



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

July/August 2016

Volume 25 Number 4

AFFILIATES WORK FOR WHOLENESS

Lenore Smith-Aman – New Jersey Chapter

At a recent meeting, the New Jersey Affiliate Chapter explored what might be an Affiliate's response to the present political climate, and ways to elevate the level of discourse. As people of faith and hope, imbued with the values of Maryknoll, what can we offer?

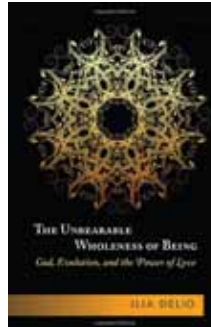
Our small group listed the concerns that are most pressing to us:

- Serious issues being ignored in favor of inflammatory rhetoric.
- Racism, lies, outrageous claims
- Fear of polarization
- Climate change
- Supreme Court issues
- Bullying in international relationships
- Immigration issues, isolationist trends
- Influence of Israel on our Middle East policies
- Generalized feelings of anxiety/hopelessness about real solutions
- Tendency to "escape from freedom" by giving power to demagoguery.

We discussed the ways in which we plan to "be the change we want to see." Some of us plan to go door to door or do phone canvassing for the presidential and congressional candidates who are best able to address at least some of the issues. Others stressed the importance of discussing issues rather than personalities in every conversation about the election. Beth Begley referred us to an excellent brochure that outlines the issues. (*A Revolution of Tenderness: 2016 Pope Francis Election Guide*, <https://paxchristiusa.org/resources/resources-for-election-2016/>)

We Affiliates are not alone in our concerns. Many religious leaders have noted the levels of small-mindedness and hatred that are a part of the political landscape. Fr. Richard Rohr, OSF, recently said, "Our collective shadow is on display, exposing fear and bigotry, yet oppositional energies cannot bring about the change we so desperately need." Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, in conjunction with other

leaders, recently called on those in public life to hold themselves to a higher moral ground. She has started an on-line petition to that effect. (See www.groundswell-mvmt.org/)



Several of us have heard Iliia Delio, OSF, offer her insights or have studied with her at a Maryknoll Mission Institute. Our Affiliate group studied her book, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being*, and found it comprehensive and inspiring. Another of her books, *Making All Things New*, is the first book for the new Affiliate Book Group. Key

concepts in the Delio books include *wholemaking* and *evolutionary consciousness*. Delio suggests that the way we consciously think about the future, the way we imagine it, can move our hearts and minds toward practical outcomes for the good of all.

In *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being* (pp. 195-6), Delio suggests a new level of consciousness:

The Christian is one who is connected through the heart to the whole of life, attuned to the deeper intelligence of nature, and called forth irresistibly by the Spirit to express creatively his or her gifts in the evolution of self and the world. Jesus is brought into being through community and participates in the co-creation of it. Hence what is truly Christological, revealing of divine incarnation and salvific power, must reside in connectedness and not in single individuals. We are called to live on the cusp of this evolutionary breakthrough, and this requires our conscious participation as co-creative agents of love—to be Christ anew; that is to penetrate the truth of the Christ mystery within ourselves, in other persons and nonhuman creatures as well. To live the mystery of Christ is to live in the freedom of the Spirit. (2Cor3;17)

Since we are connected to each other as Affiliates, how can we consciously and creatively work to transform the present political climate from extreme divisiveness to wholeness?



WHOLENESS OR DIVISIVENESS?

It seems many people are accepting a negative political and international atmosphere that leads to fear, prejudice, and withdrawal. In contrast, several Affiliates have provided articles for this issue which highlight their efforts to move towards wholeness. Their positive ideas, advocating for peace and nonviolence, having environmental discussions, participating in interfaith groups, and performing service work are all in the direction of wholeness.

The Maryknoll Affiliate Book Group is reading Ilia Delio's book which discusses wholemaking. In an article in this issue Lenore Smith-Aman asks, "Since we are connected to each other as Affiliates, how can we consciously and creatively work to transform the present political climate from extreme divisiveness to wholeness?"

We encourage Affiliates and Affiliate Chapters to talk about what they are seeing, to not be silenced by the fears and the rhetoric we hear, but rather to intensify our efforts in wholemaking, building Community and taking Action, with a prayerful and loving Global Vision. Then share your concerns and efforts with us 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 rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.



BOOK GROUP DIVIDES

Paula Schaffner – NSFA Co-Editor

It had to happen! With about forty respondents to the Book Group invitation, multiple discussion groups became necessary. The organizing team of Bob Short, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, and Paula Schaffner offered several options, and participants were grouped by choosing their preferred meeting time. The first meetings of the resulting Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday groups, via telephone conference calls, occurred starting June 20th, and as of July 1, most groups will have discussed Chapter 1 of Ilia Delio's *Making All Things New*.

If you can't participate in a Book Group, you could read the book on your own or with your chapter and see the updates and comments on the Maryknoll Affiliates' Facebook page. You could even add your own comments on Facebook.

It's exciting to have this opportunity to build community among far-flung Affiliates and other Maryknollers as well. If you have a suggestion for the next book to be read by the Book Group, please contact Bob Short at affiliatebshort@gmail.com.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson

David Stocker

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

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

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

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

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CALLED TO MISSION

Mary Massaro – Board Nominating Committee



Long ago, I responded to that call to mission, not sure of what I had to offer but eager to try. As so many missionaries discovered, what we had to offer paled in comparison to what we received. And so it was that I spent nine years in Tanzania learning what it means to be in dialogue and community with those whose experience of God was different from mine but no less grounded in the Divine, people whose life struggles were so very immediate, and whose culture was so rich in affirming one’s connection to and sense of belonging in community.

“Come, let us go and see what God has in store for us.”
 —Mother Mary Joseph,
 Maryknoll Sisters Founder, 1912

My life’s journey then shifted from religious to married life, but never did I, or my husband, doubt that call to mission. I was blessed to continue service in partnership with Africans in their local communities through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This Catholic learned so much from the Peace Testimony of Quakers openly and courageously responding and giving voice to communities ravaged by civil wars and the lack of basic necessities, nearly forgotten by the world community.

In my later years, I have a home again with Maryknoll through the Affiliates, as part of that wonderful Third Wave of Mission. When I was invited six years ago to join the Leadership Board, I again knew I needed to respond to a call while not quite knowing what I might offer. Now that I near the end of my time on the Affiliate Board, I once more rejoice in recognizing the gift of that opportunity to serve and learn.

During my tenure, the Affiliates moved from an experimental model to a leadership structure with its dedicated Regional Coordinators making meaningful connections among local Affiliate communities. Our Affiliate brothers and sisters from Korea and The Philippines at the MAC 2014 prompted us to re-examine the process for Chapter recognition around the world, and we created a coherent formation process for new Chapters and Affiliates. Our Board invited representation from outside the United States, expanding and enriching our worldview.

The time is so right for us to gather next year in Guatemala for MAC 2017. We celebrated the Maryknoll Society’s, Sisters’, and Lay Missioners’ milestones. Now comes our own 25th anniversary – we are no longer a fledgling movement. Affiliates have been and continue to be invited to the Maryknoll table of celebration and of deliberation. Most importantly, Maryknoll Affiliates enable people to take part more directly in Maryknoll’s mission of service and connecting communities of faith around the world. While we recently experienced the death of some of our Affiliate pioneers, a new wave of Affiliates brings even more possibilities for the creative expression of mission in the 21st Century.

What does God have in store for you?

As a member of the Maryknoll Affiliate Leadership Board, I invite you to consider accepting our call to serve on the Board. Join us as we continue to seek how best to support Affiliates as they answer their own call to mission. Please don’t hesitate.

* * * * *

What’s Involved? The following information may be helpful to someone considering agreeing to nomination to the Board:

- Term – Three years, with the option to renew for another three years
- Meetings –Two Board meetings per year and conference calls as needed
- Duties – Apply leadership, wisdom, and creativity to policy development; contribute to the generation of sound decisions regarding the future direction of the Affiliate movement; serve actively on an ongoing basis on one or more Board committees.
- Transportation – Board members are responsible for their own transportation to and from Board meetings, which usually are held in New York.

Nominees should have been an Affiliate for at least one year and have developed familiarity with the Maryknoll entities (The society of the Fathers & Brothers, Congregation of the Sisters, and Lay Missioners). It is essential that a Board Member possess basic computer and electronic email skills (composing, sending, opening, and attaching documents).

[Board Application and Nomination Forms](#) are available on the Maryknoll Affiliates website.





YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

The Guatemala Maryknoll Affiliates Chapter cordially invites us to the Verbo Encarnado Retreat Center (www.verboencarnado.com.gt) in Guatemala from November 9-12, 2017, for MAC 2017.

For the first time ever, our global vision takes us outside the US for our international Maryknoll Affiliate Conference (MAC).

The inspirational theme for MAC 2017, **Buen Vivir**, literally “good living,” invites us to enter into harmony with the Andean peoples, and the great majority of the world’s indigenous peoples, so that we also may begin a search for new paths for humanity. **Buen Vivir** has much to teach us: learning how to listen to one another, thinking and walking together, searching for harmony and equity for the well-being of all people, the community, Mother Earth, and the Cosmos through a sharing and a celebration filled with warmth and affection.

Our general objectives for this conference are to:

- Bring together Maryknoll Affiliates from Chapters around the world to discuss the past, present, and future direction of the Maryknoll Affiliates.
- Contribute to the making of the Maryknoll Affiliates Board’s future decisions.

Specific objectives include:

- Promote a sense of unity in diversity that will enable us to find effective ways to unite the four entities of Maryknoll in our mission.
- Share Maryknoll spirituality.
- Share as community our accomplishments in mission.
- Break with routine and plan how we may struggle against the paralyzing loss of hope, have faith in human beings, and create a communal joy that

will help us achieve brotherhood and sisterhood.

- Help change our hearts, mind, souls, and power structures, and create a path of light and hope with the disenfranchised.

In 2017, we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Maryknoll Affiliates. In gratitude to our founders, we will reflect on the four pillars that define us and give us our identity: spirituality, community, global vision, and action. Thus we will reaffirm the presence of God who invites us to live a full life that prioritizes being in solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the excluded.

Watch for more details in:

- *Not So far Afield* (NSFA)
- *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte* (NTLH)
- www.MaryknollAffiliates.org
- MAC 2017 Blog – mac2017guatemala.blogspot.com (Spanish and English)
- [Facebook/Capítulo Guatemala Afiliados Maryknoll](#) (Guatemala Chapter).

When you register to attend, you will be sent more information via email.

We hopefully anticipate that this gathering will be an opportunity for respectful dialogue, that we will seek spaces that will help us create solid bonds as a single Maryknoll family that wants to strengthen mission through the love of God. We hope to dream and to act on the basis of new alternatives that at the moment seem impossible to achieve.

With best wishes from
Rosa Beatriz Castañeda de Larios,
 Conference Coordinator,
 for the Maryknoll Affiliates Guatemala Chapter
 MAC 2017 Planning Committee
afiliadosmaryknollguatemala@gmail.com



ON THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT

Penny Robinson – Fox Cities Chapter, Wisconsin

What's it going to take for different cultures/faith traditions to co-exist peacefully?

What's it going to take for people to get past their biases and fears of the "other," to accept and live peacefully with each other? Participants may have found one answer in a JustFaith Ministries eight-week study, *The Sultan and the Saint: Muslims and Christians Working Together for the Common Good*, based on a book by that name. The springboard was a meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan around 1219, during the Fifth Crusade.

What's it going to take?

Organized by Co-facilitator Kathleen Gribble, leader of the Fox Cities Affiliates, a small group of Muslims and Catholics spent eight weeks in an "immersion" experience, learning about each other's faith (and their own), while building relationships. Using a number of resources for weekly discussion, they also



Gribble learned that studying social justice principles in each faith led to developing a shared framework of seven principles of *public theology*. The discussions helped clarify participants' own beliefs and stretched them to understand some differences in others' beliefs.

"Zahraa Borchardt,. quick to take notice of discomfort with Islam, said every opportunity to build bridges is important—"If we want people to listen to us, we need ...to listen to them, too," according to Collar.

Generally shy, Muslims have experienced greater fear since 9/11. Mary Gage relates an experience shared during one discussion:

Living and professionally employed in the Appleton area for 35 years, one couple had three sons who had excelled at school. A fan of Michael Jackson, one son inked *invincible* on the underside of his forearm as a show of enthusiasm for Jackson's album by that name. When his homeroom teacher noticed, he took the boy to the principal's office where he, the principal and assistant principal interrogated the boy for 90 minutes about this word until the boy was in tears. Angry that the parents were never notified, they cannot forget what he endured.

There are no barriers except those we put up ourselves.

The hope of this JustMatters module is "By nurturing relationships across religious boundaries, ...together they will model interfaith cooperation as they live out a central tenet of both faiths: love God and love our neighbor." (<http://justfaith.org/programs/justmatters-modules>)

Gribble explained that the group concluded by volunteering at job-training project using gardens created at a converted country club and golf course. Planting seedlings, they began modeling interfaith relationships to build bridges reaching beyond this group, to share with the wider community.



Photos courtesy of Kathleen Gribble



Kathie Gribble, 2nd from left, in small group of Muslims and Catholics

attended each other's services.

According to Jim Collar, in his USA Today Network story, " 'it's easy for the human mind to create categories of us and them' For Mamadou Coulibaly, president of the Fox Valley Islamic Society and co-facilitator, those tendencies underscore the beauty of recent gatherings of Catholics and Muslims eager to explore beyond their comfort zones... . [They] learned for themselves the negligible nature of the dividing lines.

" 'There are no barriers except those we put up ourselves,' Coulibaly said."

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

Patty Symkowick – Sacramento Chapter

Our chapter began 14 years ago with six members. Two of us, Ernie Gillogley and Patty Symkowick, had traveled to Kenya with Maryknoll Friends Across Borders, where we learned about the Affiliate movement. When we returned we joined Kaz and Joan McFarland and Alma Paige who had been spending about three months every year in Thailand teaching English to Buddhist monks with Brother John Beeching, MM.

Since some in our chapter were involved in the California State University, Sacramento, Newman Center, we recruited mainly from that community and opened our meetings to all who were interested in community, prayer, reflection, action, and global

vision. Since that time we have grown to over 14 members. We have combined most of our activities with a very strong *JustFaith* Graduate community, and currently 19 people, most of them Maryknoll Affiliates, are participating in the *JustFaith* module on the Ecological Crisis.



Bob Link works in jail ministry two days each week.

We do not have any one project that all of our members are involved in, but individuals participate in many ministries throughout Sacramento and the world. Several of our members volunteer at Loaves and Fishes, a ministry to the homeless that provides a free lunch every day. Also, many members have participated in

the Get on the Bus program (see below) and Family Promise. We provide a meal and entertainment each time the Family Promise families stay for a week at a neighboring church. One of our members, Ernie, travels around the world with Habitat for Humanity helping people to build their own houses in third world countries.



Family Promise: (back row l to r) Bob Oceansak, Greg Wolfe, Kathy Ellis, Fred Rowe, Joe Symkowick; (front) Ann Carroll, Suzanne Christianson, Alice Rowe, Patty Symkowick and Dan Gilmour are working to provide a dinner for guests our Family Promise, a ministry which provides shelter, meals, and counseling for homeless families.



Get on the Bus: (back row) Bob Oceansak, Greg Wolfe, Joe Symkowick; (front) Patty Symkowick, Ann Carroll, Suzanne Christianson as they prepare for Get on the Bus, a program to help children visit their incarcerated parents. Not pictured are volunteers Ann Berb, Terry and Dennis Eckhart, and Larry and Norma Niekamp.



Peggy Desmond (r) working on the books at Clara's House with a nurse practitioner.



Nancy Link, a certified nutritionist, is giving a class on nutrition at Clara's House. Clara's House offers health care for those who cannot get it through regular channels. Many of the clients are undocumented immigrants.

Ernie Gillogley working for Habitat For Humanity near Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He goes on a Habitat trip every year.



Greg Wolfe washes pots every month at Loaves and Fishes, a ministry that feeds the homeless every day.

Perhaps our most "Maryknoll oriented" member is Julia Menard-Warwick, who volunteers with Maryknoll in Bolivia. She spent six weeks working with Maryknoll a couple of summers ago. Several of our members are considering a San Francisco

Tenderloin immersion experience organized by Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Many of us have traveled abroad for mission or immersions, but we also see the need to work locally as we have many homeless and needy people in Sacramento as well.



ALBANY CHAPTER EVENT

Richard Lessard – Albany Chapter, Affiliate Board Member

On a pleasant May weekend, Affiliates from the Albany Chapter visited the Maryknoll Sisters in Ossining. The occasion was a presentation and discussion led by Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald, a Missionary of Africa and one of the leading experts on Islam, Muslim-Christian relations and Interreligious dialogue among the senior hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Previously the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Archbishop Fitzgerald has been the papal nuncio to Egypt and a delegate to the Arab League.



Visitors from Albany Chapter: Rich Lessard, Denise Lessard, Chris Minnear, Santa Orlando, Frank Hegener, Connie Centrello, Bill Minnear, Joan Chesterfield, Diane Madrigal.



Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald



**LAUDATO SI: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME
—A DAY OF REFLECTION**

Mary Moritz – NE Florida Chapter,
Southeast Co-Regional Coordinator

On May 7, the Northeast Florida Maryknoll Affiliates, in collaboration with the Society’s mission education efforts, were happy to host a day of reflection on the encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. Maryknoll Mission Educator Matt Rousso led the day of reflection. He and his wife, Janet, long-time Maryknoll Affiliates, traveled from New Orleans for this special program.

At dinner the night before, where Matt and Janet informally met with our Chapter members, we discussed practical ways to be better stewards of the earth and its resources, including steps as simple as using real plates vs. paper ones (we used real!). Matt and Janet shared how they had invested in solar power for their home as a result of their concern for the environment.



Affiliates Jean Fields, Mary Williams (Northeast Florida Chapter Coordinator), and Janet Rousso

One important point is the harmful effect that climate change has on the poor. For example, the poor are much more likely to lack clean water than are people of means. Matt said his mission trips to Guatemala have shown him firsthand that many people there lack clean water. Closer to home, the water challenges in the city of Flint, Michigan came up in our discussion.

We watched the video, “The Gospel of Creation” and a short video on the Pope Francis’s February Prayer Intention. The Pope reminded us that the earth is our common heritage and that we should become free of “the slavery of consumerism.” The Pope made a special prayer request: “That we may take good care of creation, cultivating and protecting it for future generations.”

As an older person and a grandmother, a compelling question for me was, “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us?” In our discussion, one person said he felt the need to re-dedicate himself to ecological educational efforts, and another shared her desire to become free of an excessive need to shop.

We were left with much to ponder about the conversion to which God is calling us. We are very grateful to Matt, who was God’s instrument and enriched us by his willingness to share his understanding of *Laudato Si* with us.



Photos courtesy of Mary Moritz

Matt Rousso, with guests Monsignor Vincent Haut and Lou Lombana

Sixteen of us, both Affiliates and guests from the local community, gathered for the Saturday program. We invited our guests to consider joining us for a future Affiliate meeting and have heard from three of them that they plan to do so.

Fr. Ed Shellito, MM, introduced Matt and his important topic, and Matt began by talking about how *Laudato Si* differs from other encyclicals. He noted that the Pope used everyday (vs. “Churchified”) language. Also, the encyclical is addressed to every person living on this planet, whereas the first encyclical of Pope Francis had been addressed to all the members of the Church. Matt pointed out that Pope Francis was only the latest Pope to speak about the need to take care of our planet—we can hope that the message is finally being heard more widely.



Matt Rousso

A MISSION OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Kris Neufeld – NSFA Staff Editor

As Affiliates, many of us have found ways to answer the call of Maryknoll—“to welcome the stranger and to walk with the people.” Members of the Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners often answer this call in the “field afar,” whereas most of us find the stranger, the deprived, the needy and lonely right here among us. Sometimes our answer to the call is short-term, like teaching English to new immigrants who then move on to self-sufficiency. Sometimes it’s visiting the incarcerated or working in a food pantry or offering rides to those without transportation.

Whatever form our answer to this call takes, it is a special way of accompaniment. Kitty Madden, whom many of us know and support, calls accompaniment a “bridging work.” For the past 30 years, she has been a bridge between Nicaraguan women who need care in their pregnancies and friends in the North who help her in this work by financially supporting **Casa Materna** or, as some Affiliates have done, by going to Nicaragua on short-term mission. Imagine the power of the accompaniment that has been given to over 17,000 mothers since the beginnings of this outreach.



Photos courtesy of Kitty Madden

Kitty Madden visits with a new mother and her baby at Casa Materna.

We live in a society that, unquestionably, values abundance. Slowly we are realizing that material possessions are not the answer to happiness. Only recently have we learned that human relationships are what will sustain us—not the 500+ “friends” we have on Facebook who don’t hold a candle to those long-time friends with whom we can reminisce—who have accompanied us, walked with us through life’s joys and sorrows.

The theology of accompaniment doesn’t require any grandiosity. Jesus **walked** with the disciples on their way to Emmaus. He performed no miracles, offered no advice, barely spoke. He just listened to them and walked with them.

What are our stories of accompaniment? Who has accompanied us, and how has that changed us, sustained us, shown us the way to “pay-it-forward”? We would do well to pray daily for new eyesight to recognize the “others” and for new ears to listen to their sorrows, their loneliness, their needs and hopes of carrying on with ever-changing lives. That is our real call to being Maryknoll Affiliates.



ARE YOU A TEACHER?

This spring, Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, splcenter.org, surveyed approximately 2,000 teachers, asking them how the presidential campaign was affecting their students and their teaching. The results indicated that the campaign is having a profoundly negative impact on schoolchildren across the country, producing an alarming level of fear and anxiety among children of color and inflaming racial and ethnic tensions in the classroom. The full report and survey responses are at <http://www.tolerance.org/>.



REMEMBERING BERRIGAN: PRIEST, POET, AND PROPHET

Fr. Daniel Berrigan, SJ, died on April 30th. He had taught theology at Le Moyne College and Fordham University, New York, and was known for opposing the Vietnam War and later criticizing US nuclear policy. The Washington County, Oregon, Peace Vigil noted his passing and honors him by continuing his work for peace and nonviolence. Peace Vigil participants included Mary and Manny Hotchkiss, Barbara LaCombe, and Gerald Osacho of Holy Trinity Parish.”

Photo by Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss.



Barbara LaCombe at May 11 vigil.



CALLING ALL UNITED STATES CHRISTIANS

The statement—"An Appeal to Christians in the United States"—reflects a growing alarm that our country is entering a very dangerous period in which some political leaders and some media are directly challenging our most fundamental Christian convictions. The statement is consequently a theological affirmation. We hope that you will read the statement carefully and join those who have already signed their names.* The full text is available at goo.gl/rqcO1Q.



AN APPEAL TO CHRISTIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

*Because of fear we too easily caricature or condemn those who are different from us. Politicians and too many in the media stereotype African Americans, Asian Americans, people from Hispanic background and followers of Islam. If we follow their lead, we slander our neighbors and blaspheme against the one God of all peoples. **We resist such stereotypes and pledge to work for laws and practices that honor the dignity of all people.***

We pledge that we will seek to limit the proliferation of guns in the U.S.

We pledge to be advocates for laws that regulate in a just and orderly manner the flow of refugees and immigrants.

We pledge to work for systems of security that guard human dignity and protect the vulnerable as well as the strong.

Let us help shape the character of our much loved land not by an abandonment of our most cherished Christian convictions but by following the counsel of the Prophet Micah--to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.



* This excerpt from Groundswell (an online social action platform powered by Auburn Theological Seminary) much of which was published in April 2016 *Sojourners Magazine*, is also at www.journalforpreachers.com/.



A NONVIOLENT CHURCH

An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence

The May–June 2016 issue of *NewsNotes* from the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns (MOGC) contains the full statement* affirmed by participants at the Nonviolence and Just Peace conference held in Rome, April 11-13, 2016. Working and planning for many months beforehand, Pax Christi International, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, UISG/USG, and many other international Catholic organizations, including MOGC, co-convened the landmark conference on nonviolence and just peace in the Catholic tradition.

Maryknoll Sister Teresa Hougnon represented the Maryknoll Sisters' African peace-building team. Her reflection on the conference, "Nonviolence and Just Peace: The way of Jesus," also appears in *NewsNotes*.

Nonviolence and Just Peace, a new global initiative launched at the conference, reaffirms the centrality of active nonviolence to the vision and message of Jesus, to the life of the Catholic Church, and to the long-term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet.

The web site <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/> gives further background and notes that the conference's final statement calls on the Church to:

- **Continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence.**
- **Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life, including the sacramental life, and work of the Church.**
- **Promote nonviolent practices and strategies**
- **Initiate a global conversation on nonviolence**
- **No longer use or teach "just war theory"**
- **Lift up the prophetic voice of the Church.**



* The statement is also available online at <http://bit.ly/Pax-ChristiGospelNonviolence>.

REGISTER NOW

South Central Region Affiliate Conference

New Orleans - September 30 to October 2, 2016

Contact: Jim Huck – jhuck@tulane.edu or
Janet Rouso – jrou14@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Matt Rouso

Affiliates connect at 2005 South Central Region Conference.



Photo courtesy of Matt Rouso

Girlie Gary
visiting a
Guatemalan
home, 2013

ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT

Registration for the upcoming **Maryknoll Mission Immersion Program** in Guatemala, October 9 - 17, closes on August 15th. Check the Maryknoll Affiliate website ([Guatemala Immersion](#)) for full information.

Has your chapter planned an action for Campaign Nonviolence week, September 18-25? In the past, several chapters have joined the hundreds of other groups around



the world who take action nonviolently to abolish war, end poverty, reverse climate change, and challenge all violence. See <http://www.paceebene.org/> for ideas or to find a local action to join.



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE 2016

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

July 10-15 **Robert Ellsberg, MA**
Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for Our Time will challenge us to think more creatively about being faithful and active in our own historical context.

July 17-22 **Maria Teresa Davila, PhD**
Embodying the Option for the Poor explores the theological insights in the context from which the phrase sprang and in our current contexts.

July 24-29 **John F. Haught, PhD**
Religion and the Cosmic Story: A Look Inside studies the new framework for understanding our species' ageless religious quest, in conversation with both Christian Theology and contemporary scientific naturalism.

Sept. 25-30 in Monrovia, CA and
Oct. 3-6 in Los Altos, CA:

Margaret Silf, MA
Living God's Dream

Online registration is available, or write for forms:
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P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311
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IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION

Emusoi Center in Arusha, Tanzania (<http://emusoicentre.co.tz/>), founded by Sr. Mary Vertucci MM, continues to help Maasai girls get an education and delay marriage and child-bearing until they're ready, but needs scholarships for fees and books for secondary school and college. Donations should be sent through the Maryknoll Sisters.

Caminando Por La Paz – Guatemala (<http://www.caminandogua.org/>) needs angels! \$500/year or \$50/month supports the education of one student. Angels receive periodic information from the student they sponsor. Your contributions in any amount will assist greatly in Caminando's efforts to continue the wonderful work initiated by founder Father Thomas Goekler, MM.



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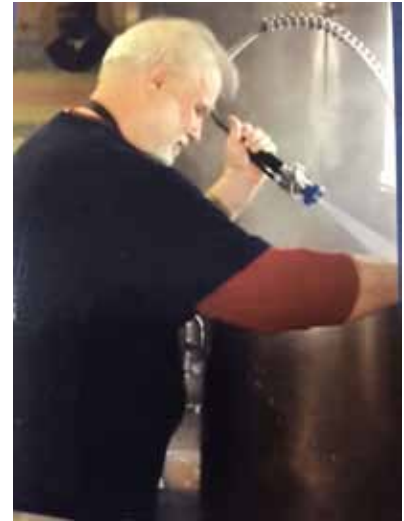
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