



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

May/June 2016

Volume 25 Number 3

## STATE OF THE HEART, APRIL 2016

Dave Schaffner – Affiliate Board Chair



As the Affiliate Board and Regional Coordinators (RCs) met at Maryknoll for their combined Spring meeting, the atmosphere in the meetings matched that outside, with renewal and promise, where the daffodils and tulips were leading the budding of shrubs and trees. Of many decisions taken by the Board/RCs that are promising and exciting, I will highlight two.

**MAC 2017.** The Guatemala Chapter has agreed to host the Maryknoll Affiliate Conference (MAC 2017), to be held November 9-12, 2017. The venue is Casa de Retiros Verbo Encarnado, a beautiful retreat center up the mountain from Guatemala City, on the way to Antigua. Take a look at the retreat center website: <http://www.verboencarnado.com.gt/#!/home/cm44>.

The conference organizers are in the process of developing the program and confirming speakers. We had a sneak preview at the meeting, and it promises to be a dynamite conference and a great way to celebrate 25 years of Affiliate life.

**Virtual Chapters.** The Board and RCs, grappling with the issues surrounding Affiliate growth and sustainability, enthusiastically supported an initiative to pilot virtual communities/chapters. While over the years our model of “brick and mortar” chapters has served us well, we know that the Affiliates, technology, and society are changing.

For myriad reasons, many current Affiliates are without a chapter. An Affiliate who moves to a new area or a potential new Affiliate may be many miles from the nearest chapter. And there is anecdotal evidence that a number of people who attend Maryknoll retreats, institutes, and immersion experiences do not have the opportunity to attend meetings but are interested in Maryknoll. Virtual communities also provide a mechanism for special interest or affinity groups, such as contemplative communities or book groups. (See page 2.)



These virtual communities are pilot programs and the board wants feedback from the groups. What successes and difficulties did the virtual groups experience? What technology worked for their virtual community, whether it be Skype, Facebook, Drop Box, Google Groups, conference calls, or other communication innovations?

**Goodbyes and New Faces.** A difficult part for all organizations is saying goodbye to members who have generously given of their talents, time, and treasure in serving as Board members or RCs. At this meeting, we said thank you and goodbye to Joe and Patty Symkowick, Board members from Sacramento, and to Beth Begley, who most recently served as Northeast RC and before served on the Board.

Casa de Retiros Verbo Encarnado, Guatemala, site of MAC 2017



At the same time, we welcomed new Board members: Gerry Mullaney, from the Northeast Ohio Chapter (one of our newest chapters), and Ginny McEvoy, who served on the earliest Affiliate organizing group some 25 years ago.

**You Are Needed.** As an organization that depends on servant-leaders to accomplish our mission, we need you. Over the past two months, we put out a notice for a new Board member to replace me as Board finance committee chair. There was no response, which is troubling—I assure you, the finance background needed is not rocket science.

Please consider whether you can contribute in this or another Board position. We also have open Regional Coordinator positions; California, in particular, has been available for the past year or more, and the Mountain/Southwest region has no RC.



**SPRING INTO ACTION**

The editors were privileged to attend and energized by the Affiliate Board/RC meetings at Maryknoll in April. Our devotion to all things Maryknoll helps us to survive this election year’s depressing rhetoric.

This issue shows that Affiliates in their various chapters and in their visits with Maryknollers in mission, find much greatness, goodness, and civility. We encourage all Affiliates to reach out to their neighbors, to other chapters, to missionaries. We hope you can attend an upcoming Affiliate conference (or two!) to energize yourselves—and share what you find with the NSFA, at [nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org).



**JOIN THE NEW AFFILIATE BOOK GROUP**

A new book discussion .group, open to all Maryknollers, is forming. In response to the Affiliate survey and inspired by the new series from Orbis Books, *Catholicity in an Evolving Universe* (<http://www.orbisbooks.com/category-234/>), several Affiliates suggest discussing *Making All Things New: Catholicity, Cosmology, Consciousness*, by Iliia Delio, OSF (<http://www.orbisbooks.com/making-all-things-new.html>).

Participation does not require travel because the discussions will be through free conference calls and/or on-line, but email and a telephone are needed. Participants will determine the group’s timeline and format.

If you’re interested and want to learn more, send your name, email address, and phone number to Bob Short at [rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org). When enough folks have replied, we will send an organizing email with further information and questions.



**DO YOU LIKE MARYKNOLL AFFIATES?**

Don’t just visit our Facebook Page, *like* and *follow* it to hear the latest. This is your page—be sure to post your chapter’s news, announcements, and concerns.

Are you a facile Facebook user? We need you! Contact Bob Short ([rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org)) to help with [facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates](https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates).

**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](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).

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We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners, as well as suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. We publish articles as appropriate in conjunction with issue themes.

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

Please send any letters to the editor, articles, photos or inquiries to the address below. You may also contact us if you no longer wish to receive Affiliate mailings, prefer to receive them by e-mail or read them on the web, or if you have changed your address.

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## SEE YOU 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.”



Enjoying the last Southeast Regional Conference, Gerry Kelly, MM, Maureen Thiebaud (decd.), and Manny Hotchkiss, Portland Chapter, demonstrated the fun to be had at a gathering in New Orleans.

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: September 30 – October 2, 2016**

Friday evening – Sunday morning

**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](mailto:jhuck@tulane.edu) or Janet Rousso – [jrou14@gmail.com](mailto:jrou14@gmail.com)



Calling all Affiliates

to

## MAC 2017 – ¡Guatemala!

November 9th – 12th, 2017

Buen Vivir —Living in Fullness

*The concept of Buen Vivir is rooted in the indigenous cosmologies and traditions of thought of Latin America.*

We will be hosted by the Guatemala Chapter at the Verbo Encarnado Retreat House, an hour from Guatemala City. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, the center is operated by the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Verbo Encarnado, out of Houston, Texas.

In November, at above 6,000 feet, San Lucas, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, is cool and comfortable.

Simultaneous translation into English will be provided.

The cost of the conference—fees, rooms, and meals—will be similar to previous MACs. Additional tours and visits can be arranged at a reasonable cost.

The Maryknoll Affiliate Board encourages each chapter to send a member and will again offer travel grants to promote broad attendance.

MAC2017 promotes greater unity and sharing of Maryknoll Spirituality and seeks to be inclusive and to broaden the circle among the Maryknoll entities. Come help us celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Maryknoll Affiliates.



**LYNN HOUSTON, THE FIRST AFFILIATE**

Often credited with being the first Maryknoll Affiliate, Lynn Houston passed away on February 18th. We share stories of her Affiliate leadership over 25 years to remind ourselves what one person can do.



Lynn at MAC2000

Lynn was a

- Youth Chapter leader
- Affiliate Global Concerns chair
- Affiliate Board member
- New Chapter mentor, and
- Proponent of virtual chapters

Kitty Madden recalls especially one summer long ago when Lynn picked her up at the bus station in Hartford to take her to the Maryknoll Affiliate gathering. She says, “I will be calling on Lynn to continue watching over our Casa mothers and newborns together with all the Casa Materna staff.” Per Kitty, Lynn also tried her best some years ago to get a small virtual chapter started that would include folks like her who had no regular chapter connection.

While the RN at an inner city school in Hartford, CT, Lynn founded the **first Affiliate Youth Chapter** in 1996, with four core young people. A wonderful mentor to the young students, she kept in touch with them after they graduated. Lynn worked with Celine Woznica and Joe Thaler, MM, to organize a parallel youth conference at the 1997 MAC Conference.



Lynn's Youth Chapter and other youth at a MAC conference

After several years in Harford, CT, Lynn and her husband Harrison moved to Nantucket, where she worked on getting a Chapter started, but the island's relative isolation made it difficult. When they subsequently moved to Florida, she formed the Florida Space Coast Chapter. Because people were



Affiliates Mary and John Moritz, Ann Carr, Ellen McDonald, MM, and Agnes Walsh (front), greet Lynn's sister Bonnie and brother Rob (circled) at Lynn's funeral.

travelling great distances, the Chapter split into two, with Lynn as the dynamo and patient mentor behind both groups. While many had doubts—weren't quite sure what an Affiliate Chapter should be doing—Lynn was an experienced and reassuring guide.

When Fr. Bob Carleton, MM, organized the Northeast Florida Chapter, of which current Southeast Regional Coordinators John and Mary Moritz are charter members, Lynn accompanied them in formation, skillfully utilizing the newly developed formation materials. She could only come to the first couple of meetings before her back problems prohibited travel; however, Mary Moritz recalls that she called after every meeting to “keep tabs” on them and offer suggestions.

Lynn represented the Affiliates at the Latin American Indigenous Maryknoll meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico, around 1996, when Affiliates were just beginning to be invited to attend Maryknoll meetings. In the late 90s, she served as committee chair throughout the lifespan of the Affiliate Global Concerns Committee. In 1998, she partnered with Gail Kelley as the first SE Regional Coordinators. She also attended the first joint meeting of RCs and Board Members in May 2009, in Topsail, NC, and helped compile the summary document from that meeting.

Known as one of the kindest, most dedicated people in the Maryknoll Affiliate movement, Lynn had a great heart for Maryknoll and was always looking for ways to deepen and widen the circles of the Maryknoll Affiliate family.



*Read Lynn's empathetic and encouraging message that appeared in the “Mercy Moments” feature of Maryknoll Magazine's March/April 2016 issue.*

## MARY'S CALL

Mary Murphy, a Westchester Affiliate and one of the founders of the Maryknoll Affiliates, died February 7th at the age of 81. Mary taught Spanish at the high school and college level. She is also remembered as the co-founder, with Fr. John Hudert, MM, of the "Pachamama Farm" at Maryknoll. Ginny McEvoy shared Mary's poem, from the December 1993 *Not So Far Afield*.



## THE PATIENCE OF THE KNOLL

Mary J. Murphy – Westchester Chapter

*Let the Mary of Maryknoll  
Call us out of our impatience  
When the desire not to continue  
Tempt us to diminish our efforts.  
Hear the whispering of the voice  
That called us to the Affiliates,  
And then, respond with the patience  
Of our predecessors, Price, Walsh, and Rogers*

*When the heated or repetitive discussions  
Obscure our goals, let's see them as our limitations.  
For many times they are, and we get lost in  
emotions.*

*We must seek the greater purpose  
For sharing meetings and deliberations.  
This meaning can come through our needs.  
Let us give patience room in our souls  
So that God can work through us*

*Patience leaves when questions come  
That cannot be answered except with time.  
Assessing our achievements is not for us.  
Have faith that God will make use of our love.  
Let the criteria of others not be ours  
For we did hear a voice or perhaps a murmur  
When Mary called to us from the Knoll.  
Our success is the commitment to answer that call.*



## VISITING THE CONTRA COSTA AFFILIATES

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – NSFA Co-editor

The Contra Costa County (CCC) Maryknoll Affiliates meet periodically, and they attended a quick dinner meeting in Walnut Creek, CA, to visit with my husband Manny Hotchkiss and me.

Herb Casey, a deacon at nearby St. John Vianney parish, and his wife, Peggy, are both volunteer mission promoters for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. They work out of the Western Regional Maryknoll office in San Lorenzo, CA. The CCC Affiliates and the local parish share a strong social concerns orientation. The Caseys said they were fortunate to participate in a number of immersion trips; the latest was to Jamaica in May of 2015, which touched their hearts. (See page 10.)

We also met other members of the CCC Affiliate Chapter, including Monica Gallichio, who described herself as a lifetime Maryknoll Magazine reader and Maryknoll supporter. She and her daughter, Mimi Gallichio, enjoy mission talks at the nearby Maryknoll House at San Lorenzo and have attended the massive LA Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, CA.

Herb noted that their members miss hearing of and supporting the mission experiences of the three Maryknoll Sisters who had participated in their group. Because of age or medical issues, the sisters have retired to Maryknoll at Ossining, NY, or Monrovia, CA.

Deacon Gustavo Escruceria and his wife Vickie, along with Doris DeSilva and Vickie Lizarrga, are also members of the CCC Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter but were not able to attend that evening. Their South American connections help provide the group with a Global Vision. This Affiliate community supports one another as they develop their missionary spirit and serve the poor.



Meeting attendees (l to r): Herb Casey, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Monica Gallichio, Manny Hothkiss, Mimi Gallichio, and Peggy Casey

Photos courtesy of Charlie Reilly.



View from the Maryknoll House to the South China Sea

## FINDING CONNECTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Charlie Reilly – San Diego Chapter

Marta and I traveled for five weeks, visiting two daughters and their families in Bangkok and Laos and Maryknollers in five countries. We found that the Maryknoll mission and service in Southeast Asia is still going strong. Our visit caused me to reflect on the presence and legacies of China and the United States in the region and to note its ties to Affiliates in San Diego today.

**Hong Kong.** The Maryknoll house in Stanley, Hong Kong, built about 80 years ago as a base for mission efforts in China, overlooks the South China Sea. During our nights there, monsoonal winds buffeted the house. It withstood them, like the mission itself, changing as China and Church have changed. Today's Maryknollers—priests, brothers, sisters, and lay people—have carved out some well thought out, strategic niches in areas like education and communications, adapting with the local church to political and ideological constraints, turning over initiatives to laypeople who share the vision and charisma. While we were there, Maryknollers were



Sister Maureen Corr, MM, (right) publisher of the English edition of the Hong Kong diocesan newspaper, greets Marta at the Holy Spirit Study Centre.

conducting a retreat for women religious superiors from different parts of the Chinese mainland.

We visited the Maryknoll Sisters' School and Hospital, both now managed by laymen. Elderly folks were exercising, eating fresh produce from the "wet markets." (The Chinese could outlive us all if they could control air pollution.) Outpatient services and a palliative care pavilion offering short-term, "hospice-like" stays serve the poor. Walking the streets of the Kowloon parish, we watched Father Bob Astorino, MM, chat and laugh with his former parishioners in the market. Gazing up at huge apartment houses in this crowded city, he remarked, "Each window houses a family."

With Bob Astorino and Peter Barry, MM, we visited the Holy Spirit Study Centre housed at the diocesan seminary. At the Centre, Chinese researchers and Maryknollers like Peter provide support and communications that bridge Hong Kong with the Chinese mainland. A quarterly journal, Tripod, helps track the complex relationships between Chinese government and the Catholic "registered and unregistered" churches. Bob Astorino, a founding member of the Union of Catholic Asian News (in 1979) explained that it serves as the hub of a network of Catholic media outlets throughout Asia.

**Thailand.** Father Tom Dunleavy, MM, an Irish super-connector, has worked on immigration and refugee needs with Maryknoll and other programs in Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos, and now Thailand, since 1980. Thailand has long received people fleeing persecution from surrounding countries who are housed in refugee camps there. As elsewhere in the world, many ethnic groups live spread across borders and suffer persecution as minorities.

**The US.** Both Lao and Cambodia endured fierce US bombardments (authorized by neither the Congress nor the American people) during the secret side of the Viet Nam war. That war netted two Communist countries, an American defeat, and an enormous number of deaths.

**San Diego.** I was struck by unexpected long-distance links between Maryknoll folks. Several years ago, Erin Rickwa, a San Diego Affiliate then volunteering with Catholic Charities, invited our chapter to welcome a newly arrived group of Karen—an ethnic group in various countries of Southeast Asia. From Myanmar (Burma), they had spent years in Thailand before receiving political refuge in San Diego. We didn't speak their languages, nor they ours. Yet we had fun connecting at a picnic on Mission Bay. Affiliates Karen



Photo by Paula Schaffner.

Both Laos and Cambodia are still plagued by unexploded ordnance and landmines – we listened to land mine victim musicians playing traditional instruments and music outside monuments and temples. At the current rate of clearing them, it will be 50 years before they'll all be disarmed.

and Pat Reilly continued working with some of these new arrivals.

Winners of an essay competition for immigrant youth in San Diego schools were two young Karen women from Myanmar. Having trekked with their families through jungles to enter Thailand and eventually arriving as refugees in San Diego, they will soon start college. More connections!

Another key link in the chain is San Diego Chapter Coordinator Jim DeHarpporte. Based on his many years working with CRS in Southeast Asia, he was the ideal person to orient us for our journey. Amazingly, his son had studied and graduated from the International School of Bangkok where our daughter and son-in-law teach and three grandchildren now study!

Is this a small world? Sheer coincidence? Divine providence? Or what? Your choice!

The story lines are straightforward. For example, Tom Dunleavy, a Maryknoll priest in Thailand whose mission is service, has been instrumental in sending refugees and immigrants on long, hard journeys for a better life—more than 8,000 miles to San Diego. Some of these arriving refugees found compassion from Maryknoll Affiliates here. Our mission, too, is service.



From Laos, I brought home tiny aluminum doves of peace crafted from American bomb remnants. I'm told the country's largest export is scrap metal! Despite this heavy history, these peoples were most kind to us Americans. We were forgivable. Could it be that Buddhists are better Christians than Christians?

### SOLAR SISTER

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – NSFA Co-Editor

We had a quick visit with Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM, and noted that the Pillars that animate Maryknoll Affiliates—Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action—are also evident in her work.

Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM, is based in Gallup, NM, and is the director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Stewardship of Creation for the Diocese of Gallup. During her many years in mission in Japan, she learned of the lasting damage from nuclear disasters. Her diocesan office is now an ally of MASE, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, which addresses the legacy of uranium contamination and related illnesses in the Gallup area. Sr. Rose Marie spoke on this topic at the 2011 Affiliate Conference in Las Vegas. Related articles were in the NSFA in 2011 and 2013.



Sr. Rose Marie now proposes using New Mexico's plentiful sunshine as an alternative to mined uranium-dependent nuclear power. In October, an article in Gallup's newspaper, The Independent, "Gallup's 'Solar Sister's Driving Force for Change,'" recognized her as one of the founding members of the Gallup Solar organization, <http://www.gallupsolar.org>



Solar and related groups advocated for a law that would increase solar power incentives, but the bill was subsequently vetoed by the governor. They continued their

advocacy with an article, "Groups demand creative solutions to climate change," in The Independent, Dec. 12, 2015. In conjunction with New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, Sr. Rose Marie also helps develop monthly prayer services that educate and reflect on the importance of care for creation.

The approach to mission taken by Sr. Rose Marie—her spirituality, working with allies in the interfaith community, and using her global experiences to inform her actions—resonates with Maryknoll Affiliates and our Four Pillars!



**HEARTSTRINGS TIED TO TANZANIA**

Roger Schiltz – Seattle Chapter

On our recent visit to Tanzania we were struck by how much has happened to the people we knew as children in 2004. We spoke to them in Swahili as elementary school children and now they are attending universities, speaking with us in English and, using all the modern communication techniques from computers to cell phones, sending us TSM messages and emails. It amazes us.

These beautiful Tanzanian children who are now young adults make a difference in our lives.

We first met Melkiadi after Mass in Musoma around twelve years ago. He was in fifth grade. We did not know any elementary school students who could speak English, and our Swahili was not very good. “Do you think someone can live like St. Francis today?” he asked. We were astonished. Later we



Future doctor Melkiadi with Kitty

asked him, “How is it that you can speak English?” He answered, “I study.”

Melkiadi helped us teach kids to read when we asked him. He was patient and an exceptional teacher. Now we are sponsoring him with his education. He will start

his fifth year in medical school in October 2016 and graduate and be a doctor in May 2017. Melkiadi plans to be a pediatrician. This seems like a natural for him, since he was so patient and loving to children as a youngster.

Modi is the first AIDs Orphan we met in Tanzania in 2004. We got to know her family—mom, aunts, and grandmother—and have followed her over the years. She did not want to study in high school after attending for a year, so she studied sewing and got a sewing machine. That wasn’t what she wanted, so she moved to the city and helped take care of her aunt’s children. She got interested in becoming a beautician and studied to become one. She learned English very well. When we asked her how she got so good at English, she told us she learned it from Philippine soap operas on television.

Modi had been doing her work/study for her beauty class when we returned to Tanzania this year. She seemed to be a little hesitant about that career since she spent her days washing hair and not learning what she wanted to know. She was interested in starting her own business but realized she was not ready.



Modi, now an adult, with Roger and Kitty

We discussed what she might want to do next, and she said that she is now ready to complete her high school equivalency studies so she can move on.

Returning to the orphans at Chipole this year, six months after being there last, we were surprised that the youngest children whom Kitty had played with in January and February were afraid of her. Lighty, the little girl Kitty was so sure would be walking when she returned was still not walking. But after a few days the little ones were playing ball and smiling at us. At a preschool assembly we were surprised to see who was playing the drum and who was singing the loudest. The children are growing; they will walk, attend preschool and elementary school, and go on to secondary school, all in their own way.

We spent time with Sr. Tuzinde in the Field of Dreams at Chipole for the seventh time. She had a stroke earlier this year and has slowed down. We reminisced about the good times and the spiritual relationship we



Kitty, Roger, and Sr. Tuzinde view the field of Dreams

share with her while planting ten acres of sunflowers each year, changing corn cobs into charcoal, and

planting trees. Together we started an apiary and learned about bees in the nine hives right in the middle of the field. Sr. Tuzinde continues to care for the Field of Dreams, providing passion juice, honey, oranges, and other fruits to the convent. The day we left Chipole she planted thirteen orange trees. She has a weak left arm and has lost weight and strength. Please join with us and pray for her improved health.

Our relationships have grown with the years, sharing spirituality in the progress of children to adulthood and the spirituality of trees with Sr. Tuzinde, who says, “I am planting trees to show everyone God is in the trees; God is in the Field of Dreams.”





## LA CHAPTER— SEE HOW THEY PARTNER

### A Chapter Profile

Affiliate Kathee Bautista spoke with one of our NSFA editors about what makes the Los Angeles Chapter tick. For them, collaboration is the key to powerful action.

**Catholic Youth Organizations.** A number of Affiliates have worked with Tijuana Mission Outreach, which hosts high school students who experience mission and make heart connections with the locals. They have also joined families from various high schools and other groups in an Epiphany Outreach, collecting needed items for impoverished families served through the San Eugenio Mission in Tijuana.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels sponsors the Adopt-a-Family—LA Affiliates contribute to this program both financially and through their volunteer work.

**Pax Christi, Campaign Nonviolence, and Catholic Worker.** The LA Affiliates join with Pax Christi in enthusiastically supporting Campaign Nonviolence and Climate Change demonstrations. Los Angeles Affiliates have been among the many volunteers that keep Catholic Worker's Hippie Kitchen running.

**Maryknoll Connections.** Some of the Maryknoll Sisters who retire to Monrovia participate in Affiliate activities. Hugh and Jean Menton joined the LA Affiliate Chapter after completing a JustFaith course and participating in a Maryknoll Lay Missioner "Friends Across the Border" trip.

LA Affiliates often help staff the Maryknoll booth at the annual Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. Affiliates who attend the congress from elsewhere are invited to bring a sack lunch and meet at the Maryknoll Booth at noon on Saturday to join the LA Affiliates for their monthly meeting. For information on the LA Congress, which is held annually in February or March at the Anaheim Convention Center, see <http://www.recongress.org/>.

The LA Chapter's 2016 meetings are organized around the Pope's theme of Mercy. Other meetings have featured a speaker recently returned from mission in Sudan, a film about human trafficking, and examining issues surrounding mental health.



## MODERN GOOD SAMARITANS

Anger, humor, frustration, empathy, and persistence show when Jeff Dietrich tells of seeing the Risen Christ in the homeless. He shares that vision in his readable and inspiring book, *The Good Samaritan: Stories from the Los Angeles Catholic Worker on Skid Row* (Marymount Institute Press, 2014). For about 40 years, Jeff has been living in community and working at the LA Catholic Worker, a house of hospitality and service to the homeless. He edits the bi-monthly Catholic Worker newspaper, the Catholic Agitator.

Jeff rails against the politics behind removing the port-a-potties Catholic Worker had installed in the downtown area while not providing alternative sanitary facilities for the homeless, and against the policing practice of incarcerating jay-walkers and petty sellers of drugs while doing little to solve the underlying problems.

The Catholic Worker provides shopping carts for the homeless to carry and store their possessions and stimulated a ruling that it is not legal for authorities to seize those carts. The Catholic Worker has instituted a summer program for college students that introduces them to the Catholic Worker life and provides education on social justice issues. Their Hospitality Kitchen, affectionately referred to as The Hippie Kitchen, feeds about 3,000 people every week. Los Angeles Affiliates and Maryknoll Sisters have been among the many volunteers that keep the Kitchen running.

The LA Catholic Worker has spawned a number of sister Catholic Worker Houses which they assist until these "sisters" can be fully independent.



*Has your Chapter, or individual in the Chapter, partnered with other organizations in your mission activities? Some Chapters have partnered or supported Catholic Workers. For example, Hans and Barb Zuuring of Missoula, Montana, have worked at a nearby Catholic Worker farm. Have you volunteered at a Catholic Worker house? Tell us about it at [nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org).*



Jeff Dietrich and Kathee Bautista share views on mission.

**OUR JAMAICAN IMMERSION TRIP – 2015**

Deacon Herb & Peggy Casey –  
Contra Costa County Chapter

This was our third Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers immersion trip but the first time Peggy and I visited Jamaica. The main purposes of these immersion trips are to experience Christ wherever we go and to be present to all those we encounter. This trip certainly fulfilled these objectives for us.

It took many of us some time to get acclimated to the heat and humidity that we felt the minute we deplaned, but our accommodations were comfortable and the hospitality provided by our host was wonderful. We plunged right in with songs, prayers, and introductions so that we would get to know each other, since most of the 11 of us had not met each other before.

As we embarked on our first adventure the next morning, our eyes were opened to the bustling sights and sounds of life in Montego Bay. Our first encounter was at **Blessed Assurance**—a home to children who had been abandoned and discarded by family, and by Jamaican society, mainly because of serious physical and mental disabilities. Our hearts were immediately touched as the children, mostly suffering from the effects of cerebral palsy, greeted us with hugs and kisses. Most could not speak, but their actions and eyes told us of the beautiful God-given soul within.

Our eyes watered more than once, and there was an ache in our hearts as we watched and hugged them back. We were led to their chapel where we learned about the Blessed Assurance facility: the staff, the

children’s activities, and the caregivers’ methods for assisting, supervising, and loving them 24 hours a day. We joined them in prayer and song.

Many of us never encountered children so deformed and disabled, so we felt clumsy at first. We were lucky to be able to assist in feeding them, playing games (kicking a soccer ball around), and just being present.

Next we visited the **Hope Center**, which houses mostly senior citizens who are bed-ridden or suffering from old age. They were so happy to see us and share their life stories. One gentleman was 101 years old. He was alert, talkative, and engrossed with making “ropes” out of plastic bags. He was eager to show us how to do his craft, and his eyes lit up when one from our group tried to



The Caseys’ FAB immersion group

help. We sang and prayed with them, which we all enjoyed. We even noted a small miracle: a woman who was blind and could not walk about six months ago was able to see again and walk during our visit. She loved to sing. Fellowship and presence was such a blessing to all who participated.

Our fledgling group bonded and shared table fellowship as the days progressed. The activities were emotional and tiring, but we gathered each night for support, gave thanks, and discovered each other’s gifts in our reflections. We began and ended each day with Liturgy of the Hours. We are so thankful for the blessings we received in our encounters with those that we met along “The Way.”



JustFaith ([justfaith.org/](http://justfaith.org/)) includes articles about Maryknoll Affiliates in some of their mailings. Have you or your chapter participated in JustFaith? Tell us about it.

Maryknoll = Hospitality

Are you or your chapter able to provide hospitality to traveling Maryknoll missionaries? Perhaps you can discuss this at your next Chapter meeting. To be on the list of Maryknoll Affiliates who are happy to host, contact your RC or Bob Short ([rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org)).

**CONNECTING WITH MISSIONERS**

**D**o you or your chapter have a special connection with a missionary in the field? Chapters connect in many ways:

- **Prayer lists** that connect Affiliates with specific missionaries.
- **Sending Ceremonies** for their members who leave for short or long term missions, and welcome them on their return.
- **Communication** through newsletters and email, and even financial support for a missionary or mission project.

These connections enrich our Global Vision as Affiliates. How do you connect?



**NEW MISSION EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

**M**aryknoll Lay Missioner Debbie Northern visited the April Affiliate Board/Regional Coordinator meeting and encouraged Affiliates to schedule workshops in our communities.

The Maryknoll Lay Missioners offers a Mission Education Workshop to parishes and groups who want to explore every Christian’s baptismal call to mission. Pope Francis has urged the Church to be missionary in nature, but what does this mean? The format of the workshop includes sharing our own experiences, learning the “See, Judge, Act” model, and reflecting on the call to mission in the world, both locally and globally.

The workshop can be adapted to the group’s needs, running from one to three hours in length or expanded into a longer retreat version. If at all possible, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner will conduct the workshop, but if none is available, the workshop plan will be shared with a Maryknoll Affiliate chapter that wants to conduct its own workshop.

For more information, phone or email:

- Joanne Blaney – 914-762-6364, ext. 122 (jblaney@mklm.org) or
- Debbie Northern – 914-762-6364, ext. 123 (dnorthern@mklm.org).



**MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2016**

*The Mission Institute offers six-day programs (Sunday-Friday) May-October, 2016. Upcoming July programs:*

June 26-July 1 **Christine M. Bochen, PhD**  
Awakening the Heart, Mending the World: Merton’s Path to Mercy explores the themes of Merton’s spirituality—contemplation, compassion, and unity—to nurture a “Climate of Mercy” in our communities and in the world.

July 10-15 **Robert Ellsberg, MA**  
Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for Our Time will challenge us to think more creatively about being faithful and active in our own historical context.

July 17-22 **Maria Teresa Davila, PhD**  
Embodying the Option for the Poor explores the theological insights in the context from which the phrase sprang and in our current contexts.

July 24-29 **John F. Haught, PhD**  
Religion and the Cosmic Story: A Look Inside studies the new framework for understanding our species’ ageless religious quest, in conversation with both Christian Theology and contemporary scientific naturalism.

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

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](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org)



**DIY DIOCESAN CONNECTIONS**

**M**ary and John Moritz and the NE Florida Chapter took the initiative in 2015 to call every parish within the St. Augustine Diocese and ask if they sponsored mission trips. In addition to providing a catalogue of what was happening within the diocese in this regard, these calls potentially sparked interest in the trips. Down the road this could offer a service opportunity to Affiliates in helping to prepare and debrief those going/returning on mission trips. Additionally, it could provide an opportunity to promote Maryknoll sponsored immersion trips such as Friends Across Borders (FAB) trips.



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