



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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Volume 25 Number 1

SPIRITUALITY, SAN DIEGO STYLE A Chapter Profile

San Diego Affiliates used a meeting early in 2015 to ask themselves, “What drew you to become a part of this group?” and “What keeps you coming back?” Their answers, which member Michele Dunne summarized, were very revealing. Personal invitation and a personal connection to someone in the chapter drew them in, and Spirituality and Community (two of the Affiliates’ Four Pillars) keep them coming back.

This Chapter of dedicated folks enjoys deep international connections. Some of their grown children work with the poor overseas. Jim Deharpporte has worked for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for over 40 years and has lived in many countries. One couple continued living in Central America after being missionaries. Another is associated with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Several of the San Diego Affiliates are deeply involved with immigrants through Saint Vincent DePaul or other groups.

Charlie Reilly praised Affiliates Spencer and Erin Rickwa and their young family. With their four young children, two years ago they spent about five months



Longtime employee of CRS, James DeHarpporte enjoys Charlie and Marta Reilly’s hospitality at the Chapter meeting.



Spencer Rickwa, on mission in Bolivia, treated a young child.

on mission in Bolivia in affiliation with Maryknollers. “Now they lead an NGO—Bridges to Healing International (www.bridgestohealing.org)—that raises funds for medical support and nurses, working with 300 plus kids in two orphanages in Mexico and five in Bolivia. We all are their fans and some of our Affiliate group help them out.”

These Affiliates each have their work—their mission, and they come together not to work on a joint project, but rather to share, receive support, reflect, and enjoy sustenance in a like-minded community. While they support the broader Affiliate movement, their main connection is their local chapter.

Nevertheless, in 2009 San Diego joined with the Los Angeles Chapter to host a Regional Conference on Peace at the University of San Diego. One San Diego Affiliate considered attending the 2015 Regional Conference in Seattle because of personal connections with a presenter.

Other Affiliate chapters are encouraged to ask themselves these same questions, “What drew you to become a part of this chapter?” and “What keeps you coming back?” Share your chapter’s answers with the Not So Far Afield.

“What keeps you coming back?”



RADICAL—OR VIOLENT?

We've read about it, maybe even met them, ...radicals. Some become radicalized at the border, or when working in another country.

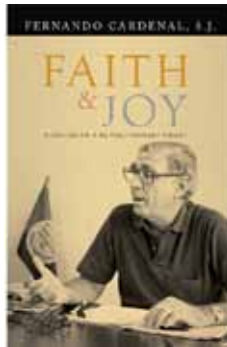
Maura, Ita, Francis, and Jesus, were radicals. They embody radical love, radical hospitality, radical mercy—and nonviolence. In this NSFA issue, Maryknoll Affiliates experienced radical hospitality and love when

they went to the border, in Haiti, in Guatemala, and El Salvador, New Orleans, or Georgia. Countercultural, radical views often develop through Maryknoll mission experiences, as does nonviolence.

Have you been radicalized? Tell us how you've been changed, experienced reverse mission, even been radicalized, by your nonviolent mission. We encourage you to share your next steps with the Affiliates at nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org.



THIS YEAR I RESOLVE TO READ MORE!



To celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, from December 8, 2015, through November 20, 2016, the end of the liturgical year and Feast of Christ the King, the Catholic Church around the world will proclaim God's love and mercy, invoking God's blessings and pardon.

During the Year of Mercy, as missionary disciples through Baptism, you are invited to share mercy moments that you have witnessed or acts of mercy that you have offered to or received from others. The Maryknoll magazine will publish some submissions throughout the jubilee year. Mercy moments also can be posted to a special Maryknoll Mercy Moments web page: www.maryknollsociety.org/mercymoments.

Excerpted from Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Year of Mercy Dec. 7, 2015 press release.

Orbis Books recommends and has sent copies of:

- *All Shall Be Well: Readings for Lent and Easter*
- *Faith & Joy: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Priest* by Fr. Fernando Cardenal.

If you would like to write a review of one of these books, please contact 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 rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner
 Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson
 David Stocker

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

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

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

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NORTHEAST OHIO VIEWS THE BORDER

Northeast Ohio Chapter

Pamela Cibik – “We must secure the border.” Is this not the refrain we so often hear when US politicians are asked to comment on immigration? Pam Cibik, Kathy Ress, and Gerry Mullaney—Northeast Ohio Maryknoll Affiliates—travelled to Douglas, Arizona, in late April to see the border. It is indeed secure, thanks to huge sums our government is spending on miles of “Keep Out” fencing, surveillance cameras, ground sensors, and the ubiquitous US Border Patrol presence. Our gracious hosts, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, gave us a view of this “border security.”

These wonderful women helped us to explore and question other realities as well. These realities include the fear and insecurity that seem to underlie such harsh practices as incarcerating hundreds of migrants through Operation Streamline and the Federal Criminal Court. There is also the reality of the desperation, determination, and resilience of migrants who endure such hardship and danger. Their attempts to cross desert and mountains to escape violence or to seek a life free of poverty have resulted in over 2,000 recorded deaths in a 12-year period.



Kathy Ress, Pam Cibik, and new Affiliate Board member Gerry Mullaney hiked to the Mexican side on a trail frequented by the migrants.

and the Border Patrol watching behind us. We greeted the sun with music and prayer. We could see that the sun shines

on all of us, knowing no walls or borders and offering its warmth and energy to all. We returned home to Ohio inspired by the warmth and light of Sisters Judy Bourg, Christine Garcia, Helen Jones, and Lucy Nigh.

Kathy Ress – I experienced much dialogue from the moment we arrived to our departure. Our meals with the sisters and also with other key advocates deepened my understanding of immigration issues and made it emotionally real for me. Putting faces to this issue was deeply moving. Getting all the senses involved brings home the suffering and desperate nature of the journeys of these families.

Dialogue between all the different persons involved in immigration opens up space for growth, deeper understanding and change. It was fascinating to see how the sisters facilitated this conversation, promoting respect and building bridges between folks with different perspectives.



Affiliates met with migrants at a center in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The migrants had walked or taken trains to the border, being extorted for money. Across the border, many would be picked up and returned to Mexico. Many migrants appeared fearful, traumatized by the journey.

From the sunrise ceremony to breaking bread together to sitting and talking with the persons migrating, all stereotypes or misconceptions were blown away by this firsthand experience, leveling and making us all the same, all humans.

For more information about (MAP) Mission Awareness Process, please contact Sister Ann Schoch, SSND at annssnd@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy of Kathy Ress.



Filling water tanks in the desert at CRREDA, a rehabilitation center in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

The most exhilarating reality was the compassion and kindness

that we witnessed in the Sisters, their partners at the border, and their programs. The Migrant Center extends its welcome with food, clothing, and counseling for migrants deported following apprehension in the US and for those preparing to cross the border. The Men’s Shelter houses and feeds migrants on their difficult journey. The Sisters also shared their relationship with partners across cultural and faith traditions; we prayed with their Presbyterian and Mennonite friends and heard the inspiring story of Hermila, a resident of Agua Prieta, Mexico, who toils at low wage factory work but gives her Saturdays to volunteer at the Migrant Center.

We began the border experience with a sunrise ceremony—Mexico and the rising sun before us

BUILDING COMMUNITY & DIALOGUE

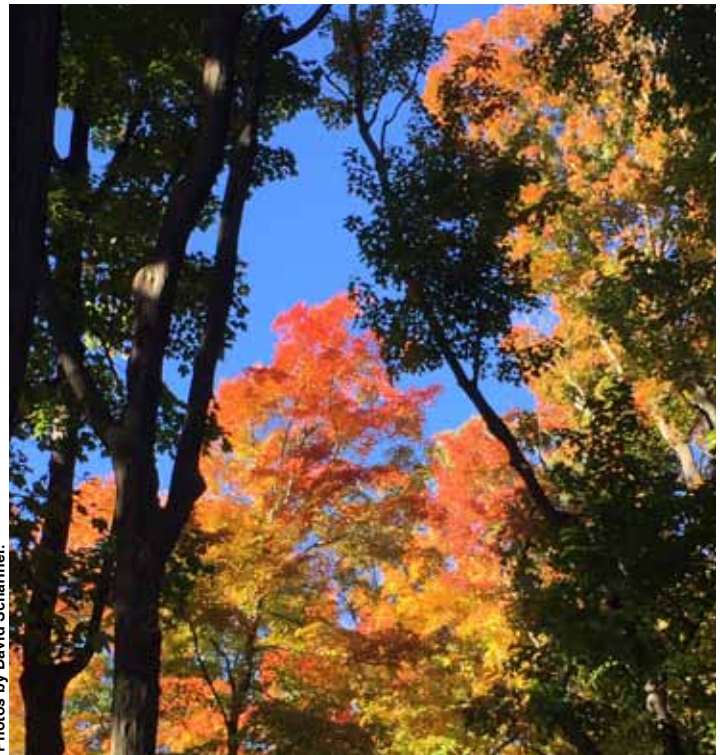
Ann Carr – Past Board Chair
David Schaffner – Board Chair

*“How, then, can **communication** be at the service of an **authentic culture of encounter**? What does it mean for us, as disciples of the Lord, to encounter others in the light of the Gospel?—
Pope Francis*

As fall leaves of gold, scarlet and orange filled the Hudson Valley, members of the Affiliate Board gathered in October for Board meeting #56. We began our time together with a Board retreat led by **Jack Sullivan, MM**, former Co-coordinator and long-time companion of the Affiliate movement. We worked on building cohesion among us, developing our capacity to listen more deeply in the service of the entire Affiliate movement. Jack challenged us to consider the call to create a leadership of the whole, a model of mission leadership that invites all of us into a new way of being. The crucial first step in wholemaking is to move from discussion to dialogue. Dialogue requires that we become aware of our assumptions, examine them and move beyond individual understanding to group exploration from many points of view. Dialogue invites us into mystery and allows us to get closer to that which is transformative.

The Affiliate Survey: What Have We Learned? Moving forward from our retreat, we devoted much of this meeting to exploring the great abundance of the Affiliate survey. We had hoped to engage in dialogue with the wider Affiliate movement, and we were not disappointed! Your sharing of your hopes and dreams for the future of the Maryknoll Affiliates revealed your deep commitment. We are very grateful to Rich Lessard and the committee for developing the survey and to Rich for collating a summary of everyone’s responses. Vision was an area that seemed important to many Affiliates, so we focused particularly on this area with a view to taking action. Some of your responses:

- **A world wide community** that will share dreams and problems, that will support each other, being connected and interested not only in the situation of his/her chapter, but also in the reality of other chapters in the region and around the world.
- **Look outward and connect** to other movements in world and church (ecology, climate change, immigrant rights groups, groups opposing human trafficking, etc.).



Photos by David Schaffner.

- **Attract younger members**, which means honoring their state of consciousness, learning from them, and partnering accordingly.
- **We need to get creative** in how Affiliates can “do” mission locally and overseas (short-term). There is a thirst for short-term immersion trips.

Given how many participated, the overwhelming amount of information, and the richness of the responses, we realized that we were just beginning to discern the collective wisdom of the survey. We have developed ad hoc groups to address three broad areas where the energy of the Affiliates seemed to be moving:

- **Communication**
- **Connection** (includes Spirituality)
- **Growth & Sustainability** (includes Youth)

MEPD Report. John and Mary Moritz, after attending a collaborative Society MEPD (Mission Education Promotion Dept.) meeting, reported that Affiliates are being invited to collaborate more fully, specifically in the area of US Church engagement.

Executive Coordinator Report: Bob Short reported on his day-to-day work as EC and provided some important insights on the Affiliate movement from his unique vantage point. He saw as hopeful the significant growth and commitment of our movement in Latin America, an upgraded formation program, the vibrancy and commitment of Affiliates, some success in attracting younger members to certain Chapters,

and the wonderful quality of our newsletters. With the assistance of Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Bob has updated the Affiliate databases. The fluidity of our movement has made it difficult to have a true sense of numbers, but the most recent count reveals 743 Affiliates (605 confirmed + 138 presumed).

JML Update. An important new development for the Affiliates has been our inclusion as members of the Maryknoll Joint Meeting of Leadership (JML), beginning in 2015. Board Members Ann Carr, Rich Lessard, and Executive Coordinator Bob Short have served as the Affiliate team. This new experience has been very positive; the Affiliates are clearly integrated as full members of the JML even as we explore what it means to be joining the three Maryknoll entities as a fourth Maryknoll expression. Various JML updates were reported back to the Board, including:

- Exploratory Collaborative Committee for Cuba - Joe Santos (LA) is the Affiliate representative.
- Proposal for Mission Research, a Society initiative led by Steve Judd, MM, has invited Affiliate collaboration.
- Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) Letters - The Affiliate Board Chair will sign on behalf of the Affiliates for Maryknoll group letters and on various public announcements.



This inspirational grotto of the Blessed Virgin graces the grounds of the Maryknoll Sisters in Ossining, NY.

New Board Members & Chair. We were very pleased that Gerry Mullaney (NE-Ohio) and Ginny McEvoy (Long Island) will join our Board in the spring of 2016. Gerry and Ginny, strongly supported by their respective Chapters, bring unique gifts and have much to contribute to our Board efforts. (Read about them online at: <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/item/1407-new-affiliate-board-members.html>.) The Board also strongly and enthusiastically affirmed Dave Schaffner as our new Board chair. On the Board since 2009, Dave brings a wealth of wisdom and experience. The Board has full confidence he will serve as a creative and dynamic leader. The Board

Executive Committee will now be comprised of Dave Schaffner (CA Central Coast), Rich Lessard (Albany), and John Meyer (Phoenix).

Continuing the Dialogue, Creating a Culture of Encounter. As always, our time together was full, fruitful, and yet too short. We look forward to continuing to distill the wisdom harvested from the Affiliate survey. Again, Thank You, Thank You!! for all that you have contributed to making this a true dialogue and authentic experience of wholemaking! The honest and open sharing, the deep and abiding commitments of so many incredible people fills us with hope and gratitude for this wonderful fourth expression of the Maryknoll family. Please continue to dialogue with us and with one another as the various committees take their first steps. May we walk into our future together with a commitment to wholemaking that (in the words of the Maryknoll Sisters) “discovers God’s energy all around us and celebrates our larger selves.”



WHO IS MY REGIONAL COORDINATOR?

1. Northwest – Ralph Maughan and Janet Quillian
2. California – Joe & Peggy Santos/ RC needed
3. Great Plains/Southwest – RC needed
4. South Central – Ken Eppes
5. Midwest – Patty Hinton
6. Southeast – John & Mary Moritz
7. Northeast – Beth Begley
8. Mesoamerica – Cecilia Quijano
9. Peru – Maria Faran
10. Philippines – Ed Caharian

To contact your Regional Coordinator, go to <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/regional-coordinators.html>. To learn about being an RC, contact Bob Short: rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.



RESISTANCE AT THE SOA

David Stocker* – NSFA Staff Editor

Just back from a week in Georgia, I went to Columbus to attend the annual School of the Americas (SOA) protest and to meet the remarkable and controversial Roy Bourgeois, former Maryknoll priest and founder of the SOA Watch. As a priest, Bourgeois was an outspoken critic of US policy in Latin America. Subsequent to the murder of four American churchwomen, two of whom were Maryknoll Sisters, by SOA-trained assassins, Bourgeois founded SOA Watch and has maintained a 26-year tradition of civil disobedience and protest, including documentation of atrocities in Latin America linked to SOA training programs.



Photo by Tricia Peters, NIL Justice League.

The School of the Americas was started in Panama in the 1950s and became the CIA training ground for “counterinsurgency,” moving to Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. The CIA manual for counterinsurgency developed and taught at Ft. Benning advises totalitarian regimes and military dictators how to silence opposition to corporate and military takeover of public land and natural resources. Assassination and disappearance of labor leaders, teachers, journalists, community activists, and human rights defenders is strategically outlined and often followed up with CIA support and provision of tactical weapons to SOA graduates.



Photo by Tricia Peters, NIL Justice League.



Photo by Tricia Peters, NIL Justice League.

I went to witness the arrest of eleven courageous trespassers in Lumpkin, Georgia, at the gate of Stewart Detention Center, one of America’s worst privately operated for-profit prisons, in which over 38,000 men, women

and children are held like criminals. We were told that Mexican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Salvadorian, Nicaraguan, and other Latin American refugees there are subjected to rape, assault, torture and are fed maggot-ridden food as a cost-saving measure. Denied due process, they have committed no crime other than to seek a better life away from the havoc created by multinational corporations and military dictators using their SOA assassin tools.

And I went to join the Puppetistas. Year after year, Puppetistas provide an uplifting even comic culmination to the almost unbearably somber vigil. The sad and beautiful face of Blue Madre cries tears for many thousands as she bears mute witness to the mock sacrifice of face painted nuns. Dragons are chased away, the helicopter of death dissolves.

Puppetista skits include giant puppet heads atop stilts; the caricatures of evildoers and faces of power elicit boos and hisses from a crowd wishing for positive outcomes. In the cardboard chaos that ensues, evil collapses under its own weight, the proud are duntrodden, and the people are free to dance and sing.

When SOA was nearly defunded under pressure from the Left, Congress rechristened it Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC. Today the manual is taught in dozens of locations, not just at Fort Benning, and is applied worldwide from nearly 1,000 US military bases.

Now, 26 years into the annual SOAW protest, attendance has declined, but not intensity. It does not edge into violence and draws little media

attention. It is not a riot, though histories of murder, violence, and mayhem remembered are close at hand. The people within Fort Benning and their masters know that SOAW represents one of the few

remaining peaceful expressions of an increasingly distraught and radicalized underclass simmering in Ferguson, Detroit, and Chicago, in Guatemala City, Nogales, and San Salvador, in Paris, Ankara, and Athens, and maybe everywhere. They would prefer that the SOAW vigil die a slow and unremarkable death.



Photo by Tricia Peters, NIL Justice League.

Today, the stronger-than-ever message from the SOAW Vigil is that the issues of the disenfranchised are profoundly interconnected, that we are all accountable for the condition of humanity and the condition of the earth on which we depend. With SOAW's long tradition of nonviolence, civil disobedience, and arrest, an alternative classroom open to all exists just outside the gates of Fort Benning. This de facto classroom from primary to graduate level has become the training ground for new generations in exercise of another kind of power.

The news from SOAW and Fort Benning is that the protest is moving next year to the border of Mexico. People across the land are called to join a massive protest in October 2016 in Texas. Thus the atrocity of Stewart Detention Center and the deplorable legacy of the School of the Americas come home to roost. We see clearly that these institutions lie in the same bed and that from this horror comes untold misery and suffering. As Roy Bourgeois stated in his address to thousands at Fort Benning, "Their struggle must become our struggle." *La Lucha Continua. Todos Somos Americanos.*

Editor's Note: In years past many Maryknollers have participated in the SOA Watch.

***David Stocker** (MFA Yale University) is part of the Northern Illinois Justice League. He is an artist and teacher presently working on his *Puppetista merit badge*.



REVERSE MISSION*

Jesus, perhaps disappointingly, gives no abstract theory of social justice. Instead, Jesus makes his life a concrete parable about how to live in this world. He demands of his first followers that they be living witnesses to a simple life on the edge of the dominant consciousness.

Jesus did not call us to the poor and to the pain only to be helpful; he called us to be in solidarity with the real, *for our own transformation*. It is often only after the fact we realize that they helped us in ways we never knew we needed. This is sometimes called "reverse mission." The ones we think we are "saving" end up saving us, and in the process, redefine the very meaning of salvation!

Only near the poor, close to "the tears of things" as the Roman poet Virgil puts it, in solidarity with suffering, can we understand ourselves, love one another well,

imitate Jesus, and live his full Gospel.

The view from the top of anything is distorted by misperception, illusions, fear of falling, and a radical disconnection from the heart. You cannot risk staying there long. As Thomas Merton said, "People may spend their whole lives climbing the



ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall."

*Used with permission. Italics added. Excerpted from the August 26, 2015, reflection available from the Center for Action and Contemplation. To receive daily reflections by email, go to <https://cac.org/sign-up>. This reflection was adapted from Richard Rohr's *Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer* (Paulist Press: 2014).

MARTYRS LIVE ON AS INSPIRATION

Joe Hastings – Maryknoll Lay Missioner, El Salvador

On December 2, all the branches of the Maryknoll family in El Salvador gathered in the rural town of Santiago Nonualco to commemorate the lives of four churchwomen—Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan, a lay missioner for the Diocese of Cleveland—on the 35th anniversary of their martyrdom. All Maryknollers and the people of El Salvador, and many beyond share the inspiration these women offer.

Planning began months earlier with a committee comprising Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Sisters, an Affiliate, and a Maryknoll Priest. Four members of the committee knew all of the martyrs, and Maryknoll priest John Spain was at the site in 1980 to help identify the bodies and report the event. The local parish planned a procession from the main road to the chapel and offered refreshments. The pastor invited the local bishop to celebrate the Mass. Sr. Cecy Vandal, MM, took the lead on planning the “Remembrance” for after the Mass, as she has done for so many years, and Affiliate Guadalupe Calderón agreed to lead the event. Sr. Gloria Agnes, MM, created a poster for the procession.



Sr. Gloria Agnes’s procession poster

(Leadership Conference of Women Religious). Another delegation came from John Carroll University in Cleveland, the diocese that sent both Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan to El Salvador decades ago. Many of the 500 attendees were young people whom these women have inspired. “The diversity was a tribute itself,” said Maryknoll Lay Missioner Larry Parr. “Salvadorans and North Americans, those who knew the martyrs personally, the young people, and the delegations—that diverse participation will keep the message going.”

We could not all fit into the small rural chapel that today serves a local small Christian community. After Mass, family members of the martyrs (who had traveled from the US), followed by palm bearers, the community, and the presiders, processed with photos out to a monument. There, people who knew the martyrs personally offered powerful, often tearful, testimony. José Monge and his daughter Mercedes had worked with Maura, Ita, and Carla Piette (who drowned in August, 1980, while transporting refugees with Sr. Ita Ford in Northern El Salvador) in their small village, aiding refugees. Candelaria García, a youth leader and catechist trained by Sr. Dorothy Kazel and working with Jean Donovan, today is director of religious education in the same community and leads the group that provided music for the Mass. Clare White, daughter of the late Robert White, who was the US Ambassador to El Salvador in 1980 and risked his diplomatic career by advocating publicly for full investigation of the women’s death, was also present.

The speakers’ very personal stories all shared a common message: the martyrs continue to strengthen them to work for the poor and build the Reign of God here on earth. “There is still much work to be done,” said 86 year-old José Monge, “Christians can’t stand with their arms crossed.” His daughter, Mercedes added, “The Gospel is a message of solidarity with the poor. That’s what these women lived and gave their lives for.” Juan Gomez, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner who just arrived this year, said, “That day gives me a lot of hope that the work that we do continues on, even if we’re not sure that we’re making an impact.”

Photo courtesy of Joe Hastings



About 500 people gathered for the Remembrance at the monument to the martyrs.

The turnout this year points to the martyred women’s lasting legacy: People came by bus and truck from all over El Salvador, some for the first time, some in school or university groups, and some in parish pilgrimages. Cecibel Flores, Affiliate Chapter Coordinator, helped to organize a bus from the parish where John Spain and Jack Northrup serve. Several other Maryknoll Sisters from the US were part of a large delegation organized by SHARE El Salvador and the LCWR



Photo courtesy of Rev. J. Flynn



MARTYRS REMEMBERED IN THE US

Ellie Hays – Reno Chapter

In commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of the death of the Martyrs in El Salvador, Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean, who died on Dec 2, 1980, I will be taking my 28th annual Vow of Nonviolence at the Carmelite Sisters in Reno. Jessie Poynton, MM, reminded many of us, “My friend Maura Clark entered Maryknoll the same year I did, in 1950, and was a close friend. And Ita Ford who worked in one of the most difficult missions in Chile for some seven years. Another dear friend. I also knew the other Sister and the lay-person, Jean, because I went to El Salvador when Carla Piette died there about six months earlier, in a flash flood. So I met all those great women. They are people of peace and reconciliation.” We remember and honor them and hold them close.

Note: To learn more about these martyrs, see Orbis Books and the Maryknoll Sisters’ website. Or search the titles: *Roses in December: The Story of Jean Donovan* (DVD), *Choices of the Heart* (DVD), and *The Same Fate as the Poor* (Judith M. Noone, Orbis).



bread stuffing, bowls of salad, cranberry relish, etc., and headed for a center in one of the impoverished neighborhoods of New Orleans. There they met up with five other Maryknoll Affiliates and five volunteers from the Catholic Worker House. Along with Janet and Francis’s pans of food, more pans of mashed potatoes, baked turkeys, bread, and desserts were brought in and set up for serving.



Kevin Cahalan prepares to serve vegetables.

AN ACT OF MERCY

Matt Rousso – New Orleans Chapter

Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, my wife Janet, along with a friend and co-volunteer from the St. Vincent de Paul Learning Center, took over our kitchen and began a feverish cooking spree. Several hours later, they filled the trunk of their car with huge pans of

Near 6pm, the doors of the Catholic Worker House were opened and homeless men and women began to gather around the food tables. After prayers of thanksgiving were offered, the Maryknoll Affiliate and Catholic Worker volunteers began to put plates of food into outstretched hands. It wasn’t long before the hungry guests returned for seconds.

As people started leaving an hour or so later, “Thank you,” and “God bless you,” and “Y’all sure are good cooks” could be heard over and over. I could not help but think that the volunteers indeed demonstrated wonderful unconditional love, and I truly believe the forty-plus men and women who were returning to their places under the nearby bridge or in alleyways of the city also felt this as an act of mercy.

After washing the dishes and cleaning the serving room, the volunteers returned home—already planning the menu for next month’s dinner. Maryknoll Affiliates and Catholic Worker volunteers engage in this “home-town mission activity” once a month. It’s what I think Pope Francis calls “going to the peripheries.”



Maryknoll Affiliates on the serving line: Kevin Cahalan, (in rear) Chris Cahalan, Zora—a visitor at the Catholic Worker, Janet Rousso, and Ben Gordon.

Photos courtesy of Ron Covey.



Visiting Founder Father Thomas Goekler's tomb

ARE WE ONE OF GOD'S LITTLE MIRACLES?

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

On November 21st, Father John Spain, MM, came to Caminando Por La Paz here in Guatemala City to offer a memorial Mass for our Founder, Thomas Goekler, MM, who died on Thanksgiving Day, 2010.

When Father Tom died, it was believed that Caminando had very little chance of continuing its projects in Paradiso II, one of the most marginalized barrios of Guatemala City. We feel assured God wants the program because it is still here and growing slowly. Yes, of course the loss of Father Thomas was a great tragedy, but so much has happened since.

Father Tom had stressed, "Education is the window to the future." Accordingly, we decided early on to focus on education. One proof of the miracle is that we have grown our tutoring program from approximately 25 students in 2010 to nearly 80 now, coming at one time or another during the week. And in addition to those we support in local K-12 schools, we anticipate having four students in college this coming year.

Receiving tutoring at Caminando helps students succeed in school.



In 2013, we started importing coffee from some Honduran coffee producers, having it roasted, and selling it as Family Coffee. The "Coffee with a Cause" supports two Caminando projects. First, it provides financial support for our various education programs. Secondly, the farmers use their share of the profits to improve their coffee production.

In Family Coffee's second year, we are working hard to develop the market. Admittedly, we are far from

achieving the aims of our market plan. We have discovered that US parishes are our primary market outlet. To date, members of a few Maryknoll Affiliate chapters have obtained permission and are selling our coffee at their parishes. We hope that others will want to help us as well.



Go to www.FamilyCoffee.org.

In May of 2010, a group from Connecticut had constructed our chapel, which we planned to use for frequent Masses at Caminando. However, without a priest, Masses do not happen often. Nonetheless, we use the chapel at least once a week. At our Holy Hour attended by many neighbors, we usually utilize the readings for the next Sunday as a basis for our reflection, prayer, and spiritual development.

Recently, we have been able to take our neighbors—usually about 25 people—on short one-day spiritual journeys. We have visited the Cristo Negro (Black Crucifix) in Esquipulas, taken a guided walk through the life of St. Hermano Pedro in Antigua, and more recently visited the United Nations Park with its nature preserve, where we held a holy hour.

In the past five years, many visitors have come, some merely to learn about our efforts and others with specific mission activities: a vision clinic (2012), homeopathic presenters, Cross Catholic International visitors, etc. We invite visitors to help in whatever role fits them, including teaching English or working with the children.

If you wish to visit Caminado por la Paz or your chapter is interested in Family Coffee, please contact me at rocovey@yahoo.com.

Editor's note: Caminando Por La Paz is a special mission of the Houston Chapter. Ron Covey says he spends about half his time in Guatemala as Caminando's Associate Director. Caminando and the Guatemala Affiliates are well connected with Maryknoll Sisters in Guatemala and with Affiliate Steve Barrett, a returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Guatemala. Ron is also working with Maryknoll Mission Promoters on the trip to Guatemala. (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17NamqVuZjNzA8bFe8QXzUCrC5aa681s9uALLMj3fNyY/edit>) He hopes that visitors will better understand the effects of Guatemala's civil war which ended in 1996. He wants to offer alternatives to violence and ways out of poverty.



40 YEARS OF MKLM

Lucy Leety-Wheeler – MKLM Public Relations

Ossining NY: At their August, 2015, 40th Anniversary celebration, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) highlighted mission outreach in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, emphasizing that all are united in God’s mission. Approximately 150 guests, including other Maryknollers and friends and supporters of MKLM, heard Dr. Susan Nagele’s views on *Leading by Example: Shaping the Future of Mission*.*



Photo by Erik Cambier.

Sam Stanton, MKLM Executive Director, Dr. Susan Nagele and Russ Brine, Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Kenya

Executive Director Sam Stanton, noting that MKLM continually builds bridges of understanding and awareness of worldwide mission within the US Church, honored Maryknoll Lay Missioners for shaping and sustaining lay mission outreach. Affiliate Board member Rich Lessard, of Albany NY Chapter, said, “I like that Sam reminded us of our shared motivation. We are all about Missio Dei, God’s Mission.” Westchester Affiliates Dan and Jean (Meredith) Heuer “felt humbled, inspired, and privileged to have been in the presence of those Maryknoll Lay Missioners whose dreams and sense of the possible led them to step into the unknown world of creating dreams for those unable to envision themselves beyond their present reality.”

Russ Brine, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner serving 15 years in Kenya, described the extreme deprivation that is a reality for many East Africans. Programs like his St. John Bosco School and Rehabilitation Center provide hope for the youth and families it serves.

Susan Nagele, recalling her 31 years as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner across Tanzania, South Sudan, and Kenya, spoke of her faith as motivation and sustaining force. “Looking to the future, I try to listen to what it is God is calling me to do and to be. I hear God calling our church to put more emphasis on participation of laity. We need missioners who are married as well as single to share our strong Catholic family values.”

*You may read Susan Nagele’s remarks at: http://www.mklm.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/S.Nagele_PresentationTranscriptMKLM40th-AnniversaryEvent080815.pdf



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2016

The Mission Institute offers six-day programs (Sunday-Friday) May-October, 2016. The May programs are:

- May 8-13 Ann Braudis, MM, PhD
Evolutionary Spirituality
(Sacred Journey of the Earth)
- May 15-20 Judith Mayotte, PhD
Stewards of Our Earth in a
Changing Climate
- May 22-27 Peter C. Phan, PhD
Living Into Death - Dying into Life

For the complete 2016 schedule, go to: <https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/>

A tuition scholarship is available for any Affiliate who would like to attend but needs assistance. To inquire, contact the Maryknoll Mission Institute.

Even if you cannot attend a session, you may still enjoy Sr. Nonie Gutzler’s recent presentation. A six-CD set of her talks is available for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of making/ mailing them. To order, please contact Beth Begley at bethbeg@gmail.com.

Online registration is available, or write for forms:
Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll Sisters
P.O Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311
Tel: 914-941-7575 @ 5671
E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org



ARE YOU A CARD-CARRYING AFFILIATE?

People in business carry a business card. As an Affiliate, it makes sense to carry an Affiliate card. When we meet people with whom we’d like to connect in the future, we can offer them our card and ask for their contact information. If they don’t know about Maryknoll, giving them our card presents an opportunity to explain.

You can print your own card or order some over the Internet. Feel free to copy this card design if you wish.



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Who hiked to the far side of the wall between Mexico and Arizona on a trail frequented by migrants? Find out on page 3.

