



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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CO-MEDITATION:

A SACRAMENTAL EXPERIENCE

John Moritz – Affiliate Board member
/ NE Florida Chapter

After about two years of co-meditation in a small Maryknoll contemplative group, I am sharing and putting into words what our experience is and what it means to me. Since I have many years in the traditional church structure, I approach my experience of our co-meditation group within the context of sacrament.

These definitions clarify my use of the term sacrament:

- **The Sacramental Principle:** That which is always and everywhere true (the eternal Cosmic Christ), on occasion needs to be recognized, acknowledged, and celebrated.
—Michael Himes, 1996

Fr. Himes uses the term *true*; I expand that notion to that which is beautiful, transformative, anything which leads us to an in-depth encounter with our true self and the other.

- **The Sacramental Process:** Sacrament (Ritual) leads us from Separation through Participation into Reintegration.
—Diarmuid O'Murchu, 2004

Our Maryknoll co-meditation group follows this process in our Skype meetings:

Check-In (5-10 minutes): We begin with 3 minutes of silence. This separates us from our daily routine. Emotionally and spiritually, a transformation takes place. The check-in is the beginning of deep listening and sharing together.

Reading a Short Reflection (3 minutes): The ritual sharing of a reflection evokes a deep personal response that is expressed in the still but not silent time. At each meeting, we take turns providing a reflection. It is a short invitation to spend some time, to dwell on a thought or an image. For me, seeing the faces of each person by Skype during this time is extremely meaningful.

Contemplation Together (20 minutes): A time of stillness follows in which emerging images begin to stir within us a desire to share and meditate each other. We are all participants in the process. The recognition that I have something to bring into the group is both humbling and gratifying. It is amazing to me that the way one of us might say a single word says more than the word itself. Usually, by the end of this time, nothing is being said; nothing needs to be said.

Harvesting Wisdom (10 minutes): Returning to a more active consciousness, we consider what we have experienced. What has this time together meant to me? What is my state now? I am always fed by this experience.

Sharing Maryknoll News (10 minutes): Because we are all related through our common bond of Maryknoll, we spend some time sharing things that are going on and are meaningful to all of us. This is a way of reintegrating us back into our individual lives.

Closing (1 minute): We end our time together with one last minute of silence. This allows us to savor what has taken place. Within the span of just an hour, we become what I describe as sacrament to each other.

About twice a month our small community acknowledges and celebrates that which is always and everywhere true. I participate in this communal gift of self, a very real communication of "I am the group, the group is me." Nourished by the group, I am sent out once more, refreshed and rested, to be what I am called to be.

Through modern technology (Skype), we share this sacrament despite being separated geographically. I am grateful to [Ann Carr](#), [Fr. Russ Feldmeier](#), [Mary Massaro](#), [Sr. Norie Mojado](#), and [Mary Moritz](#) for their gift of self in making this co-meditating a reality. We come together from various expressions of the Maryknoll family, and this adds a fullness to the experience. I believe that this is a paradigm leap within my experience of Maryknoll, one that defies my ability to describe it. **For me it is a new paradigm of a meaningful religious community.**



TAKING MARYKNOLL PLACES

I am very grateful that my life has been influenced by Maryknoll, but I hadn't thought how I might also have affected Maryknoll. Ellen McDonald, MM, said in 1994, "We [Maryknoll] need those of you who have been touched by Maryknoll and have taken Maryknoll's call out to places we did not dream of."

In carrying Maryknoll to new places, this issue touches on all four pillars of the Maryknoll Affiliates: Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action. John Moritz shares a new paradigm for a religious community (p. 1). Renate Schneider continues hoping and working for Haiti (p. 6).

We in North America are stretched by the Affiliates in Central and South America. See "Circular Economy" (p. 4) and "Peru March For Nonviolence" (p. 5). Like the Peru Affiliates, we want a Church of nonviolence. In NE Florida, the Williams work in prisons, and others write letters, listen, and dialogue. Rich Lessard especially asks us to dialogue with Affiliate leadership; he wants to listen and explore with us our Affiliate identity. We need connection and communication through engagement and dialogue.

In 1994—and today, Ellen McDonald asks, "What is my personal call at this time? And how am I faithful as part of Maryknoll's call?" Where has Maryknoll taken you? Where are you taking Maryknoll? Tell us 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 him at affiliatebshort@gmail.com.

WHO IS MARYKNOLL

Sr. Ellen McDonald, MM

Ellen was co-founder of the Maryknoll Affiliates with Fr. Jim Madden, MM. This excerpt from her homily to the Maryknoll Sisters on Vocation Sunday, 1994 first appeared in the NSFA in 1995.



Maryknoll is like a visible symbol of a whole set of values. It speaks to us of diversity in our world; of reaching out to other peoples, nations, and cultures; witnessing

to God's love, respect, and justice everywhere. Everyone who has ever come to Maryknoll, for however long he or she has stayed, has become a part of this Maryknoll vocation. At the same time, the personal vocation of each has taken Maryknoll out to places where we might never have gone.

The challenge of God's word today, of this two-edged sword, is to ask ourselves where we stand in this dual strain of call: What is my personal call at this time? And how am I faithful as part of Maryknoll's call? We need those of you who have been touched by Maryknoll and have taken Maryknoll's call out to places we did not dream of. And you need us, who strive to keep Maryknoll's vocation present and visible as a symbol and sign of God's love for the whole of our world.



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

!PRESENTE!

Mary and Manny Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

On the 30th Anniversary of the massacre of five Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America (UCA), we participated in the SOA Watch weekend in Columbus, GA. We were especially motivated to attend because we had participated in a Maryknoll Lay Missioner-led trip to the UCA in El Salvador and had seen where the Jesuits were brutally assassinated. SOA Watch began when it was learned that 19 graduates of the SOA, the School of the Americas at Fort Benning US Army base in Columbus, GA, were involved in the murder of the Jesuits in their UCA residences.



Marching at the SOA with Roy Bourgeois in the center



L-to-R: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, New Orleans Affiliates Kevin Cahalan and Ben Gordon, and Manny Hotchkiss

Maryknollers at this SOA Watch included two Affiliates from New Orleans—Kevin Cahalan and Ben Gordon, Fr. Jack Moynihan, MM (a co-coordinator of the Affiliates in the 90s), several former lay missioners, and relatives of Maryknollers. Roy Bourgeois, formerly a Maryknoll priest and one of the SOA Watch founders, spoke briefly. This was the first time we had attended, but for many others, the SOA Watch gathering is an annual time to reconnect with fellow activists who had been advocating for Latinos and seeking to close the SOA for many years.

We learned that the SOA Watch doesn't just watch the SOA, which has been renamed WHINSEC. SOA Watch team members based in Columbus and Tuscon, as well as in Panama, Honduras, Columbia, and Chile, work with local activists. The weekend highlighted six organizations helping those impacted by US violence and policies in the Americas, especially the Border Patrol Victims Network. We mourned with a mother and grandmother in that network during their presentation and at a memorial candlelight ritual hosted by Pax Christi. The women

told of their 16-year-old child being shot *in Mexico*, by a US border patrol agent. The boy, Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, was shot in the back multiple times, then twice in the head. The agent was found not guilty of murder in a US court, but the family is pursuing suing him.

Project South provides legal support to social justice movements in the southeastern US, including shutting down detention centers, while the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR), works in Georgia. No More Deaths is based in southern Arizona and works "to end death and suffering in the Mexico-US borderlands through civil initiative: people of conscience working openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights." They are well known for leaving jugs of water in the desert for migrants and for helping to defend humanitarians who are arrested for providing such aid.



Mary and Manny with crosses.

Cis-El Salvador has been in El Salvador for 25 years working to support the people, helping to reduce violence and the people's need to migrate. Paz Amigos is a small Columbus, GA, non-profit that welcomes and assists men as they are released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention at the nearby Lumpkin ICE detention center.

The moving closing ceremony of this SOA Watch started with a Peace Walk led by Buddhists. There were no plans for civil disobedience this year but we were all asked to commit to the principles of nonviolence. Finally we solemnly processed with the puppetistas to the Gates of Fort Benning and remembered all the martyrs by lifting our white crosses with their names and responding, "¡Presente!"



CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A PRACTICE FOR GOOD LIVING*

Marcela Gereda – Guatemala Chapter

Pope Francis, in his Encyclical *Laudato Si*, calls on us to create a different scale of human values, to found a new humanism, that of Good Living, which departs from the logic of the extractivist economy and accommodates a new way of relating to each other and to the Earth. This new way of connecting must protect and promote both human rights and the rights of Mother Earth.

The Pope points out that today's way of life is not sustainable for the Earth. Good Living calls us to establish a different relationship with the Earth, within the framework of fair wages, work, and decent life for all; It implies changing the rules of the game between us and nature to preserve our "Common House." The amount of waste we produce today is not sustainable. Hence, waste management and the way we produce food are key elements of Good Living and of Pope Francis's call to establish a new relationship with the earth.

Diverse scientific investigations indicate poor waste management throughout Latin America, the overuse of pesticides, deforestation, and increased agricultural monoculture. In many places the ecocides are multiple and cloud our vision, but It is necessary to see what is generating life and hope from the collective and the common. Examples of this are the *circular economy* being practiced in Bolivia and what various companies are doing in Peru by recycling their materials.

Replacing the linear process of extraction, the circular economy uses and disposes of resources in a way that preserves material and natural wealth. This innovative economic model is already beginning to bear fruit. Thus, global economic development is decoupled from the consumption of finite resources by opting for the reuse or extension of the life cycle of raw materials. Many companies, cooperatives, projects, and institutions in the world are implementing these ideas through a model that seeks to minimize waste and establish synergies between production cycles. While the linear economy is produce-use-throw, the circular economy is produce-use-recycle. The benefits of the circular economy are: reducing

production costs by reusing resources, reducing the risk of fluctuation in the price of raw materials, reducing the price to consumers, creating jobs in the waste management industry, and generating spaces for entrepreneurship.

In Bolivia, Mexico, Peru, and other Latin American countries are many beautiful circular economy projects. For example, in Peru the renowned Panchita restaurant converts food leftovers into fuel. Transforming waste into fuel for trucks generates "a positive impact on the environment," said the spokesman for Together for the Environment.

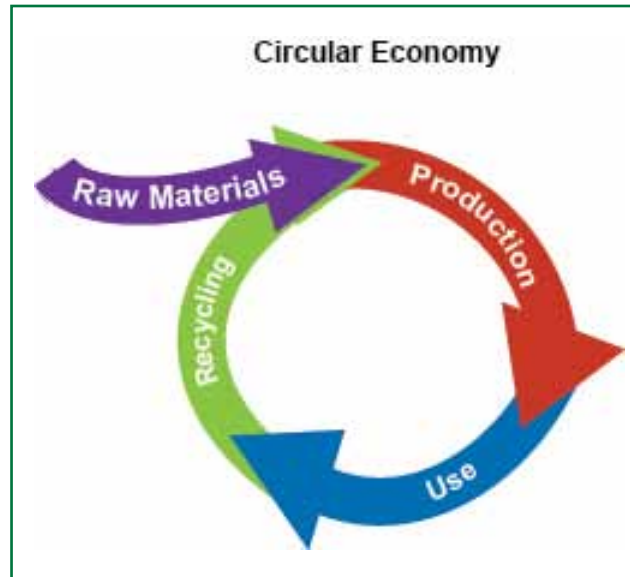
The Pura Vida Association in San Marcos La Laguna, Guatemala, and also various communities in Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia are using PET bottles in building materials, so they don't end up in rivers and seas.

The Peruvian energy solutions company ETNA has invested in a process to convert unusable batteries into new batteries. Their processing plant also prevents

pollution by converting effluent into water usable for irrigating green areas. Another organization, Las Traperas, promotes social entrepreneurship through collaborative consumption—reusing and recycling clothes and objects. This company gives clothing a second life and allows the customer to pay up to 50 percent of the price of the garments with other second-hand products.

At present, the overall economy is stuck in a system in which everything seems to favor the linear model of production-consumption-waste. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls us to Good Living—respecting the cycles and processes of Mother Earth and understanding that we all are interdependent beings. All ecosystems are related. We are all One. We can coexist with all God's Creation and respect Mother Earth by promoting a circular economy that takes care of, honors, protects, and loves "our Common House."

*Translated and condensed from "Economía Circular, Una Práctica del Buen Vivir," which appeared in the September/October 2019 issue of *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*.



Source: Government of the Netherlands (<https://www.government.nl/topics/circular-economy/from-a-linear-to-a-circular-economy>)



PERÚ MARCH FOR NONVIOLENCE

Carlos Apcho –

Chapter of San Francisco de Lima, Perú

For the seventh consecutive year, the Affiliate Chapters of San Francisco, Niño Jesús and Santa Rosa de Peru, together with a parish group, celebrate the International Day of Nonviolence on October 2nd. We march through the streets of Pamplona Alta, in the district of San Juan Miraflores, in southern Lima. This year, the march was attended by more than 800 people, including school children, neighbors, and leaders of the sector.

We believe that the march was successful because more people than expected joined it. Definitely,



Her sign reads, “Violence is the Last Resort of the Incompetent.”

people see the march as an opportunity to pronounce themselves united against crime, to reject any act of violence against women, children, the elderly and animals, and to reject any act that destroys the Mother Earth.

... reject any act that destroys the Mother Earth.

As always, the Ambassador of India, Mandarapu Subbarayudu, was present at the March. This time he accompanied us, and with his presence, he encourages us to follow the life testimony of Mahatma Gandhi, a great promoter of Nonviolence. This year marks 150 years since Ghandi’s birth. We do not like violence, we believe and live Gandhi’s message of harmony and peace.

We do not like violence, we believe and live Gandhi’s message of harmony and peace.

For Mandarapu Subbarayudu, being in Lima is like living in India. He considers that the cultural and economic aspects of India and Peru have similarities, such as the taste for cinema, music, Indian food, and the use of traditional medicine. In the way we live our lives, both the inhabitants of Peru and those of India express: “We do not like violence, we believe and live Gandhi’s message of harmony and peace, family values unite us, and we are hospitable to the people who visit our country.”



Their signs read: “No More Wars—Peace,” “Peace is in Your Hands,” “Children need to live in worldwide peace. If we all come together, we will achieve peace.”



HAITI IN TURMOIL

Renate Schneider – Chicago Chapter

Renate, a Maryknoll Affiliate, has been living and working in Haiti for 22 years.

I just recently decided to return to Chicago, because life had become almost unbearable for me in Jeremie, Haiti. All of the constraints of living under the conditions in Jeremie have crept up on me gradually. But towards the end, it was becoming more than I could bear. The worst was to be a prisoner in my own house, hesitant to venture out.

Since I live on a hill, I have to use transportation to get into town. Before I could do that, I had to make several calls to friends to see what the situation was. Taking my car was not advisable, so I always went by motor bike. The market was either closed because the gangs were overthrowing the stalls and pelting the innocent *marchands* with rocks and bottles, or there was just nothing to be had. One day I came back with two carrots. So I had carrots and peanut butter to eat.

I found myself angry with the bandits, because they destroyed the livelihood of their mothers and grandmothers, and they hurt themselves in a way too, because when they went home, there was nobody who would cook for them. Roads to leave Jeremie were constantly blocked, and I was afraid that the road to the small airport in Jeremie would also be blocked. I wanted to be home in Chicago for Christmas.



Roadblock in Jeremie on the way to the airport.

I volunteer at a breast cancer clinic in Jeremie, and we were expecting a medical delegation from the US to do surgery. But the state hospital did not have gas, nor nitrous oxide, nor oxygen. So they had to cancel the trip. Meanwhile the patients have to wait some more for life-saving surgeries. Yesterday two small children died, because they needed a blood transfusion, and there was no blood. The local Red Cross closed down some time ago.

Children have been out of school, but we started an alternative school/study hall, and that has been a godsend for the children and also for the staff—it gives some hope and sense of normalcy. I have never experienced fear in Jeremie, but one afternoon I took the motor taxi home, and we ran right into a demonstration. The rocks on the road presented us with an obstacle course, and young men on the street with covered faces had weapons in hand. We were going so fast that we escaped thanks to an element of surprise.

It needed my daughter to point out to me that living like that was not normal. Friends in Jeremie invited me to leave with them, and I took advantage of their offer. We went to the small airport in Jeremie with an armed guard. Who would have ever thought this was necessary? Maybe it wasn't.

How did it get to this? The uprisings, which have lasted since summer, are caused by huge frustrations; life is ever more difficult to live. Devalued local currency, skyrocketing inflation, increased malnutrition and widespread hunger, huge unemployment and massive corruption by political leaders of all parties have contributed to the current crisis.



Roadblock between Jeremie and Port au Prince.

In actuality Haiti does not have a government now, because elections that were supposed to take place October 27 have not happened. There is no Prime Minister, there is nobody in the Chamber of Deputies and only a third of the Senate is functioning. Armed gangs have stepped into this void, and are now terrorizing the population. They are barricading roads, attacking schools and hospitals.

Businesses and banks are frequently closed; in other words, the country is in lock-down. The opposition



Alternative School

9, and the police have arrested several gang leaders and confiscated a number of weapons (There are approximately 500,000 weapons in Haiti).

Haitian Connection, my NGO, continues to stand in solidarity with the Haitian people.

I am not abandoning Haiti; in fact, I realize how much that country has become part of the fabric of my life and how much I love it. During these troubled times in Jeremie, the alternative school we started provides Konparets—a Haitian sweet roll, to 450 students a week in the rural area of Jean Bellune. They are baked in our own bakery as part of the Jeremie Breadfruit Flour and Nursery business enterprise.

While my hope is not well defined, it is there. We are determined in the spirit of hope to continue our work, because we must.

Learn more about Haitian Connection at:

HAITIANCONNECTION.ORG

remains firm in their demand for President Jovenel to resign, and Jovenel has refused to step down.

Nonetheless, as I am writing this, there are some timid movements to open up the country and start it to function again. Schools are set to resume January



DEPORTED TO CAMBODIA!

Marie Wren – North Bay, CA Chapter

Recently, I was privileged to take a Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Mission Immersion trip to Taiwan and Cambodia. The North Bay Affiliate Chapter has been involved in immigration issues and has been helping refugee families, so an interaction with an organization in Cambodia named Khmer Vulnerability Aid Organization (KVAO) assisting deportees from the US was of particular interest. Maryknoll Sister Len Montiel was our tour leader for Cambodia, and she had been on the Board of Directors of KVAO.

Generally, the deportees came to the US as refugees, were convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, often in their younger years, had served their time in prison, and were living productive lives with families. They are usually permanent residents, and some may have failed to complete paperwork to become citizens (which they regret) and then are served with deportation orders. The numbers have grown in recent years. The agency has helped 743 deportees since its founding in 2002, and 65-70% of them are now working. In 2018, 110 Cambodians were deported, and that number was expected to rise to 200 in 2019.

We met a young Cambodian man who had come to the US as a child. Recently, as an adult, the US deported him to Cambodia. His knowledge of the written and spoken Cambodian language and culture was very limited. His deportation left a partner and a child in the United States. The young man was very

grateful for the services of KVAO: they greeted him when he arrived and helped him find a place to stay and obtain job training. He can never return legally to the US, so to maintain contact, his family will have to visit him in Cambodia.



KVAO founder talks to group.

KVAO, a non-governmental humanitarian organization, defines its vision as “a Cambodia where all Cambodian deportees are successfully integrated and are stable, productive, and independent members of society.” It is a bewildering experience for deportees to be sent back to a homeland they have never really known, some

having fled as infants with their families to escape the ravages of the Khmer Rouge. From 1975 to 1994, 150,000 Cambodian refugees came to the United States. KVAO helps the deportees with orientation to the culture, getting legal documents, and access to job training. Many end up teaching English.

Here in the US, we experience the effects of our harsh immigration policies on our Hispanic neighbors, so it was particularly disturbing to also find those effects extending all the way to Cambodia. We were glad to know that KVAO alleviates some of the trauma associated with deportation.

Interested in a Mission experience? Visit:

- maryknollsociety.org/mission-trips/ or
- mklm.org/why-go-on-a-mission-immersion-trip/

CROSSING BORDERS AND COMING TOGETHER

Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –
Portland Chapter

We are inspired and challenged whenever we come together with Affiliates. We try to contact Affiliate chapters or Maryknollers wherever we travel. The Hospitality List maintained by Bob Short shows that many Affiliates and Chapters welcome visitors. Recently, Mary and John Moritz in Jacksonville, Florida, arranged for us to join them and a couple from their chapter, Mary Morris Williams and Bryan Williams, for a casual dinner in the Moritz home.

Photo by John Moritz.



Most of the Northeast Florida Chapter

In our conversation with them, we learned that notices in parish bulletins sometimes work because that's how Mary Morris Williams first connected with the chapter. She even became chapter contact person for a couple years. Mary attended the 2014 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference in New York and hopes to attend MAC 2020. We loved hearing Mary and Bryan's experiences in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on a Friends Across Borders immersion trip.

The Williamses enjoyed seeing the missions of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners and absorbing the culture of Brazil and Maryknoll. They have now signed up for a visit to El Salvador to meet more Lay Missioners and

to see the sites of the martyrdoms of Romero and the Maryknoll Sisters—Ita Ford and Maura Clark. Their earlier contact with the marginalized came through Mary's medical mission trip to Honduras and Bryan's work as a mental health professional.

Mary and Bryan were also looking forward to their prison ministry work the next morning. Mary says, "It's the best part of my week." They provide a simple religious service of singing and presence to the male prisoners. Bryan plays music on a keyboard and has led a confirmation class at the prison. Mary also organizes a ministry at a women's jail in which Mary Moritz participates. They are all gratified by the warm

welcome they receive from the prisoners and the hunger those incarcerated have for their accepting presence. They are again crossing borders.

Mary and John Moritz talked about their Affiliate chapter's many ministries and efforts. Their interesting meetings have included movie nights, a discussion led by a local priest friend on the clerical sexual abuse crisis, and a presentation on addictions (see page 10). They are planning a meeting dealing with suicides.

The chapter has had a four-day retreat at a local Trappist abbey and a recent day-long retreat. Visits from Maryknollers and

Affiliates keep them well connected to Maryknoll. Mary Moritz was one of the organizers of the Maryknoll Chapter Companions program, and Fr. Bob Carleton, MM, is their chapter companion. John Moritz, an Affiliate Board member, frequently reads, shares, and writes about Orbis books. Mary is the Regional Coordinator for the southeast US.

Because of our short visit we have been inspired and feel heart-connected to these Affiliates who live across the country from us. We hope that they will also visit us and build a connection with our chapter. Meeting Affiliates across the country is easy using the Hospitality List facilitated by Bob Short.



BEING MYSELF

Bob Maxwell – Cincinnati Chapter, deceased 2017

Why can't I allow my own love and self-gift and Christlikeness. Why do we deny our saintliness?

It is destructive to compare myself with others, both when I seem better and when I seem worse. I seem to be most me when I am alone doing nothing. Then I cannot compare.

Help me, Jesus, to be who I am, not who I imagine others want me to be. I sometimes try to be someone who does not exist.



CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland, OR chapter

Imagine the one billion Catholics worldwide insisting that the just war theory is against our religion. Not only that, we won't allow capital punishment to be done in our name. I had that vision after Marie Dennis joined the closing session of our Cultivating Nonviolence group. She told us about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) formed by Pax Christi, our own Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, and other Catholic organizations.



The CNI website, <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net>, gives information about their meetings and the workshop, *2019 Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace*, held at the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative asks that we

- *integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life of the Church,*
- *promote nonviolent practices and strategies,*
- *initiate a global conversation on nonviolence within the Church,*
- *no longer use or teach "just war theory,"*
- *lift up the prophetic voice of the Church to challenge unjust world powers.*

A two page statement from the April 2019 meeting ([PCI-CNI Statement from Path of Nonviolence workshop 2019](#)) lists many efforts we could participate in. At the closing session of our Cultivating Nonviolence group, we committed to asking our local Catholic colleges to implement nonviolence training in their curricula, and we made or repeated the Vow of Nonviolence (<https://paxchristiusa.org/resources/vow-of-nonviolence/>). Join us in our New Year's resolutions to help all to live in nonviolence.



A LETTER TO POPE FRANCIS

Ken Butigan, a nonviolence trainer with Pace e Bene, suggested that the participants of our Cultivating Nonviolence study group write a letter to Pope Francis asking the pope for an encyclical on nonviolence.



Your Holiness,

We struggle to be Church and value your leadership. You wrote, "In our complex and violent world, it is truly a formidable undertaking to work for peace by living the practice of nonviolence." in a message to participants in the "Nonviolence and Just Peace" conference in Rome in 2016.

Your message for World Day of Peace 2017, "Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace," reaffirmed all who abhor violence in its many forms, personal or national. You emphasized, "Violence is not the cure for our broken world."

The formation of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net>) gives us great hope, as did the conference, *The Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace*, at the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in April 2019. At that conference, approximately 75 theologians, peace practitioners, bishops, archbishops, social scientists, educators, and pastoral ministry workers met for two days in Rome to share a deeper conversation about mainstreaming active nonviolence in the Church and in society.

We hope for an encyclical on nonviolence in which you remind the whole Church of Jesus's teaching of steadfast, nonviolent love for all, to energize us in our struggle for a just and loving world.

Your servants,

Mary and Manfred Hotchkiss

Cc: Archbishop Sample, Portland, OR, and *Catholic Sentinel*, the official newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese

You can send your own letter! Physical letters go to His Holiness, Pope Francis, Apostolic Palace, 00120 Vatican City. Or email him at av@pccs.va.



MEETING TOPIC: ADDICTION

Shelby Miller — NE Florida Chapter

At Northeast Florida Chapter's recent meeting, David Courtwright, Affiliate Shelby Miller's husband, spoke about his 2019 book, *The Age of Addiction: How Bad Habits Became Big Business.** David's scholarship has centered on the history of addiction in the US and worldwide.

Using illustrations and eliciting comments from the group, he traced how humans searched for new and potentially dangerous pleasures, from honey sought by cave dwellers to today's digital technology and highly processed food. Many products and activities are potentially addictive, not just those we traditionally think of as vices: alcohol, gambling, prostitution, pornography, and drugs. Today, we face compulsive overeating, machine gambling, excessive social-media use, and even habitual tanning. These have medical and social costs and potential for addiction.



What is an addiction? It is a vice that has become unusually strong, preoccupying and damaging. An addiction is usually a subset of vice, and a vice is usually a subset of pleasure. Addictions cause harm. What counts as a pleasure, vice or addiction changes with time, culture and technology. For example, in Europe and the Americas sugar-rich food is being redefined as a vice, while the traditional vice of marijuana use is becoming a commercial pleasure though a contested one. Tobacco products are another example. Through global public health counter-offensives, cigarette use has declined. However, other forms of excessive consumption and addiction continue with the help of global industries, governments, and criminal organizations.

Is there anything we can do? Age restrictions on certain products help, but we must learn how products are enhanced to make us unwilling consumers.

After the talk, Mary Moritz said, "It was very meaningful to think of all the ways we can become addicted. It reminds us to be mindful of what we do and why we do it. David said that our brains actually get changed by addiction so that we need more and more of what we are addicted to in order to be satisfied."

*An on-line book forum, ROROTOKO, describes the book and explains why David wrote it. See http://rorotoko.com/interview/20191204_courtwright_david_on_book_age_addiction_bad_habits_big_business/?page=1



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE – 2020

Once again, The Maryknoll Sisters are offering a varied slate of programs. Is your special interest included?

These are the programs for May and June, 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

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

EMAIL: MISSINST@MKSISTERS.ORG
PHONE: 914-941-7575 @ 5671
MAIL: MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE
MARYKNOLL SISTERS, PO BOX 311
MARYKNOLL, NY 10545-0311



DON'T FORGET OUR MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE CONFERENCE – MAC 2020

Thursday – Sunday, June 25-28
Graymoor Spiritual Center
Garrison, New York

Start the New Year right by registering to attend!

Visit www.mkmac.org for more information.



News from the Board



BOARD MEETING OUTCOMES

- *The Board Regional Coordinators (RCs) read Pope Francis's book, **Go Forth**, and discussed it at the November meeting, using reflections and questions John Moritz had sent beforehand. The Board suggests that Affiliate chapters read it.*
- **Quo Vadis? Where Are You Going?** is an Affiliate program to help individuals who have had a cross-cultural experience integrate that experience into their lives. See Bill Murphy's article below.
- The Communications Committee plans to launch our revamped website **MaryknollAffiliates.org** very soon. Please send your photos of recent Chapter activities to Bob Short.
- **Greater Connection.** To enhance Board communication with Affiliate Chapters and individual Affiliates, Board members will be matched with specific Regional Coordinators.



Board member Russ Feldmeier, MM, and Board chair Rich Lessard in conversation

MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP

After the November 2019 Affiliate Board meeting, Board Chair Rich Lessard reflected on Maryknoll Affiliate leadership.*

"The work of leaders involves hearing and identifying the long notes which play out in daily life, and which point to what is happening at a deeper level, resulting in a discerned response." This quote (from Sr. Patricia Murray, IBVM) identifies three very important tasks: to listen, to discern, and to respond. For me, the most important ... is listening: through engagement and dialogue.

Please go to the MaryknollAffiliates website (<http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/recent-postings/item/2024-state-of-the-heart-joint-meeting-november-2019.html>) to read more from Rich on connection and

communication, i.e. engagement and dialogue, and our exploration of Affiliate identity and unity.



* Rich's reflection also appeared in the emailed "Maryknoll Affiliate Website Updates for 11/25/2019"



Bill Murphy – Boston Chapter

The half-day workshop, Quo Vadis – Where Are You Going?....The Next Step, consists of exercises to assist individuals in debriefing any cross-cultural immersion experiences they may have had—not just international, but also socio-economic or ethnic or religious encounters within their own country. Reflective, inspiring, and practical all at the same time, *Quo Vadis* helps participants shape their unfolding future.

Quo Vadis can benefit existing sending organizations:

- High school immersion programs
- College study-abroad and shorter-term immersion programs
- Parishes or faith-based groups and sister parishes
- Peace Corps and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies.

Having enlisted the help of the Maryknoll Affiliate Board and Regional Coordinators in marketing *Quo Vadis*, **I now ask all of you to contact groups you know** like those described above.

If you need more information or your Affiliate Chapter wants to promote *Quo Vadis*, please talk with your Regional Coordinator or an Affiliate Board Member, or contact me, Bill Murphy, at 617-968-0512 or jbzmurphy@rcn.com



Whatever you can do or dream, you can begin it. Boldness has genius, power & magic in it.

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Find out whose March for Nonviolence grows each year on page 5.

