



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2019

Volume 28 Number 6

## REFUGEES: REFUSED OR WELCOMED?

*The Trump administration slashed the “cap” on the number of refugees accepted into the US in fiscal year 2019 to 30,000, and has admitted just 18,051 as of May 31, 2019.\* The Pew Research Center says, “the United States plans to admit a maximum of 18,000 refugees in fiscal year 2020, down from a cap of 30,000 in the one that ended Sept. 30, 2019, under a new refugee admissions ceiling set by the Trump administration.”*

Affiliate Gail Kelley responds to refugees differently. She wrote for *Maryknoll* magazine in 2016 about “Seeing the Face of Christ” in refugees and now gives an update on the progress of one refugee family. Quoting from the 2016 article: “The Refugee Resettlement Ministry (RRM) at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, my parish in Raleigh, NC, ... which was initiated in 1986, has assisted in resettling 33 families.” Gail says the Semahoro family is typical of their experience.

months to walk to Ethiopia, where we were placed in a refugee camp operated by the United Nations.”

Gail wrote, “The members of our RRM have indeed seen the face of Christ in the strangers we have welcomed. They have inspired us with their unshakable faith, their unquenchable desire to be free in spite of persecution and imprisonment, their family values, their joy in simplicity, and their determination to become full and productive Americans. As a Maryknoll Affiliate, I am proud to be part of this ministry to vulnerable people from whom I learn so much.”



**Gail Kelley, surrounded by the Semahoro family, developed a long-term friendship with them during their years in Raleigh.**



**Gail Kelley greets the Semahoros in the airport.**

**Update:** Gail keeps in contact with the family and sends this update: The Semahoro Family now lives in Austin, Texas, have a mortgage on a home, and are speaking fluent English. Both parents have full-time jobs. Aline, their oldest daughter, is attending community college on a scholarship to study nursing.

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry in Raleigh has since settled two families from the Congo and a Muslim family from Afghanistan. It now looks forward, at the end of 2019, to settling its 36<sup>th</sup> family.

**If you are interested in Refugee Resettlement, initial or ongoing, go to: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr> and click on State Program Directory for the voluntary agencies in your area.**

\*Note: Read more about the US reductions of legally vetted refugees at <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/26/us/politics/trump-refugees.html>.

Photos courtesy of Gail Kelley

Bashir Semahoro, a Congolese native, arrived with his family in Raleigh in October 2013. “We were cattle ranchers in the Congo when we were attacked by another indigenous tribe,” he said. “My parents were killed, my wife raped, and one of my children lost. My wife, three daughters, my brother, and I escaped with nothing but the clothes on our backs. It took us four



**DEVELOPING GLOBAL VISION**

The Global Vision of Affiliates shines forth in this issue. Global Vision is one of the Pillars of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement, along with Spirituality, Community, and Action. In this issue we see Affiliates praying for detained children, holding public demonstrations against the separation of immigrant parents and children, and assisting their parish in welcoming and supporting refugees. From Haiti to Mexico to Tanzania, Peru and Cuba, across the US and beyond, the Global Vision of Affiliates recognizes the beauty in other people and other cultures.

Given the fear of the other and violence against refugees or immigrants in the US and in the world, how do Affiliates develop such a Global Vision? Maryknollers and Affiliates come together in chapters for prayer, forming a community and taking action—some in their home communities, some abroad. They cross borders to encounter the other. Getting to know another person and culture seems to dispel fear of the other and develop what we call Global Vision. Sometimes we even “catch” Global Vision at a regional or international meeting such as at MAC 2020 in New York, or MAC 2017 in Guatemala. Visits from missionaries who have it, or *Maryknoll* magazine, can also help Global Vision “go viral.” Tell us how you “caught” Global Vision.



**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 him at [affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:affiliatebshort@gmail.com).

**WILL YOUR CHAPTER BE REPRESENTED?**



Coming in June 2020 is the Maryknoll Affiliate Conference—a once-in-three-years experience not to be missed. MAC 2020 will be held at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in the Hudson Valley, New York, from Thursday through Sunday, June 25-28. To learn more about what is planned, see the conference website, [MKMAC.org](http://MKMAC.org).

To encourage broad attendance, the Maryknoll Affiliate Board is again offering grants for full or partial coverage of the conference fee and travel costs. Ideally, every chapter of the over 50 chapters worldwide will have a representative at the Conference. Are finances keeping you from attending?

To apply for funding, go to [MKMAC.org](http://MKMAC.org) and click on either **English** or **Spanish** at the top. On the drop-down menu, choose **Register**. On that page, click on the **Travel Grant** option. Following instructions, fill out and submit the form. Ask your Chapter Contact or Regional Coordinator to send a letter of recommendation to the address shown on the form.

Along with the Travel Grant, we encourage you to explore and consider other supplemental funding sources. For example, some chapters may help with either funds or frequent flyer miles. At recent MACs, as many as 15 attendees benefited from grant assistance, and we hope that as many or more will be assisted through the 2020 program.

Questions? Please email Executive Coordinator Bob Short at [affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:affiliatebshort@gmail.com).



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: David Stocker Bob Short

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

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

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

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

[NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org)

**2019 ALL MARYKNOLL  
CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT**

Bertha Haas –  
Portland Chapter

**M**y week in an all-Maryknoll contemplative retreat, held at the Lake House of Prayer in Mwanza, Tanzania, was special and very beneficial. The view of Lake Victoria was conducive to silent prayer and refreshment. Members of each of the four Maryknoll entities participated, coming from the US, Japan, Kenya, and Tanzania.

In addition to the great experience of meditating with other Maryknollers, I have been personally led forward in my spiritual journey. Fr. Alfonso Kim and Sr. Kathleen Reiley, our two Zen-trained guides, offered suggestions that will enrich my own practice of Centering Prayer. As always, the Holy Spirit was very active. Prior to the retreat, I knew only Jim, Judy, and Adventina; I had met Alfonso at a church talk. I was thrilled to have Tanzanian neighbors join us for a contemplative “sit” and Mass on our final day.

I am grateful for the simplicity of Centering Prayer and the ease with which one can access this method. I’m sure that the retreat fueled my time at Huruma, making it exceptionally fruitful as well as helping me to peacefully resolve a personal conflict at my house of residence. One of Fr. Keating’s teachings is that contemplative prayer is a gift for the community rather than the individual and that its fruits will be noticed in our life of service. To me, this teaching was clearly evident in my month in Tanzania as it had been in my nine years as a lay missionary. [As a lay missionary, Bertha started Huruma School for children with disabilities in Mwanza, Tanzania, which she continues to support. See [tasteoftanzania.x10host.com](http://tasteoftanzania.x10host.com).]

To quote from Fr. Russ Feldmeier’s report,

*Our stated vision was to help foster a more contemplative way of being Maryknoll Missioners that would empower us to be Contemplatives in Action in our broken world at this time in history. We are well aware that Maryknoll has been committed to engaging in both contemplation and action from the beginning. It is important to renew this commitment in the light of the present*

Photo courtesy of Sr. Kathleen Reiley, MM.



Attendees, l to r: Fr. Jim Eble MM, Bertha Haas - Portland Affiliate and returned MKLM, Fr. Tim Kilkelly MM, Sr Janet Srebelas MM, Fr. Russ Feldmeyer MM, Fr. Alfonso Kim MM, Judy Walter MKLM, Dee Dungy MKLM, Adventina Kushanbala - Affiliate, Sr. Kathleen Reiley MM

*challenges of living and working in a globalized world of climate change, inequality in all its forms, ethnic conflict, racism, reactionary nationalism, religious fundamentalism, terrorism and poverty, which create an environment that demands an ever deeper contemplative approach.*

On the final evening, we gathered to brainstorm our options for fostering this “more contemplative way of being Maryknoll Missioners.” As a certified presenter for Contemplative Outreach, I am available to present “An Introduction to Centering Prayer” to Affiliate groups, to the extent that my time allows. If your chapter or region is interested, please contact Bob Short ([affiliatebshort@gmail.com](mailto:affiliatebshort@gmail.com)).



Remembering our  
many blessings,



**LOOKING FORWARD TO MAC 2020**

Paula Schaffner – CA Central Coast Chapter

On [MKMAC.org](https://mkmac.org), I read that Nancy Sylvester, IHM, will be the keynote speaker at MAC 2020 next June. Not being well-read in theology or contemplation, I had not heard of her before, and I wanted to get a feel for what wisdom she will be offering to Maryknoll Affiliates. Following the link to <https://iccdinstitute.org>, I explored her website, finally landing on the Resources page. There I found lists of Downloads, Readings, Poetry and Art, and Talks. Spinning the proverbial wheel of fortune, my pointer landed on her essay, “Finding Our Balance in the Political Landscape,” written in 2017.



The article arises out of Nancy Sylvester’s experience of needing to steady herself while on a cactus-studded Arizona trail. She realized she could not just reach out and lean on a saguaro, as she would have on a Michigan hardwood. She had to use her inner strength to maintain her balance in that new situation. Applying her unsettling experience to other life situations, she noted that when we find ourselves in new landscapes, we cannot operate out of instinctual, deeply imbedded beliefs that worked before. She likened our interior landscapes, our set of beliefs, to the natural landscapes we grew up in—where we feel most at home. When portions of our landscapes



shift, like tectonic plates, they may collide, slip by each other, or move apart. What do we do when that happens?

How do we become comfortable in this new landscape that is replacing our past worldview? First, we need to recognize when we have come to an impasse—“the feeling that things have gotten so complex that you don’t have the answers anymore”—and take it as an invitation to spiritual growth.

What does this mean for us as Maryknoll Affiliates? I’m looking forward to hearing if this is part of Nancy Sylvester’s message for us. I know we’ll be hearing a lot more about contemplation, which she describes as “a path of awakening, of seeing anew, of deepening our awareness.” Nancy said, “Perhaps we are being asked to respond in new ways after taking time to assess the unfamiliar landscape so as not to end up in worse shape than before.”

I’m curious to see what tools we will gain at MAC 2020, and I hope to see you there!



**INDIGENOUS WOMEN SPIRITUAL HEALERS  
GATHER IN PERU**

In September, While the stage was being set for the October Amazon Synod in Rome, Maryknoll Lay Missioner Kathy Bond, who has been serving in Brazil for decades, attended the **Convergence of International Women: We are Medicine** conference in Peru. She asked several attendees what their message would be for the Amazon Synod. These are two of her reports:

- **Aboriginal and Indigenous Spirituality: “They are me and I am Them”**  
([https://maryknollogc.org/article/aboriginal-and-indigenous-spirituality-they-are-me-and-i-am-them?fbclid=IwAR1tHo\\_4sQ4q7ZpHKb9OOoS8wtBEDRIT\\_yTZBzpxMsVKqlelQMExmos2dfQ](https://maryknollogc.org/article/aboriginal-and-indigenous-spirituality-they-are-me-and-i-am-them?fbclid=IwAR1tHo_4sQ4q7ZpHKb9OOoS8wtBEDRIT_yTZBzpxMsVKqlelQMExmos2dfQ))

*Miliwanga Wurrben, a traditional healer and elder, represents a remote area in Northern Territory, Australia.*



Miliwanga Wurrben

- **Women Indigenous Spirituality: Giving Voice to What Cannot Speak**

(<https://maryknollogc.org/article/women-indigenous-spirituality-giving-voice-what-cannot-speak>)

Sweet Medicine Nation from Oregon, of Chickasaw lineage and of multicultural heritage, said if invited to the Amazon Synod, she would speak for “all of those who have no voice ... the trees, the water, and the animals.”

To learn more about the issues the indigenous peoples face in the Americas and elsewhere, search on “indigenous” on <https://maryknollogc.org/>.



**SOLIDARITY, THE BORDER, AND RIGHT-TO-LIFE**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

We gathered in solidarity with the immigrant children being held in detention at the US border, and in support of a Catholic Day of Action in El Paso, October 12. A small group of Catholics, including Maryknoll Affiliates, gathered in front of the Cathedral of St. Mary in Portland that same Saturday. Our actions were inspired by the three national “Catholic Day of Action” events held on July 18 in Washington, DC, September 4 in New Jersey, and October 12 in El Paso. The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, at <https://maryknollogc.org/calendar/el-paso-catholic-day-action-immigrant-children>, explained why:

*We launched the campaign after we were shocked by images in a recent Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general’s report showing immigrant and refugee children detained in cages, separated from family members, and living in unsanitary, unhealthy conditions.*



Photo by Kristen Hannum

Portland area Catholics leading prayerful gathering for the detained immigrant children: John Kingery, Affiliates Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, and Eileen Sleva

At the prayerful gathering in Portland (<https://www.catholicsentinel.org/Content/News/Local/Article/Welcoming-children-a-life-issue/2/35/38631?s=1>), we each held a card showing one of the seven children who had died in detention. We prayed for these children, their families, and all the detained children. As we processed on the sidewalk outside the church, we prayed the rosary and meditated on the following words of a detained 12-year-old from Ecuador, a 16-year-old from El Salvador, a 5-year-old from Honduras, a 12-year-old from Guatemala, and a 16-year-old mother from Honduras.

*The officers took everything from us except our documents. They even took our shoelaces. There was a mother in our group traveling with a very young baby. The officers took her diapers,*

*baby formula, and nearly everything else she had and threw it away.*

The water here is horrible. It tastes like chlorine. We can use cups to drink the water. But the water tastes awful and I don’t like it at all.

*The officials here are very bad to us. During the night when we’re trying to sleep they come in and wake us up, yelling and scaring us. Sometimes children rise up in the night and officials yell at them to lay back down.*

The guards who are yelling don’t speak much Spanish, so it’s hard to understand what they’re saying. My sisters and I are very scared when they yell at us and other children.

*Every night my sisters keep asking me, ‘When will our mommy come to get us?’ I don’t know what to tell them. It’s very hard for all of us to be here.”*

The immigration agents separated me from my father right away. I was very frightened and scared. I cried. I have not seen my father again.

*I have been at this facility for several days. I have not been told how long I have to stay here. I am frightened, scared, and sad.*

I have had a cold and cough for several days. I have not seen a doctor and I have not been given any medicine. It is cold at night when we sleep. I have shoes but no socks.

These words come from interviews by lawyers of more than 60 children at US Border Patrol facilities in El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley were reported on HuffPost ([https://www.huffpost.com/entry/migrant-children-describe-detention\\_n\\_5d1646ffe4b03d61163af666](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/migrant-children-describe-detention_n_5d1646ffe4b03d61163af666)).

*The faith community cries out against this inhumane treatment of children, not only as a violation of human dignity and rights, but also as contrary to religious teachings and the sacred call to care for people who are most at risk, especially children. We call on our elected leaders to end the abuse, trauma, and detention of migrant children.—MaryknollOGC.org*

“Each one of us can speak to someone,” said Sleva. “Our words can turn into a stream, joining others that become a river, that then joins the ocean and we can reach the entire world.”

For other ways to express your concern and solidarity see <https://maryknollogc.org/alerts> and <https://paxchristiusa.org/>.



**WORKING WITH THE MIGRANTS**

Maureen Doyle – Chicago Chapter

When we arrived in Green Valley, AZ, this year, my husband Bob wanted to work with the migrants in some way. Little did we know that a flood-gate-full of opportunities would flow to us.

It started with the Santa Cruz Valley Border Issues Fair and Common Ground on the Border conference in Sahuarita, AZ. About 300 people from many faith traditions attended, many of them local but others from all over the US and even as far away as Italy. The program introduction stated, “The Borderlands is the perfect place to explore the arts, touch the culture, and have deeper conversations about the complicated issues that collide here.”

First we went on a field trip, hiking through the desert. I found it challenging, and it had to be difficult for the two men and one teenager we honored that day—they must have run out of food and water. We honored each one with poetry and songs as we came upon the crosses where their remains had been discovered. Three thousand bodies have been discovered in the Tucson area since the year 2000.

This conference was educational, inspirational, and troubling. Sheriff Tony Estrada reported that Nogales has a very low crime rate, mostly domestic abuse. He was opposed to the border wall and said most drugs were entering the US through legal ports of entry, hidden in produce trucks. The wall does nothing to prevent the smuggling of drugs. The US has 5 percent of the world population, but we are responsible for 50 percent of drug usage. “We have created the demand.”

Nogales, partly in Mexico and partly in the US, is divided by the wall. Over 100 tunnels going from the Mexican to the US side have been discovered. Ray Maldonado, an attorney who has a history of representing the Hispanic community, and Pedro Conejo, a Honduran who crossed the border ten years ago, told compelling stories of their struggles on the borderland. Pedro, lucky enough to be found along Interstate 19 by the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans, was given food and water before the Border Patrol took him into custody.

Borderland Security’s militarization of the region has also severely impacted Native Americans. A young Native American woman tripped a sensor on the

reservation while walking her dog and was quickly surrounded by drones and Homeland Security. Her people live on both sides of the border, and travel between family groups has become very difficult. Every time she leaves the reservation, she is interrogated when with her Native American mother, but not when with her Caucasian father.

Through this conference, we became involved with the Green Valley-Sauharita Samaritans (see page 7 in the Sept/Oct 2019 NSFA). One Border Patrol agent had found a 14-year-old girl in the desert who had been raped and left to die; she had found the water the Samaritans left and survived. The agent wept as he carried her out of the desert. Another time, two agents came over to the marked Samaritan van at a checkpoint to thank them for what they were doing.

The men and women who make up the Border Patrol are a varied group, doing jobs they need to support their own families.

We joined the Samaritans who cross to the Mexico side, serving and helping prepare meals for migrants at El Comador. These people leave their homes with little in the way of material items, spend nights outside in the cold desert, and yet are patient and grateful.

They must have been driven from their homeland by serious economic and safety concerns.

La Roca, built into the side of a hill, is a primitive building filled with 300 bunk beds. Families wait here up to three months, to be processed to cross the border. A Guatemalan couple with a 3-month-old baby hoped to connect with friends in Utah. A teenage boy accompanied his mom and little sister from Guatemala, where his father had been killed. His eyes welled with tears as we hugged good-bye.

As I descended the narrow steep stairs holding tightly on the railing, an older woman sweeping a landing reached out to steady me. I was touched by her concern for my safety. This is the true face of the migrants attempting to cross the border.



Photo by Bob Doyle



**AFFILIATES JOIN FORT SILL PROTEST**

Patty Hinton –

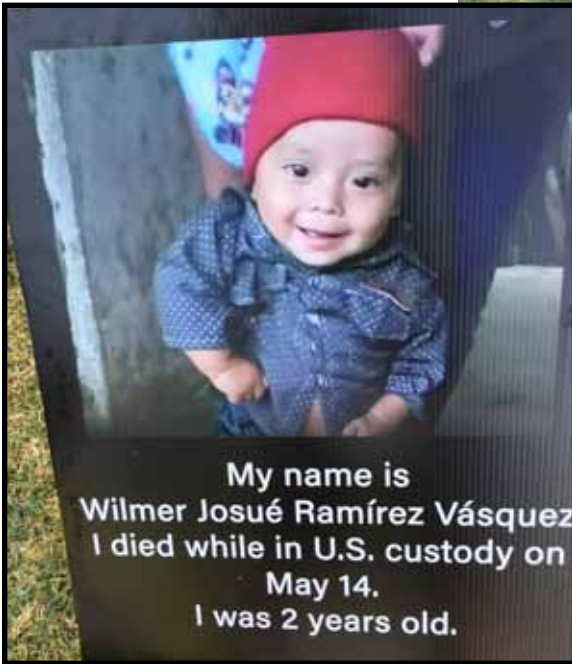
Midwest Regional Coordinator

The end of July, I traveled with the group, Heartland for Human Justice, to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Over 100 from St. Louis joined us. All of us wanted to emphasize that the current situation for immigrants entering our country lacks common decency. Children are separated



from their parents and placed in an inadequate shelter, where food and medical care are sorely lacking. Our 10-hour bus ride to and from Fort Sill was little inconvenience compared to what those on the border are having to deal with!

Photos courtesy of Patty Hinton



Prior to our protest at the fort, we attended an interfaith vigil at Lawton Heights United Methodist Church in Lawton. The painful history of Fort Sill as a detention center of both Native Americans and Japanese was related, and now it is being considered as a children’s detention center for recent immigrants. The names of 34 children who died while in US custody were read, and posters of them were circulated. It is much harder to ignore the situation when one is aware of all those who, like Wilmer, sacrificed their lives. [Note: Probably due to protests, Ft. Sill has been dropped from the list of potential detention centers.]



Unfortunately, with the recent ICE raids in Mississippi, more parents are being torn from their children. When will it stop?



**QUICK QUIZ**

The world view of the indigenous people of the Amazon can best be characterized as:

1. a.) Pagan
2. b.) Pantheistic
3. c.) Panentheistic

**Answer:** You’ll find it in the article, “God in all things: Synod looks at indigenous ‘theology of creation’” (<https://cruxnow.com/amazon-synod/2019/10/11/god-in-all-things-synod-looks-at-indigenous-theology-of-creation/>). To learn more about the Amazon Synod, go to the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns website (<https://maryknollogc.org/resources/resources-synod-amazon>).



## WHEN TWO OR THREE GATHERED

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

By coincidence, Affiliates Renate Schneider, from Haiti and Chicago, and Mary Gill and Patrick Denevan, from Oaxaca and Portland, were all in Portland, Oregon, on family visits at the same time recently. When we gathered and enjoyed a stimulating conversation about the challenges of life in our various communities, I was reminded of the quote, "Wherever two or three are gathered..."



Renate has worked many years in Haiti, both at the University she founded and through Haitian Connection ([HaitianConnection.org](http://HaitianConnection.org)) building houses and working with women in Jeremie. Mary and Pat had both been Maryknollers, then raised a family that includes an adopted mixed-race daughter. They were founders of the Portland Maryknoll Affiliates, becoming Maryknoll Lay Missioners in their retirement, then finally staying in Oaxaca in their second "retirement." They live in an ecological adobe home and demonstration farmlet and work with the local indigenous people.

Renate said that in Haiti every meeting, even government gatherings, begins with a prayer, so we did, too. We prayed for our leaders and all ethnic groups, to remember we are brothers and sisters, all children of God. Renate told us Haitians are fervently Christian but also accept voodoo as an overlay to their faith. They believe in the power of voodoo and the people frequently see spirits. Mary Gill commented that she and the Oaxacans also sense spirits. She told of a neighbor who hiked to a cave in a nearby mountain where he saw a woman all dressed in white: the Madonna?

Haitians are proud of their history as early adopters of democracy. It seems they all know their history. They are well aware that they are a beautiful people and cannot be made to feel inferior. If an outsider makes an unknowing negative remark, they try not to take

it personally. They stand tall and straight even when they're not carrying heavy loads on their heads. We shared that all our communities experience racism based on skin color. Pat said that at AA meetings in Oaxaca, many men had commented that their dark skin color made them feel inferior. Since most people in Haiti have fairly dark skin, this form of racism may not be as common there as in the US and Mexico.

Daily life in Haiti has its challenges. Intermittent electricity may make it difficult to keep cell phones and computers charged. Renate may stock the refrigerator with food only to find

**Renate, a professor of English at the law school in Jérémie, received a plaque of honor from her students in this year's English class.**

that the electricity will be off and then have to share the food with her neighbors rather than let it spoil. The University has an electrical generator, but then someone had to remember to have gasoline to run it on hand. In order to have water in her house, she needs to be sure the water tank on the roof gets filled.

Working with therapists and mental health professionals, Renate related how many of the Haitian's emotional ills express themselves in pains in their bodies. The Denevans see the same phenomenon in the indigenous people of Oaxaca.

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***Renate was shocked by the obvious homelessness in the US. In Haiti, people's families take them in even if they have to sleep 20 to a room.***

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Political unrest in Haiti which has been in the news has caused a decrease in tourism and disrupted daily life. One hotel which had employed over 200 people was down to 20 local employees. The effects of unemployment cascade through the society because each working person might support 10 others. Airlines canceling flights at the last minute because of the unrest also created problems for travelers, workers, or volunteers coming to the island. Corruption in political and government offices is widespread and occurs at all levels.

We agreed that it is difficult to change a culture that seems to accept corruption, or bullying, or discrimination, but, each in our own way, we must live out our Christian values.





## ACTIVE IN SEATTLE

The following report is condensed from Pat Bader's minutes of the October 12 Seattle Chapter meeting.

To begin the meeting, Al Drinkwine read his poem entitled, "An Earthly Letter to Our Heavenly Father," his response when a priest suggested that he write a letter to God.

**Discussion:** We explored, "Why do we attend the monthly Affiliate meetings?" using the Four Affiliate Pillars as a starting point. Some comments:

- **Spirituality** binds us together as a group.
- **Community:** We are nurtured by our community and by the support we all receive from connecting at the monthly meetings.
- **Global Vision:** The *Not So Far Afield* newsletters keep us in contact with Affiliate activities worldwide.
- **Action:** We volunteer together locally and internationally.

**Chapter roles:** After three summers of coordinating Affiliates to help the Maryknoll priests during their weekend mission appeals at parishes, Carolyn Creighton has handed on the job to Janet Quillian. Carolyn is also stepping down as Chapter Coordinator, to be replaced by Kitty Schiltz, who was nominated and unanimously approved.

### Actions:

- The Maryknoll priests giving summer weekend appeals at various parishes say they appreciate the support of the Affiliates during and after the Masses. We promote all the Maryknoll entities in our discussions with parishioners.
- Jerrie Drinkwine and Al attended a luncheon in support of the Seafaring Ministry in Seattle. Some of the seafarers who work on the ships appreciate help while they are in the Port of Seattle. This could be a ministry we might want to consider.
- Annapatrice Johnson, with Maryknoll Mission Education, is organizing a Maryknoll display

for the October 18-19 Catholic Cornerstone Conference at the Tacoma Convention Center; Pat Bader will help at the display.

- Donations collected at this meeting will be sent to the Oaxaca Ecology Project, which is operated by former Maryknoll Lay Missioners Pat and Mary Denevan. They will close their nonprofit organization at the end of this year and plan to retire in place at their ecology farm and continue ministering to the people in their Oaxacan community.

**Presentation:** Al and Jerrie Drinkwine gave an enthusiastic and informative presentation on their 8-day trip to Cuba in April to "Support the Cuban People." They received friendly welcomes everywhere and stayed at B&Bs to experience local hospitality and culture. The 1950s vintage vehicles are a favorite mode of transportation for tourists. The already fragile economy had collapsed further after the Russians withdrew from Cuba in 1990.



Affiliates gather at the Seattle Maryknoll Missioners House, where they meet.

### Calendar:

- Wednesday, November 9 – our next meeting
- Saturday, November 30 – decorating party in preparation for our Christmas season celebration.
- Friday, December 6 – Christmas season Mass at 5:00PM, followed by dinner.
- Saturday, January 11, 2020 – Speakers will be Ralph and Kate Maugham.
- June 25th to 28, 2020 – International Maryknoll Affiliate Conference in New York.



**HOW TO CULTIVATE  
NONVIOLENCE?**

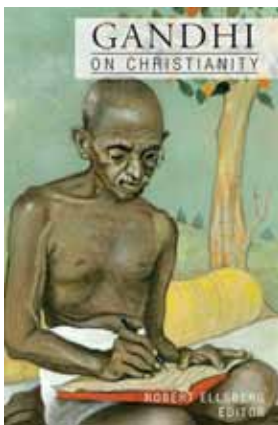
*Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss - Portland Chapter*

Though geographically dispersed, twelve dedicated folks have carved a few hours out of their busy schedules to read and talk about nonviolence this October. Half are Affiliates, and half are their friends who want to expand their thinking and nonviolent tools. Besides reading the very practical book, *Personal Nonviolence*, by Gerard Vanderhaar, and using on-line readings and video from JustFaith's "Cultivating Nonviolence" module, they participate in weekly conference calls to share their insights and questions.



Campaign Nonviolence, Pace e Bene's international campaign that works for a new culture of nonviolence free from war, poverty, racism, and environmental destruction, reported more than 3,000 actions during the September 2019 Week of Actions, including several events in Oregon (<https://paceebene.org/blog/2019/9/22/2019-action-week-in-review>).

In October, Robert Ellsberg of Orbis Books, featured several books on Gandhi and offered free shipping. Maryknoll Affiliates also receive a generous discount from Orbis. Some Affiliate chapters, for example in New Orleans, read inspiring books and focus their meetings on discussing them.



We'd appreciate your suggestions for cultivating the nonviolent message of Christ. Contact us at [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto:NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org).



**MARYKNOLL MISSION  
INSTITUTE – 2020**

*Once again, The Maryknoll Sisters are offering a varied slate of programs. Which one will most enrich your life?*

These are the programs for May through July 2020, all of which run Sunday through Friday:

- May 10-15** **Finding God in -of all Things: Our Age-ing!**  
*Robert Weber, PhD*
- May 17-22** **Journey to the Heart: Falling in Love with Earth**  
*Sr. Sharon Zayac, OP*
- May 31-June 5** **Where to from here? Radical Changes in Thought and Practice**  
*Michael Morwood, MA*
- June 7-12** **Loving Water Across Religions**  
*Elizabeth McAnally, PhD*
- June 14-19** **40th Anniversary of Martyrdom of Church Women in El Salvador**  
*Eileen Markey and Others*
- June 21-26** **Creating Religious Life for the 21st Century**  
*Bro. Seán Sammon, FMS, PhD*
- July 12-17** **Call To Personal and Global Transformation**  
*Edwina Gateley, MA*
- July 19-24** **Women at the Well: Agents of Change, Shapers of the World**  
*Maureen H. O'Connell, PhD*
- July 26-31** **Finding a Way in the Wilderness: Drawing Courage through the Art of Film**  
*Fr. Larry Lewis, PhD*

Learn more about these programs and register online at: <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/mission-institute/missioninstitute/> OR request an application form by:

Email: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org)  
 Phone: 914-941-7575 @ 5671  
 Mail: Maryknoll Mission Institute  
 Maryknoll Sisters  
 PO Box 311  
 Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311



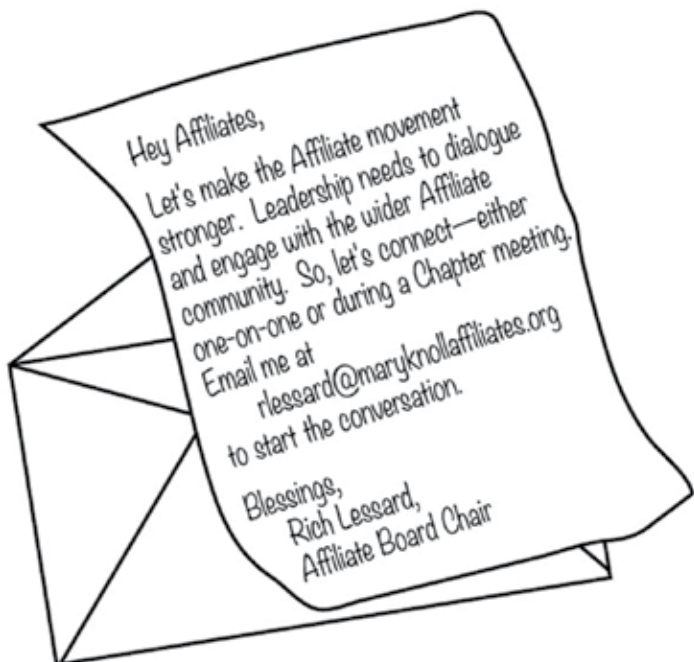
# News from the Board



## COMING SOON – APPEALING FISH STORY

Manny Hotchkiss, of the Affiliate Board Finance Committee, will be sharing a whopper of a fish story that relates to the sustainability of the Affiliate Movement as we follow the *Fisher of All*.

Be watching your mailbox for the annual **Maryknoll Affiliates Appeal Letter** to be mailed November 15th.



## BOARD / REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEET

November 7 - 10, 2019

One of the twice yearly Board meetings includes the Regional Coordinators, to contribute their wisdom to the Board discussions and also to confer on how best to coordinate in their regions. The November meeting agenda includes:

- Discern how to best guide the Affiliate movement, utilizing:
  - ~ Group discussion of questions sent out previously
  - ~ Reflection on how Pope Francis's book *Go Forth* applies to individuals and the Affiliate movement
  - ~ Artistic rendition of conclusions for group interpretation.
- Open space discussion: Where do we go from here? Turning ideas into concrete actions.
- Special topics: Call with Renate Schneider on Haiti, Covenant working group, Quo Vadis, MAC2020, Website redo.
- Regional Coordinators meet separately.



A Prayer from  
**CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES**  
By St Francis of Assisi

*Praise to God with all the creatures,  
Especially Brother Sun,  
Who is the day that gives us light.  
And the sun is beautiful and radiant with great  
splendor,  
Bearing God's likeness.  
Praise for our Sister moon and the stars  
In the heavens bright, precious, and fair.  
Praise for our Brothers Wind and Air,  
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,  
That cherish all creation.  
Praise for our Sister Water,  
So useful, humble, precious and pure.  
Praise for our Brother Fire,  
Who lights the nights and is beautiful and playful and  
robust and strong.  
Praise for our Sister,  
Mother Earth,  
Who sustains and governs us,  
Producing varied fruits with colored flowers and  
herbs.  
Praise for those who grant pardon out of love.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace.*



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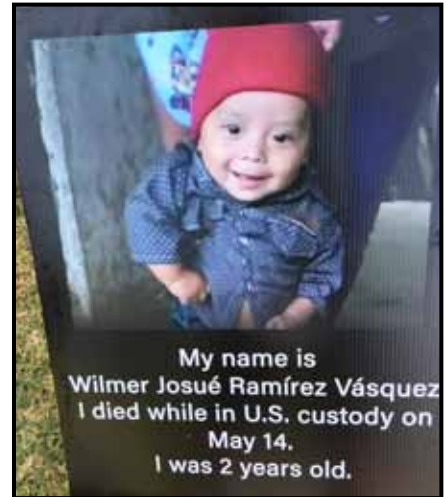
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From Ft. Sill to Portland, OR, Affiliates protest the inhumane treatment of children.

