



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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THE ENDOWED CHAIR

Jim Coady – Twin Cities Chapter

Chicago Affiliate Renate Schneider has invited many Affiliates to join her in Haiti since 2010. For several years, my wife Ann and I had been spending three cold Wisconsin winter weeks in sunny, warm Haiti, teaching at the University of the Nouvelle Grand'Anse (UNOGA) in the small city of Jeremie, surrounded by very, very, very rural Haiti.

Ann taught conversational English, and I taught a course in basic project management. Ann's teaching

English to Haitians was a no-brainer. Haitians are always anxious to practice their English with others, and knowing English could help them get a position with one of the many NGOs (non-government organizations) that have established residency on the island. There may be more NGOs in Haiti than there are trees. Ann went on to develop a structured curriculum that any future teacher could pick up and follow.

On the other hand, a course in project management was a bit of a stretch, but I knew something about it (I'm an architect), and felt I could teach it. It turned out to make a lot of sense for Haiti. A contributing factor to the failure to get things done is that projects are often not thought through all the way, so they run out of time, money, and resources. In Haiti, homes, buildings, and public works are just left standing there, not completed because people planned poorly and ran out of money and resources. There are no budgets, no schedules,



Ann Coady relaxes at the university guest house, NOT in an Endowed Chair.

no goals, nor individual responsibilities established or monitored. A sort of "if something goes wrong, I didn't do it" management approach prevails. There are also cultural influences—puzzling to us living outside of their culture—that need to be considered if the concepts being discussed are alien to the student.

So-o-o, I wrote a course manual—I tried to adapt what I had learned, used, and taught to others over the years to where I thought the Haitian students were at and what they needed—and started teaching. The first time out I learned a lot about what works and what doesn't.

Haitian students love to collaborate...I just had to find ways to structure exercises, presentations, and tests so that collaboration did not descend into cheating. I also learned that teaching with a translator (I don't speak Haitian Creole) more than doubles the time required to cover a concept—more like three and a half times, once you factor in discussions about unfamiliar concepts. Try explaining using a checkbook to your average Haitian student; most will have no idea what you are talking about. Checkbooks are simply not commonly used in Haiti. I had about 14 students from the business curriculum in that first class.

The second year was a little easier. I changed the material and the way that I taught it. I had to. I now had 30 students in the class, and the University was starting to think it would be a good idea for all students in both the business and the agronomy curriculums to take the course. I was very happy that what I was teaching was being seen as worthwhile, both by the students and the faculty, but was not sure about how much longer I personally could keep it up.

One day it came to me. Talking with the university vice rector, Renate Schneider (who now lives in

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Manny (Emmanuel Jean-Mary) works with students in the Project Management class.

Photos by Jim Coady.

AFFILIATE SEEDS

Maryknoll Affiliates persist in planting seeds knowing that we might not see the harvest. We grieve when we lose someone—but we can rejoice when we find new ways of mission, such as the Coadys endowing a chair to continue their mission work. We admire and want to work with all those who follow their own diverse paths, searching for the transcendent, such as those at the Parliament of World Religions, or those who join other religious orders.

Seeds planted by Affiliates last summer in a survey are now springing forth in plans and action from the Board and Executive Coordinator. At our 25th anniversary, we are in young adulthood, poised for continued evolution and development. Executive Coordinator Bob Short reminds us that, “Only love can transform us.”

We Affiliates persist in planting seeds with love even as the media abounds with shouts of walls, fear, exclusion, and hate, warping the truth and heralding the short-comings of others. Our love will lead to a win/win. Spring is coming!

Be sure to share your seeds of change and growth with your greater Affiliate community at nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org.

Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God’s call to participate in Jesus’ mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God’s creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God’s unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples.

Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service around the world. If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or e-mail rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.

**MIGNON,
OUR PRECIOUS FRIEND**

Matt Rousso –
New Orleans Chapter



Mignon Wolfe (82), a longtime Affiliate with the New Orleans Chapter, went home to God on January 2nd with a heart full of love and dressed with her red dancing shoes! Mignon suffered a stroke in October 2015 and worked hard in therapy to recover her loss of memory. She returned home just before Christmas with the hope and motivation of being well again. Unfortunately, she had a second stroke on January 2nd and did not regain consciousness.

Mignon, a free spirit known for her energy, joy, and love of God, loved everyone as her best and “precious friend.” With a brother who is a former Maryknoller, naturally she joined our Affiliate group as soon as we began. As an Affiliate, Mignon was committed to Maryknoll and to our community, praying in earnest for each of us, especially during our involvement in mission immersion trips and other projects. We will miss Mignon—our precious friend.

We also mourn Affiliates Mary Murphy of New York, who passed on February 7th, and Lynn Houston of Florida, who passed on February 18th. We will say goodbye to them in the May/June issue. Please share your memories of these powerful ladies on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates/>

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

MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES— 25 YEARS AND GROWING

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

This year we celebrate 25 years as an Affiliate movement. There are over 700 active Affiliates in 55 Chapters in 9 countries – Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and the US. I wonder if the founders of the movement, Jim Madden, MM, and Ellen McDonald, MM, could have imagined such expansive growth in such a short time. These numbers only hint at how many hearts have been moved, how much solidarity felt, and justice realized as we live out the Maryknoll charism that inspired the movement.

The Affiliate model has matured and taken on its own, rather fluid identity. John Sivalon's keynote at MAC 2014 still rings in my ears: "...the Maryknoll Affiliates are well positioned to be carried into the future by this new wave of mission." The Affiliate model is said to have enough structure to hold it accountable and provide solidity and form but not so much as to make it burdensome. The model is flexible, adaptable, and mostly unencumbered by formal obligations that don't necessarily promote mission. Perhaps most importantly, relationships (the relational nature of all things) are key. As such, guided by the Four Pillars—Spirituality, Global Vision, Community, and Action, the model allows for and genuinely welcomes all vocational expressions with emphasis on a horizontal, supportive, faith-filled community.

With so much that has been positive, at this juncture we

What is effective? What isn't? What can we do to move forward?

particularly in Latin America and South Korea, have seen significant growth recently, numbers in the US have plateaued and, in a few cases, chapters have become inactive or have merged.

So, we are met with the question often put to couples in a marriage prep course, "What are you going to do when the newness wears off?" Conscious recognition (not denial) is the starting place for addressing any difficult reality. A second step is to avoid turning inward in a protective mode that puts the bulk of its emphasis on organizational structures, proper protocols, endlessly redacting documents, and whatever else might give the comforting, and illusionary, impression

of control and productivity—protecting what is, rather than looking towards what can be.

Thankfully, it's fair to say that Maryknoll's wonderfully crazy tradition of going where others would rather not go has infiltrated the Affiliates' mindset, including the Board, Regional Coordinators and Executive Coordinator. The recent Affiliate-wide survey (see David Schaffner's summary, page 6) provides a comprehensive, honest, present-day look into the mind, heart and soul of Affiliates...What is effective? What isn't? What can we do to move forward? At the fall Affiliate Board meeting, three areas of future focus were identified and committees created to address them:

- **Communication** – developing tools for Chapters to use for reflection and activities; improving communication about short-term immersion opportunities; better use of digital technology (Facebook, Twitter, website, etc.); possibly creating a new video; notifying Affiliates of talks and other opportunities in their area.
- **Connection** – pursuing substantive collaboration with other Maryknoll expressions, as well as with outside groups like JustFaith and the Third Wave; connecting with returned Maryknollers.
- **Growth & Sustainability** – engaging and attracting youth*; considering dual-membership (and possibly virtual membership), particularly for Affiliates who are too geographically distant to directly connect with a chapter; fostering a Maryknoll/Affiliate spirituality.

The vitality of our movement is most visible and best judged at the local, chapter level. Aligning with the Maryknoll charism, Affiliates come at life with a different, countercultural worldview—one that is, perhaps, never more needed than now. The word "urgency" continues to surface in this regard as our earth resources are more depleted, our politics more pathetic, and the poor throughout the globe more marginalized. There is a gigantic blind spot in the political and ideological solutions being offered in that, without a transformative, loving spirituality, worn, unconscious patterns will only be repeated. I believe Maryknoll's vision and the Affiliates' Four Pillars offer a much better chance at transformation. In the end, only love can transform.



*It appears that a 79-year-old Pope and a 74-year-old presidential candidate have shaken up the conventional wisdom on how to engage and attract youth. Their authenticity, openness, sense of justice (especially for the disenfranchised), and straightforward language that is neither overly pious nor politicized have clearly engaged young people.

Photos courtesy of Tom McGuire



PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS—AWESOME

John P. Martin, MM

A temple under construction for the Parliament

Scouting the massive Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, set up for the 10,000 scheduled attendees, I was awed. A luxuriant parade of multi-colored folks from 80 countries were walking the corridors, meeting with friends, making new acquaintances, and scouting the environment like me. When else can you get to see some 40 different religious and spiritual traditions of the world in one place, with one heart and soul? So much peace and goodwill showed in everyone's faces, and we shared the same mood of cheerful greeting. Awesome!

Indigenous People. The first morning, in the small grassy plot outside the Parliament, a Native American smoked me with burning sage grass for purification as a prelude to his son giving me a pinch of tobacco. I was instructed to offer it to the sacred fire burning on top of a raised platform. I prayed for a softening of the hearts of those opposed to letting the Spirit enter their hearts, everywhere. The indigenous peoples of Utah played a prominent role in the Parliament. We had asked permission to come to their land, and so we came. The opening ceremony highlighted their dancing and drumming, as well as many of their leaders who led us in prayer.

One excellent workshop promoted reconciliation between the Native Americans and the rest of us. A Quaker treated us to a mini-version of a longer formational program that she offers in churches and other groupings. Individuals representing Native Americans, the federal government, the settlers, and others, did readings that led us to experience the genocide that went on in the 19th century. I left with a strong conviction of the need to advocate that my Catholic Church abrogate the dictates from the 16th century that allowed the genocide to take place in the Americas. Ramifications of that "doctrine of discovery"

still plague the legal system of our country against which Native Americans must struggle for their rights.

Old Friends and New. I chatted about stages of faith development with a man from the Utah Civil and Compassionate Communities exhibit who knows a lot about developmental psychology. Fr. Thomas Keating, of Centering Prayer fame and a mentor for my own spiritual life, was involved in their local projects, too, to educate people about the golden rule and civility and compassion. Another connection made!

Some Roman Catholic women priests who were ordained by valid male Catholic bishops and have propagated several hundred women priests and bishops were there. They of course know Roy Bourgeois from Maryknoll, who was severely punished for his advocacy of women priests in the Catholic Church. Gerry Grudzen, who had been ordained with Maryknoll in 1967, was present with companions from his study program in San Jose, California. His classmate, and now Affiliate, Tom McGuire, and his wife Florence, faithfully staffed at the Catholic Association for Interreligious Officers' exhibit. Rev. Marcus Braybrooke recognized my face, and I reminded him that we had met at the inter-religious assembly in Bangalore, India, in 1993. He wrote



Florence McGuire at Catholic booth

"Pilgrimage of Hope: One Hundred Years of Global Interfaith Dialogue," a fine history of the original Parliament in 1893. He said a shorter version is in print, too.

I met Patrice Broudeur, with whom I had studied at Harvard Divinity School. He is director of research for a major inter-religious group in Vienna, Austria, which is in touch with over 400 international groups doing interfaith work. Awesome has been the spreading of this movement! And Pat Lucey and Pauline Conway from Dublin, Ireland—they work at Mísean Cara, where they coordinate development work among many mission-oriented groups.

Muslims. I am interested in the condition of "dialogue" with the Muslims in this country, so I attended the workshop: "Peacemaking and bridge building at the

grassroots between Muslims and non-Muslims.” My own perception of the severity of injustice and discrimination toward Muslims was confirmed. The sickness of Islamophobia is our new American racism!

I have been aware of “A Common Word Between Us And You” since its publication in 2010 and of its transcendental nature and hopeful impact on the relationships of moderate Muslims with the Christian world. I tend to identify “moderate” Muslims with “liberal” leaders in our Western traditions, because of their openness to change, to dialogue and to fully respecting other believers. Written by an enormous and influential group of Muslim leaders, the document invites all Christians to a respectful dialogue based on the commonalities in both our traditions of love of God and love of neighbor.

One of the major supporters of this Parliament, the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna, Austria, was founded by Austria, Spain, and Saudi Arabia, with the Holy See as Founding Observer. They “bring together leaders of religious communities and policy makers to find sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges and conflict situations.” They also backed a major effort to denounce violence in the name of religion.

Sikhs. Those Sikh brothers and sisters, dozens mostly from Birmingham, England, outdid themselves in generosity by providing a free vegetarian meal to hundreds of us all four days of the Parliament. It is called Langar, with everyone sitting side by side (never some above the rest), to symbolize their basic belief in the equality of all humans, as it were, a sacrament of equality.



Florence McGuire with head cover on way to free Sikh lunch

Religious Observances. I selected observances each morning that would be new to me. I went to a pagan earth-centered chanting session, a healing ritual centered on the goddess Brigid, and a Sikh prayer time offered by a family, with the theme of peace, justice, and reconciliation. I attended the observance by the EarthSpirit Community from Western Massachusetts devoted to chanting to nature. I felt at home with these women and their nature chanting led by Deirdre Arthen. I sang much more and better than I have in a long time.

Awesome Parliament. The immense Parliament offers over 600 workshops, 20 or more for each

time slot. Before the Parliament, the leadership had formulated Declarations on climate change, emerging leaders, income inequality, hate, violence and war, women’s rights, and indigenous peoples. We were encouraged to commit ourselves to implementing these declarations in our lives. The Parliament’s two major sub-themes—ways for people of faith and spirituality to address the pressing problems of today’s world—were climate change and income inequality, with a view to “renewing the heart of our humanity.”

Afterwards, it felt like I was living half in and half outside of a sphere or a bubble—the special environment that the Parliament had created. It was an environment of harmony and of respect for all who are so different and are endowed so richly in dress and language, customs and faith. We were made aware of the enormously rich variety of our human heritages.

How small I am! For goodness’ sake, how small is Maryknoll in the cosmic context and in the total human context! Others are soooo much, and they are so many, and they are so big! It surely was an awesome trip, and now for the rest of the journey?

Affiliate Tom McGuire Adds His Comments:

Florence and I, of the Chicago Affiliate Chapter, participated in this Parliament of the World Religions as members of the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers. This organization made possible the Catholic booth at the PWR, which we staffed for most of the five days. Most of the many participants we talked to were overwhelmingly positive about Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si*. Also, I observed that a large number of Catholics had become members of other religious traditions. Someone said many, if not most, North American Buddhists are former Catholics. We had a deep sense of hope as 10,000 people from more than 45 different religions and 80 countries gathered to share concerns about sustaining our common home.



Florence and Tom McGuire meet the Vatican Permanent Observer to the UN, The Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza (center).

SURVEY REPORT POSTED

David Schaffner – MA Board Chair

The 2015 Maryknoll Affiliate Survey produced 60 pages of responses, giving Affiliate leadership guidance and challenges for years to come. In all, 82 people, mostly US Affiliates completed the survey, which was a mix of qualitative (dialog box) and quantitative questions. Board member Rich Lessard led the survey committee, from survey design through beta testing, compilation of responses, and presentation of preliminary results to the Board.

To connect with Affiliates more directly, the survey asked what being an Affiliate means to them, how they relate to other Maryknollers, and their deeper heart wishes, passions, and abiding commitments. The purpose was to clarify and strengthen our relationships as Affiliates-to-Affiliates and as Affiliates-to-Maryknollers—Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners, and to invite all Affiliates into greater ownership of future direction setting.

Demographics. About half of respondents have been members for over 10 years, and more than half have had local or overseas mission experiences, or both. Most respondents’ chapters have existed more than ten years. Over 75% of the respondents’ chapters meet four or more times a year, and 72% of respondents attended 76% of the time or more. Over 60% have attended International Maryknoll Affiliate Conferences at least once, and 70% had attended one or more regional conferences.

Key Questions. The following are only a sample or general statement of answers; 95% were positive and complimentary.

What does it mean when you say you are a Maryknoll Affiliate? ... *someone who shares the journey of life with others who seek to live with global vision in an ever-changing world. ... lay people who identify with the Maryknoll Charism. Four principal pillars guide us. ... thinking of the condition of people around the world, and not just in your own circle. Thinking outside of yourself.*

How has being a Maryknoll Affiliate impacted your life? ... *value added in that it supports what I have believed. ... empowered to take responsibilities in my community and confident in participating in local community. ... gives me a support system for my continued commitment to the ministry I started as a Lay missioner. ... Before, I was struggling it seemed in isolation ... I found the affirmation and support to continue to do what I was doing.*

What excites you; what gives you energy about being a Maryknoll Affiliate? *It gives me a boost to know that we can do things locally ... The stories of the Maryknollers ... regular people who have done extraordinary things. ... There is pride in being considered a part of the Maryknoll family. ... I can participate in something greater than my little corner of the world.*

How would you see us cultivating your vision for the future of the Maryknoll Affiliates? *Chapters connecting through regular reporting to the Chapter’s website page. ... help each other get up to speed on use of the website, social media, leadership [skills] ... Connect us with the missioners via podcasts, Skype, ... mission opportunities in the US ... preparing others who are going on mission and then helping them process their experiences when they get back.*



This word-cloud of the Maryknoll Affiliate logo is made up of words provided by respondents to the survey, shown in the languages of countries where Affiliates are located.

How connected do you feel to the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement, beyond your local Chapter? Two-thirds of respondents felt very much or somewhat connected to Maryknoll and the Affiliate Movement through Maryknoll Magazine and NSFA and conferences, both regional international. Those who can go to Maryknoll centers for seminars, bazaars, and institutes feel more connected.

A few observations: ... *Local members sometimes don’t get the feel of the movement until they help host a regional conference or attend one. ... I do not feel a part of the larger community of Affiliates. It is expensive to go to the national meeting, but that*

would probably help. ... Recently, I started to read the weekly Maryknoll Affiliate updates more regularly.

Where are your needs/passions/desires met and supported? Varying percents of respondents felt supported by these entities: My local Chapter – 60%, Individual members of my Chapter – 86%, The Affiliate Movement – 52%, The wider Maryknoll Family – 73%, Other – 55%. Comments: *I feel I serve the Affiliates more than they serve me ... more energized through my connections with Maryknoll than with my local Chapter ... the movement is too focused around the East Coast. ... My chapter is struggling—some members have gotten older, moved away, but I am continually enriched by others in the wider Affiliate and Maryknoll family. ... I think the other entities don't realize how much we could work together ...*

What single most important benefit does your Chapter provide? *Not much. I have to force myself to attend the monthly meetings. ... A place where everyone's opinion is respected without judgment. ... A caring environment; we are family. ... As our parish does not have a justice and peace committee, our Affiliate Chapter provides that avenue.*

How connected do you feel to the Maryknoll Affiliate Leadership? Are visits important? Responses indicated that most Affiliates don't feel strongly connected. Some observations: *It would be nice to have a visit from leadership, but the costs may outweigh the benefit. ... we seldom connect with anyone from the larger Maryknoll family. ... important to hear from Affiliate Leadership so that individual chapters and members [feel] they belong to and are important members of a larger community. ... When the RC has the time and enthusiasm to visit and communicate with the chapters, it's very life-giving.*

How much do you value the Monday morning email updates? A surprising 23% said they do not receive them, but of those who do, 59% value them highly. Respondents said: *It helps me stay in touch. I look forward to reading the Monday updates ... not willing to spend time at the computer to read them ... Not much content—format not appealing. ... I rarely get one even though I have asked to get them.*

How can the Affiliate Leadership improve communication? *Make it automatic that Affiliates [with email] get both the Monday Updates and notification (with links) when a new NSFA or NTLH is available ... Enhance use of the webpage ... Frequent email communications from regional coordinators. ... More use of Affiliate FaceBook page by Board and EC (and everyone). ... I prefer to receive things by mail, but nowadays everything goes through the Internet.*


I use the computer at work, so I avoid using it when I am at home. ... We should look into other ways of instant communication; e.g., Twitter.

Do you have any final thoughts, comments, suggestions? *Without a commitment to a deep spirituality, Maryknoll Affiliates is a NGO. I see no future for a Maryknoll Affiliate NGO ... biggest challenge is getting more and younger members. ... We need to get creative in how our Affiliates can "do" mission locally and overseas (short term immersions). ... reinvigorate the effort to create a database of Affiliates willing to provide hospitality to Maryknoll Missioners and develop a way to use it. ... Are our earth and environment an area of Affiliate interest. ... I think that you are doing a very good job so keep on. Do not get discouraged. Put your trust in God and He will guide you.*

Observations and Report Wrap-Up. While the community that results from chapter life is very important to Affiliates, many factors are eroding this community. Members moving away, loss of chapters through aging, and driving distance to meetings have contributed to 5% of respondents not having a chapter affiliation. Also, most respondents value the Affiliate movement, but many other organizations appeal to Affiliates and vie for their attention and energies.

The locus of activity and success of the Affiliate movement rests at the chapter level, and many Affiliates and some chapters do not feel very connected to Affiliate Leadership. Although the chapter is the prism through which most Affiliates see the movement, Affiliate leadership activities, such as conferences and newsletters, do add value.

Interestingly, many Affiliates are not comfortable with the Internet. Then how effective is electronic communication? In our over-communicated society and with our older Affiliate demographic, it is not surprising that perhaps a small percentage of messages are actually read.

In summary, the survey provides insights into issues that need to be addressed to assure the long-run health of the Affiliate movement. It gives us a better understanding of the blessings and challenges the Maryknoll Affiliate movement offers to all of our stakeholders: the Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners, Affiliate Leadership (Board, Regional Coordinators, Executive Coordinator, Chapter leaders), individual Affiliates, and others who are impacted by the Maryknoll expressions. 

Note: The complete Survey Report is posted at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/recent-postings/item/1441-survey-report.html>

NEW ENGLAND RETREAT

James Comes – New England Chapter

The Maryknoll Affiliates New England Chapter met for our annual retreat at Watch Hill, RI, Nov. 13-15. Rather than follow a formal framework, attendees shared life events and spiritual insights related to the theme of the three A's of Maryknoll Spirituality first suggested by Steve Judd, MM, in 2011.

“Retreat master” Myra Plant instructed us to define the relevance of the three A's which characterize Maryknoll Spirituality: **affability, availability, and adaptability**. Three groups took an hour to define these terms and compare the definitions with our daily lives and sense of mission. These are some of the thoughts and phrases that emerged:

Affability: be the change you want to see; see the person's dignity; be accepting; don't objectify the other; be genuine, grounded, nonjudgmental.

Availability: welcoming; hospitality; listening; being present to the other; obstacles and influences—cell phones, US culture, fear, family history.

Adaptability: enculturation; bringing our values and sharing their values; attending to, welcoming, and incorporating diversity; humility; curiosity; what you do with your experiences; continuing to learn and grow; bringing change means accepting change!

Saturday afternoon was for meditation and reading; Sunday began with reflection and prayers for people who were being challenged with personal issues.


Then we considered Pope Francis's list of illnesses and temptations that weaken our service to God, including:

- considering oneself “indispensable”
- “Martha-ism” or excessive industriousness
- mental and spiritual hardening: not being able to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice
- excessive planning and functionalism



Among retreat attendees were (l to r) James Comes, Tom Kelly, Monique Cerundolo, Mark Huntington, and Myra Plant.

- not working with a spirit of communion
- existential schizophrenia: teaching severity to others and living a hidden dissolute life
- rivalry and vainglory living
- deifying leaders; chatter, grumbling, and gossip
- indifference towards others; the “funereal face”
- accumulation, i.e., material goods
- worldly profit and exhibitionism


These ailments generated a wide discussion and a sharing of personal experiences that reinforced the need to keep the three A's of Maryknoll Spirituality front and center in our daily lives. 

The Endowed Chair – Continued from page 1

Haiti and is the sparkplug for all things UNOGA), I commented, apropos of nothing, “Renate, I have always wanted to endow a chair at a university.” She looked at me like I had two heads, but I continued. “How about, next year I come down and we have Manny (Emmanuel Jean-Mary, a Haitian professor that Ann and I had lived with at the university guest house) co-teach the course with me... then he can teach the course by himself the following year... and Ann and I will pay his salary and transportation to and from the University... and we will do it for as long as the course is taught, and as long as we are able!” And they could dedicate a chair at the guest house to us. The house could use more decent chairs.

Spoiler Alert: This is not nearly as magnanimous and altruistic as it might sound. Haitian professors aren't paid a lot, and frankly, when you look at what it was costing Ann and me to fly to Haiti, it was better to be putting money in the right Haitian pockets than in the rapidly filling checked baggage pockets of the airlines.

Renate agreed to give it a try. So did Manny. Over the following year, Manny and I worked up a French translation of the course material to make it more accessible and available to the students. (French is often the language of instruction in Haiti.) The following cold Wisconsin winter found Manny and me co-teaching the course to close to 70 UNOGA students. It was a great experience, at least for me. I let Manny do all the heavy lifting, and he was just great. The students loved him, and I loved the fact that now I was no longer teaching with a translator but with a collaborator who would take it to the next level. It was time for me to get out of the way.

Recently Renate wrote that this semester Manny taught the course by himself and it was a big success. Ann and I will have to come up with a new reason to winter in sunny, warm Haiti. 

THE AFFILIATES NEED YOU!

Please read this invitation to serve with an open heart and mind. Our current Finance Committee Chair, David Schaffner, has accepted the position of Board Chair. The Nominating Committee is now seeking a **new board member** to take over his responsibilities as Finance Committee Chair, with his guidance during the transition.

According to our organizational document, the Finance Committee includes the Executive Coordinator and other interested board members. The Finance Committee's role is to ensure the sound financial health and responsible use of funds for the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement.



The Finance Committee Chair performs these key responsibilities:

- Regularly review with and provide guidance to the Executive Coordinator, who drafts annual budgets and monitors and prepares reports on monthly income and expenses.
- Recommend effective practices for increasing income and utilizing expenses, in keeping with the principle of self-funding.
- Write letters of appreciation to major donors.
- Present a finance report at each semi-annual board meeting (held in Ossining, NY).
- Direct the Maryknoll Affiliate Conference (MAC) scholarship program.
- Spearhead the preparation of the October and mid-year letters of appeal.
- Contribute occasional short articles to *Not So Far Afield* to update and expand upon on the financial situation of our Affiliate movement.

The above responsibilities require some experience and comfortability in dealing with spreadsheets and oral and written budget reports. If needed, other Affiliates can assist the Chair with the written word.

If you could serve, or know someone who needs a special invitation, please contact Bob Short (affiliatebshort@gmail.com). He can help with the nomination process. The Board Nomination Form is at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads>, under Maryknoll Affiliate Organizational Documents.



REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

The New Orleans Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates invites all Affiliates to their Regional Conference! Spend a weekend on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain with fellow Affiliates and other Maryknollers. Hear and discuss the messages of the keynote speakers:

- **Matt Rousso** will talk about "Mission as Accompaniment" and the role of dialogue in mission.
- **Felicia and Jason Gehrig**, returned Maryknoll Lay Missioners living in Ft. Worth, TX, will be "Telling Our Mission Stories."

The schedule includes time for prayer and reflection, as well as many opportunities to connect with others during community-building activities, over meals, and at a Cajun *fais do do* and talent show. You will also gain access to Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM's Third Wave resources for mission education.

- **When:** Friday evening – Sunday morning, September 30 – October 2, 2016
- **Where:** Archdiocesan Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, LA 70006
- **Cost:** Registration – \$10; Room/Meals for two nights – \$150 (Arrangements may be made to extend your stay before or after the conference.)
- **Contact** for more information:
Matt Rousso – 504-866-8516 or 504-376-4142
Registration: Jim Huck – jhuck@tulane.edu or Janet Rousso – jrou14@gmail.com



Take advantage of this opportunity to see a different side of vibrant and historic New Orleans.



HELLO, AFFILIATES!

Paul Wilkin – Salvatorian Novice Former Seattle Chapter Affiliate

You may remember that I attended Seattle Affiliate meetings in 2010 and 2011. I lived on Vashon Island, ran my design company from home, and was discerning religious life as a priest or brother. That discernment process brought me back to my hometown of Cincinnati, OH, to find out how close I needed to be to my family. Through my experiences in 2012, I came to realize that I could live in any county, state, or country and still receive great family support. With that settled, I continued to look into approximately 25 religious orders.

In 2011, the Markyknolls were one of my first orders to contact; however, I am a “late vocation,” so my age kept me out. That same year, I found the Society of the Divine Savior (SDS)—Salvatorians, at vocationnetwork.org. When I saw their mission statement: the SDS “proclaims and teaches by all ways and means the goodness and kindness of Jesus the Savior,” it hit home since I am a jack-of-all-trades. A second draw to the Salvatorians was that they are international and part of what they do is missionary service. This missionary spirit is what is calling me.

I applied only to the Salvatorians; my application was accepted, and I became a SDS Candidate for one year in August of 2013. As a Candidate, I was free during June and July of 2014, so I contacted my Vietnamese friends in Seattle and here in Milwaukee to see about visiting and engaging in some missionary service. That June I went to Saigon for a month, officially as a tourist.



Two Daughters of St Paul in Saigon made their First Profession of Vows during Paul's visit.

Photos courtesy of Paul Wilkins

I have wanted to go to Vietnam for nearly 10 years. I also decided not just to vacation but to “jump in with both feet” to see if I was cut out for missionary ministry “at my age.” As it turned out, my connection set me up teaching English to the Daughters of St. Paul two to five times a day. After only two weeks of teaching, I recognized that I am not too old for missionary

service and that I was full of peace with the life I was living there. This confirmed my calling to missionary service. I spent July with the Salvatorian Formation houses in Manila, Philippines. Again, I felt at ease and at peace.



Paul obliged boys he met in Philippine slums with a photo.

Since August 2014, I have been in the Novitiate, discerning my call, studying about the Salvatorians: ministry, mission, charism, history, and where we serve today. Through personal and Salvatorian discernment, I asked to take First Profession of Vows, and the Salvatorians agreed. I took my vow in August here in Milwaukee, WI, and have returned to the seminary to continue studies for priesthood.

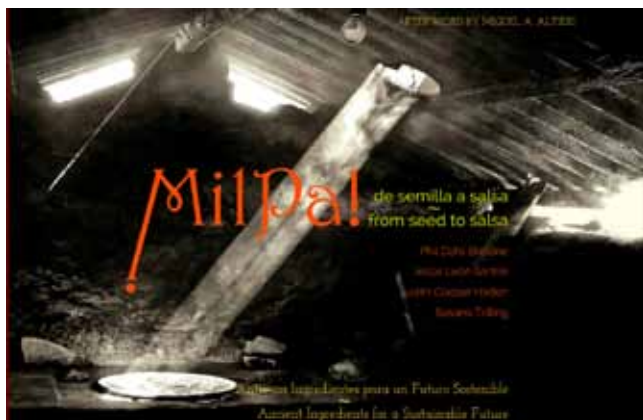
Thank you, all who welcomed me so kindly to the Affiliate Meetings and who gave me insights into your mission trips overseas. Those mission chats and meetings, talking with Fr. McCahill, MM, (from Bangladesh) about his ministry, and reading email updates, have kept me focused on overseas ministry. Although I am an “older vocation,” Maryknoll still influences my life. At gatherings of the Inter-Community Novitiate (ICN) Program in Chicago, both Maryknoll men and women have been present. Novices Mara Rutten and Tom Fagan are both moving forward with their call to religious life with Maryknoll.

And thank you for being witnesses to the gospel. You have attracted others to God and have attracted me to the vocation of consecrated life. My path is to become a Salvatorian apostle for our times. With our own personal charisms, Salvatorian priests, brothers, sisters, and the laity minister as equals to proclaim the Savior to all. This Salvatorian charism has assisted me in deciding to make my First Profession of Vows

God's blessings on your mission, ministry, vocation, and use of your spiritual gifts. Please feel free to contact me at paul@gargoyledesign.com, and if you are thinking of visiting Milwaukee, let me know. I would love to meet and chat, show you the city, and introduce you to more Salvatorians.



PLANTING SEEDS OF WISDOM



Phil and Kathy Dahl-Bredine recently presented their new book, *Milpa! From Seed to Salsa*, to enthusiastic audiences on the East and West coasts of the US. *Milpa* is a four-year work of love, done with the indigenous people of Oaxaca, Mexico, where they have lived and worked for 15 years, first as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and since 2010 with Instituto Paz. The book, written with campesino leader Jesus Leon Santos, with photos by Judith Haden and recipes arranged by Susana Trilling, heralds the values of the indigenous communities: respect for all beings—including Mother Earth, mutual aid, community service, complementarity, and *buen vivir*—alternatives to development focused on living well in a broad sense. The Dahl-Bredines say these indigenous values could be a way to save all of humanity from the over-consumptive, exploitive, and violent Western culture that is drowning us. Pope Francis echos this idea in *Laudato Si*, citing the important values of the indigenous peoples of the planet.

The bilingual book has striking photos on almost every page and enticing, traditional recipes for holidays and specialties of the villages. The book is available through their nonprofit, Instituto Paz en Las Americas, 2645 Mountain View Rd. Silver City, NM 88061; \$40 covers purchase, shipping, and handling.



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2016

The Mission Institute offers six-day programs (Sunday-Friday) May-October, 2016. The June programs are:

- June 5-10 **Robert J. Wicks, PsyD**
Strengthening Your Inner Life in Challenging Times (3-day retreat and 3-day Reflection w/Resource Persons)
- June 12-17 **Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD**
Fire and Radiance of Teilhard
- June 19-24 **Larry Lewis, MM. PhD**
Mercy, Within Mercy, Within Mercy: God's Love Awaits our Response
- Jun 26-Jul 1 **Christine M. Bochen, PhD**
Spirituality of Thomas Merton

For the complete 2016 schedule, go to: <https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/>

A tuition scholarship is available for any Affiliate who would like to attend but needs assistance. To inquire, use the Mission Institute email address below.

Even if you cannot attend a session, you may still enjoy Sr. Nonie Gutzler's recent presentation. A six-CD set of her talks is available for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of making/mailling them. To order, please contact Beth Begley at bethbeg@gmail.com.

Online registration is available, or write for forms: Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll Sisters P.O Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 Tel: 914-941-7575 @ 5671 E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org



TANZANIA OPPORTUNITY

Portland Maryknoll Affiliate Bertha Haas invites you to the Huruma School in Mwanza. She founded the Huruma School for children with disabilities (on Facebook as *Huruma Special Unit*) in 2004 when she was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Tanzania. Huruma means compassion in Swahili. Bertha will be at the Huruma School in July/August 2016 and would love to take you there August 1-4th. Co NSFAMary@gmail.com to make arrangements. Bertha goes to the Huruma School each year and would consider your visit at other times.

See Friends Across Borders (<http://www.friendsacrossborders.org>) for other Tanzanian immersion opportunities.



SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 2004

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Where did all these words come from? Read all about it in “Survey Report Filed,” page 6.

