



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

September/October 2017

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BUEN VIVIR INSPIRES HEARTFELT STRATEGIES

Rosa Beatriz, the lead person on the Guatemalan Conference Committee planning for MAC 2017, asked a few registrants to respond to two of three questions. Some respondents shared their answers with Executive Coordinator Bob Short. Below are parts of three Affiliates' responses to one of her questions: *In what ways would I like to see the theme "Buen Vivir" (Living in Harmony with All) become part of the commitment of the Affiliate Movement?*

Bob Short described these comments as "...Whole-hearted, transformative strategies that help bring us back to what can bring peace and harmony in our world."



In what ways would I like to see the theme "Buen Vivir" (Living in Harmony with All) become part of the commitment of the Affiliate Movement?

Dennise Burgess—So now more than ever, it is important to live in harmony with others and to challenge others to do the same. People are often fearful of individuals and groups (races, religions, cultures) that they don't know. Once they get to know people from a "different" group, much of the fear goes away. This Affiliate conference gives us the opportunity to get to know and understand other cultures. Hopefully it will strengthen our commitment to living in harmony with others, and by sharing our experiences, will inspire others to live in harmony with others as well.

Dan Heuer—I am becoming increasingly aware that all people in the world are connected. We all share our humanity and we all need each other. When one of us is hurt, we are all hurt. When one of us thrives and flourishes, we all benefit. As our knowledge of our planet and our universe expands, we become more aware of the need to promote harmony on our planet. Maryknoll Affiliates can be a powerful force for good by making LIVING IN HARMONY WITH ALL a focus of the Maryknoll Movement.

Marie Wren—It is so easy to become discouraged at the enormity of need in the world – from need for social justice, to famine. I take courage and consolation from Mother Teresa who said that if she had not helped that first person in front of her, none of the many hundreds she helped would have been helped. It is my hope that by being fully present and caring to everyone I meet, I can make my difference in the world. To quote Barbara Fiand: "Encountering hate with love, rejection with acceptance, bullying with gentle strength is a daily responsibility."

EVOLVING REALITY

Maryknoll introduced me to the use of the word “reality” to refer to the experience of a particular culture or social group. “Reality” shows on TV have been very popular, but I question their authenticity. Even if they are not purposefully scripted, the act of observing a phenomenon can influence its outcome. Now it seems we are all living in a “reality” show manipulated by our national and international politics. This show ignores the reality of our families and friends and leaves us to deal with the serious situations in our communities.

This issue of the NSFA touches on many of the situations that impact our reality as Affiliates: violence and weapons, scapegoating, consumerism, evolving gender identities, immigration, etc. We can take charge and evolve our own reality. What is real now? What do we want to become real?

To answer these questions I encourage Affiliates to go back to our roots, our Pillars by which we define ourselves as Maryknoll Affiliates: Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action. See pages 6 and 7 of this issue of the NSFA for an Easy Meeting that could help you define and evolve your reality, to evolve your vision for yourself, for your chapter and for the Affiliates. Please share your insights with the Affiliate community 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.



**NUCLEAR
OPTION
ACTION ALERT**

The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns urges us to pray and contact our government representatives asking for diplomacy with North Korea (<http://maryknollogc.org/alerts/us-and-north-korea-call-prayer-and-action>). An additional approach was introduced by Senator Edward Markey (D-Mass) and Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA) “Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017.” H.R.669 would prohibit the first-use of nuclear strike by the United States unless Congress first declares war and expressly authorizes such a strike (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/669>). The bill has 47 co-sponsors but has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.



This fall, book groups will be reading *Trails of Hope and Terror* by Miguel de la Torre (<http://www.orbisbooks.com/trails-of-hope-and-terror.html>). The seven conference call “meetings” run from Sept. 8th (Friday 1:00 pm ET ... 10:00 am PT) through October 20th. Email Bob Short: rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org. Join us if you can!



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld David Stocker

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

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

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

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REFLECTIONS ON OUR ANNUAL “HOME” VISIT

Mary Gill & Pat Denevan – Oaxaca, Mexico

When we met with Manny and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss on our annual visit, Mary asked us to reflect on what we see in Portland and in Oaxaca.

Mary—First, we noted how the mood of the people in general expresses itself. Aside from activists, nobody said much about the political state of affairs in Portland or the US. Black members in our family are as vigilant as they have always been. The police bias toward racism has always been prominent. Having arrived in 1975, we remember when the police left dead possums on the doorstep of a Black restaurant. And the father of one our children’s classmates was killed with a choke hold—he stopped a robbery in a gas station, and the police automatically assumed that because he was a tall Black man, he was the robber. Now however, many people feel permission to spew hatred toward immigrants, people of color, indigenous people, and refugees. The incredibly noticeable gentrification of the neighborhoods made me sad and angry. Maryknoll Affiliate Martha Gies, who has worked in housing in Portland for years, commented that “ethnic cleansing” is taking place—the Black community is moving out to the “numbers,” far out to the east of Portland.

More people without homes are evident. Fear, ignorance, and hatred have been sown, and the whirlwind is reaping a harvest. From being in mission these last 15 plus years, I know that entering another culture to accompany people is anything but easy. It calls for self-knowledge and humility (which only happens with lots of mistakes and humiliations); then the people decide what you are good for, and you do it. No outside “experts” need apply! Outside expertise may be offered for projects, but the people affected will decide if, what, when, and how.

Of course, like Portland, Oaxaca is full of racism. Skin color makes a huge difference in society. It is just more integrated into the class system. Movement to the city is occasioned by scarcity in the country, although some villages are conscious of reclaiming their heritage and are blessed with enough natural resources to do it. Invasion by mining companies (Canada) and the corruption of the government in selling off the oil (US) also makes for conflict.



The good news is that people are learning to resist nonviolently in both Portland and Oaxaca and that we have a Creator who loves all of creation including humans, and, as we evolve, lessons will be learned. This learning is anything but complete, and, as in life there are still opportunities!

Pat—These are a few of the obvious contrasts I noticed between Portland and Oaxaca:



Vehicles—In Portland I was astounded by the number of huge SUVs and pick-ups used just for city driving—for security or prestige? However I was delighted to see so many hybrid and electric cars in Portland. There are some vehicles of that size in Oaxaca, but not so many and more older models. Poverty is up close and in your face especially at street intersections where children juggle lemons for a handout and adults sell everything from papers to rechargeable electric fly swatters.

Supermarkets—The number of products in supermarkets was overwhelming. In the Personal Care aisle there were so many creams, soaps, deodorants, tints, etc. that I had trouble just finding a plain shampoo. We have supermarkets in Oaxaca like Walmart (we never shop there), Soriana, and Chedraui, but smaller in size. We shop at La Soledad, which is like a Mexican Costco.

Housing—In Portland I was amazed by the number of new luxury apartment buildings causing gentrification of poorer neighborhoods. In our village of Huayapam, rich people are building large modern houses, often right next to very humble homes, which makes the contrast striking.

Pace of Life—In Portland people seem to be in a hurry all the time and drive really fast on the freeways. In Oaxaca, life moves at a slower pace and time is relative. Once I complained to our friend, Basilio, that we were going to be a half hour late. He replied, “Es buena hora.” (We will be on time!) Mary and I are becoming more well known in our village of Huayapam. As we drive through in our pick-up people often call out, “Hóla, Patricio” or “Buenos días, Mari” which makes us feel welcome.

All in all, we are glad to be back in the culture and with the people of Oaxaca.



MEET YOUR MAC 2017 LITURGISTS & MUSICIANS

Guatemala Chapter – MAC 2017 Organizers

The special talents of these Guatemalans will enrich your conference experience with an understanding of the Mayan culture, uplifting liturgies, and enjoyment of the music created for this gathering.

Mayan Cosmos Vision



**Daniel Caño –
Philosopher,
Pedagogue, and
Bilingual Intercultural
Educator**

Daniel Caño is Mayan Q'anjob'al, from the aldea Paykonob', municipality of Santa Eulalia, Huehuetenango. A Mayan spiritual guide, he was named for Maryknoll

Father Daniel Jensen, who was pastor in Santa Eulalia at that time.

His academic studies are in philosophy, pedagogy, and intercultural bilingual education. Daniel is presently a professor of political and social sciences at the Rafael Landivar University in Quetzaltenango and on the faculty of Humanities at the Guatemalan University del Valle in the Altiplano. He has shared his spirituality, life experiences and poetry at a number of universities and organizations in the United States.

Of the Mayan Spirituality, Daniel says "I consider Mayan Spirituality as a way of interrelating myself with my social and cosmic surroundings. I try not to reduce it to rituals but instead to apply it to all spheres of my life."

Mayan Ceremony: Thanking the Grandfathers and Grandmothers

**Lorenza Lainez Reynoso
– Teacher and
Psychologist**

Lorenza is an indigenous Maya Quiche woman and a psychologist and



elementary school teacher. Her parents immigrated to the capital city of Guatemala because of the political violence and the poverty in the country. In spite of having grown up in an urban environment, her strong Mayan identity is based on the values of equality, social justice, and respect for diversity.

In 2000, Lorenza began reflecting on the Cosmo vision of the Mayan People, in particular the K'iche. She has studied certain elements, principles, and values of the spirituality of her people. She appreciates her origins and has a critical vision of their history as Mayan Peoples.

During this process, she has worked with organizations of indigenous peoples, women's groups, and international and governmental organizations. Presently, she consults regarding indigenous peoples, women, and HIV, and develops workshops for healing and counseling with indigenous women.

The Eucharist

Celebrant

**John Spain, MM
Maryknoll Priest**

Ordained in 1970, John shared pastoral service with Salvadoran priests and participated in Christian communities. Over forty years ago, he lived

through the persecution that claimed the lives of more than ten priests, including our beloved Blessed Oscar Romero and the four American churchwomen in December 1980.

In the 1980s, John served in Nicaragua while it was experiencing US aggression after freeing itself from Somoza. In the 1990s, he returned to San Salvador to accompany the suffering people in their search for reconciliation after the war. In recent years he has spent more time on administrative tasks in Central America, but also sharing with the Affiliates of Guatemala and El Salvador to help pastorally in the parish of Cristo Salvador in Zacamil, El Salvador.

This year he was invited to share the lives of the martyrs of Central America with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Africa.



Fr. Spain on his visit to Tanzania, at Ndoleleji, Parish, from the diocese of Shinyaga.

Homilist

Helen Werner, MM
– Maryknoll Sister,
Contemplative
Lemoa Mission, El Quiché

Helen has been a Maryknoll sister for 79 years, and looks back with gratitude at the journey that brought her to this time in Guatemala. After wonderful years of formation and College education, she spent 10 years in Panama teaching children whose ancestors had worked on the Panama Canal. A call to the contemplative life brought her back to New York, where for 32 years she lived the cloistered life, reaching out to the world through prayer.

Most significant in her life was the invitation to come to Guatemala to be a presence of prayer and accompaniment in the midst of the poor who were still suffering from the effects of violence and massacres. Her life has become prayer in the midst of the world, one with the people.

Assembly Music

Miguel Angel Duarte Aleman
– Teacher Of Music

Both a professional singer and a humanities professor, Miguel specializes in music in middle education and musical theater. A choral director, artistic producer, and dramatist, he is the founding director of Staccato Singers Academy, a school held in high esteem in Guatemala. He has given workshops internationally and is vice president of the Latin American Forum of Music Educators.

Immersed in the world of song since an early age, he has won multiple awards, including gold medal winner in the World Olympics of the Arts (2001) in Los Angeles, California, and the Arcoiris Award for the best youth group (2005).



Helen in Lemoa with Valentina. Her father and brother were killed in front of her; she cares for her elderly mother.

He has created:

- musical stage plays
- a methodology for developing a harmonic ear
- music for the marimba. His album, "The Desire to See You Again," was released in November 2016.
- choral arrangements for different choirs throughout Latin America.

Miguel presently directs the City Choral group of Guatemala City, teaches vocal technique at Staccato Singers Academy, and is General Director of Casa Duarte, a meeting place for companies that work in all branches of the arts.

Music for the Maryknoll Affiliates' 25th Anniversary

Juan Pablo Gudiel Pérez –
Music Professional

Juan Pablo teaches musical formation, specializing in practice and choral direction. He studied at University of San Carlos and Normal School for teachers of Music Jesus Maria Alvarado.

As a member of the National Choir of Guatemala (Cultural Patrimony of the Nation), he has been a choir member, tenor soloist, accompanying pianist, and director (from 1992 to the present). Juan has sung with several other choirs, including Colegio San Sebastian (1977-1979), Victoria Choir (1986 – 1990), APG Choir (1988), Symphonic Christmas Choir (1992), and Hilos de Plata Choir (2006).

He has been a member of popular music groups: Christmas Selection, Siglo XX (1992), High Voltage Group (1990 – 1992), The Organization (1993), The Brothers Duarte Groups (1994 – 1997), Select Music Group (1990-2000), among others, with which he has participated in national tours and international festivals (Central America, Cuba, Colombia and Mexico).

Juan Pablo composes and arranges choral works, songs with a message of hope, children's songs, group arrangements, and chamber music. He interprets varied academic and popular music, singing and accompanying himself on piano or keyboard.

He presently teaches music and directs the youth choir and marimba at Colegio Monte Maria in Guatemala City.



EASY MEETING: VISIONING THE AFFILIATES

Join the Maryknoll Affiliate Board in envisioning our future.

Preparation

1. Read through these two pages.
2. Plan who will read the passages and prayers.
3. Determine who will lead the discussions.
4. Gather markers, a flip chart or large sheets of paper and tape, and pens and paper for individual use. .

Meeting Plan

Opening Prayer:

A member reads these excerpts from Marlene Marburg’s poem, “Dreaming a Grace”:

*I imagine a place
people gathering, sharing
their deep desires
for the way things can be
in this world at this time
in places
where a new consciousness
of God in all things
is emerging.*

Reading:

While visioning at their May meeting, our Maryknoll Affiliate Board discussed:

- Where will the Affiliates be in 5 years?
- Where do we want the Affiliates to be in 5 years?
- Name 1-3 action steps to get there.

The Affiliate movement, as are all of us, is challenged by an evolving world. The Board was excited by the possibilities presented by the actions of international chapters and our ever greater collaboration with the other Maryknoll entities. The Board wants to broaden the conversation to include input from Affiliate chapters and individuals. In response, Bob Short posted the article, “Where Will We Be in 5 Years (or less)?” It reads:

A key question scheduled for the recent conference call between Board and Regional Coordinator members was: “Where do you want the Maryknoll Affiliates to be in five years?” Board Chair Dave Schaffner suggested that to that question, we attach a second one: “Where do you think we will be in 5 years?” They are critical questions for all of us to consider. Hopefully many Affiliate Chapters will take up the question as well.

Agnes Walsh of the Long Island Chapter recently wrote to say that their chapter will be addressing those two questions in their upcoming meeting on June 11th. In her email, Agnes added, “When I read in the Spring 2017 Focusing (a Publication of The Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, New York), “Dreaming a Grace,” a poem by Marlene Marburg, I thought that this might be a way to spark a conversation about the above two questions. I wanted to share this idea with you as a possible way for other chapters to use for reflection and sharing.”



Discussion:

Consider the Four Pillars of the Affiliate Movement—Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action—in envisioning the future of Affiliates, Affiliate Chapters, and the Affiliate Movement.

Individual Affiliates could privately consider the following (during the meeting or before, if the meeting organizer chooses to contact them beforehand):

I. Where do I want to be as an Affiliate in five years?

II. What could I do to get there?


(Below are some ideas. Please make your own list of priorities.)

- Attend a regional or national Affiliate meeting
- Experience a short immersion trip
- Participate in a longer-term mission
- Commit to a local project
- Host an informational meeting on a justice topic

at my parish


- Volunteer as a chapter contact person, regional coordinator, or board member

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Enjoy a **moment of silence** (perhaps reflecting on the following verse), before continuing with the next section.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11



Chapters. Where do we want our chapter to be in five years with respect to:

- Spirituality
- Community
- Global Vision
- Action?

(A flip chart or paper taped to a wall would be handy for capturing the group’s responses for each area.)

I. What could we do to get there?

(Below are some ideas. Please list your own ideas.)

- Host an informational meeting
- Hold a retreat
- Organize a regional meeting

II. What do we plan to do as a chapter?

After affirming your chapter plan, Affiliates are invited to share their individual goals and plans.

...we will see where the Spirit takes us and how we can be of use in keeping Maryknoll synonymous with mission for another 100 years.

—Santa Orlando, Albany Chapter

The Affiliate Movement. We are part of a Movement. We are each important in guiding our future. As a chapter, we envision:

I. Where do we want the Affiliate movement to be in five years?

II. What are some actions the Affiliates could take?

III. What could our chapter do to participate?

Closing Prayer: Members share prayer needs, followed by an Our Father or other prayer.

Follow-up: Please send your chapter or individual visions to Bob Short (rshort@MaryknollAffiliates.org) or to the NSFA.



SCAPEGOATS AND NONVIOLENCE

Joe Hastings – Returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner

Creating scapegoats is something societies do over and over again to keep from addressing real fears and injustices. It never really solves any problem, but just continues the cycle of violence, covering it up with a thin disguise, a lie of legitimacy.

Jesus calls us to expose the lie by witnessing to the truth. What truth, you might ask. Pilate asked the same question, even though Jesus has just given him the answer:

*Everyone who follows the truth
listens to my voice.*

We start now by listening to the voices of those being made scapegoats and standing with them. Speaking the truth with them, sometimes for them. We, people of faith with the worldly means of resources, time, and connections, have to join them in speaking the truth.

We have to speak the truth and say:

- We are first and foremost members of God’s one human family. That identity unites us all.
- We—almost all of us—are from families of immigrants, either those who came by choice or those forced immigrants brought here by slavery.
- We have crime here in America, but being an immigrant is not a crime! Being an immigrant without documents is not a matter of national security; it’s a matter of paperwork.
- When refugees flee war—whether in Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, or the Congo—we welcome them, no matter who dropped the bombs on their homeland.
- We believe in the Kingdom of God, which means we want a world where everyone can find a safe home and work with dignity and a peaceful future in their own country, but when they cannot find those things at home, we welcome them here, into our home.
- We want a bright future for all children, even if the children are escaping gangs in El Salvador and Honduras.
- We, as Christians share much in faith with Muslims, and we want to build a better future together with them, not apart from them.
- Some of us who are white have to admit that it’s not easy to unlearn racism, to let go of privilege, to learn to thrive in solidarity with all our neighbors. But it’s worth the effort, because

it’s the path to becoming who we are called to be—a people who live their faith in solidarity, not isolation nor competition.

- We have to speak the message that there is no “them” from which to draw scapegoats. There is only us.

We know that this message is NOT going to be easy to speak, either in word or in deed. There is conflict today in our society, and there will be more. It seems like violence is creeping upward. But violence is not the cure for our broken world. Our path, our WAY must be nonviolent.



The Romans nailed a scapegoat to the cross, and our world continues to crucify scapegoats—to label them, arrest them, sentence them, imprison or deport them, and kill them. When we listen to the voice on the cross, we hear a call to take scapegoats

down from the cross, wherever we can, using active nonviolence to guide us.

We’re asked to renew our commitment to nonviolence, and to put that commitment to use today in our society full of conflict, in our world full of violence. Pope Francis writes, “I pledge the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence.” Maryknoll Affiliates, we must salute and follow his leadership.



2017 Campaign Nonviolence

Over 900 actions are planned for the 2017 Campaign Nonviolence, Sept 16 – 24, across the US. Now more than ever, we encourage Affiliate Chapters and Affiliates to participate in one of the actions in your area, listed at <http://www.paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/campaign-nonviolence-week-of-actions/> or to start your own action to address violence, poverty, racism, and the climate crisis.”



AFFILIATES HELP SEND TWO NEW MARYKNOLL PRIESTS

Rich Lessard – Affiliate Board member, Albany Chapter

Early on the morning of May 20th, I set out under sunny skies for my two-hour trek to Ossining, NY, for the ordination of Maryknoll’s two newest priests. My anticipation for the day ahead increases with each mile traveled—this is my first ordination. Then, about five minutes from my destination, raindrops begin to fall on my windshield, mixing with the previous days’ pollen accumulation. “Uh oh,” I think, knowing part of the day’s ceremonies are to be held outdoors. But just a few raindrops fall, stopping right as I arrive. Perhaps it is a sprinkling of holy water on those assembling at Maryknoll



over the century. It is my great honor to represent the Maryknoll Affiliates at this ordination. Not only am I able to witness the celebration, but, as the Affiliates’ representative, I have a role and responsibility in the sending of these two young missionaries to China. After both Daniel and Peter give their personal blessings outside in the



Fr. Daniel Kim, MM blesses Affiliate Rich Lessard.

quadrangle, we reconvene in the Chapel for their mission sending. The Church of Hong Kong’s calling forth message is read in both Mandarin and English; then I, along with the leadership of the Fathers and Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Missioners, continue the long tradition of blessing and presenting mission crosses to the new missionaries.

Reflecting on the day, I’m so glad I was able to participate in a little bit of Maryknoll’s history and story. Part of Daniel’s and Peter’s stories can be found in the May/June 2017 edition of *Maryknoll Magazine*. I

to mark the importance of the day ahead! Fathers Daniel Kim from Anaheim, CA, and Peter Latouf from Detroit, MI, are Maryknoll’s newest missionaries. In the Queen of Apostles Chapel, surrounded by family, friends, and the gathered community of Maryknoll priests whom Daniel and Peter are following in the 100-year tradition of Maryknoll, they are ordained. The remarkable setting, under colorful flags representing all the countries where Maryknoll has served, brings forth the real and remembered spirit of those whom Maryknoll missionaries have blessed by their presence



look forward to continuing to follow their stories of mission and hope to meet them again either in their mission countries or back at Maryknoll. May God bless them as they witness the real presence of the divine in the work they are embarking on now and for many, many years to come.



ABOUT GROWTH AND EVOLUTION


Kitty – Seattle Chapter*

Jake (whom you may have known as Jane), the oldest child of Roger and Kitty, is in California recovering from surgery to complete his transition to becoming a man. He would probably be surprised to know about this note. We think it would be great if as many people as possible would send him a card of support and good will for his recovery and his future happy life. If you would like to send a card or message of love and encouragement, his address until the end of April is: - - - - - .




openly changing day to day, comfortable with his spiritual search for God and his real self. I would not be able to go through all he has gone through to find his true self.

I can see how much I have evolved since the day in 1970 Jake was born. I have grown from an unhealthy acceptance of what I was told, to being a seeker of truth. I can see that all things work together for good, that evolution is the key to everything. There is a universe I had no idea existed then. There are stars, planets, ideas and freedoms I never imagined then. People I have met I no longer see as good or bad, right or wrong. There is an innate direction of love and goodness in all cultures and peoples.

Sometimes I am still more dualistic than I think I should be. I have met people in many places who do not look, act or think like me. I no longer look, act or think like I did in 1970. I can see that my ideas of gender and roles have changed radically. There is no right or wrong way to be except to keep growing and going. Knowing a little about growth and evolution helps me to see that the only wrong thing I can do is stop growing and learning and loving. Jake has given me a push toward learning more about love and life. 

age 90 in 2016, but he is not forgotten. The conference, “Daniel Berrigan and a Spirituality of Prophecy,” hosted by the San Antonio, Texas, [Oblate School of Theology](#) this spring, reiterated Berrigan’s message of peace and nonviolence. The *Fellowship* magazine’s Spring 2017 issue included his Letter to the Weathermen, which had been published in *The Village Voice*, New York City, in 1970. The Weathermen were infamous for their revolutionary acts of sabotage and property damage. Dan’s letter counseled them as a brother, even while he was sought by the FBI for his own infractions, saying, “No principle is worth the sacrifice of a single human being.”

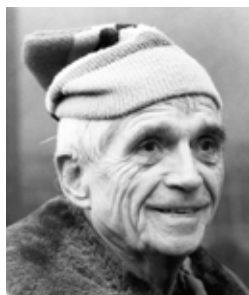
His letter not only has historical value; it speaks to our current situation and is a message of hope. Read Berrigan’s writings in *Fellowship* (forusa.org/blog.php?i=30) or a book relating to his life, such as those found at www.orbisbooks.com. 

We wrote this email to let people know about Jake and to encourage others that change and evolution are constant and good. To let our friends know that we are okay with this change even though we do not fully understand it. There is always good and growth that come from evolving.

Forty-six years ago when Jake was born, our thoughts of a future for him included all the traditional roles of happy wife and mother and all that entailed in 1970. In those days it was expected that women wear dresses to work and perform traditional jobs such as nursing, teaching, or clerical work. (We still feel Jane would have been a great kindergarten teacher. Jake is now an accountant.)

When I look at Jake now, I see a very determined young man. He is evolving bravely and unimaginably,

*Roger and Kitty were Maryknoll Affiliates, then Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Tanzania and are now back to being Affiliates, regularly inspiring us with ideas that stretch our minds, books we’ve got to read, organizations that help us grow, and activities and people that bring us joy.



BERRIGAN’S LETTER SPEAKS TO AFFILIATES

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –
Portland Chapter

We are teachers of the people who have come on a new vision of things. We struggle to embody that vision day after day, to make it a reality among those we live with, so that people are literally disarmed by knowing us; so that their fear of change, their dread of life are exorcised, and their dread of human differences slowly expunged.

—Daniel Berrigan, *The Village Voice*

Daniel Berrigan, SJ
May 9, 1921 –
April 30, 2016

Priest, peace activist, poet, and felon, Dan Berrigan, SJ, passed away peacefully at



ACCEPT, BUT WORK

John Records

Affiliate Nancy MacFarland brought John Records to the editors' attention by reposting his thoughts (shared below) on her Facebook page. When we inquired, she told us, "John Records is an inspiring man who had lived in our community (Petaluma, CA) for many years. He created a homeless shelter that comprehensively met the needs of homeless people in a holistic way which became a model for other shelter programs. He is a spiritually centered person who has deeply touched the lives of all those around him."

I've given a lot of thought to the message that follows, knowing it may offend some. It's not meant to be political. I ask those who take offense to look into my heart and recall what I stand for.

At age 66, I've been involved in many social changes and movements: opposing the Vietnam war, marching against nuclear arms, teaching meditation to people with HIV/AIDS when it was untreatable, working against the tobacco industry's campaigns to hook children, working for homeless folks, and now supporting dying people and those who care for them. I've been stretched to what I thought was my limit and beyond many times.

Our present times are as threatening as any I've seen. In this light, I'd like to share some lessons I've learned over the decades:

1. Don't give in to despair, and don't undermine the hope of others through your despairing conclusions. We don't know enough to despair now because we don't know the future. In the causes I mentioned above, things have often gotten better. There is much good ahead of us, some of which will be born and flourish because of what we now regard as evil. I like Raymond William's advice, "To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing."
2. It's better for our mental health and growth to work for what we love rather than against what we abhor. So find a way to base your life in love.
3. Sometimes it is necessary to resist, but don't let your life be defined and consumed by opposition. Don't let your rage warp you.

4. You're not alone. If you feel lost or estranged, look around you for people and resources that you may not have noticed. Reach out for help. We'll get through these times together.

James Baldwin's words, shared by Elizabeth Linnea, strike me as apt. "It began to seem that one would have to hold in the mind forever two ideas which seemed to be in opposition. The first idea was acceptance, the acceptance, totally without rancor, of life as it is... in the light of this idea, it goes without saying that injustice is a commonplace. But this did not mean that one could be complacent, for the second idea was of equal power: that one must never, in one's own life, accept these injustices as commonplace but must fight them with all one's strength. This fight begins, however, in the heart and it now had been laid to my charge to keep my own heart free of hatred and despair."



News from the Board



RICH LESSARD'S MISSION

Rich, a Maryknoll Affiliate in the Albany Chapter since 2006 and a Board member since 2013, loves being in the company of other Affiliates and Maryknollers. His wife Denise and two young adult children

bring him much joy as he adjusts to retirement.

On the Affiliate leadership team, Rich meets regularly with Lay Missioners, Sisters, and Fathers and Brothers to discuss present challenges and to help plan for the future. To advance the Affiliate movement, Rich wants to:

- Develop a better sense of what it means to be an Affiliate.
- Make the Affiliate Movement stronger by increasing membership.
- Find greater ways of collaborating with all Maryknoll entities in their mission work in the US and abroad, building on the relationships we already have with other Maryknollers.
- Foster communication among all Affiliates.

Rich's personal desire is to be in mission overseas when the opportunity presents itself. For now he looks forward to spending time with Affiliates and other Maryknollers in Guatemala at MAC 2017.



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