



# Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

July/August 2017

Volume 26 Number 4

## AFFILIATES IN SOLIDARITY

Carlos Apcho –  
Chapter of San Francisco de Lima, Perú



**T**hank you, brother and sister Maryknoll Affiliates, for your support of the people of Peru who recently suffered from terrible natural disasters.

We are very grateful for your strong gestures of solidarity with our brothers and sisters affected by the natural disasters that our country, Peru, suffered a few months ago. We continue to suffer the consequences of the intense rains—landslides and overflowing rivers. Cities and towns were flooded, thousands of people were left isolated, and agricultural and cattle lands were destroyed. These disasters left more than 100 dead, affected 150,000 people directly, and impacted almost one million nationally, according to the Center for Operations of National Emergency, which monitors natural disasters in Peru.

Help in the form of financial donations came from our Affiliate brothers and sisters of several countries. They maintained contact with our brother Robert Short, Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates,



with Maryknoll Missioner Father Joe Fedora, MM, and with the San Francisco Chapter in Lima. Our chapter went to work taking food to Rinconada, one of the many towns affected in the country. Rinconada, in the district of Chimbote in the department of Ancash, is an eight-hour bus ride north of our capital, Lima. We brought food (rice, sugar, milk, oat noodles, oil,



and other essentials) for more than 400 families who met in small groups called “Common Pot.” In two days, we distributed to more than 50 common pots.

*Continued on page 3*

**THE BROADER VIEW**

**G**lobal Vision is a special perspective of Maryknollers, including Affiliates. Our Mission Statement says Affiliates “go beyond borders, locally and globally.” We recognize that our local actions have an impact across the globe.

This issue of the NSFA tells of Affiliates in the US, Korea, and Peru responding with urgency and generosity to the needs of the flood-stricken in Peru. As people of God, Affiliates also look to welcome the stranger in difficult times. Houston Affiliates Bob and Ruth Kleeman remember their local saint, Mark Zwick, of the Houston Catholic Worker House, Casa Juan Diego. The Casa welcomes immigrants from many Spanish-speaking countries who fled their own repressive regimes or who suffered from policies of the US. Gerry Mullaney tells of his experience seeing another Cuba. Read the profiles of the speakers for the November 2017 MAC in Guatemala to gain a broader view of the world, including the indigenous philosophy of Buen Vivir.

To “check off all boxes on the Four Pillars scorecard,” including Global Vision, Rich Lessard encourages us to make use of the treasure of the Maryknoll Mission Institute. Tell us how your chapter meetings nurture our Four Pillars—Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action—at [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org](mailto: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](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).

**BOOK GROUPS TO RECONVENE**

**W**hat book would you like to read next? Both current and potential book discussion group members are invited to suggest titles. We have found Orbis Books ([www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com)) to be an excellent source, with the advantage of their 40% discount for Maryknoll Affiliates and book group members.

The next book group session begins in September. Readers will be contacted by email to help choose the book and their preferred meeting time. Previously, book groups met via free conference calls on Tuesday or Friday mornings or Sunday evenings. Additional times can be arranged if a person volunteers to act as contact person. To add your name to the list of readers and receive book group emails, to suggest a book, or to volunteer as a contact person, please email Bob Short at [rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org).



**ARE YOU ON THE AFFILIATE EMAIL LIST?**

At the May 2017 Maryknoll Affiliate Board Meeting, the Board agreed to a new policy regarding email communication with our members. When the mailing lists are updated, all members will receive both the Monday Morning Update emails and the bimonthly email with the digital *Not So Far Afield*. Members signed up for the paper version will continue to receive it by mail.

If you do not receive these emails in the next few months, please contact Bob Short ([rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org)). Members who prefer not to receive the group emails may use the *unsubscribe* option offered at the bottom of every email.



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  
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

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

Solidarity—Continued from page 1

The villagers themselves helped to distribute the food, making the short time frame possible. The local parish community also helped, because they knew what was most critical.



received a donation from our brother and sister Affiliates in Seoul, Korea. These donations benefited more than 90 affected families to whom we brought food and donated clothing.

We are truly grateful to all Affiliates and others who helped us. Without all the help from the Affiliates and the faith they placed in us, we would not have been able to help as we did. The donations, the spirit of solidarity shown, and accompaniment at a time when our country was so in need after a horrific disaster, made a great difference. This display of solidarity brings to mind the words of Jesus: "Truly I say to you, when you did



In these weeks of emergency in our country, the San Francisco Chapter Affiliates also helped our brothers and sisters suffering in the eastern part of the city of Lima, where significant flooding also took place. We brought food to affected families who were left without housing. In this outreach, the donations came from Sister Rosemary McCormack, MM, who received funds from her Sister community, and from Sister Allynne Manauis, who



it to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew. 25:40)

Again, many thanks, Maryknoll. We are sincerely proud to have carried out this mission, helping those in need. Our overall mission—working for the care of our planet—continues.



Note: Our thanks to Bob Short for ably translating Carlos Apcho's message into English.

**“IF WE HAD ANY GUTS, WE’D START A CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE”**

Bob & Ruth Kleeman – Houston Chapter

Most of our readers are familiar with Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement, but perhaps not everyone is familiar with Mark and Louise Zwick in Houston, Texas.

They were volunteer missionaries in El Salvador in the late 1970s but were forced to leave following death threats related to the civil war at the time. Upon their return to the US, they saw the need to help the refugees from Central America and commented that, “If we had any guts, we’d start a Catholic Worker House.” They founded a house of hospitality under the name of Casa Juan Diego in 1980, and ever since they have dedicated their lives, on a fulltime volunteer basis, to helping the needy.

Mark passed away in November 2016, but Louise continues the work. They started in a dilapidated building. When it burned down, they moved to another location, and it also burned. The replacement building was built of steel and concrete in order to avoid future fires. Their son stated that from their humble beginnings, they have expanded to include ten buildings, and the movement has become a beacon for immigrants fleeing from violence and poverty in countries around the world, especially Central America.

Most of their assistance is to those considered “illegal immigrants.” Mark would say there is no such thing as “illegal immigrants”—some may be undocumented, but being a person is not illegal. Casa is primarily a short-term refuge to give immigrants a place to rest, shower and wash their clothes, receive any necessary medical assistance, have time to establish contacts with friends or family in the States, and plan the next step on their long journeys.

The Zwicks have written several books, including *Mercy Without Borders*, which is primarily about the difficult journeys of immigrants. To understand the spiritual foundations of Dorothy Day and of the Zwicks, read their book, *The Catholic Worker Movement: Intellectual and Spiritual Origins*.

Mark and Louise have lived the scriptures as written in Mathew 25: “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to Me.” Mark said: “ We must see the face of Jesus in those who ask anything of us. For me it is like the Eucharist. We see the bread, but know through the eyes of faith that Jesus is present. Jesus loved the poor to show the power of God’s love and we try to share that love.” But Mark also realized that



Photo by Mary Ryan Hotchkiss.

Mark and Louise Zwick at Casa Juan Diego in 2012

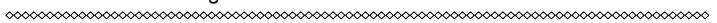
it is not always easy to love in the face of hunger, tragedy, fear, hardships, uncertainty, anger, and the like—and he has seen them all over the years.

Dorothy Day said: “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams.” Mark and Louise had their dreams, but what made them special is their love in action. Mark said, “The one who does not live to serve has no reason to live.”

Mark Zwick served for his whole life; may he rest in peace.



Editor’s note: The Houston Affiliates included a visit to Casa Juan Diego in their 2004 Regional Conference. Many of the Houston Affiliates support the House. A few years ago, Bob and Ruth volunteered at the House for a few weeks during Mark’s illness.



**WELCOMING THE STRANGER**

*How is your chapter, your community, responding to immigrants?*

Since many immigrants in the US are threatened with deportation, various organizations are offering sanctuary and solidarity:



- Some schools do not collect or release information that could brand a student as “illegal.”
- Some churches offer physical sanctuary or assist other churches.
- Some states or communities by law do not allow their resources to be used to enforce federal immigration rules.
- Some families open their homes to individuals who are pursuing refugee status or to immigrant teenagers who have “aged out” of the foster care system and might be incarcerated or deported.
- Some Affiliates visit immigrants in detention. Others accompany immigrants to appointments or to court.

*What can we do? What will we do?  
What would Jesus do?*



**2017 CLIMATE MARCH**

Manny Hotchkiss – Board Member  
and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – NSFA Co-Editor

*“We Speak for the Earth.”*

Even at 90 degrees in the shade, we were exhilarated by the more than 200,000 upbeat, committed activists who came to Washington, DC, on April 29th to emphasize their concern for the earth. We started the day with a Mass attended by several hundred Catholics brought together by the Catholic Climate Covenant, the Franciscan Action Network, and the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

CARE FOR  
MOTHER  
EARTH



Then we moved to the Capitol Mall. Susan Gunn and Gerry Lee of MOGC gave us signs (pictured), and we brought our handwritten signs identifying us as Maryknoll Affiliates. Then we waited for hours while

the various parts of the Climate March assembled. A continual stream of people carrying funny, creative, and inspiring signs kept us entertained:



- I'm with Her (the Earth)*
- The Earth is my larger self.*
- Don't burn our Future.*
- Liar, Liar, Earth on Fire!*
- Love the Creator? Care for Creation.*
- The Climate is changing—Why aren't we?*
- Denial is not a policy.*
- There Is No PLANet B.*
- Coal is so 90s —1890s.*
- Separate Oil and State.*
- Think outside the Barrel.*
- Tax Carbon and Wall Street Trades.*
- Green Energy Makes me Happy.*
- Wind and Solar create more jobs than coal.*
- Renewable is Doable.*
- Clean energy is People Power.*
- Wake up!—Stay Woke!*

Now it is up to each of us.



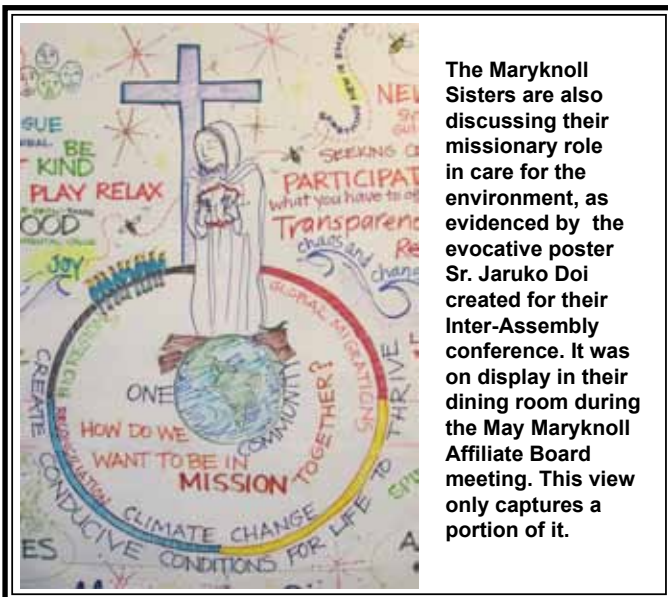
**NOLA MARCHES FORWARD**

Matt Rousso – New Orleans Chapter

New Orleans Chapter Affiliates participated in the New Orleans Peoples' Climate March on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, joining thousands from around the country. Kevin Cahalan prepared our marching banner, highlighting Pope Francis' words from *Laudato Si*, ***“The earth, our common home, is beginning to look like an immense pile of filth.”*** One lady from Fort Worth, Texas, who was attracted to our banner, came up to our group proclaiming her great affection for Pope Francis. In addition to our five Affiliates, there were some 400-500 participants shouting in a loud voice: ***“This is what democracy looks like!”***



Marching Affiliates: Maria Victoire, Matt Rousso, Kevin Cahalan, Charlie Freil, Kim Nunez



The Maryknoll Sisters are also discussing their missionary role in care for the environment, as evidenced by the evocative poster Sr. Jaruko Doi created for their Inter-Assembly conference. It was on display in their dining room during the May Maryknoll Affiliate Board meeting. This view only captures a portion of it.

A local concern was that a proposed bridge taking over private wetlands would threaten drinking water for over 30,000 people. The project would only provide 12 permanent jobs and could displace many present workers who rely of the waterways for work.

**Meeting News.** At the New Orleans Chapter May meeting, 18 Affiliates studied the Maryknoll Mission Education Department's new ***Discover Your Neighbor*** program. They were all asked to register/enroll in the program, study it at their leisure, collect names of potential middle school teachers whom we would recruit to use the program, and attend a follow-up training session in June. Participants affirmed the program, expressing excitement and willingness to promote the program in our regional Catholic schools.



**¡MEET THE MAC 2017 SPEAKERS!**

Guatemala Chapter – MAC 2017 Organizers

*We welcome the presenters who, with their diverse backgrounds and varying gifts, will nourish the spirit of Buen Vivir throughout the MAC 2017 Conference (November 9-12 at Casa de Retiros Verbo Encarnado, Guatemala.) They introduce themselves in the order in which they will present at MAC 2017. (Meet the Mayans, liturgists, and musicians in the next issue.)*

**Our keynote speaker will present the theme: EL BUEN VIVIR—Fullness of Life.**



**Laura Hurtado Paz y Paz –  
Guatemalan Sociologist**

I am a former student of Colegio Monte María, Guatemala City, and the daughter of a doctor and an artist, both humanists. Living and doing literacy work for three months in a village in Huehuetenango and when I visited San Juan Acul in El

Petén, set the direction for my life. Over the years I have come to know, investigate, accompany and support indigenous communities in their search for recognition and respect for their rights.

After the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996, I was an advisor to the population uprooted by the internal armed conflict; I sought and negotiated for land for resettlement under stipulated conditions of dignity.

Now the director of an NGO that promotes the enforcement and realization of human rights in peasant and indigenous communities, my interest in social research has deepened my understanding of the problems associated with the processes of capitalist modernization in agriculture: land seizure by a few farmers and entrepreneurs and the dispossession of entire communities. I have learned about the value and beauty of land from a cosmic worldview; about culture and the legitimacy of indigenous peoples' claim to full recognition as people; their right to organize their collective life according to their ancestral norms; and their aspiration to "Live Well", opting for a life in harmony and balance with nature.

**PANEL: The Encounter of Two World Views**

*History and the Maryknoll Experience in Guatemala (1943 – 2016)*



**Sister Jane Buellesbach,  
MM – Catarina Mission,  
San Marcos, Guatemala**

After more than 50 years of mission in Guatemala, I have lived many experiences, but I'll share a recent one.

Manuel, a young father of two children, works on a rubber estate. For several

years, he saw his uncle work as a volunteer Health Promoter in our program, which has been going on for more than thirty years. So when Manuel made the decision to be a Promoter, his uncle introduced him to this program as a worthwhile opportunity. The two currently work three days a week at the farm and with other communities addressing common diseases and insisting on the importance of preventing disease rather than curing it.

The school children recognize Manuel for his talks about the causes and prevention of diseases they commonly suffer. He recently promoted the sale of water filters, and although the farm salaries are miserable, after he stressed their value, several families acquired them.

Manuel inspires me to go on. Even with his backwards baseball cap and his Apache haircut, he values health, his health and that of his family and the community.



**Father Bill Mullan, MM**

Ordained at Maryknoll in 1962 and assigned to Guatemala, I studied linguistics one summer at University of Oklahoma in preparation for serving the Mayan Indians.

In Huehuetenango, Maryknoll sisters and the Maryknoll Society, with the volunteer service of the Jacalteco people, built a 50-bed hospital. The sisters staffed the hospital and also a grammar school. After three years I was named pastor and served there until 1974. By then, I was able to do most of the liturgies and meetings with the Jacaltecos in the Popti (jalcateco) language.

In 1974, as pastor of two parishes, Barillas and San Mateo, I learned some Qanjolbal language of Barillas but spent most of my seven years in San Mateo learning the culture and language of the Chuj-speaking people. →

In 1980, I served as the Society's regional superior in Central America, covering Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. I worked in New York from 1986-96, returning to Guatemala in 1996. I am still assigned to the Central America region; however, I am limited because of health issues and age.

### A PANEL and A DYNAMIC:

*Graduates of the Maryknoll School in Guatemala City—Committed To Love, Justice, and Peace*



**Helen Beatriz Mack Chang –  
Program Administrator**

On September 11, 1990, my life did a 180-degree turn-around. My sister Myrna's violent death obliged me to look for justice regarding Myrna's assassination.

Full of pain, anxiety, and uncertainty, I couldn't remain calm and positive in the face of this atrocious situation. Searching for justice, I encountered many people who had also lost their loved ones in acts of institutional violence and were forced to live with this reality during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala.

What began for me as a personal and familial cause soon became a common cause, and we began to receive and give mutual support and help. In memory of Myrna, we established a foundation in her name, and I remain as a founding member to this day. For more than 25 years, my work has centered on justice, security, peace building, and human rights work.



**Claudia Virgina Samayoa Pineda –  
Teacher, Philosopher, and  
Human Rights Defender**

Human rights have always been part of my being. As a Catholic woman, even as a child, I had difficulty with the assumed Church dogma that only Christians would be saved. If God created us all equal with dignity, we should be recognized as equals and be respected.

In 1995, I began my work on human rights within civil society as part of the initiative for change in the construction of the peace process. I was moved by the injustices around me: racism, sexism, homophobia, egocentrism, mining company transgressions, and stripping of resources, etc.



**Ana Lucía Ramazzini –  
Teacher and Sociologist**

Perhaps symbolic of the roots in my heart, I was born between Lake Amatitlan and the Pacaya Volcano, around the time the 1976 earthquake shook us. In the late 70s, profound political repression was a prelude to genocide.

The cross-culturation of education, sociology, investigation, and feminism marks my story. My investigations on sexism, anthropocentric thinking, the patriarchal capitalistic neoliberalism models, and racism have supported the transformation. I have researched forced pregnancies in adolescents and sexuality and violence against children and women. Politically speaking, I define myself as a feminist.

Recently, I have worked in radio and art. I believe profoundly in the right to an education and the necessity to unlearn that which oppresses. My daily sharing with valiant women helps me to believe that a different world is possible.



**Ana Cecilia Garcés De  
Marcilla Del Valle –  
Anthropologist**

I am a Guatemalan woman, mother of two lively children and the partner of a human rights defender. My biggest passions are education and working with children and youth, especially with girls and adolescent women in their formation as community leaders.

My formation in Monte María College made me a disciplined and intentionally committed teacher. I owe my interest in social research and intercultural living to my anthropological studies at the University of San Carlos. I share the rich and diverse nature of Guatemala with young people during educational projects and research processes. I learn from my colleagues, activists, and researchers who work in education, women's rights, and intercultural sharing.

Currently I am president and co-founder of EducaGuatemala, a civil association, and a specialist curriculum advisor with the Populations Council.





Photo courtesy of Jan Alberti

Jesse Jackson speaks at Fidel Castro memorial

**ANOTHER CUBA, ANOTHER FIDEL**  
Gerry Mullaney – Northeast Ohio Chapter

A contingent of Affiliates from the Northeast Ohio Chapter—Jan and Curt Alberti, Pam Cibik, Gerry Mullaney, and Kathy Ress—had the privilege of visiting Cuba last December. An added and unanticipated element of this visit was the opportunity to experience the mourning period for Fidel Castro in his homeland. Our group came of age in the 1950s and 1960s, a time when Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution were demonized by the US government. The message we heard was the call to condemn and eradicate Castro’s atheistic, communist movement in our backyard.

What we did not hear a half century ago was the voice of a leader and a people who experienced the inequalities and injustices of the US-backed regime of Fulgencio Batista. This voice was determined to make changes.

Our visit began with attending a memorial service for Fidel at a Havana Presbyterian Church. Jesse Jackson, who delivered a rousing tribute to Fidel, led the US delegation. This was a fitting start to our education about a Castro who knew the unmet needs of his people and worked to deliver for them.

We visited La Castellana, a school for people with mental disabilities that was started after the Revolution in 1961. The Director of 50 years spoke of their emphases—independence, integration with the larger society, and self esteem—whereby all people are seen as having value and a place in the family and community. These themes were evident as well in our visits to the Adult Day Care Center, the Neurological Development Center, and the Home for Children Without Parental Care. The care and dignity offered to all came with Castro and the Revolution. What

emerged in presentations by the Cuban professionals and guides was a picture of a leader who remained close to his people and their needs. Today, this society provides education and health care for all.

And yes, religion and religious practice are alive in Cuba. We learned of the evolution of the state

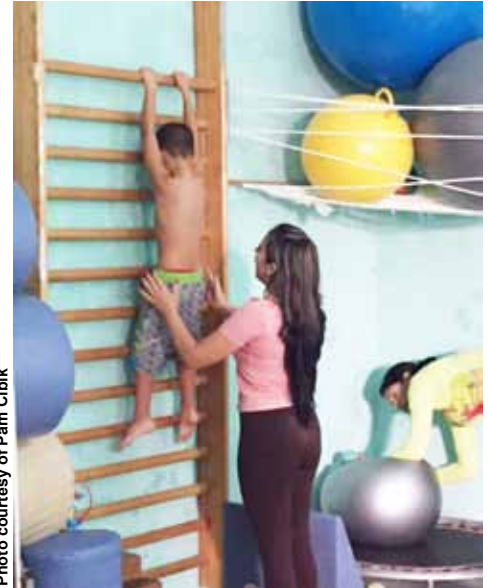


Photo courtesy of Pam Cibik

Neurological Development Center in Cardenas City

posture toward religion—from a “honeymoon” period immediately after the revolution, to a declaration as an atheist state, to the removal of this designation in more recent years. It seems that the churches have succeeded at convincing the government that the church social programs are compatible with the aims of the government. Today, there is a rich mixture of Christian religious practice, African spirituality, and other popular religious observances.

A Cuban psychologist, Patricia Ares, spoke to us about Cuban families including the growing empowerment



Photo courtesy of Pam Cibik

La Castellana School for children with disabilities



Photo courtesy of Jan Alberti



Santa Barbara Day celebration

of women with its accompanying tensions. An interesting societal statistic is the low rate of suicide and depression—explained by the protectiveness of the community. Cuban communal life is characterized by “much noise,” open doors, neighbors and nurses and family living and visiting in close proximity, thus providing for connection and closeness to counter the isolation of depression.

regime and of Castro’s efforts to address this poverty, including a literacy campaign, various projects, and nationalization of business. In keeping with his pattern of closeness to the people, Castro visited a nearby community of very poor people the Christmas before the invasion, ate with them, and urged them to be trained in arms as he predicted an effort to defeat the Revolution.

We left Cuba with an expanded vision. We still carry our long-ago programmed perspectives, along with questions not fully answered. However, the Cuban people and Cuban society we encountered showed us another, less appreciated Cuba—a people proud of their country and their departed leader, a society working to care for all of its members, a people able to be satisfied with “enough” of life’s resources. Finally, our Cuban friends are hoping for fuller friendship and sharing with the United States.



.....



### AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Gerry Mullaney – Board Member

The Nominating Committee of the Affiliate Board—that would be me, Gerry Mullaney—is calling on all Affiliates to consider candidates for the Board and bring them forth for nomination. Don’t be shy. Don’t deny anyone this opportunity. Competition will not be fierce unless we are inundated with nominations.

Board membership involves a 3-year term (with renewal possible for another 3 years), two Board meetings per year along with conference calls, and application of leadership, wisdom, and creativity for policy development and decision-making. We occasionally have some fun as well. It is certainly a joy to come together with good people to form the Affiliate leadership that supports and encourages our world wide membership to advance Jesus’ mission in the world.

Board Application and Nomination forms are available on the Maryknoll Affiliates website. Email me ([mullg@cgfs.org](mailto:mullg@cgfs.org) or [mullaney51@att.net](mailto:mullaney51@att.net)) to get information, ask questions, or to follow up on possible nominees. In fact, a good first step would be to contact me for some informal conversation about potential candidates. I would enjoy this, and I hope you would as well.



Photo courtesy of Pam Cibik



Bay of Pigs display

One of our final experiences on this adventure was our visit to the Bay of Pigs. In contrast to the US interpretation of this event as a noble effort at liberation ending in catastrophe, for Cubans, this is an episode of proud triumph over US imperialism and use of CIA mercenaries. The museum on this site provided ample justification for Cuba’s fierce defense of their Revolution. There were displays of the extreme poverty of the people under the Battista

## MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE— WHAT A GEM!

Rich Lessard – Affiliate Board, Albany Chapter

Following this spring's Affiliate Board meeting, my wife, Denise, and I stayed on at Maryknoll in Ossining, NY, and attended the Maryknoll Mission Institute (MMI). It was an overdue gift to ourselves, and also served as the perfect way to ease into my third week of retirement.

Some Affiliates may be unaware of this opportunity. Let me introduce you to the MMI and encourage you, if you are able, to seriously consider spending one of the best weeks one could experience.

The MMI is a forum for adult learning and reflection on the world church and on mission. This Maryknoll Sisters' ministry brings together people of all churches and cultures (typically engaged in cross-cultural ministries) to explore in-depth dimensions of current mission studies, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and worshiping with others in a community environment. Programs are led by invited presenters known for their experience, expertise, and gifts in animating discussion of contemporary issues concerning the needs of the global community. These presenters are often authors whose books are published by Orbis Books. Generally, each year ten programs are offered from May through August.

My first MMI in 2004 was a program offered by Miriam Therese MacGillis. Since then, I've attended programs with Jack Haught, Diarmuid O'Murchu, Iliia Delio and just recently Michael Morwood—authors I'm sure many Affiliates are familiar with and find inspiring, encouraging, and challenging. MMI is a great opportunity to meet these and other noted authors/presenters and spend some quality time with them. A cool experience!

You never know how attending a MMI program may impact your life. For me, looking back on my 2004 MMI experience, two things happened. First of all, I fell in love with the Maryknoll Sisters. From that first day and since, I just love being in their presence, listening to the stories of their lives and missions, awed by their inspiration, their commitment and the love they share in all they do. And their awesome personalities—uniquely different, but each beautiful and strong! And the second—well, the fact is that I wouldn't have written this article without that initial experience. It

was then when someone (I wish I could remember who) approached my friend, Tom Hayes, and me and gave us each a folder containing information about something called the Maryknoll Affiliates. Two years later, after a visit with Fred Goddard and Ron Guidry, the Albany Affiliate Chapter was up and running. And as they say, the rest is history.

You know what's nice about being an Affiliate and attending a MMI program—you can check off all boxes on the Four Pillars scorecard.

- **Community** – not only are you hosted by and interacting with some of the best people in the world, but you are praying, learning, sharing, crying, laughing, dining, socializing, and singing with people from all corners of the world. Talk about global community! What an excellent way to make lasting friendships. In our last program with Michael Morwood, we had one participant join us from Down Under—Australia!



Photo courtesy of Rich Lessard

- **Spirituality** – Not only is it embedded in the prayerful aspects of the program, but there is a special sense of being in and with the spiritual presence of Mother Mary Joseph and Fathers Walsh and Price as you walk along the hallowed hallways and grounds of Maryknoll.
- **Global Vision** – You can't help but get a sense of this from the experiences and perspectives that missionaries and other participants share about their work around the world. You hear first-hand accounts of their lives and experiences in other cultures—the effects of their missionary work, of globalization, climate change, politics, war, etc.
- **Action** – By virtue of just being there, you've taken action. Not only do you experience new learning, but by your presence and interactions

with others there, you affirm each other's life's work and in solidarity walk together in the way of Jesus. Perhaps the experience will motivate or inspire you toward a new initiative of your own or in your Chapter's life back home.

I ask you to learn more about the Maryknoll Mission Institute and the various programs they offer. If you find yourself in the Hudson Valley of New York State or anywhere else in New York (because if you've made it that far, what's another hour or five-hour drive to Maryknoll?) during the beautiful seasons of Spring and Summer, please consider spending some additional time with the Sisters and other missionaries from around the globe at the Maryknoll Mission Institute. You'll be so happy you did.

One more thing: if you think you're too old, think again. 97-year-old Maryknoll Sister Helen Werner, currently ministering in Lemoa, Guatemala, and friend of the Albany Affiliates, is scheduled for one or two programs this summer. So...



# News from the Board



**INTRODUCING OUR  
NEW MEMBER**



Manny Hotchkiss – Finance Chair (& Elvis)

Hello, everyone! I know that I have met at least two or three hundred of you over the past 20 some years at the international Affiliate Conferences in New York, at the Regional Conferences (Seattle, San Francisco, Portland, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, New Orleans) or just traveling across the good old USA, visiting Affiliate Chapters along the way. Do I remember all your names? Probably not, but I usually will recognize your smile, and sometimes that will pop your name out to me as well. In all the years I've been an Affiliate, I have loved meeting you, talking with you, eating with you, and especially praying with you.

There's something special about Maryknoll Affiliates, especially at the chapter level, where I really feel accepted and safe among kindred spirits—you all. Learning about the different advocacies you are involved in is amazing, inspirational, and spiritually rejuvenating. You give me hope, especially in today's political climate.

As your new board member, I will be replacing David Schaffner on the finance committee. His clever appeal letters and your generosity have kept the Affiliates in the black these past 5 years. Thank you, all!

David will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best. Part of my job will be tracking expenses; the other part will be helping to raise funds for the 2017 operating budget: \$22,000. So far this year, Affiliates have donated \$10,428. We are a little behind last year's giving rate, but we still have six months to go. As your new finance committee chair, I ask each of you to seriously consider making a donation to the best of your capability. I thank you for your generosity, and I look forward to our next meeting. God bless the Maryknoll Affiliates!



## MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE

*The Mission Institute offers various programs during 2017, including:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| July 16-21<br><b>(Sun.- Fri.)</b>                  | Kevin G. Ahern, PhD<br><b>Communities of Grace:</b><br>Revitalizing the Lay Apostolate         |
| July 23-28<br><b>(Sun.- Fri.)</b>                  | Catherine Vincie, RSHM, PhD<br><b>The New Cosmology and its Impact on Theology and Worship</b> |
| Aug. 21-24<br><b>(Mon.-Thur.)</b><br>Los Altos, CA | Michael Crosby, OFM Cap<br><b>Moving into the Mystical As We Mature</b>                        |
| Sept. 4-8<br><b>(Sun.- Fri.)</b><br>Monrovia, CA   | Mickey McGrath, OSFS<br><b>Green Hearts and Souls:</b><br>Ecology and Wise Holy Women          |

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

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](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org)

### What's Inside?

Affiliates in Solidarity . . . . . 1

Global Vision . . . . . 2

Book Groups to Reconvene / Are You on the Affiliate Email List? . . 2

“If We Had Any Guts, We’d Start a Catholic Worker House” . . . . . 4

Welcoming the Stranger . . . . . 4

2017 Climate March / NOLA Marches Forward . . . . . 5

¡Meet the MAC 2017 Speakers! . . . . . 6

Another Cuba, Another Fidel . . . . . 8

An Opportunity of a Lifetime . . . . . 9

Maryknoll Mission Institute—What A Gem! . . . . . 10

Maryknoll Mission Institute . . . . . 11

News from the Board: Introducing our New Member . . . . . 11



*Find out what these Affiliates are thankful for on page 1!*

