



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

March/April 2017

Volume 26 Number 2

THE TIME IS NOW

Marie Venner – Denver Chapter

As a US Maryknoll Affiliate, MLK Day and the presidential inauguration caused me to step back to re-evaluate and consider how we might step forward. So I have gone back to notes and excerpts from books I've read the last couple years to look for helpful guidance. 2017 is an amazing time, in so many respects. I feel very unqualified to be living now and to respond to all that this era demands. In particular, we face a crisis of millennia with climate change – a crisis we/our culture have brought on, and which will take the lives of many if we do not do something about it very soon. We are late in the game, so I must and will say very clearly: it is time for us to get off of fossil fuels—now—all of us. Ethical, even pro-life action carries a deeper urgency and moral call. This is something we must do. It's as big a deal as the Holocaust.



A couple years ago, world-known ice scientist Eric Rignot said that melting in the Antarctic would be irreversible. Less widely publicized was the "if": *If we do not bring the global temperature back to what it was in the 1970s. The first step is: stop filling the bathtub that is our global atmosphere! Stop using the brilliant sky above us like an open sewer! Stop acting as if the pollutants from our cars are not toxic to very many people—the medical research in even just the past two years has been shocking! (Please email if you'd like a summary compendium, assembled from just what has come out on ScienceDaily – <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>.) This is all hard for us to digest, but we must change our system entirely.*

At the very least, we Catholics must figure out how to step forward: how our churches can be prophetic and leaders in the change that *must* occur. There is no reason to wait or delay; these changes are coming anyway. We must have courage, as Jesus did. Some places, like the four-county Monterey Diocese of 46 parishes, are helping their communities make the switch to renewable energy. Through Monterey Bay Community Power, they think they can get to 85% renewable in the next 10 years! We can do this in many of our communities. They can opt for a Community Choice Aggregation path (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_Choice_Aggregation), and those of us with regulated monopoly utility providers (37 states) can also press our local elected officials to write to our utility, and write ourselves, insisting—insisting!—that we make a rapid shift off of fossil fuels.



We can do this! We aren't risking our lives, as many Catholics were in Germany in WWII. We can share the vision, share the necessity, have a cup of coffee with city council people!

Utilities never *want* to do it. Even when shown that 80 percent of Xcel Energy's coal capacity could be shut down, soon, profitably, if they get into wind instead, they still opt for *more* profit for their shareholders by operating their coal infrastructure just as long as they can. People's lives, right to life, respect for life, being all in for all life, are not part of the calculation. The unborn, future generations are not considered. Whether my state (Colorado) will be able to *even support life* by the end of the century is not part of their calculus. Looking at my 12- and 15-year-old children, I worry about their right to life...



PRAY – STUDY – ACT

We Affiliates have our work cut out for us! As the saying goes, if you're not upset, you're not paying attention. I hear that Affiliates are paying attention, they are upset, they have long been upset, and they are taking action.

In this issue, looking for long-term solutions, Marie Venner passionately insists we must end our addiction to fossil fuels for the good of her children, indeed all of our children's children. Ron Covey, also looking to the future, focuses on the educating marginalized children in Guatemala City. Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios, Guatemala Chapter, has devoted her life to education. Mef Ford tells us about the Boston Affiliate Chapter's reflection on their careers, life choices, and service roles.

We know that not all of our efforts will be successful in the short term, but as St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, "God does not require us to be successful, only that we be faithful."

I urge all Affiliates to examine your values and direction—with others in your chapter, if possible, to pray together, re-establish your priorities, and take action!

What is your passion? Let us at the NSFA know your priorities, your actions, at NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.



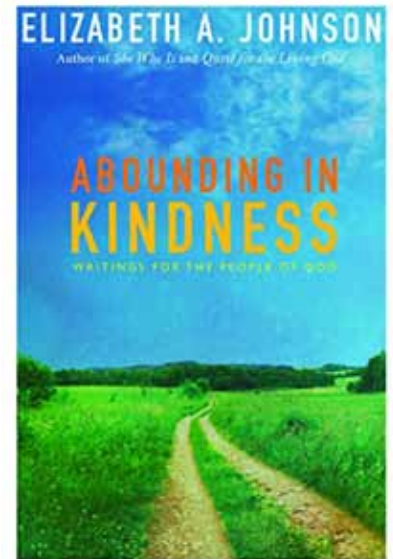
Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

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 rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.

MAKING TIME FOR KINDNESS

The 2017 Maryknoll Affiliate Book Groups are enjoying reading the Orbis book, *Abounding in Kindness*, by Elizabeth Johnson. The two groups, who meet on Tuesday and Sunday, are composed of people calling in from across the United States. They look forward to the weekly telephone conference calls and share highlights of the discussion by email. Some questions and reflections are posted on Facebook or the Affiliate web site.



If you weren't able to meet at the times offered, you can still read Johnson's book on your own and post your comments on Facebook. A few people selected the book *Living Cosmology*, but not enough for a viable group. We invite any of you who read *Living Cosmology* to share your reflections on the book with the NSFA. Orbis offers a significant discount to Maryknoll Affiliates. Send suggestions for the next book or alternate meeting times for the next book group to rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson
David Stocker

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

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

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

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

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**ON THE MARGINS:
EDUCATION AND MORE**

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

Caminando Por La Paz focuses on education of children in one of the most marginalized barrios of Guatemala City. However, this

Catholic Worker house, staffed by Affiliates from both Guatemala and Texas, uses a variety of ways to educate, including financial support, tutoring, healthy meals, community connections and spiritual activities, enrichment and development trips, and coffee sales.

Now, in 2017, 24 children in various schools, including four students in universities, receive financial support. Some children receive full scholarships while others receive only partial assistance, based on need.



A nutritious meal before tutoring

Tutors work with the older children in the morning and the younger in the afternoon. The tutoring program, an important aspect of the educational effort, includes more than 60 kids and is growing. It is close to outgrowing the space available. As part of our tutoring program, we provide a nutritious meal before tutoring begins. Cross Catholic International provides partial support for the meals.

Although educating children remains our focus, we have provided several educational and spiritual trips for students and neighbors to allow them to better know their own culture and to build community. We have taken these biannual trips to Esquipulas and



Time for play during a spiritual journey

Antigua. We visited the revered black crucifix in the southern city of Esquipulas and took a guided walk in Antigua to visit locations related to the life of the local saint, Hermano Pedro. In addition to planned activities on the trips, some free time is allowed, and the day ends with a holy hour.

We also hold a holy hour each week at the Caminando Por La Paz house. The holy-hour format is simple: an opening prayer, the readings of the day, discussion, and a closing prayer. The number of neighbors participating varies and is slowly increasing.

We strive to be an important and accepted member of the community. A new program that we will continue in 2017 is shoe distribution. In 2016, we distributed shoes from Shoes to the World (<http://www.shoestotheworld.org/>) to about 200 neighborhood children.

For financial support, we work with local coffee farmers to package and export roasted Family Coffee to the



Children line up to receive shoes.

US. Some of our best partners in selling the coffee have been other Affiliate groups and some churches. We invite more Affiliate groups to choose to sell our coffee. Please contact Ron Covey at: rocovey@yahoo.com.

We are very excited that MAC 2017 will be in Guatemala and have helped in the planning. We hope conference attendees can bring donations for our program. We need school and sports supplies, and more. You may download a list of needs at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/not-so-far-afield/supplemental-materials/92-caminando-por-la-paz-list-of-needs/file.html>. We are praying for a super angel to help replace our aging pick-up truck and even to obtain another house to be used for tutoring and other programs. (Contact Ron with your questions or for financial donations.)



We look forward to seeing you at the conference and invite you to visit Caminando Por La Paz whenever you come to Guatemala.



WHAT IF 1.2 BILLION CATHOLICS EMBRACED GOSPEL NONVIOLENCE?

Excerpts from the article by Rose Marie Berger, appearing in December 2016 *Sojourners*.

“JUST WAR IS KILLING US! There is no just war.” That proclamation by a Catholic sister from Iraq, and others like it, resounded at a Vatican gathering this spring [2016] and fell on surprisingly receptive ears.

Sister Nazik Matty, an Iraqi Dominican, joined others from around the world in Rome in April to wrestle with how the Catholic Church could “recommit to the centrality of gospel nonviolence.” She has watched members of her religious community die for lack of medical care during war.

“Which of the wars we have been in is a just war?” asked Sister Matty, who was driven from her home in Mosul by ISIS, also known by the Arabic acronym Daesh. “In my country, there was no just war. War is the mother of ignorance, isolation, and poverty. Please tell the world there is no such thing as a just war. I say this as a daughter of war.”

The Rome gathering was unprecedented, bringing together members of the church hierarchy with social scientists, theologians, practitioners of nonviolence, diplomats, and unarmed civilian peacekeepers to discuss Catholic nonviolence and whether in the contemporary world armed force can ever be justified. [Marie Dennis, Pax Christi, and the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns helped plan and participate in

the conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace.]

Of course, with such diverse participants, there was not a common mind on whether just war theory, a doctrine of military ethics used by Catholic theologians, has outlived its usefulness as church teaching.



Reprinted with permission from *Sojourners*, (800) 714-7474, www.sojo.net. This link : <https://sojo.net/magazine/december-2016/game-changer>, gives access to a preview of this article and a sidebar with links to these articles:

- Seven Elements of Just Peace
- From Just War to Just Peace.



“LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE”

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

“My son was brutally murdered for bringing electricity to a few poor people in northern Nicaragua. He was murdered because he had a dream and because he had the courage to make that dream come true. ... Ben told me the first year that he was here, and this is a quote, ‘It’s a wonderful feeling to work in a country where the government’s first concern is for its people, for all of its people.’”

Elizabeth Linder spoke thus at her son’s funeral in Nicaragua after he was shot at close range by the Contras in 1987. Ben Linder’s death at the hands of the Reagan-supported Contras made headlines in his hometown, Portland, and around the nation. The death of Linder, coming as Congressional hearings investigated the Iran-Contra Affair, fueled the debate in the US over the covert war in Nicaragua. The next year, Congress refused to renew aid to the Contras. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Linder)

Kitty Madden, a Maryknoll Affiliate who has worked many years at Casa Materna in Nicaragua, added: “This year in April we mark the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Ben and his Nicaraguan co-workers. His friend Rebecca Leaf and dozens of Nicaraguan workers continue his dream/passion of bringing light to the people of rural communities in northern Nicaragua.”

El Payaso, a bilingual play by Emilio Rodriguez about Ben Linder and his legacy, premiered in January at Portland, Oregon’s Milagro Theater. (<http://milagro.org/event/el-payaso/>) The play advocates following your passions and working to make the world better. The Milagro touring company has performances and workshops on environmental issues scheduled at high schools and colleges across the country. In the play’s closing scene, actors wave protest signs for “Black Lives Matter,” “Water = Life,” “NO Pipeline,” and a blank sign for which they ask,

“What’s your passion?”



MISSION JOURNEYS

Mef Ford – Greater Boston Chapter

Ten attendees at our annual summer picnic began with a casual conversation over appetizers that turned into deep reflections on what it means to live out a call at this stage of life. In *The Great Work of Your Life: a Guide for the Journey of Your True Calling*, Stephen Cope examines the life visions and struggles faced by such visionaries as Jane Goodall, Harriet Tubman, Mohandas Gandhi, and several ordinary folks and encourages us to reject the modern idea that ‘we can be anyone we want to be’ and instead to discover and fully pursue their inner self’s calling.

Many of our group came of age in the era of cinderblock bookcases, potted avocado plants, and Mateus wine bottle candleholders. We recall JFK’s heady idealism that matched our own intentions to not ask what our institutions could do for us. Indeed, some among our group (notably Joan Crowley, Myra Greene, Bill Murphy, and Edie Shea) are still rattling the cage of the institutional church, keeping our bishops honest and accountable and attuned, like it or not, to the priority of human needs and rights.

Having left Maryknoll somewhat impulsively, Biff Jenney lived out a happy call to ministry through family and a law career, yet still hears the tiny voice of priest calling to him from within. (His son, Bob, who also attended the meeting, spends half his time in Colombia, linking US buyers with real estate there.) In contrast, Bill Murphy decided to leave Africa and the priesthood only after a period of profound discernment culminating in the liberating insight that his relationship with God always had been and would remain indestructible. Jane DuBois explored a vocation to Maryknoll when younger but made her way in a lay life of service; at 68, she finds hospice chaplaincy deeply meaningful work and is living out “the happiest period of her life.”

Bill Gilligan, living with a debilitating illness, has found peace in exploring his options at this juncture, has a wonderful therapeutic guide, and enjoys a sense of adventure rather than fear as he progresses through an unknown future. Mef Ford is journaling and simplifying her possessions and activities to, in the manner of Rodin’s sculpting, release the core of her purpose on this plane into greater awareness and day-to-day influence. It is a work in progress.

Monique Cerondolo’s journey has led her from a love of nature and studies in biology and environmental

sciences, through a detour into accounting, to a call that took about ten years to become increasingly clear. Now, she has found the most rewarding and meaningful work of her life by companioning those in crisis as a hospital chaplain.

Trudy and Bill Wheeler, though invested in their beloved children and grandchildren, feel there must be something more than that to fulfill their calling. One manifestation is the fulfillment that they, like other Maryknoll-loving volunteers, find in offering weeklong cooking service at the Sisters’ vacation home in Watch Hill, RI, where 70-, 80-, and 90-year-old sisters, spilling over with lives of ministry, offer inspiration.



Back row (l-r): Biff Jenney, Bill Murphy, Monique Cerundolo, Joan Crowley, Trudy Wheeler, Bill Gilligan, Jane DuBois; front row: Mef Ford, Bill Wheeler (behind camera: Bob Jenney)

These are just a few of the stories shared during this hour and a half preceding our barbecue supper.

Our group, which began in 1992 as one of the original Affiliate chapters, meets bimonthly, and holds an annual retreat at Watch Hill, RI, the Maryknoll Sisters’ vacation house. It includes social workers, educators, one hospital and one hospice chaplain, a lawyer, psychologist, court interpreter, immigrant legal assistant, librarian, and the current executive coordinator of the Affiliates—all in various stages of employment and retirement. Several new members have joined in the past year, making our number of regular attendees the highest ever, around 20. At our next meeting, each of us who wishes will share some piece of personal writing relevant to our purpose as spiritual sojourners.

In addition to those mentioned above, other currently active members are: Mark and Kathy Morrison, Myra Greene, Mark Huntington, Edie Shea, Bob Short, Thomas Kelly, and Jim Comes.





**GETTING TO KNOW
THE GUATEMALA CHAPTER**

*We assume life is a mission of service;
Transforming dreams into reality.*



I have come so that they have life, and that they have it abundantly. John 10:10

OUR HISTORY – In 2007, Sister Connie Pospisil, MM, visited us and introduced us to the Affiliate Movement, as a further expression of the Maryknoll Family. The following year Father Thomas Göekler, MM (decd.), visited us and questioned us, saying: “You live the Maryknoll spirituality, you have to form a Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates”.



MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES – People full of faith who respond in community to the call of God to participate in the mission of Jesus. They meet in Chapters to pray, reflect and act. They challenge each other to go more to the frontiers, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded and to strive for peace and Justice for all Creation.

WHO ARE WE? Who are the Maryknoll Affiliates in the Guatemala Chapter?

- Graduates and people linked to the Monte María College, founded in 1953 by the Maryknoll Cogregation (Sisters) in Guatemala City.
- People close to Caminando Por La Paz, founded in March 2008 by Father Thomas Göekler, MM, in Zone 18 of Guatemala City.
- Friends linked to the Maryknoll Family who live in different regions of Guatemala: Steve Barrett (Quetzaltenango); Sister Connie Pospisil, MM (Lemoa, El Quiché); Sister Bernice Kita, MM (Chajul, El Quiché); Nelso Gramajo (Coatepeque), Astrid Castaneda, Elisa Pinzon, Leslie Vogel, and Judith Castaneda (Guatemala city).

Affiliates are people of prayer committed to continually forming in their missionary spirituality from the creative tension between “being” and “doing.”



MARYKNOLL SISTERS – Making Gods love visible in Guatemala.

These courageous women have come from other regions, from other countries, and from other missionary projects to start new missions. They expended great efforts to identify needs, find funds, identify places for projects, and train people for their work teams.

These excerpts are translated from the Guatemalan Maryknoll Affiliate website: <http://afiliadosmaryknoll.wixsite.com/guate>.



ROSA BEATRIZ—EDUCATOR FOR LIFE

An extraordinary edition of *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, posted in November, was dedicated to honoring Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios for her 50 years in education.

Sunday, November 13, 2016, Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios, Coordinator of the Guatemala Chapter of Maryknoll Affiliates (as well as editor of the NTLH and chair of the MAC 2017 organizing team), received a well-deserved tribute for her life of service in education, in Guatemala and in the world. She was feted in an event replete with music: marimba music, choreographed dances, and songs by a choir of former students, all



Rosa receives a loving abrazo from Miguel Angel Duarte, who orchestrated the day of tribute.

composed and produced by her friend Miguel Angel Duarte and his artistic team. Graduates of the Sister Elizabeth McDermott Applied Arts School and Monte María School, where Rosa Beatriz had served, presented her orchids. Her colleague, Maryknoll Affiliate Anabella Penados, of the Monte María School, gave her a bonsai, explaining that it was a metaphor for the duration of her career and the artistry with which she kept it alive.

Rosa Beatriz attributed her vocation to her mother, who was also a teacher, and to the Maryknoll Sisters at her high school, who offered the opportunity to give a year of service in Huehuetenango, her desire to serve. In that year, Rosa Beatriz said she received more than she gave; it made her love her country through people, and she realized that education is the key to creating a people aware of their rights and duties.

In closing, Rosa Beatriz noted that as a good educator and lover of life, she will carry with her the homage she experienced that day and will continue to deepen its message, to apply it in daily life, and express her deep gratitude. She invited all of the attendees to make passion the key to their lives, to make themselves exceptional, because in the near future it will become their life project.



UPDATE ON MAC 2017
Maryknoll Affiliate Conference
 November 9-12, 2017
 Guatemala, Central America



Registration is now available.

For the forms, go to <http://afiliadosmaryknoll.wixsite.com/guate/nossos-profesores>.

After the conference, consider a Mission Visit...

You can visit missions of Maryknoll Sisters, a Priest, Lay Missioners, and Affiliates who serve in different areas of Guatemala or in El Salvador. Visiting a mission, you will be salt and light in exchanging the joy of the Gospel, living the beatitudes, and letting yourself be evangelized more than wanting to evangelize others.

Four post-conference options are offered (each needs a minimum of 5 participants):

Mission Visit 1—Guatemala – Southwest Coast

- Catarina, San Marcos – health and health promoters; and Pajapita, Coatepeque – a home for HIV patients and an ecological farm.

6 hours from Guatemala City. Cost: \$350 covers transportation, hotel, and meals for 4 days.

Mission Visit 2 – Guatemala – Western Highlands

- Quetzaltenango – an education project; Lemoa, El Quiche, – a nutrition center; and San Andrés, Sajcabajá, – parish activities.
- **Optional:** Santiago, Atitlan: the site of Padre Stanley Rother's martyrdom.

3-5 hours from Guatemala City. Cost: \$350 covers transportation, hotel, and meals for 4 days; the optional visit costs an additional \$200.

Mission Visit 3 – Guatemala City

- In Zone 18, Caminador por la Paz – an educational Project in an urban marginal area; and Iglesia San Sebastián – learn about the life and death of Msgr. Juan Gerardi.

In Guatemala City. Cost: \$50 for transportation and accommodation/meals in the Maryknoll Residence.

Mission Visit 4 – El Salvador

- San Salvador – health and HIV/ Aids projects; and sites of the deaths of martyrs Monsignor Arnulfo Romero and the Maryknoll Sisters.

3 hours from Guatemala City. Cost: \$400 covers transportation, hotel, and meals for 4 days.

When you register, if you want to visit a mission, be sure to indicate your choice. More trip details are available at http://media.wix.com/ugd/b378aa_aab3851b6c5d465f8fa5629fcc1d6874.pdf.



THE CHALLENGE

Sr. Rose Marie Tresp, RSM* –
Pax Christi USA National Council

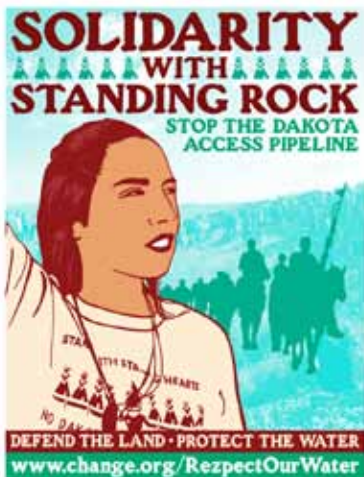


Excerpted from the article, "Internalizing Justice, Not Just Acting for It," in The Peace Current, Summer 2016

Am I willing to change my internal landscape and my lifestyle in the pursuit of justice? I wonder sometimes if there are "safe" social justice issues that don't require very much change. Does a focus on issues like nuclear disarmament, human trafficking, or abortion allow me to feel good about working for social change but not require much personal change? We all need to be willing to be personally uncomfortable in the pursuit of justice, too. We cannot shy from important justice issues that also challenge those of us who have built a life on white privilege.



*Sister Rose Marie Tresp, RSM, of Belmont, N.C., has advocated for fair treatment of immigrants in the US for many years. In 2013, she joined the Fast for Immigrant Justice, commenting, "Our purpose is to push for immigration reform. We're hoping to get more people who will support immigration reform and work for it."



**WORDS FROM
STANDING ROCK:**

"Our hearts are not defeated," Mr. Goldtooth said. "The closing of the camp is not the end of a movement or fight. It is a new beginning. They cannot extinguish the fire that Standing Rock started."



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Communications Committee addresses all the avenues of communication used by the Affiliates: the *Not So Far Afield* (NSFA) and *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte* (NTLH) newsletters, the Maryknoll Affiliates' website, the Monday update email, Facebook, the Book Group, and the Affiliate databases. Members of the committee recently reviewed each medium and commented:



Newsletters: The NSFA is distributed by mail six times a year to over 300 households and by email to over 750 addresses. The NTLH, a separate newsletter written by our Spanish-speaking Affiliates—not just a translation of the NSFA—is made available online at www.afiliadosmaryknoll.wixsite.com/guate/ntlh and in pdf form. The NTLH newsletter in pdf form is now also available on our website, at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/downloads/no-tan-lejos-del-horizonte.html>.

Web site: Executive Coordinator Bob Short regularly updates the website, posting news items of current interest. He also highlights different chapters to give a feel for our various ways of approaching mission. Affiliates are asked to contact Bob if they would like to have their chapter highlighted. Also, let Bob know if you encounter broken links or other problems at the website so that he can address them.

Monday Email: To get the most recent Affiliate news, Affiliates are invited to sign up for the Monday email at the website (www.maryknollaffiliates.org), under *Contacts*.

Facebook and other social media have great potential, but so far the Affiliates' Facebook page is not well used. We need a capable volunteer with ideas and social media skills to make better use of Facebook.

Affiliate Databases: Ginny McEvoy continues working with Bob Short to harmonize them. If you want to be added to the membership list or update your information, please email Bob.

To comment on Affiliate communication media and/or to join the Communications Committee, email Bob at rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.

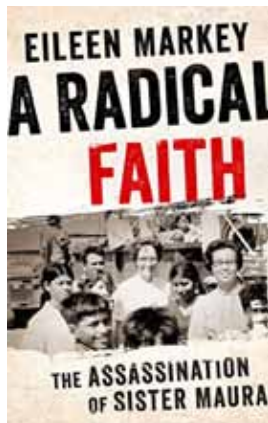


COMMENTS ON A REVIEW OF:

***A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura*, By Eileen Markey, Nation Books**

“Portrait of a Martyr,” a review of Markey’s book that appeared in *America Magazine* on January 2, 2017, gives insight into the person and life of Maryknoll Sister Maura Clarke and the evolution of mission. (<http://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2016/12/22/remembering-martyrs-their-humanity-well-their-faith>)

Reviewer Elizabeth Kirkland Cahill writes, “Maura’s years in Central America coincided with a period of sweeping transformation in the church’s understanding of its role in the world. Unsurprisingly, the Maryknoll nun’s perspective evolved accordingly. Originally focused on teaching that would allow poor Nicaraguans to improve their lives, Maura’s sense of purpose became more radically identified with the poor and infused with a desire to change the structural inequities that created and perpetuated poverty. Yet her posture was not political, but spiritual: The work of the Christian is to build the world Christ ushered in, by affirming the dignity and basic human rights of every person. Maura’s approach to the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador was one of complete, transcendent generosity and love. ...”



In what could be advice for Affiliates, the reviewer quotes a Salvadoran nun who told the nephew of Ita Ford, MM*, “You do not have to be in El Salvador to continue your aunt’s mission.” After returning to the US, the nephew “realized the dream of opening Cristo Rey New York High School, a college preparatory school whose students—75 percent of whom are Latino—engage in a rigorous curriculum and work at entry-level business jobs. These students ...



honor Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, and their two colleagues as the spiritual founders of Cristo Rey New York.” Affiliates also continue Maura’s and Ita’s mission when working not so far afield, in their own neighborhoods.



*Four church women were martyred in El Salvador in 1980: Maura Clarke and Ita Ford of Maryknoll, Ursuline sister Dorothy Kazel, and laywoman Jean Donovan.



BOARD TO MEET IN MAY

Maryknoll Affiliate Board

Meets May 5-7, 2017, at Maryknoll

MAC 2017 in Guatemala is uppermost in the Board’s thoughts this spring, but they will also be discussing reports and plans of the three committees formed in response to the 2015 Affiliate Survey: Communication, Connection, and Sustainability/Growth. The consideration of new chapters and of virtual chapters is also on the agenda.

So that the Regional Coordinators (RCs) can focus their travel time and expenses on MAC 2017 in Guatemala, they will be “virtually” included in this Board meeting via Skype. One area the RCs will review with the Board is how RCs are selected and how long they should serve.

Each year one or more Board members complete their term of service. To nominate someone to be on the Board, to participate in a committee, or if you have questions or concerns for the Board, please contact your RC, Executive Coordinator Bob Short (rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org), or Board Chair David Schaffner (dschaffn@calpoly.edu).



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY?

The Maryknoll Affiliate Board and some of us individual Affiliates are reflecting on what it means to be an online community, a virtual community, in the Maryknoll Affiliates.

If you have thoughts or ideas, please let us know! Write to Bob Short (rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).



TASTE OF TANZANIA 2017

Let the Portland Oregon Chapter transport you to Africa for an evening. You'll enjoy:

- a delicious Tanzanian dinner
- dramatic entertainment
- an enticing Silent Auction, and
- a display of handmade Tanzanian artworks

all for a very worthy cause—the Huruma School for children with disabilities in Tanzania. Portland Affiliate Bertha Haas founded the school when she was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in 2004, and the Portland Affiliate Chapter has chosen helping to support the Huruma School as their special project.



Taste of Tanzania 2017 will be April 8th, in the Portland area. Don your African clothes and join us! Too far for you to travel, but you'd like to be involved? Silent auction items are needed (use of a vacation home?). Visit the Taste of Tanzania website (tasteoftanzania.x10host.com/) for more ways to help. Donations can also be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/huruma-school-in-tanzania>.



pace e bene

peace+all good

Start your nonviolent journey each day with an inspirational quote from Pace e Bene. Sign up at:

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/859/signup_page/this-nonviolent-life

Are you called to Cross-Cultural Mission Service?

**HOLY WEEK DISCERNMENT RETREAT
APRIL 13-16, 2017**

Maryknoll Campus -- Ossining, New York



The Maryknoll Holy Week Mission Discernment Retreat invites you to prayerfully enter with us into the mystery and joy of the Easter Triduum. In this prayerful setting you'll be invited to consider a call to cross-cultural and international mission, to meet other Catholics

with similar passions and questions, and to celebrate Easter together.

For registration information, go to: <http://www.mkmlm.org/become-a-missioner/upcoming-events#link-target> or email Maureen at holyweekretreat2017@yahoo.com.

[Editor's note: This year, Maryknoll Affiliates, represented by Beth Begley, helped plan the retreat.]



"FASCINATION WITH THE MARYKNOLL MISSIONARIES" AND SILENCE

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – NSFA Co-Editor

"I loved what they had to say, the courage, the testing, and the helping."

So said Martin Scorsese about "Maryknollers" when interviewed about his film, *Silence*, in America Magazine, Dec. 19-26, 2016. (<http://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2017/01/17/martin-scorsese-his-faith-films-and-silence>).



The highly acclaimed film is about seventeenth-century Jesuits ministering in Japan long before Maryknoll arrived. James Martin, SJ, the interviewer, says, "So it's (the film is) less of a portrayal of the missionary that is just from the outside in, and more from the inside out." After reading this searching article and hearing all the buzz about the movie and the Oscars, I will make a point to see it (when our library has it available to loan!).

Editors: To our knowledge, NSFA has not yet reviewed movies, but if you see this film or another you want to share with Affiliates, we'd love to publish your comments and suggestions.





SILENT*

*When they came for the undocumented,
I remained silent;
I was legal.*

*When they came for the gays,
I remained silent;
I was straight.*

*When they came for the sick,
I remained silent;
I was insured.*

*When they came for the Muslims
I remained silent...*



*Inspired by Martin Niemöller's famous quote.



**MARYKNOLL
MISSION
INSTITUTE**

*The Mission Institute
will offer a dozen
programs during
2017, beginning with
the following:*

- May 7-12 (Sun – Fri) Michael Morwood, MA
Whatever Happened to Jesus?
- May 14-19 (Sun – Fri) Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN, PhD
Come, Drink Deep of Living Waters
- May 21-26 (Sun – Fri) Edwina Gateley, MA
Mystics, Rebels, Prophets and You!
- June 4-9 (Sun – Tue) Janet K. Ruffing, RSM, PhD
Nature and Poetry as Openings to the Mystical
- June 11-16 (Sun – Fri) Gail Worcelo, CP, MA
Momentum of Grace: The Deepening of Being in a World of Becoming

*The complete 2017 schedule is available at
<https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/>*

You may register online, or to obtain application forms—

Write: Maryknoll Mission Institute
Maryknoll Sisters
P.O. Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

Telephone: 914-941-0783 @ 5671, or
E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org



COME PRAY, STUDY, ACT WITH US



Lent gives us a chance to grow in our relationship with God. The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns offers us the means to a fruitful Lenten experience in the 2017 Lenten Reflection Guide (<http://maryknollogc.org/resources/lenten-reflection-guide-2017>).

Containing reflections, questions, prayers, and actions based on each week's Gospel reading, it incorporates written reflections and discussions by 83 Catholic peacemakers who attended the Nonviolence and Just Peace conference in Rome in April 2016. This guide can be used individually or in small groups to reflect upon our life patterns, to pray more deeply, and renew our spirits to face the realities of our world.



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Where is this spirit-filled group of Affiliates? See page 6!

