My mind and heart and spirit have been expanded to become more tolerant, less inclined to judge. My perspective has become one of universalism, of respecting others as true believers in the one god of all. I see religious diversity as a gift helping us all to live by our faith traditions.

My passion for returning to inter-religious events has continued to be an element of my life to this day. This year’s Parliament in Salt Lake includes keynote presenters: the Dalai Lama, Oscar Arias, Rajendra Pachauri, Mairead Maguire, Tariq Ramadan, and Karen Armstrong. You can register as participant or presenter at: [2015.parliamentofreligions.org](http://2015.parliamentofreligions.org). I will attend and invite my fellow Maryknollers to also attend. Please feel free to contact me: [johnthep@msn.com](mailto:johnthep@msn.com); my address at the Center is: Box 305, Maryknoll NY 10545. Tel. 914-941-7636, extension 2705.



Photo by Jean Heuer

\*Fr. Martin is a strong supporter of the Maryknoll Affiliates, attended the 2015 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference, and fostered the formation of a chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates in Merida, Mexico.



**DEAD MAN WALKING**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Several JustFaith groups and the Portland Maryknoll Affiliates, inspired by our concern for social justice, combined efforts to educate about the death penalty in Oregon. We hoped to touch people emotionally and help them think in a new way about the death penalty.

Lisa Stiller, a JustFaith participant a few years ago, obtained permission from the Catholic Mobilizing Network to present the new one-act reader’s theater version of Dead Man Walking. Lisa recruited a couple additional readers to join the “Voices for Peace” group for the performance. Others reserved a room for the performance at our local library, made posters and even brought refreshments. We contacted other JustFaith groups, friends, posted notices, and sent email. Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP) provided some handouts.

The performance was well attended and the volunteer readers did a great job, speaking with Irish or Southern

accents for some of the characters. Even those of us who knew the story found it very powerful. We attracted a few new folks who hadn’t thought much about the death penalty before. One person in the audience said he now better understood the feelings possible in those ensnared in these murderous tragedies.



Marshall LaCombe sounded just like an Irish priest.

We recommend readers theater as a simple, low-budget way that even inexperienced readers could move people to think in new ways about a subject which they might otherwise ignore.



The Voices For Peace cast for the readers theater version of *Dead Man Walking*: (l to r) Marshall LaCombe, Rich Freeman, Barbara LaCombe, Lisa Stiller, and Paul Barton

Photos by Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss



**BREAKING THE CHAINS**

Nancy Davies – Lay Missioner, Cambodia

They found him in chains—he and another boy who was also deaf. Someone brought the boys here to our Deaf Development Programme (DDP) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where deaf students 15 years old and up learn sign-language, as well as basic education and life skills. By all indications, these two boys had been abused, traumatized, and isolated for a long time. Often, in remote villages, people do not understand deafness. The deaf person is thought to be mentally deficient, possessed, or even being punished for their or a parent’s wrongdoing.

Although the boys were sheltered at DDP, they did not know their own names or where they came from; and they had no way to communicate. It was difficult to get close to the boys, who would cower upon our approach. They were not able to join in regular classes with other students, so a teacher taught them one-on-one. Even this was difficult. One young man could not settle into the routine and eventually ran away.

However, one stayed and progressed. Sovan (fictional name) was able to learn some sign language and became somewhat comfortable around others and in his new environment. However, some chains were still binding him, as he remained withdrawn and distant.

Staff at the Deaf Community Center discovered that Sovan liked to draw. They often saw him sitting at a table with colored pencils and paper. On one of my visits, I sat next to him and signed to ask what he liked to draw. He just gave me a vacant look and turned back to his drawing. This is how it went for many of my attempts to communicate with him.

That all changed when we celebrated Deaf Week in September. At our opening ceremony, many displays around our building showed pictures of our teachers, the football team, students, and other staff members. As I looked at pictures of the students, Sovan came up and joyfully pointed out himself signing in a classroom. He was absolutely glowing, with a big smile on his face and his eyes sparkling. I had never seen him so animated! He proceeded to point out each picture on the wall of the classroom and then showed me the correct sign for each. I told him how well he was doing and that I was proud of him. They say recognition is very important for our deaf students. They have never been recognized for anything in their entire lives.

Sovan continued the day in high spirits, smiling a lot and trying to get into every photo. His future is uncertain, but he has definitely broken the chains.

**NOT SO YOUNG BUT STILL RESTLESS ABOUT MISSION**

Janet Rousso – New Orleans Louisiana Chapter

**B**eing missionary disciples in the spirit of Pope Francis drives Affiliates of the New Orleans Chapter in our many activities.

**September:** We gathered 16 strong at **Mary Ann Becnel's** home on the Jordan River in Bay St. Louis for an end-of-summer day of prayer and planning. Symbols of the Maryknoll Affiliates pillars provided the backdrop for our day together. In this context, we set goals for the coming year.



Photos courtesy of Janet Rousso.

**October:** Some of us again spread our wings to engage in a Maryknoll Mission Immersion program. Together with Gerry Kelley, MM, from Houston, **Joan Cruz** from New York, and **Bernardine Featherly** from Washington, New Orleans affiliates **Mary Ann Becnel, Kim Nunez, and Janet Rousso** travelled to Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango with **Matt Rousso** as director.



Mary Ann Becnel (L) and Janet Rousso (R) with new friend in Guatemala



Joan Cruz at Caminando Por La Paz

We engaged in an on-line preparation, viewing and reflecting on the theme of Mission as Relationship. Our reflections

were both challenging and thought provoking! Our time together in Guatemala was very stimulating; we learned some of the shocking realities of the people's lives, shared time with mothers and children at

Caminando por la Paz, and interacted with students and families in Quetzaltenango. The story of our mission experience is written in our hearts and cannot be adequately shared in word.

**November:** Many of our affiliates are involved daily in outreach to the poor, the homeless, and the immigrant community. At Thanksgiving, **Kevin & Chris Cahalan** coordinated a special effort for us to prepare and serve food to over 50 homeless and neighborhood folks at the Catholic Worker house. The pilgrimage for Peace to Fort Benning, Georgia, has become an annual event for some in our group. This year, four Affiliates joined a contingent of others from New Orleans to protest at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

**December:** At the beginning of Advent and in preparation for Christmas, our group likes to travel to Caritas, a special retreat center in Abita Springs. Our reflections this year centered on the three characteristics of Jesus' spirituality as described in Jesus Today by Albert Nolan: Jesus as Revolutionary, Jesus as Prophet/Mystic, and Jesus as Holistic Healer. For the twelve of us who were able to participate, the setting in the Caritas yard lined with majestic oak trees and in the simple chapel in the woods was conducive for prayer, reflection and sharing.

**January:** Nine Affiliates volunteered time at Maryknoll's exhibit at the three-day Gulf South Religious Education Conference. We promoted the school program, Maryknoll magazine, the essay contest, and Orbis books, eagerly meeting teachers and catechists and encouraging them to use Maryknoll resources. Also in January, several affiliates were invited by Elizabeth Thaibinh, a former Maryknoll



Chris and Kevin Cahalan at Maryknoll Exhibit in New Orleans

Missioner and now Campus Minister, to make presentations to the students at the Academy of Our Lady during the school's Advocacy Week. The classes centered on justice and advocacy for the poor and immigrant.

... and so go our lives as Affiliates; we continue to reach out in actions of spirituality, community, justice, and global vision, both during special events and in our monthly meetings.



**WESTERN REGIONAL AFFILIATE CONFERENCE**

**LOVE IN ACTION –  
MISSION ON THE MARGINS**

The Seattle Chapter was formed about 20 years ago. Within the past two years, some Affiliate members of the Seattle Chapter have done short-term overseas experiences in Mexico, Thailand, Tanzania, and El Salvador. Because Affiliates are becoming such active and vital links in the Maryknoll movement, the Seattle Affiliate Chapter is sponsoring a Western Regional Conference to discuss the importance of Mission and the role of lay people in Mission.

General session speakers:

- **Bob Short**, Executive Coordinator of Maryknoll Affiliates
- **Gloria Burton**, CCS Director of Farmworker Initiative for Catholic Housing Services
- **Renate Schneider**, Executive Director of Haitian Connection.

Breakout sessions:

- Fair Trade Coffee* – **Barb Luxenberg**
- Skagit Valley Migrant Workers* – **José Ortiz**
- Micro Financing* – **Tom Mailhot**
- El Salvador* – **Joe Hastings**
- Earth Ministry* – **Jessie Dye**
- Human Trafficking* – **TBD**

Conference dates: **August 7-9, 2015**

Conference location: Seattle University's LeRoux Conference Center. Housing in Bellarmine Hall.

Conference fees—3 days, including meals & lodging:

	<b>Early-Bird</b>	<b>After</b>
	<u>by June 30</u>	<u>June 30</u>
Double – per person	\$220.00	\$250.00
Single	\$250.00	\$280.00
Commuter (no lodging)	\$150.00	\$180.00

**Questions?** Please contact Al Drinkwine:

Email – [AlDrinkwine@outlook.com](mailto:AlDrinkwine@outlook.com)

Phone – 425-821-1737

The registration form will be available at [www.MaryknollAffiliates.org](http://www.MaryknollAffiliates.org) by the end of March.



**VISITING BOLIVIA & PERU—THE SEQUEL**

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

For two weeks in mid-December **Patty Barneond de Garcia Tres**, Affiliate Board member and liaison to Latin America, and **Bob Short** traveled to Bolivia and Peru to meet with Affiliates and Maryknollers in those two countries. This is Bob's second article on that trip.

Within two days after arriving in Cochabamba and meeting with the Affiliates there, it became apparent that something was different; that, in several ways, a different calculus was applied to how life is lived and mission embraced. As Patty and I continued our trip, visiting Santa Cruz and the Peruvian populations of Lima, Arequipa, and Chiguata, a small village in the mountains outside of Arequipa, that perception stayed with me.



My service in the 1980s as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Bolivia and Ecuador helped to give me an appreciation for the context and, at least in part, some clarity about what I was feeling. But that mission experience was almost 30 years ago, and the Maryknoll Affiliate movement hadn't yet been established. It did help me to recall that, in contrast to the strong emphasis on individual identity and advancement in the US, Latin Americans are more likely to find their identity in community and family. I also easily remembered that time and the contingencies thereof are worked out quite differently in Latin America, at least outside the major cities. The perception of time is less linear, less compulsive, less frenetic, and, although this is sadly beginning to change, it is seldom allowed to take precedence over human relationships.

It didn't take many days there before I felt that a bit of my humanity was being restored. There was time to linger a bit longer at meals, take walks together, engage in meaningful conversations, and give more time to the friend or stranger who happened by. This is neither to romanticize nor overly praise a particular cultural bent, but it is to question what we think could be more important than fostering good relationships.

An even more compelling feeling that something was different took hold as we spent time with the Affiliates and aspiring Affiliates there. We sat with them and listened to stories about their life and mission. Actually, life and mission pretty much came together as one story for each of them, and very often the ‘Maryknoll charism’ worked its way into those stories. Throughout our trip in Bolivia and Peru, it was clear that their commitment to mission was a core part of their lives. Patty and I were happily surprised at how enthusiastically they spoke of the importance of the Affiliate pillars in their lives, with particular emphasis on the action pillar.



at) the people, helped them live their faith and helped them a to see their own self worth. The wonderful and revealing sentence once spoken to Fr. Jim Madden (and I suspect to many other Maryknollers as well) makes this so perfectly clear: “Before Maryknoll came here to be with us we walked stooped down with our heads lowered. Now we walk straight up with our heads held high.” It would be difficult to think of a more powerful and beautiful legacy to want to carry on.

To borrow a few sentences translated from Patty’s article on our trip in the Spanish language newsletter *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, “The chapters work tirelessly to keep alive Maryknoll’s legacy and inspire the next generation to make a life commitment to work for the needy, responding to the call of Pope Francis: ‘I encourage you to redouble your efforts in the field of human development, so that every man and woman will realize the joy and sense of dignity that comes from earning the daily bread to support his/her own family.’”

In the brief reflection that the Affiliates’ Peruvian Regional Coordinator **Maria Farfan** wrote in honor of Father Jim at the time of his death, she provides some insight into how this one Maryknoller (among so many others) impacted their lives: “It was an intensely happy time when Father Jim entered into our lives. Everything about him was unique, his sincerity, his way of laughing...” That language could only have been written about someone who walked with the people.

The Maryknoll legacy surfaced often. The Affiliates spoke with emotion and passion about it and their commitment to carry that into the future. At first I was a bit baffled by the strength of emotion, but then I realized that these good people and their parents before them were the subjects of Maryknoll’s missionary outreach for well over 60 years. I also knew that had they been the objects of Maryknoll’s outreach, their passion to carry on the legacy would not have been there. The Brothers and Sisters, priest and lay missionaries that came before us walked with (not talked



**A HOLIDAY “FAMILY” VISIT**

John Moritz – NE Florida Chapter

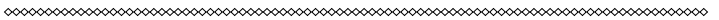
The NE Florida affiliate community had a brief but joyous visit, which can most accurately be described as a holiday family visit, by a part of our extended Maryknoll family. On Dec 18, 2014, Sister Margarita Jamias, MM, shared with local affiliates and the wider community her passion for cosmology and the environment. Our chapter hosted a gathering where Sr. Margarita showed the video, *Journey of the Universe*, followed by a discussion of what moved and challenged us in the video.



*Journey of the Universe* is the epic story of cosmic, Earth, and human transformation. We have discovered what no previous generation knew—the ways in which our galaxies and stars, planets and living organisms emerged within the vast drama of the universe. Today, the survival of species and of entire ecosystems depends upon the choices humans make. Weaving modern science with enduring wisdom from the world’s cultures, *Journey of the Universe* explores cosmic and Earth evolution as a profound process of creativity, connection, and interdependence, and offers an opportunity to respond to the ecological and social challenges of our time.

This opportunity began with my participation in the Sisters’ General Assembly, where Sr. Margarita asked me if we would be willing to host such an event in Florida when she would be visiting in December. In addition to the presentation, her visit gave our chapter members the opportunity for extended conversation and sharing. Sr. Margarita gifted us with her great understanding of our world but, more importantly, with her warmth and loving spirit.

This very successful event was the result of our getting to know the wider Maryknoll family and communicating together. In September, on behalf of all the affiliates, I promised the sisters that, wherever there are Affiliates, they would find hospitality and a desire for sharing in mission efforts. We relish this small but impactful collaboration within the Maryknoll family—and the joy of a holiday visit.



**MIDWEST GATHERING**

Kathleen (Kathie) Gribble – Fox Cities Chapter

Midwest Maryknoll Affiliates are planning a retreat at Green Lake Conference Center, Wisconsin. It is scheduled for August 14-16, 2015. So far, 32 Affiliates from ten Midwest chapters are planning to come.



This will be an awesome setting to gather, share our stories, reconnect with each other, and deepen our love of the Creator and God’s mission.

Members of other chapters are also welcome and can register by May 2015. Check out the website of Green Lake: <http://www.glcc.org>.







**PEACE CHOIRS**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Is there a Peace Choir in your area? After seven years of organizing Search For Peace art events and participating in a weekly peace vigil, I thought I'd sought out everything peace-full in the Portland area. Last fall I was surprised to find the Portland Peace Choir on-line and then in person. Luckily, we were allowed to join the 50-person group without an audition. Since then, they have performed at a Martin Luther King, Jr., commemoration highlighting nonviolence and have sung African songs at Taste of Tanzania, a fundraiser for the Huruma school for disabled children.

The Peace Choir is clearly secular and has a repertoire that includes popular, ethnic, traditional civil rights, and even a few religious songs. They all highlight love, peace, nonviolence, and cooperation. We recently participated in a concert where five peace choirs—about 200 people from Oregon and northern California—harmonized beautifully in sound and thought. We were told that peace choirs are a movement that is spreading across the country. What better way to make peace than to think peace, listen carefully, and live harmoniously in solidarity with your neighbors, wherever they may be. Sing out your gift of peace to the community.



**LENTEN FAST FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Maryknoll is one of nearly 100 Catholic national and international member groups in the newly formed Global Catholic Climate Movement (<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/fast/>).

This coalition of laity, religious, clergy, theologians, scientists, and activists agree with scientific findings that humanity's greenhouse gas emissions contribute to widespread and mostly harmful changes to planetary systems. Its focus is on the moral and spiritual issues involved, and to raise awareness of Church teachings on the care of creation.



**PRAYERS TO LIGHT THE WAY**

As an NGO with UN consultative status, Maryknoll was present at events aligned with the UN Climate Change Conference held in Lima, Peru in December 2014. World leaders are working to establish the fundamentals of a strong, global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, hopefully to be finalized in Paris in 2015.

The faith-based coalition OurVoices organized #LightForLIMA, a global, multi-faith prayer vigil held in locations around the world prior to the Lima Conference. They now invite us to join in prayers from our Ambassadors to inspire us for the road to Paris (<http://ourvoices.net/limaprayers>).



**STUDENTS REPORT ON U-LAB**

In the Jan/Feb NSFA, Fr. Gene Toland, MM, invited Maryknollers to enroll in U-Lab, a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC), offered by MIT and the Presencing Institute.

Thus several Affiliates, and 25,000 of our closest friends from around the world, signed up for the free six-week course based on Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kaufer's book, *Leading from the Emerging Future: from Ego-System to Eco-system Economies, Applying Theory U to Transforming Business, Society and Self*. Ideally, participants met in small groups to watch the course's videos, to prototype, and to receive coaching on their own projects face-to-face or by Skype.

The course used Scharmer's books, some chapters downloaded for free to participants, and a variety of live-streamed lectures, YouTube videos, and on-line exercises. Meditation and journaling were encouraged to reach deeper into ourselves. We explored our own communication processes and were led to better empathize, to move our point of perception to a larger field, and to rapidly prototype our ideas for improving society. Connecting, forming a community, envisioning, acting—sounds like the Four Pillars of the Affiliates!

**Bob Short** found the workshop a "very insightful take on social, economic, and spiritual spheres. In several areas I think it overlaps with much of what Ilia Delio and similar authors are saying."

Could this course change the world? Maybe. The first step is to change ourselves.



**A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION**

After leaving Africa, **Bertha Haas**, now a Portland Affiliate, envisioned a compassionate community that would continue to support Huruma. Huruma is the school for disabled children that she founded in Tanzania ten years ago as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. After she and Lay Missioners David and Caitlin Rosser of Seattle left Tanzania, no Maryknollers remained to work at the school, so Maryknoll can no longer provide support.

The involvement of the Maryknoll Affiliates and numerous other groups in the Portland area made Taste of Tanzania, a special dinner/fundraiser, very successful both financially and in forming community.



Nicole Kephart of Portland Peace Choir accepts quilt she won in the raffle from Bertha Haas (left), who sewed it of cloth from Tanzania.



Photos by Mary Ryan-Hotchikiss

Portland drummer Chata Addy teamed up with Tanzanian Holy Spirit Sisters on the drums, and the secular Portland Peace Choir sang, including verses written by Nicole Kephart to the tune of the South African song, "Bambelela":

*When you're  
All Alone — Troubled — Tired — Discouraged ...  
never give up!  
You've heard it takes a village to raise a child  
But when that child has special needs  
And lives in poverty and isolation  
It takes more than a village  
It takes a world*

*Ask the families of those special children  
Ask the teachers at Huruma  
Ask Bertha Haas  
It takes a world  
And YOU are that world!*

*So keep on Praying -- Giving -- Loving -- Singing ...  
Bambelela!*

**ATTRIBUTION**

Don Foran – Friend of the Affiliates

*If I can feel the wood and know who's whittled,  
Read paragraphs and know the author's name,  
Can hear one riff and know Grapelli's fiddled,  
Or sense in silhouettes the dancing flame,  
Why can't I scan for style erratic lines  
And temperamental scribbling on earth's page:  
Consistent inconsistencies, design,  
Caprice, rich legacies of tenderness and rage?  
Perhaps the world I cherish is chaotic,  
Perhaps its pedagogy is insane,  
But if it is sufficiently quixotic,  
The signature, for students, will be plain.  
Ah, crazy-witty worldlings, pitch a tent,  
Absorbing and translating sacrament.*

"Attribution" appeared in *America*, (Feb. 8, 1992)



Photo by Paula Schaffner

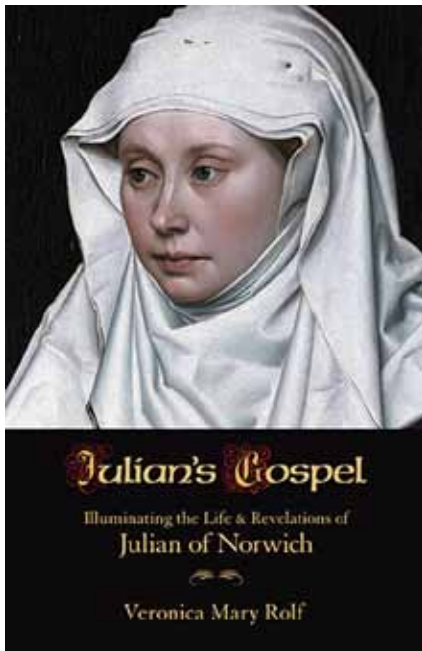


**14TH CENTURY AUTHOR  
—GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY**

Marie Venner – Denver Chapter

*A review of **Julian's Gospel: Illuminating the Life & Revelations of Julian of Norwich**, by Veronica Mary Rolf, published by Orbis\*, 2013.*

Veronica Mary Rolf is a most interesting writer. A recent podcast with *America* magazine reveals she spent much of her life in the professional theatre, as a playwright and actress. She also trained and directed professional actors around the world. Now, Rolf teaches Christian meditation and the history of Christian mysticism. She brings her dramatic sensibility and vivid descriptions of Julian's context and time to *Julian's Gospel* in a unique approach to the favorite spiritual guide of Thomas Merton, Richard Rohr, and many others.



In the first third of her nearly 600-page book, Rolf paints many aspects of Julian's life and times. She describes Norwich, Julian's likely ancestry, her childhood and education, in addition to details of marriage, childbirth, church and community life at the time, and likely aspects of Julian's life and profession. Interestingly, Julian's choice to become an anchoress may have helped ensure her safety and her ability to write, share her experience, and counsel others.

Rolf then moves to a discussion of each of Julian's sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, in 86 chapters. Rolf's translation of the original Middle English is highly readable, and she includes similar or supporting insights from other Catholic figures across the ages. Julian's gospel is good news for today, a complement to Pope Francis's teaching this past year. She bears witness to the persistent joy and longing of God, who loves us like a mother.

*\*Mention that you are a Maryknoll Affiliate to receive the 40% discount Orbis offers Affiliates on all our book purchases.*



**MARYKNOLL OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES**

Do you hear the call of far-away places? Here are a few volunteer opportunities:

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Through the Maryknoll Institute Of African Studies – St. Mary's University, Minnesota, and Tangaza College, Nairobi, participate directly in the contemporary cultures and religions of Kenya. These graduate courses combine lectures, directed professional field research assisted by a personal tutorial assistant, a 15-page research/ integration paper, and pastoral reflection. All courses are intensive, immersion-style and completed in three weeks. Courses are registered at St. Mary's University as four-credit graduate courses. [www.mias.edu](http://www.mias.edu)

Maryknoll Institute also runs full semester programs for non-East Africans and other foreigners who come for a sabbatical of three months.

*Rev. Michael C. Kirwen, Mm, Director and Associate Dean at [miasmu@tangaza.org](mailto:miasmu@tangaza.org)*

**China Teachers Program**

Ever consider spending a year in China teaching English as a second language? The Maryknoll China teachers program offers a unique opportunity to share and live out your Christian calling educating young Chinese university students. [www.ChinaServ.org](http://www.ChinaServ.org)

~or~

**China Teachers' Summer Program**

From mid-July to mid-August at Jilin Medical College, Jilin City. Help third-year Medical and Nursing students with spoken English through small group discussions and oral drills in four class periods per day. Eight to fourteen teachers live in community on the campus of Jilin Medical College. Program requirements and benefits are the same as the full year program. [www.ChinaServ.org](http://www.ChinaServ.org)

*Fr. Brian Barrons, MM, Asia Regional Superior at [bbarrons@maryknoll.org](mailto:bbarrons@maryknoll.org)*

**Bookmark** this special Maryknoll Society website: <http://maryknollmissiontrips.org>. Visit it frequently to discover the latest opportunities not only for short-term service but also for immersion and study programs. For further information, please contact:

*Rev. Michael J. Snyder, MM, Short Term Volunteer Coordinator, [msnyder@maryknoll.org](mailto:msnyder@maryknoll.org)  
Telephone: 888.627.9566*



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*Tanzanian Holy Spirit Sisters, who work in Portland, help entertain at Taste of Tanzania, p. 10.*

