



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

November/December 2011

Volume 20 Number 6

STUDENTS HELPING HONDURAS

Story and Photos by Tara Bitterly – Red Bank

At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.' – Mother Teresa

It wasn't until last year that I, as a senior in high school, truly understood the validity of such a statement and its relevance to my life as a young adult. It was at this time that I became involved in an organization that inspired me to live my life reflecting the above quote.

At Red Bank Catholic High School in Red Bank, NJ, I joined the Maryknoll Missionary Club under **Mary Logan**. It was an involvement that made me realize how much of an impact young adults have when they are committed to creating social change. This experience influenced me to further explore other service opportunities.

Students Helping Honduras (SHH) is a nonprofit organization created in 2005 by Shin Fujiyama, a college student from the University of Mary Washington. Shin traveled to Honduras as a volunteer, and the experience left him forever changed. Upon returning, his persistent efforts to raise money on his campus proved fruitless. It wasn't until Shin inspired other volunteers to travel to Honduras that support for the cause increased drastically. SHH has raised more than \$1 million through bake sales, car washes, and numerous other



Tara with Angie and Nicole, two girls who live in the village (Villa Soleada) that SHH created

fundraisers, and is actively present on nearly 100 universities and high schools campuses. The money raised goes to the construction of orphanages, schools, and communities in rural Honduras.

I became aware of Students Helping Honduras through a good friend who volunteered there a few years ago. Her passion for this cause truly motivated me to get involved. With the guidance of our high school, Red Bank Catholic, we received the support to raise funds for Honduras. In less than three months, we hosted a bake sale, car wash, and a soccer tournament. We raised \$4,000 that contributed to the opening of an elementary school in rural Honduras, which I was able to visit.

The summer of my senior year, I traveled to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. I worked with students from across the United States, constructing an orphanage for children living currently in the underfunded government orphanages. I also taught English to children living in the village SHH created. I have never met children so eager to learn, and it made me realize how I sometimes took my own education for granted.

Volunteering in Honduras gave me a sense of purpose and sparked a passion within me to continue helping the people of Honduras, by both raising awareness and providing funds. I will be returning to Honduras this upcoming winter break, and could not be more excited. I have shared my experiences with friends, family, and even youth groups. I am also in the process of starting a SHH chapter at my college. This experience has only further strengthened my desire to continue doing service work, and for that I am forever grateful.



Tara and an elementary student in the run-down school that existed before SHH built the new school

A TIME FOR REFLECTING ON OUR FUTURE

Fred Goddard – Executive Coordinator

Advent is a time of anticipation. We await the Christmas season as well as the New Year. So, what better time to pause and reflect on our future as Maryknoll Affiliates.

Like the November/December issue of Maryknoll magazine, this issue of *Not So Far Afield* focuses on youth and the future of mission. I hope that you are inspired by these articles as much as I was when I read them as we prepared this edition.

Speaking of the future, I want to share my own future plans with you. My wife, Jeanette (Jet), and I will be returning to the Philippines next year, where Jet hopes to establish a “mobile preschool teacher training institute” now that she has her Masters in Early Childhood Education. As such, I will be resigning my position as Executive Coordinator. I, too, look forward to being back in the Philippines and involved in some new way in God’s mission, just in a different place and in a different way. Of course, I will still be connected as a Maryknoll Affiliate. That is a few months off, so I look forward to spending that time moving some new ideas forward and look to you for support in doing so.

I wish you many blessings for this Christmas season and a New Year filled with prophetic hope.



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 in more than 30 countries.

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 call toll free 877-897-2386 or e-mail inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

THEMES FOR NOT SO FAR AFIELD 2012

The themes for *Not So Far Afield* and the deadlines for submission of articles for 2012 are the following:

January/February 2012: *Option for the Poor* - deadline 11/18/11

March/April 2012: *Maryknoll Brotherhood* - deadline 1/27/12

May/June 2012: *Good Stewardship of God's Creation* - deadline 3/16/12

July/August 2012: *Refugees and Migration* - deadline 5/18/12

September/October 2012: *Mission in Partnership* - deadline 7/20/12

November/December 2012: *Mission in the United States* - deadline 9/14/12

Since we have been having themes for *Not So Far Afield*, some Maryknoll Affiliates have asked if this means each edition is limited to that theme. The answer is no. We certainly welcome any article that would be of interest to the Maryknoll Affiliates, especially when they are about a Chapter or individual Maryknoll Affiliates at any time. When space is limited, we give priority to those articles that are relevant to the theme, but will try to include other articles in later editions. When space and time is prohibitive, we can always publish articles on our website.

Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Jeanette Birondo-Goddard	Nick Petraglia
Lee Fermin	Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss
Fred Goddard	Penny Robinson
Kris Neufeld	Paula Schaffner

We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners and suggestions for articles. Articles are published in a timely manner as possible and in conjunction with appropriate themes as is applicable. All submissions are subject to editing.

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

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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Kevin Ahern on a panel on economic justice in 2010 with Erika Meyer and Jessi Steenberg of the National Catholic Student Coalition.

CREATIVELY ENGAGED IN MISSION

Kevin Ahern – Greater Boston/New England

The centenary of Maryknoll is a great opportunity not only to celebrate the past contribution of American Catholic missionary activity, but also to reflect on how more people can join in this work in new, creative ways in the future.

My Affiliate experience has taught me that one need not travel outside the country to participate in mission, although travel does add a rich dimension of possibility and opportunity.

Like most of you, work/studies and other commitments keep me very busy. However, I try to participate in Maryknoll's charism of solidarity in several simple ways.

1. First, I try to be aware of what is happening around the world by reading newspapers and websites that offer a fair evaluation of world and Church matters outside the United States. It is striking to me how easy it could be to live as if the rest of the world did not exist. The Maryknoll Magazine and the NewsNotes from the Office of Global Concerns are helpful in offering perspectives that are often non-existent in the mainstream media.
2. Second, I try to engage my friends and family in discussions about what is happening outside our country and how the actions of our government and society impact the lives of others who are too often forgotten. Local Affiliate chapters are great places to have such conversations and to organize local events around these important themes.
3. Third, I work to maintain and develop friendships and relationships with people from cultures and countries different from my own. In the United States we are blessed to have in most parishes new immigrant communities and in many places, missionary priests from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Internet forums, parish twinning programs, and international organizations can also connect us with others. My life is continually transformed by such encounters and friendships.
4. Finally, we can raise the awareness of mission and solidarity through prayer. We can, and should, include people and international issues from across our world in our personal and group prayers.

The Maryknoll charism has deeply shaped my own engagement in mission as a lay person. Growing up south of Ossining in a family that regularly read Maryknoll magazine, I was formed by Maryknoll's witness of putting the Gospel into action in the world and fostering a greater sense of global solidarity among American Catholics. Through Maryknoll I have seen the diversity and richness of the Body of Christ throughout the world and have discovered that what happens in the world, even if far away, is profoundly relevant to my life as a Catholic.

In college I discovered much of the same understanding of mission and solidarity in the National Catholic Student Coalition, the US affiliate of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana). As the worldwide network of Catholic college and university students, IMCS-Pax Romana seeks to bring together young adult Catholics from around the world, to empower them to evangelize other students and to work together for justice and peace. After college, during a four-year missionary term as President of IMCS-Pax Romana, based in France, I worked with student leaders from over 90 countries. In visiting student communities and Maryknoll members around the world, including Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Rome, and Kenya, I was amazed by the multiple diverse ways by which the Gospel is being preached -- from pastoral work in some of the poorest communities in the world, to research on the situation of Christians in China.

While earning a doctorate in theological ethics at Boston College, I have sought out the local Maryknoll Affiliate chapter in Boston, the city where Fr. Walsh and Mother Mary Joseph began their missionary journey. In this Affiliate community, richly diverse in age and experience, I have found a supportive space to be connected to mission while I study.

In light of the continued challenges facing our world and our Church, Maryknoll's twofold charism of mission and solidarity is needed now more than ever. As we move ahead into the 21st century, those of us who are friends of Maryknoll are called to find creative and simple ways to share in this good work.

Kevin Ahern is author of The Radical Bible published by Orbis Books and past president of the International Movement of Catholic Students which brings together more than 75 national federations of Catholic university students from six continents. A learned and dynamic young Christian, he has been involved with Catholic



NGOs at the UN, and is currently getting his doctorate in theological studies at Boston College (from the Maryknoll Mall website). Photos courtesy Kevin Ahern.



Carolina Gonzáles, Alejandra Sandoval and Kristel Najera

TEACHERS AND YOUTH LEADERS

María Emilia Rivadeneira – Guatemala

Last year, three graduate students from Monte Maria, Kristel Nájera, Alejandra Sandoval and Carolina González (Bach 2010), heard about the Maryknoll Affiliates and got interested in becoming members. They asked Rosa Beatriz if they could join, and soon after started attending the different meetings. All members of the Maryknoll Affiliates share God's call to serve others, and during their meetings they plan actions to be helpful to others. The new Junior Affiliates enjoy being part of this service and invite graduates to join them in this commitment to each other, Guatemala and the whole world.

Since they joined this organization, they have participated in several service opportunities including in Lemoa, Quiché, in November 2010, installing a computer lab for children and youth in Zone 18, traveling to Quetzaltenango for a conference about the Marlin Mine, tutoring kids and young students in Zone 18 every Saturday, and much more. During this time, they have shared with the members of the Maryknoll Affiliates and the people in need that have received their service as a gift from God.

In August 2011, the Junior Maryknoll Affiliates visited Monte Maria and talked with the seniors to share their experiences during the past months as members of this organization and explained the four pillars that hold this organization.

Kristel, Alejandro and Carolina also shared their experience serving in Lemoa, Quiché, in 2010 and expressed how this experience was unforgettable and inspired them to look for more opportunities to serve. They finished by inviting all seniors who want to respond God's call to serve to join different Maryknoll Sisters in November and work with them in Lemoa, Quiché; Chajul, Quiché; Pajapita, San Marcos and San Andrés Acabajá, Quiché.

These are some thoughts about the Maryknoll Affiliates that they shared with "La Estrella" so that the whole community can learn about them and get involved:

One way to live the values and what Maryknoll left us is the Affiliates. It is an opportunity that has opened my heart and eyes to realize that even though I will not be at the school, the seeds the Sisters came to plant many years ago continues to flourish. Our goal as a group is to try to bring about a better society. This is achieved with a nearness to God, a moment of reflection on our lives, on the significance of events outside our country, and of course, an action to strengthen and be consistent with our faith.

Maryknoll left in the hearts of many women a legacy where love and service are two essential parts to being a good Christian. Currently, with other friends, we are forming Junior Affiliates. This group tries to bring together youth with the goal of creating social responsibility from the very young, promising to be the future of Guatemala. The invitation is open from the moment each class of school graduates, an invitation which if accepted we believe is a decision and a commitment to the needy.

Kristel Najera , 19 years old



Kristel Najera sharing with the kids

Belonging to the Maryknoll Affiliates, for me personally, has been a wonderful experience. A beautiful space where I had the opportunity to serve God, my country, neighbors and community. Many people wonder, "What motivates me to belong to Affiliates?" or "What do I get out of sharing my time, space and affection with others?" The answer is simple: have the satisfaction that today I am making a difference in society. I'm putting my drop in the bucket for a more dignified, more just, more humane and promising future. Where the prejudices and labels of the past do not condemn a persons future, because here there is no one judging you, but rather you are appreciated for who you are and not what you have. From the beginning I fell in love with the group of Affiliates, which became part of my life and family. It is a group that is easy to love. It is full



Carolina González playing with the little girls from Lemoa

of such beautiful people, with a huge hearts, willing to love, to give of themselves and serve without expecting anything in return.

Graduates, I invite you to join this wonderful community, that together, through Junior Maryknoll Affiliates, makes the light of Christ shine in our path. It sows in our lives thousands of qualities that enable us to reap future endless virtues. Forming us in this way as women of good that leave a mark on society and leave a legacy of transformation in our beautiful Guatemala.

Alejandra Sandoval, 19 years old

This article and the photos originally appeared in a special edition of La Estrella commemorating the Maryknoll Sisters centennial. La Estrella is a publication of Colegio Monte María en Guatemala.



Alejandra Sandoval teaching the kids in Lemoa

HOW TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

Many Maryknoll Affiliate Chapters ask how they can involve younger people in their Chapter. Here are a few suggestions that can help you with that.

Just ask: Do you want to involve youth in the activities of your Chapter? Invite them! It is unlikely that they will be very enthusiastic about just attending meetings. The youth in places like Red Bank and at Monte María are looking for hands-on activities. Be sure to involve them in the planning. Here are some of the activities in which students at Red Bank have done that they shared at the 2011 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference:

- Ice cream and bake sales
- Dress down days
- Water bottle sales
- Pen pals
- Teaching religious education at a local grammar school
- Making string bracelets
- Education on global issues as well as personal stories

Connect youth between or within countries:

All of these activities were done to raise awareness of mission and Maryknoll and to collect funds and resources for some of the mission sites with which they have connected. The students at Red Bank Catholic do not just send donations to Maryknoll mission sites, though. In Tanzania, for example, they “create a personal relationship with a student at a Maryknoll sponsored all girls school.”



Connect with your own school: A unique experience for Red Bank is that one of their graduates, Kathy Dunford, is now a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Kenya. Maryknollers or Maryknoll Affiliates can share their experiences with and involved students from their alma maters.

Intergenerational Book Club: **Bill Murphy** of the Greater New England/Boston Chapter shared his experience of an intergenerational book club where students and adults would read the same book and then meet for a discussion. Students led discussions and could receive academic credit.

Start a Maryknoll Affiliate Club: With some of the ideas above, we would also love to see more Maryknoll Affiliate youth clubs. This can be at a high school or with a parish-based youth group. If this is something an individual Maryknoll Affiliate or a Chapter would like to do, please [contact Fred Goddard](#).

THE FUTURE OF MISSION AND THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

Fred Goddard – Executive Coordinator

With the Maryknoll Lay Missioners celebrating 35 years last year, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers marking their centennial this year, and the Sisters celebrating their 100 years next year, it seems like everyone is talking about the future of mission. There have been and will be rituals, workshops and symposia. So I often ask myself, “where do the Maryknoll Affiliate fit into all of this?”

Over the past few years, I have often heard Maryknoll missionaries, including those in leadership, say that the Maryknoll Affiliates are the “future of Maryknoll.” At the 2011 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference, Sister Janice McLaughlin MM said, “As we look towards the future, I can confidently say that you ARE the future!” Part XII of the Fathers and Brothers’ centennial series press releases, *The Future of Mission*, stated “The Society also will encourage a stronger relationship with the Maryknoll Affiliates, composed of people who identify with the Maryknoll vision, spirit and charism in their work at home and in their communities.”

The Future is Now

On one level, I get very nervous about those who say that the Maryknoll Affiliates are the “future of Maryknoll.” Maryknoll Brothers, Fathers, Lay Missioners, Sisters and Affiliates are all part of the future of Maryknoll, with each of us living out the charism of the founders in distinct but complimentary ways. However, I would also dare to say that if the Maryknoll Affiliates are the future of Maryknoll, the future is now.

The concept of mission has always be evolving. At the mission symposium in Chicago in October of this year, prominent theologians and missiologists spoke of what they saw as the recent trends in mission. Alice Murray (Greater Milwaukee) was at the symposium and wrote up her own summary of the talks. Many of the speakers touched on how mission is changing, but perhaps none spoke more directly to me than when Fr. Robert Schreiter C.P.P.S. said, according to Alice,

The current context seems to be changing the role of mission sending societies and missionaries with the increasing role of the laity, the impact of migration, and globalization. The current context has dramatically compressed time and space. What was the “field afar” is now near. The “gentes” formerly far away are now all around us. Territoriality is no longer part of mission. Life-long dedication to mission work has become shorter term. Nothing is in a pure form anymore: Who is the other? To whom are we sent? Are we the ones to whom others are sent?

As Maryknoll Affiliates we have already been living out this reality in the context of our chapters, or what I would prefer to call “Small Mission Communities.” We already know, and it is even stated in the catechism of the Church, that we “are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mis-



2011 Conference time capsule ritual. Where will we be in 20 years?

sion” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church: Second Edition*). At the same time, being affiliated with Maryknoll calls us to cross borders.

Maryknoll Affiliates, for the most part, “cross borders where we stand in place,” as Pat Hayes so eloquently wrote in the July/August 2011 edition of *Not So Far Afield*. Whether we are in San Diego living near a border defined by a fence or in Chicago, Lima or Mwanza, where humanity erects borders of injustice or racism, we are called to cross those borders. Fortunately, we find the strength, encouragement and spiritual foundation to do so through our connection with Maryknoll and the support of our chapters. Thus mission is lived out in community. “In other words, we strive to give witness to a globalization of solidarity from below where human capital translates into networks of social capital in the search for the common good around the common table” as Steve Judd MM articulated it his talk at the mission symposium in Chicago.

So, if the “future is now,” why write about the future of mission and the Maryknoll Affiliates? Because there is so much more to do and we need to live into this future. The two areas where I believe we need to put our energy are involving youth in mission and Maryknoll and becoming a truly international/multicultural network.

Involving Youth in Mission and in Maryknoll

Most of this edition of *Not So Far Afield* is dedicated to youth and their involvement in mission. Just reading the articles from the Tara Bitterly, a graduate of Red Bank, and about the young women from Guatemala is very encouraging to me. However, while the Maryknoll Affiliate “youth club” is a growing dimension of the Maryknoll Affiliates, it is limited in scope.

I believe we need to identify schools and parishes and teachers and youth ministers who would want to develop Maryknoll Affiliate youth clubs. I have talked with Mary Logan from Red Bank about her idea of developing an online education program—a very exciting proposal. We also want to connect youth globally through ways we never thought possible just a few years ago. Social networks like Facebook

make crossing borders and communicating with either other youth clubs or students and youth connected with Maryknoll missionaries easier than ever.

A Truly Multicultural/International Movement

The Maryknoll Affiliates have been blessed with individual Maryknoll Affiliates from many cultures and with Chapters around the world. To be a fully multicultural community, though, there is much work to be done. With our roots in the U.S. church, we have understandably, though regrettably, been very focused on development of Chapters in the U.S., with less attention going to our sisters and brothers outside the United States. On the one hand, we need to make a greater effort to strengthen our support of the Chapters outside the United States from different cultures and reach out to a variety of cultures in the US.

On the other hand, and perhaps more importantly, we need to be educating ourselves, most of us who are from the “dominant US culture”, that all Maryknoll Affiliates are from different cultures and we need to be aware of and appreciate our diversity. Sometimes it is just something as simple as remembering that our conference is an “international conference” not a “national conference” or that we don’t talk about our “international Chapters” as if they are something apart and distinct from the Chapters in the U.S.

We need to improve our communication among Chapters and individual Affiliates from different cultures and assure that Maryknoll Affiliate communication is in the various languages. We also need to be sure that individuals and Chapters from different cultures fully participate in the Maryknoll Affiliate movement at all levels, from writing articles in the Maryknoll Affiliate newsletters and for our website to participation and involvement in international conferences and development of leadership within the Maryknoll Affiliates.

Two areas of great importance are the formation/renewal program and multicultural understanding. The formation/renewal program cannot just be translated into different languages but must be made culturally appropriate, especially when an entire Chapter consists of people from a particular culture.

Multicultural understanding is one aspect of the formation/renewal process. It needs to be explored in-depth and Maryknoll Affiliates should continue to reflect on the issues of white privilege, racism and cultural diversity.

Through all of this way we can be a global mission community “in the search for the common good around the common table.”

The recent process initiated by the Board of evaluating the experimental model provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our future as individual Maryknoll Affiliates and as Chapters. What are your own thoughts on the future of the Maryknoll Affiliates? Share your thoughts and ideas on [our website](#) or [our Facebook page](#)!

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Kathie Gribble – Fox Cities

Kathie Gribble (Fox Cities) and Tom and Florence McGuire (Chicago Central) helped at the Maryknoll booth at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis from November 16 to 19, 2011. The following is a brief reflection from Kathie.

Tom was there from the beginning for set up on Wednesday. I arrived Thursday and helped several hours a day for three days. It was just a wonderful opportunity to work with Maryknoll priests and Sisters as well as the staff people from the Society. Tom was just awesome in ushering the youth into the Maryknoll exhibits and opportunities, and I was there clarifying the opportunities for them—to play the Maryknoll map game and win a T-shirt and *Radical Bible*, etc. and/or write a picture postcard of a Maryknoll Missioner in some country either to that missioner or to a friend or family member. The displays of Maryknoll history on the back wall and the four mission areas of the globe we serve along the sides of our space were impressive and full of great material from all the entities of our Maryknoll family.

We were giving out fair trade little dark chocolates as well as wooden cross necklaces. As the youth were leaving our exhibit area, I tried to make sure they each had a cross around their neck. I did a send out ritual, placing the cross over their head saying “I send you out as a missioner, bringing God’s love to the world.” Every one looked me in the eyes, smiled, and seemed to affirm their commissioning. I was so grateful that I was able to go to this event with the whole Maryknoll family and meet the thousands of youth that came to our booth. We ran out of T-shirts and *Radical Bibles*, but I guess that is a sign that we attracted a lot of young people and spread the Good News.



Photo courtesy of Bill Foster

Kathie Gribble (middle with glasses) at NCYC in Indianapolis

ARELIS

Story and Photos by Randy & Linda Klein – Extended Membership

“If you seek God, look for a child.” Jonathan Kozol

Choosing to live in Nicaragua has opened to us a good and full life. Henry James once wrote that three things are necessary to reach this state in life: “The first is kindness, the second is kindness and the third is kindness.” Leonardo Boff states it in another way: “Children of the poor give the hope of utopia. They bring the dream to humanity.” Both authors teach all of us a better way. Most of the little ones we meet on our journey bring their unique gifts, especially their genuine concern for the other. Most importantly, these children unveil our own poverty and reveal much of the mystery of our journey. Our encounters with them are transformative, teaching us a better way.

Arelis, our little ten year old friend for the past three years, is an excellent example of the special gifts found in the children of Nicaragua. She exemplifies Kozol’s statement, “If you seek God, look for a child.”

At the top of the list of Arelis’ gifts is her kindness. Her family consists of a mother, a grandmother, and 7 siblings. Her oldest brother, Jairo, is a 26 year old mentally-disabled young man. Next in age is a 22 year old sister who has 2 children, one of whom, Jennifer, lives in Arelis’ home because she has been rejected by her mother’s boyfriend who is not her biological father. Arelis’ twin brothers, Eduardo and Fernando, are 8 years old and loaded with energy and mischief.

Arelis is a very mature member of this family, most notably in her ability to act as a translator. She can read better than all



Arelis with Randy



Arelis with Linda

the others in the household. Her mother works in the largest open market in Managua selling tomatoes. She puts in a full day’s work seven days a week, leaving little time and energy to take on responsibilities in the home. Arelis’ grandmother often leaves the house to visit members of the extended family, leaving Arelis in charge of her brothers and sisters. During these moments she acts like an adult. Everyone accepts this role, including us.

One of her responsibilities is the care of her 26-year-old mentally-disabled brother, who requires constant supervision. She is also the one who regularly goes to the Schick Clinic to receive food and milk donations for her family. Arelis is the only child who stands in line among 100- plus adults who are also waiting. Elderly people are first in line and Arelis willingly helps them carry their packages before returning to her place toward the back of the line. She is a child who pours love on others, especially on members of her family, neighbors and needy. The poor are never invisible to her. She makes hope come alive in them and us.

We have great admiration of, and give special recognition to, her exceptional academic achievement. This year CT Quest gave Arelis a scholarship to attend the Teresian Sisters’ Catholic school, Colegio Enrique de Osso. Prior to this, she attended a public school where there were 60 students in her classroom. She has gone from being a C-D student to a straight A student. We were introduced to Indira, a wonderful young woman who is acting as Arelis’ tutor. Indira is not only helping her with schoolwork, but also with manners and cleanliness habits and serves as a role model. We feel that her influence has been very instrumental in the growth and success of Arelis.

We give thanks to God for putting in our path Arelis and the many other wonderful people who have enriched our lives here in Nicaragua. We invite you to offer prayers for our Nicaraguan scholarship students. It is our deep belief they will feel the caress of your prayers.

LIVING THE BIBLE IN COMMUNITY RESIDENTS OF THE SAN ANDRES VALLEY CREATE COMMUNITY FOLLOWING DISASTER

Story and Photos by Cristy Quintanilla – El Salvador

On the morning of Sunday, October 23, the community of Jesus Nazareno cooked 750 tamales and delivered them to the people most affected by the recent flooding in El Salvador. They had prepared the leaves the day before, then cooked the corn dough, chicken, and other ingredients. At 2:00 p.m. they shared the tamales with those who came to the community library.

Afterwards young people helped deliver tamales by going house to house. On Monday, they continued deliveries to people whose feet and hands were full of mud from the hard work of digging the mud from their houses and cleaning whatever was salvaged. Many who ate said the tamales were so good that they must have been cooked by those who have a patent, indicating to the people how good the food was and what great affection they had developed for them.

Water was in high demand. The residents had been working in the mud for 11 days without rest so they could clear the roads and clean the houses. It seemed like a task that would never end.



What makes a community?

Many Christians have read and reflected on Jesus' statement: "You give them something to eat." Jesus' call to his disciples is echoed in the call of the victims of the recent catastrophe we suffered in every corner of El Salvador.

In one day, many of our brothers and sisters lost everything—everything gathered over many years and with much sacrifice in order to live with some dignity. They lost their housing, clothing, beds, chairs, tables, appliances and crops—corn, beans, and vegetables. Some even lost their jobs. The reality of this situation, added to the crises of many years, means that for many life will be a lot harder.

In response to this emergency situation, the sister communities of San Andres Valley have joined in the suffering of



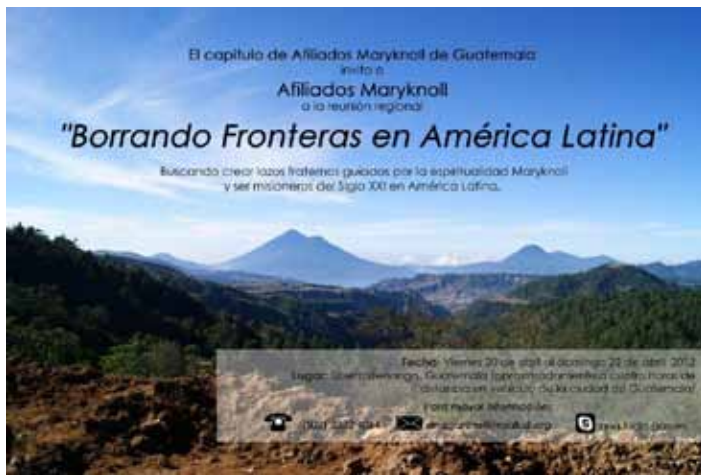
everyone in the communities. They have made and brought food to the affected families. They have brought together community groups and youth from different districts who helped dig the mud out of walkways, streets, and houses.

All this has provided an experience of solidarity in the midst of tragedy, pain, and suffering that had not been experienced before. Many people from both Christian church groups and governmental organizations came immediately. The only ones to come late were the municipal authorities and civil protection who came, in some cases, to pose for the media and then left. Others responded so slowly as if everything was normal. Of those in power, the last to come to be of service was the mayor of Opico.

What we learned

For the communities, it is still important to be attentive to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially to aid them in emergency situations. It is to serve without looking at who we serve, but rather with the mind-set of faith and knowing that it is Jesus who compels us to be in solidarity with them. We must do so promptly, without seeking personal interest but the wellbeing of those in need. We must share what we have, in an attitude of gratitude, aware that God is the God of life and wants everyone to live with dignity. Our assets and our talents are placed at the service of life.





REGIONAL MEETING IN GUATEMALA

The Guatemala Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter invites Maryknoll Affiliates to a regional meeting

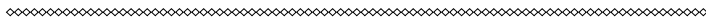
"ERASING BORDERS IN LATIN AMERICA"

Seeking ways to create bonds of friendship guided by the Maryknoll spirituality and being missionaries in the 21st Century in Latin America.

Date: Friday, April 20 to Sunday, April 22, 2012

Where: Quetzaltenango, Guatemala (approximately four hours in vehicle from Guatemala City)

Contact [Ana Garces](#) for more information.



AFFILIATE BOARD FORMS SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ann Carr – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Chair

Advent greetings to all Affiliates! As you have learned in this issue of NSFA, **Fred Goddard**, our Executive Coordinator, will be leaving his position by next summer. Fred has served as an Executive Coordinator for over 12 years (January 1999 to the present) and has made invaluable contributions to the growth of our Affiliate movement with his creativity, insight and communication skill versatility. We are most grateful to Fred for his tireless service to the Affiliates. He will be deeply missed by many.

In preparing for the upcoming transition, the Affiliate Board has formed a committee to begin our search for a new Executive Coordinator. The members of the committee are: **Dave Schaffner** (Board-Central California Chapter), **Joe Santos** (RC-LA Chapter), **Mary Massarro** (Board-Philadelphia Chapter) and myself (Board-Philadelphia Chapter). Ideally, we hope to recruit a person to this position who is familiar with Maryknoll, i.e. an Affiliate or a returned Lay Missioner. We are just beginning our work (creating a job description, developing criteria) and would very much welcome input into the process. Please do contact us with your suggestions, thoughts and concerns. Feedback can be sent to [Ann Carr](#).

Dear friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your prayers, support and the several donations made to Maryknoll Lay Missioners this summer when I lost my mom, **Joan Stanton**. I really appreciated it.

She was a special woman rooted in her rural growing up on the great plains of Kansas. Her connection with and respect for the land was one of the many gifts she passed on to us. Below is a picture of her with my grandson, her great grandson, **Samuel Ignacio Villagra-Stanton** on Easter Sunday of 2010.

In gratitude,

Sam Stanton
Executive Director
Maryknoll Lay Missioners



FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS NEW WEBSITE

Cecilia Stanton – Maryknoll Lay Missioners

Greetings from *Friends Across Borders* (FAB) of Maryknoll Lay Missioners! I am pleased to announce that I have finished the first phase of creating the Friends Across Borders website. The site is now live. You can access our new FAB website at <http://www.friendsacrossborders.org/>. Please understand that, although it is up and live, lot of pages need to be created. I will continue to work on it and complete it in the weeks to come. It is a work in process. However, all general information is on the site as well as a page for 3 of the trips already planned for 2012. Soon I will be posting another three pages I'm working on. If you have any questions, please be in touch with me.



The FAB site is linked to the main Maryknoll Lay Missioner site in many different ways. Please encourage your friends and family as well as your group or community to check out our site and help us promoting our ministry work. Participation in FAB immersion trips has become a great vehicle to engage people in service and mission.

NEWS FROM THE KNOLL

Maryknoll Society 100 Centennial Celebrations

On Sunday, October 30, 2011, **Theodore Cardinal McCarrick**, presided over the Centennial Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick. Eight bishops including and sixty priests concelebrated. Cardinal McCarrick's homily reflected on the Centennial theme "The Gift of Mission." Readers of the "Prayers of the Faithful" included Maryknoll Affiliates **Rosa Beatriz Castaneda de Larios** (Guatemala) and **Victor Maqqe** (Puno). **Lucille Naughton** directed the forty-member Maryknoll choir who sang and played Michael Joncas' special Centennial composition "Missa Ad Gentes."

Forty-seven flags, representing the countries in which the Maryknoll Society has lived and worked, processed through the main door into the Cathedral. Family members of Bishop James Anthony Walsh and Father Thomas Frederick Price carried Bishop Walsh's Chalice and Fr. Price's Mission Cross. The Maryknoll Society was able to live stream via internet the Centennial Mass. The event has been recorded and is available for viewing at www.livestream.com/maryknoll.

Maryknoll Symposium

The Maryknoll Symposium at Chicago Theological Union (CTU) entitled "Church in Mission: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" was held on October 6, 7 and 8, 2011. The key note speakers were **Francis Cardinal George, OMI**, Fathers **Stephen Judd, M.M.**, **Robert Schreiter, CPPS**, and **Peter Phan**. There were seventeen breakout sessions directed by theologians, missionaries, and church leaders. The closing session "Reflection/Wrap-Up" presented an overview of the Symposium by **Dr. Carmen Nanko-Fernandez**, and Fathers **Stephen Bevans, SVD**, and **James Kroeger, M.M.** Mr. **Gregory Darr** was the principal organizer. Thanks to all the Maryknoll Affiliates who helped out with the Mission Symposium in Chicago!

Marie Dennis Retiring

Marie Dennis announced that she will retire from her position as director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns by the beginning of 2012. Marie has served in the office for 22 years and represented Maryknoll before various offices of the U.S. government and policy-influencing organizations to promote globally compassionate social issue decisions. The Maryknoll Affiliates are very grateful to Marie for her tireless work, dedication and commitment.

**DEATHS**

Sister Agnes McKeirnan, M.M.	September 5, 2011
Brother Jude Conniff, M.M.	September 7, 2011
Sister Eugenia Marie Jautz, M.M.	September 8, 2011
Father James K. Nishimuta, M.M.	October 7, 2011
Sister Ann Maloney, M.M.	October 27, 2011

**100th Jubilee Celebrations**

We will post the Centennial events for the Society and the Congregation here and on our website. Events and dates are subject to change, so be sure to check [our website](#) for the latest information.

December 12, 2011, 4:15 PM: Closing Ceremony of Society And Bridging To Sisters' Centennial beginning at the Society Chapel with a procession to St. Teresa's and the Sister's Annunciation Chapel.

January 8, 2012, 2:00 PM: Opening Liturgy/Ritual for Congregation's Jubilee Year at the Maryknoll Sisters Center.

February 5, 2012, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Interfaith Prayer Day at the Maryknoll Sisters.

March 3 – May 21, 2012: Centennial Art Exhibit with Yoo Soo Kim in the Maryknoll Sisters Center Foyer.

March 4, 2012: Sixth Annual Music for the World Concert Artists and Location: TBA

April 20-22, 2012: Hearts on Fire : Maryknoll Sisters Mission Symposium with Keynote Speakers Sr. Jaruko Doi, MM; Sr. Melinda Roper, MM and Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ at Maryknoll Sisters Center Chapel.

May 16-17, 2012: Maryknoll on the Hill: A Centennial Event in Washington, DC. May 16: Mass at Holy Redeemer Parish 200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. May 17: Visits to Government Offices and Evening Reception with reps from Congress, UCCB, others.

June 2, 2012: Dedication of the Garden of Gratitude and Promise at Maryknoll Sisters

June 3, 2012: Celebration of Sisters' Land Preservation at Maryknoll Sisters

July 2, 2012: Miriam College Glee Club in Concert.

September 28 – October 1, 2012: Joint Maryknoll Mission Symposium at Society & Congregation Centers. Speakers: Ms. Patricia Licuanan, Ched Myers Bishop Alvaro Ramazini, Ms. Ana Tibaijuka, and others.

October 27, 2012: Maryknoll Sisters Multicultural Festival and Bazaar at the Maryknoll Sisters.

January 6, 2012: Closing Liturgy for the Public at the Maryknoll Sisters.

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