



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2016

Volume 25 Number 6

WORKING FOR CHANGE

Fred Goddard – Philippines Chapter,
Former Executive Coordinator

September 18, 2016—I know it’s a cliché title, but that is exactly what I have been doing since Jet and I returned to the Philippines four years ago in October.

Soon after we arrived, I began working with MAGI (Managing Alternatives Group, Incorporated—managingalternatives.org). This NGO provides services to other NGOs around organizational management, assessments, evaluations, etc. I worked with partners in the Philippines of the German donor organization MISEREOR to help them determine what difference their projects were making in the lives of the people with whom they worked. What changes did they observe?

An idea that had been emerging for years, especially from European donors, had its roots in the “theory of change.” More recently it has been referred to as Outcome/Impact Orientation, or OIO. The idea is for organizations to be accountable for their work by assuring that their projects create real change in the lives of people and are not limited to just carrying out a training, handing out seeds, building houses or whatever the project may be. While this may seem like outside pressure from donors, when it is done well and includes the people who are the “beneficiaries,” it is a real learning opportunity for all involved.

One organization decided to help a community that had a high incidence of illnesses build latrines. Returning some time later, they found the latrines almost as clean as when they built them. When asked why, the community replied that they were saving them for visitors because they were so nice.

The same institution had established a scholarship program for youth from poor families with the idea that they would be able to help their communities. When I helped them to do goal setting with the students, one way to involve the stakeholders, most students said they hoped to eventually get good jobs overseas and earn more. So the project had to be reassessed.

Another organization was teaching organic agriculture to small farmers. Who would not benefit from such a great idea? In this case, the farmers, themselves. We helped them discover that most of the farmers, as tenant farmers, had to sell most of their produce back to the landowner. The project implementers then realized that to achieve the desired change, they had to deal with the land issue as well.



Fred Goddard, center, “working for change.”

In 2014, I left MAGI to work with the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute (MPI—mpiasia.net), a training center for peacebuilders from the

Asia-Pacific and around the world. I was happy to join MPI—the director, Chris Vertucci, was with me in the Philippines in the 1980s.

MPI asked me to bring my MAGI assessment experience. MPI has a peacebuilding training program for indigenous leaders funded by Bread for the World Germany. Not surprisingly, they expect reports from MPI to include the same kind of “change analysis.” We have actually integrated change assessment processes internally so that all the staff, whether in administration or finance or with one of the projects, think not just about the task at hand but how what we do will make a difference. Even the tagline for our 2016 Annual Peacebuilding Training was “make change happen.”

A week ago, participating in a “theory of change” workshop with other peacebuilding organizations forced me to think about the question, “What changes do we want to see when we work for peace?” For me, the pillars of positive peace outlined by Institute for Economics and Peace (visionofhumanity.org) are the best measure of the change we hope to bring, including indicators such as a well-functioning government, equitable distribution of wealth, and acceptance of the rights of others. This is the change I hope to see.



WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

There are times when all we can do is walk with someone in need. There may be nothing we can do, nothing we can change, but we can be there.

Especially after the rancorous US political campaign, we Affiliates must be there. We can reemphasize our mission, our counter-cultural, intercultural eagerness to walk with our brothers and sisters, and with the earth.

In this issue we see many facets of accompaniment:

- The Southern Regional Conference in New Orleans emphasized that accompaniment is essential to mission.
- David Schaffner mourns the recent losses in Haiti.
- Dan Heuer spent time with and learned about the other Abrahamic faith traditions to help build interfaith partnerships.
- Fred Goddard, the former Affiliate Executive Coordinator, tells us about the organizations he is now walking with.
- The tale of Tisquantum prods us to think, who are we to walk with now?

We ask that you also walk with the NSFA by sharing your reflections 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.

¡BUEN VIVIR!



Come to MAC2017 in Guatemala in November 2017 to experience ¡Buen Vivir!—to live fully.

Information on how to register for MAC2017, travel grant opportunities, optional mission visits, etc., will be in upcoming NSFA issues.

In a recent *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, Latin-American Maryknollers say*:

- LIFE is a beautiful opportunity to love and serve in the midst of good and bad times. – **Claudia Samayoa, – Affiliate, Guatemala Chapter**
- The martyrs give us LIFE. – **Father Bill Mullan MM, El Petén, Guatemala**
- A cocktail to live LIFE: Compassion has no value if there is no justice. – **Sister Dee Smith, MM, Pajapita, Coatepeque, Guatemala.**
- LIFE is a gift from God that we must care for and defend every day of our existence; we respect and enjoy being happy and making others happy. Live LIFE! – **Lucinda Siles Cortéz – Affiliate, Cochabamba Chapter, Bolivia**

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Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson

David Stocker

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

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

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

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STATE OF THE HEART—
FALL 2016 BOARD MEETING

David Schaffner – Board Chair

Driving into the Hudson Valley for our October board meeting, I saw the magnificent and glorious fall colors; seasons are something that elude us here on the California Central Coast. Though basking in the colors, my thoughts were muted by the news from Chicago Affiliate Renate Schneider. She works with various development projects in Jeremie, Haiti, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew.

My wife and I have been to Jeremie twice, in 2011 and just last spring, where I taught *Introduction to Agribusiness*, and Paula taught ESL. The classroom where I taught lost its roof and was flooded, and the guest house where we lived was completely leveled. While not there to experience the terror of such a destructive force, I still feel a great loss after so many contributed to making UNOGA (University of Nouville Grande'Anse) happen.



of the Affiliate Movement. Conference registration and information on the travel grant application process will be available after the first of the year. This MAC is going to be very special and I hope you will give serious and prayerful consideration to attending. MAC2017 happens Thursday, November 9th through Sunday, the 12th, at the beautiful Casa de Retiros Verbo Encarnado (<http://www.verboencarnado.com>

<http://www.verboencarnado.com>) in the mountains not far from Guatemala City. Post-conference opportunities to visit mission projects will be offered.

Other Board actions were reported in the Monday email sent on November 7th. They include a continued focus on the three committees that were established to act on your responses to the Affiliate Survey of



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To learn more about Renate's charitable organization, go to Haitian Connection (<http://www.haitianconnection.org>) or contact David Schaffner through NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org
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2015: Communication, Sustainability and Growth, and Connection. These committees will be reporting to you in the NSFA.

The Board attended to other organizational tasks that may seem pedestrian to an outsider but are vital to an organization: providing for replacement of members rotating off the board, updating our Roles & Responsibilities statements, revising the Board Member Manual, reviewing our finances, and approval of budgets and expenditures. Did I mention that the Affiliates will be 25 years old next year?

MAC2017—At our Board meeting, I was heartened by the presence of Rosa Beatriz Castañeda and Claudia Samayoa who came from



Guatemala to report on **MAC2017**. This is the first truly international MAC conference—that is, taking place outside the US. The program presented to us by Rosa and Claudia wowed us. It is based on the Affiliate four pillars: **Action**: an opportunity to visit mission projects in conjunction with the conference; **Global Vision**: applying indigenous people's ethos to our mission perspective; **Community**: sharing activities and socials to get to know our fellow Affiliates from around the world; and **Spirituality**: a particular emphasis on seeing God in all creation and in all peoples.

The Board has approved a **Travel Grant program** to encourage the broadest possible representation

In my short time as Board chair, it is clear to me that it takes a small village to keep the Affiliate Movement moving. I thank my fellow Affiliates on the Board and our Regional Coordinators; and in particular our Board members from the other three Maryknoll expressions: Sisters Norie Mojado and Teruko Ito – the Congregation, Marj Humphrey – the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and Russ Feldmeier – the Society. Executive Coordinator Bob Short provides not only coordination, but wisdom and leadership. Eleanor Swanson serves as our recording secretary. And our major communication efforts, *Not So Far Afield* and *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, would not happen without Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Paula Schaffner, Rosa Beatriz Castañeda, and their editorial staffs. Of course the Affiliates would not be the Affiliates without the energy and spirit that all of you bring to all your missions.





READ, DISCUSS, GROW!

Participants told the Book Group Committee that the first Affiliate Book Group was a very positive experience for just about everyone, even if the book—*Making All Things New* by Iliia Delio—was often challenging. We’re looking forward to the second Maryknoll Affiliate Book Group, which begins in January.

You are invited to join the next session, where you may indicate your preferred book and your best meeting time.

The book choices selected from the 25 book suggestions are:

- *Abounding in Kindness*, by Elizabeth A. Johnson, Orbis Books –
 “From the question of belief itself, to the mysteries of God, Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit, a central theme for Johnson is the overflowing compassion of the living God, engaged with the struggles and suffering of the world. Throughout this collection, Johnson’s feminist insights, her concerns for an imperiled planet and for those on the margins, add urgency and passion to her reflections.”
www.orbisbooks.com/abounding-in-kindness.html
- *Living Cosmology*, edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Orbis Books –
 “This volume explores the Christian responses to the Universe Story and its implications for the contemporary environmental crisis. Beginning with excerpts from recent statements by Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the book draws on the contributions of leading theologians, ethicists, scientists, and activists, including John Haught, Iliia Delio, Catherine Keller, Larry Rasmussen, and more than twenty-five others.”
www.orbisbooks.com/living-cosmology.html

The book preferred by the majority of participants in the meeting time they selected will be the book the group reads. (Note: Orbis offers a 40% discount to book group members.)

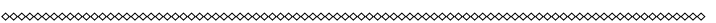
The same days/times are offered:

- Sunday: 8:00pm ET (7pm CT/6pm MT/5pm PT)
- Tuesday: 11:00am ET (10am CT/9am MT/8am PT)
- Friday: 1:00pm ET (12n CT/11am MT/10am PT)

Also, you may suggest an alternate day/time, which will be considered for new groups. The number of participants in any group should be 12 or fewer. As before, Bob Short will work his magic and try to accommodate your requests.

The format will be essentially the same as before: a weekly conference call of about one hour using UberConference (free to participants). Participants will take turns facilitating a session, sending out 3-5 questions before each session. The group decides how the discussion will be structured, but each person will have the opportunity to speak.

To sign-up or for questions, please email Bob Short at Affiliatebshort@gmail.com with your time and book preferences.



**KOREAN AFFILIATES
 SHARE NEWS**
 Francesca Yang –
 Korean Chapter

This is a brief report, but I want to keep in touch and let other Affiliates know what we are doing.

We met on October 15, 2016, at the Maryknoll Sisters’ apartment in Seoul. Thirteen of us gathered, including two visiting guests who are Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus and Theresa Jung, who is asking to become an Affiliate. We all warmly welcomed her.

At the meeting, Maryknoll Sister Hyung-Jung Kim spoke to us about her mission in East Timor. Also, Maryknoll Sister Jean Maloney reported on her recent trip to the US. As usual, all the Affiliates shared the events of their lives during the past month, and a number spoke of gratitude for their families and for the Affiliate meeting itself, which is such a support. Also one member is preparing to make a trip to the Holy Land.

The Chapter requests prayers for the wife of one of the Affiliates who is receiving treatment for cancer. Her name is Theresa.



**TISQUANTUM—
A NEW TALE
FROM THE OLD WORLD**
David Stocker – NSFA Staff Editor

Thanksgiving evokes harvest gratitude just before winter. Yet the myth of Thanksgiving that we tell is rife with inaccuracies and omissions that have endured for 400 years. The story of a Wompanoag, Tisquantum (Squanto), in 1614, gives us a more honest look at our American colonial roots.

Squanto was captured into slavery by agents of a venture capitalist aristocrat, an associate of the founders of the Plymouth Bay Colony, North America's first corporation. The English and French were racing to offer land grants to soldier-settler enterprises in the New World. For as the newly minted King James Bible (1614) promised:

Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. – Psalms 2:8

Squanto was taken to England and paraded before the royalty of Europe as an exotic advertisement for his master's plan to develop a "New England" using enslaved Indians. Circulating in London, Squanto might actually have heard the words of Shakespeare's despairing Merchant of Venice, written a few years earlier.

*Hath not a Jew eyes?
Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions,
senses, affections, passions; fed with the same food,
hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases,
heal'd by the same means, warm'd and cool'd by the same
winter and summer as a Christian is?
If you prick us, do we not bleed?
If you tickle us, do we not laugh?
If you poison us, do we not die?*

Over a 14 year period, twice Squanto escaped, trying to return home, but was betrayed and sent back to his European master. It is likely Squanto learned Spanish and world history from monks during two years of hiding in Spain. Imagine a red-skinned man traveling secretly across Europe trying to find passage to return to his home.

Squanto's exploitation proved beneficial for his aristocratic owner, but by the time he returned to Plymouth 14 years later, his tribe had perished from small pox. He was rejected by the sickly remnants



of his people as a collaborator and died alone, perhaps poisoned, an extraordinary victim of the North American genocide. Yet Squanto was spared the fate of Indian insurgents in the centuries to come. When they resisted the relentless settler machine, they were exterminated.

In 1637, on orders of William Bradford, the Governor of Plymouth Colony, hundreds of Pequot men, women, and children were entrapped in their village that was then burned to the ground.

Whosoever resisteth the power of God shall receive to themselves damnation. – Romans 13:2

In 1970, Frank James, a Wamsutta descendant of Tisquantum's lineage, was asked to speak at a public commemoration. When the organizers previewed his speech, he was summarily dis-invited. He had said,

You, who have inherited this place, if you can hear me, you must work towards a more humane world where men and women and nature are once again important; where the values of honor, truth, and the common good prevail.

Tisquantum's story does not support the dominant mythology of empire. America's true legacy is not found in the quaint stories manufactured by Disney storytellers. Manifest destiny required fairy tales of pacified indians and grateful slaves to mask the horror of genocide.

We think things are better now, but the Black Lives Matter movement reminds us otherwise. The emblems and mascots of our settler legacy endure in the Cleveland Indians, the Washington Redskins. More people watch the "Indians" play in the World Series than pay attention to the recurring theft of indigenous land and impending ecological disaster at Standing Rock.

Our remembrance of Thanksgiving is upside down. The first act of starving Pilgrims was to plunder the winter stores of their Pequot neighbors. If unaware of our own history, we will wander without guidance or benefit of knowing who we are. Remembering, we can become more compassionate and alert.

*Peace to All
on Thanksgiving.*



**“WALKING EACH OTHER BACK HOME:
MISSION AS ACCOMPANIMENT”**

Adapted from

*A Report on the Maryknoll Affiliates’
Southern Region Conference*

New Orleans, LA, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2016

Rev. Gerald E. Kelly, MM – Director of Mission
Education & Promotion, Southern Region

Congratulations to Matt Rousso and the New Orleans Affiliates for a very successful Southern Region Conference. Held just outside New Orleans at a retreat center in Metairie, the conference opened with a moving prayer and procession highlighting the four Affiliate pillars of Spirituality, Community, Action and Global Vision. For the remaining time, the diverse modes of presentation that followed spoke to the theme: *“Mission as Accompaniment: Walking Each Other Back Home.”*

Twenty-nine participants, representing six chapters, came from New Orleans, Houston, North Texas, Northeast Florida, and Portland, Oregon. Also present were Maryknoll Affiliate Board member Father Russ Feldmeier, MM, and Executive Coordinator Bob Short.

Welcoming us, Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans emphasized the missionary “going forth” of the Church and thanked Matt Rousso for his outstanding service to the Archdiocese.

Quoting Pope Francis, Matt Rousso told us, “The Church will have to initiate everyone—priests, religious and laity—into this art of “Accompaniment.” (EG 169)

Matt Rousso’s opening talk on Accompaniment drew heavily on Pope Francis’ documents. Then in groups we shared our understanding of accompaniment.

Matt said that a day center for the homeless in New Orleans can be a mission when folks get to know the homeless while they provide them service. A poor elderly woman he met in Haiti told him they didn’t necessarily want our help but especially wanted to be known and loved.

Photo from Christine Bordelon’s Clarion Herald article.



An early morning Prayer Walk along the levy of Lake Ponchartrain where it adjoins the retreat grounds helped us start the day.

Saturday morning keynote speakers Jason and Felicia Gehrig, returned Maryknoll Lay Missioners, reflected on their seven years serving the Aymara in Bolivia. They gave birth to three children and went through three changes of governments during their time there. Listening to the people and their needs, they drew close to the people through all of these experiences. Jason worked with the people on installing a water delivery system which continues to this day, and Felicia heard of the need for libraries in the area and started them. Then participants related their experiences of accompanying people.

Photo by Mary Ryan-Hotchhiss.



Keynote speakers Jason and Felicia Gehrig practice accompaniment at the New Orleans-inspired evening festivities.

Jason Gerig emphasized, “Accompaniment can be done anywhere. You don’t have to travel to do it!” He also asks his sons, “Have you befriended anyone who’s poor today?”

Manny Hotchkiss, Portland Oregon Chapter, reflected that a mission of accompaniment is a leveler. We are not coming in from a superior position to help, to do for, someone.

Bob Eilenfeldt of the North Texas Affiliate Chapter offered, "The old concept of mission for the youth groups he takes on Mission was to "do something." Now we try to spend more time with the children they meet at the mission site and even go to the families' homes. Bob also said, "Mission requires going outside one's comfort zone when meeting people from other cultures."

Ruth Kleeman, Houston Chapter, said that with accompaniment, "We are also recipients of mission."

Bob Morgan told of his mission accompanying the Native Americans resisting the pipeline in North Dakota.

On Saturday afternoon we heard a panel of Fr. Russ Feldmeier, MM, who spoke on the Society's commitment to collaborating with the Affiliates; Bob Short, on Affiliates throughout the country and overseas; and Fr. Gerry Kelly, MM, on Affiliate relationships and the Third Wave of Mission.

Saturday evening we enjoyed New Orleans-style gumbo, music, and singing. The umbrellas were moving to the beat of New Orleans music.

On Sunday morning Gerry Kelly explained the formation materials from the Third Wave Institute and provided the participants with copies of the materials. We finished with Mass, during which six people made their Covenant with Maryknoll Affiliates, with Russ Feldmeier administering the oath.

This conference reiterated that the Affiliates are an essential dimension of the ministry in the Southern area. We are working together in formation programs, exhibits, and leading short-term missions.

Matt summarized, again quoting Pope Francis, "Mission is seen as being from everywhere to everywhere."

The Southern Regional Conference received coverage by the Archdiocese of New Orleans' newspaper, the *Clarion Herald*. See Christine Bordelon's excellent article and photos at <http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/news/latest-news/155-breaking-news/5962-maryknolls-missionaries-at-home-and-abroad>.



Photo by Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss.

Six formalize their Covenant with the Maryknoll Affiliates: (left to right) Bob Short, Affiliate Executive Coordinator leading the Covenant Ceremony, Fr. Gerry Kelly MM, president, and Jason Gehrig, North Texas, Richard Horstman and Judy Horstman, Houston, Bob Eilenfeldt, North Texas, Charles Freel, New Orleans, and Felicia Gehrig, North Texas.

Photo courtesy of Bob Short.



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE – A DEEPER LOOK

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

Somewhere in his writings, Saint Francis of Assisi wrote that the Lord “...wants me to be a new kind of fool in the world...” Just a few minutes into gathering together as Maryknollers—seeing how the New Orleans Chapter welcomed all of us, the global and local issues that consumed us (and the consumer issues that didn’t), the wholehearted laughter that filled us, and maybe even the simple dress that clothed us—gave some evidence that we too were aspiring towards the new fool in the world classification. The advanced levels of insight, education, creativity and life experience don’t disqualify in this regard.

It was a small group of just 30 participants, but it was clear from the start that we were connected by and committed to the Maryknoll charism of accompanying (at home and cross-cultural settings) those who have little or no voice in our clamorous, disjointed world. In Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*, he said this of Francis of Assisi:

His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and ever creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection (¶11).

That rings very true.

Finally, although many of us hadn’t met before, we soon realized that we were at home together. New vocations are not flooding into any of the expressions within Maryknoll these days, but I couldn’t help but wonder if this would be reversed if new people— young or old—spent the weekend with us. Perhaps that’s wishful thinking. Minimally, it couldn’t help but make heads turn and speed up the heartbeat a bit. Of course, for those not from that region of the country, the grits, biscuits and gumbo couldn’t hurt either.



MISSION IS ABOUT WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

Mary Moritz – Northeast Florida Chapter

Matt Rousso shared this reflection at the Southern Region Conference, and Mary used it in their Chapter meeting. She now offers it for all of us to use.

We should be able to see by what Pope Francis has been saying in his writings and in his speeches that he is strongly affirming that mission is much more about “being with rather than doing for.” A couple of years ago, a friend of mine shared with me a Christmas card she had received. There was a simple message in the card which read “we’re all just walking each other home.” That message has stuck with me and often impinged on my meditation and prayer. I have often been moved when I realize this is how God in Jesus has been with me all during my life—slowly and lovingly walking me home. And I have often thought how true this is of our call to mission. Are we not all called to walk each other home? Is not this what Pope Francis is saying when he says “we must all learn the art of accompaniment”? Or when he says, “we must practice the art of listening”?

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

- Have you have been “accompanying someone?” How did this experience begin? What has it been like for you?
- Is there someone(s) that you sense you are being called to accompany - to “walk home”? How are you experiencing this call?



LONG-DISTANCE ACCOMPANIMENT

The Mwanza Affiliates sent colorful cloth bags from one of their women’s projects to the Portland Oregon Affiliates, some of whom have visited them in Tanzania. The Portland Chapter also has helped Affililate (returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner) Bertha Haas raise funds to support the school for handicapped children that she started there.



BUILDING ABRAHAMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Dan Heuer – Westchester Chapter

Recently I had a powerful interfaith experience at Hartford Seminary near Windsor, Connecticut. The intensive eight-day course entitled **Building Abrahamic Partnerships** was structured as an interfaith community of learning for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, all of whom trace their origin to the patriarch Abraham. Our class of 10 Jews, 8 Muslims, 9 Protestants of various denominations, and 3 Catholics heard lectures by Jewish rabbis, Muslim imams, Christian ministers, and seminary professors.

The five pillars of Muslim:

- Accept that “There is no God but Allah and Muhammed is His prophet.”
- Pray at five designated times per day.
- Make monetary donations to charities.
- Fast during the daylight hours of the month of Ramadan.
- Try to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca.

The highlight for me was a small group experience led by a Jewish rabbi, a Muslim woman, and a United Church of Christ woman minister. We each shared a personal experience that we had of God/Allah, through which we were able to meet on a spiritual level above our differences.

A specific day was designated in the course for each tradition. In a “fishbowl” exercise, the group of members of one tradition was surrounded by members of the other two traditions. Those in the inner group expressed concerns or issues that they had in trusting those in the other two traditions. Those in the outer group listened deeply without commenting. In a later session, we all shared our reactions and processed the “fishbowl” sessions.

The course took place during Ramadan, when Muslims are required to fast. It was inspiring to know that they

Thoughts on Christianity:

Jesus was born a Jew and died a Jew. Early Christian prayer services were Jewish in format.

Many Christians thought of themselves as the “true Israel,” leading to a long history of anti-Semitism.

In the 1400s in Spain, both Jews and Muslims were forced to convert to Catholicism under threat of torture, in direct conflict with the message of Jesus, who taught that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

did not consume any food or liquid from sunrise to sunset (which occurred about 8:30PM). Ramadan means purification. It is a time of deep contemplation of one’s relationship with Allah and intense study of the Qur’an, which Muslims take very seriously.

I learned much about the Qur’an, which Muslims consider to be the revealed word of Allah, and about the Jewish Torah: it includes the Christian Old Testament plus a wider scope of teachings from their ancient sages.

We visited a Muslim mosque for Friday prayers. About 90 men of all ages, including boys, were present on one floor and about 50 women prayed on an upper floor connected to the prayer session below by way of a video screen. An imam led the prayers in Arabic as the men knelt in rows on the floor. When directed, they bowed down, placing their heads on the floor. Their devotion was impressive.

Saturday morning we attended a prayer service in Hebrew, with translations available, at a Synagogue. During the service, the Torah scrolls were ritually taken from behind a curtain. Much reverence was shown for the Torah, and the prayer recitation obviously had much meaning for the congregants.

The foundations of Judaism:

Torah – Jewish scripture; considered by some Jews to be the first five books of the Bible, by others to take in a wider more encompassing scope of Jewish teaching.

Talmud – written record of oral teaching by Jewish sages that applies the laws of Torah in intricate detail to the daily ritual, spiritual, civic, social, personal, and moral life of the Jew.

A primary focus of Judaism is to consider and discuss all points of view.

Visits to Protestant and Catholic churches were an opportunity for the Muslims and Jews who knew little about Christianity to discover the richness of our faith. I told them about the “treasure” of our Catholic social teaching.

Thus I grew in awareness that the three Abrahamic religions, along with their differences, have a great deal in common in terms of values. With so much in our media regarding the violence perpetrated by so-called “Muslims,” I was very impressed by the peacefulness of the Muslims I met during the course. And knowing that Jesus was a Jew, I appreciated learning much more about Judaism.



Get involved! Board members needed!



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Maryknoll Affiliate Board Nominating Committee

We are currently seeking nominations for appointment to the Maryknoll Affiliate Board. Are you dedicated to serving the Affiliate movement and committed to building a strong and sustainable organization? Please contact us if you, or someone you know, is able and ready to respond to this invitation.

The primary mandate of the Affiliate Board is to coordinate and unify the organization of the Affiliates. It does so by promoting Affiliate participation in the mission goals of Maryknoll, and it sets the general direction of the Affiliates as an organization through its accountability for developing policies that clarify our purpose, principles, and goals. Each member contributes to the consensus process of decision-making of the Board as a whole.

Basic requirements for candidates are identification with the spirit and vision of Maryknoll, recommendation by their local Affiliate Chapters, and the ability to attend Board meetings and actively serve on at least one committee. The duties of each Board member are to apply leadership, wisdom, and creativity to policy development, and to contribute to the generation of sound decisions regarding the future direction of the Affiliate movement.

Nominees should have been an Affiliate for at least one year and have developed familiarity with the other Maryknoll expressions (Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, and Maryknoll Lay Missioners). It is essential that a Board member possess basic computer and electronic messaging skills (sending/receiving, opening and attaching documents via email).

The following additional information may be helpful to someone considering serving on the Board:

1. **Term** – Appointment to the Board is for a three (3) year term with the option to renew for another three (3) years.

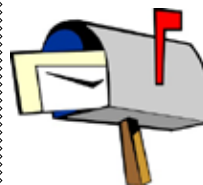
2. **Meetings** – Board members attend two (2) Board meetings per year and participate in conference calls as needed.
3. **Travel Expenses** – Board members are responsible for their own transportation to and from Board meetings, which usually are held at Maryknoll, New York. (The Fall 2017 Board meeting will be in Guatemala before MAC2017.)

Nominations and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be considered as vacancies arise. The Nominating Committee recruits candidates and presents nominees for selection by the Board.

Go to <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/maryknoll-affiliate-organizational-documents.html> for the appropriate forms to use when you either apply yourself or nominate another Affiliate. If you have any questions about the process or the forms, please feel free to contact Nominating Committee member Gerry Mullaney at mullg@cgfs.org or Mary Massaro at marymassaro@aol.com

Submit the completed form for application or nomination to Affiliate Executive Coordinator Bob Short at affiliatebshort@gmail.com

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



COMING SOON TO YOUR MAILBOX!

Our annual invitation for you to participate in keeping Maryknoll Affiliates going will arrive soon. We need your help to cover the costs of communicating: newsletters, website, telephone, Executive Coordinator travel, paper clips...

Working together we can do it!

JUST WATER—A RIGHT TO LIFE ISSUE

Jacinta Lopez Haas and Bertha Haas
– Portland Chapter

A Review of Just Water by Christiana Z. Peppard, Orbis Books Series on Integral Ecology.

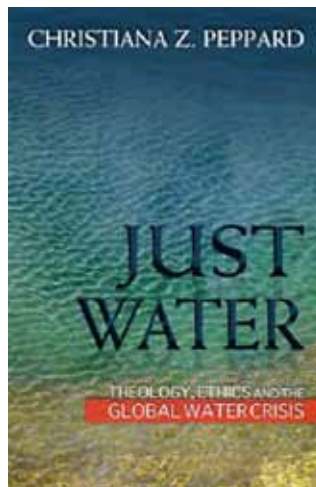
This follow-up to *Laudato Si*, *Just Water* by Christiana Z. Peppard, presents very practical, though not easy, steps to protect our most essential resource. Already on page 22, I was challenged to change my way of life. Its principal assertion is that water conservation is a “right-to-life” issue. It is not fair for the first world to use up Earth’s water supply while leaving those most poor to pay the consequences. To reduce the threat to our water supply, we need to stop focusing on domestic use, only eight percent of total use, and attend to industrial and agricultural use.

Technological advances have enabled agriculture to divert river and lake water for irrigation. Besides running dry before they reach their destination, waterways like the Jordan River are being contaminated by agricultural runoff: pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that add nitrates. Extremely important is the depletion and pollution of aquifers through irrigation and fracking.

According to *Just Water*, it is the poorest of the poor who suffer most from a polluted and diminished water supply. Third-world women and girls have to walk miles for the family’s fresh water, not only taxing their bodies and putting them in danger of assault, but also preventing them from getting an education.

Bottled water companies use up valuable natural resources such as petroleum to make the water bottles. The companies also may prevent the people living in the area of the water sources from accessing the water for their own domestic use. Some people, like bottled water companies, claim that water is a commodity that is subject to the laws of economics and supply-and-demand where the “have-nots” lose out. According to Catholic social teaching and *Just Water*, everyone deserves clean, accessible water, regardless of the ability to pay. Without it, people die, such as children in dire poverty who get diseases like diarrhea and cholera from polluted water.

Therefore, it is imperative that the first world addresses the water problem. Agriculture could conserve water, for instance, by using drip irrigation and covering irrigation canals to prevent evaporation. Agriculture



also could move toward using organic methods so that fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides do not pollute nearby water.

Most industrial uses return the water back to the water supply, albeit often polluted, but fracking is one industry that takes water out of the water supply. Besides using way too much water, the water from fracking is not available to be treated and used again for agricultural or domestic needs. Another industrial issue is the burning of fossil fuels because the greenhouse effects are wreaking havoc on Earth’s precipitation.

I recommend this book as it shows how the water crisis is a theological issue. The Church’s preferential option for the poor demands justice for them. The world’s poorest, not generally those creating the water crisis, suffer the gravest consequences.



THE GIFT OF ENOUGH*

I love you and I wish you enough...

[Taken from a story overheard in the airport as a daughter took leave of her elderly mother. When the mother was asked the meaning of these words of farewell, she replied, “that’s a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone. I am old now and my daughter lives far away. No doubt, her next trip here will be for my funeral.” Then she smiled remembering the message in detail.]

**I wish you enough sun
to keep your attitude bright.**
**I wish you enough rain
to appreciate the sun more.**
**I wish you enough happiness
to keep your spirit alive.**
**I wish you enough pain
so that the smallest joys in life appear
much bigger.**
**I wish you enough gain
to satisfy your wanting.**
**I wish you enough loss
to appreciate all that you possess.**
**I wish you enough hellos
to get you through the final good-bye.**

*Excerpted from Sabbath Presence by Kathleen Casey. Copyright 2006 by Ave Maria Press, PO Box 428, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Used with permission of the publisher.

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Who was Tisquantum?
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