



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

May/June 2019

Volume 28 Number 3

PROMOTING MARYKNOLL AND YOUR CHAPTER

Affiliate chapters often lend a hand when visiting Maryknoll missionaries give a talk or say Mass in their area. They often hand out *Maryknoll* magazines and donation envelopes. Affiliates could use this as an opportunity to tell people about the Affiliates and to invite them to visit their chapter.

Knowing that they will be assisting visiting Maryknollers this summer, the Seattle Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter

MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES SEATTLE CHAPTER

Our Seattle Chapter began in 1996, six years after the Affiliates Organization was formed to support the Maryknoll Fathers/Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Missionaries locally and internationally. Our Seattle chapter members volunteer locally with various faith-based and social justice organizations individually as well as undertaking projects as a group. We have volunteered at migrant camps, disaster response sites, and border immigrant processing centers in the US as well as teaching, agriculture, medical, and construction (schools, homes) projects in Asia, Africa, and Central America with Maryknoll missionaries and other organizations. We volunteer in solidarity with the people we serve.

We meet monthly at the Maryknoll Development House in Seattle to share our social justice volunteer activities locally and globally. Our relaxed and informal meetings build community as we strive to be in solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and excluded. We connect with our members through the four Affiliate pillars of Spirituality, Global vision, Community and Action.

Please contact us for more information about our Maryknoll Affiliates Seattle chapter (we need to decide whose name and phone number/ email address to include.) We welcome you to attend any of our monthly meetings. (draft 4/18/2019)



has drafted a handout which could be attached to the Affiliate brochure, or perhaps tucked into the *Maryknoll* magazines they will distribute. First they discussed and drafted a meaningful description of their chapter and designed it to match the dimensions of the Maryknoll Affiliates' tri-fold brochure (about 3 ½" by 8 ½"). Before finalizing it, they asked the entire chapter to review the draft. Take a look at Seattle's draft of their chapter description.

We encourage your chapter to customize and utilize a handout about your chapter for other times, too.

What information should you include?

- a contact name and email or phone number
- the chapter's typical times or meeting places and meeting topics
- any special project of the Chapter or members that may also be of interest to potential visitors
- a link to the Affiliate website—MaryknollAffiliates.org—for background information.

If you have one, a link to your chapter's website or Facebook page would also be informative. It will be even more inviting if you include a photo of your chapter in action.

Most of all, invite folks personally and with the handout to discover with you the joy of being a Maryknoll Affiliate.



STRENGTHENING YOUR CHAPTER AND THE AFFILIATE MOVEMENT

Without consciously planning to, most of the articles in this issue mention ways to strengthen chapters and the Affiliate Movement. You could solidify your chapter by having a Covenant renewal, as was done by Misioneras Hispanas Santa Maria in North Carolina. To help recruit new members, Seattle will distribute information about their chapter when they help at Maryknoll events. Sharing your meeting minutes with your regional coordinator, the Executive coordinator, and the NSFA will keep you and them in the loop. Individually you can strengthen your connection with other Affiliates by responding to the Question of the Month. Hosting a regional conference would allow you to meet and be inspired by Affiliates outside your chapter. Bringing a Quo Vadis presentation to your area would also introduce you to new people and deepen your dedication to mission.

Chapters and Affiliates can be animated by working together on a project such as serving at the Border, as described by Roger Schiltz. The Las Vegas Chapter picks local nonprofits to support financially or with a special event. Las Vegas also suggests using Skype to connect with another chapter. Inviting visitors, as Northeastern Florida does, can enliven your chapter meetings.

Did I miss any? Share your other ideas with us at the NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org.



Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God's call to participate in Jesus' mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God's creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God's unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples.

Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service around the world. If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or e-mail him at rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.



WHY QUO VADIS?

Bill Murphy – Maryknoll Affiliate Board

Quo Vadis? Where Are You Going? ... The Next Step is a Board-supported program which a team of Maryknoll Affiliates designed to complement already existing immersion programs. It is a time for people returning from immersion experiences to consider how to integrate significant cross-cultural insights into their life choices.

Why might **Quo Vadis** be important for the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement? **Quo Vadis**:

- Provides a practical platform for our charism/gift to the world. While hyper-individualism, as well as nationalism and tribalism, are valued by many, we know and proclaim the benefits of cross-culturalism and community.
- Provides access to expanding numbers of people, both young and older, who are committing to a variety of immersion experiences. This is where the action is.
- Provides an opportunity for Affiliates to serve in the context of global vision.
- Provides a wellspring for possible future Affiliates.

Can you think of some other reasons? Share your thoughts with me at jbzmurphy@rcn.com.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: David Stocker Bob Short

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

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

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

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org

MARYKNOLL LEADS THEM TO ACTION

Mary and Manny Hotchkiss - Portland Chapter

The Las Vegas Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter formed 15 years ago after Los Angeles Affiliates Lee and Punch Fermin moved to Las Vegas. The group has now grown to ten people, including four nurses and a recently retired doctor. We were fortunate to gather over a casual dinner with Lee and Punch Fermin, Nicet Santos, and Evelyn Pua. Nicet explained, "Many of us knew about Maryknoll and the Sisters and Fathers from when we were growing up in the Philippines."

This is a chapter of busy, mostly retired people. They gather to share their lives and support each other. Many of their other activities are spiritually oriented. Their dedication belies the Las Vegas nickname of Sin City.

Punch said, "Maryknoll Affiliates gets us into action." The chapter meets monthly and very generously donates to a designated charity at each meeting. The chapter has sponsored children through Caminando Por la Paz and has donated to Rachel's Vineyard. They have helped the homeless and thrown a pizza party for orphans. Right to Life is a strong concern of theirs, especially in light of the Right to Die measures currently in the Nevada legislature. They take a constructive approach by trying to help pregnant women or those who regret an abortion rather than participating in protests.



Affiliates gathered in Las Vegas: Manny Hotchkiss, Lee Fermin, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Punch Fermin, Nicet Santos, and Evelyn Pua

Most of the Las Vegas Affiliates belong to a very large, affluent, and growing parish but haven't advertised their Maryknoll events through the parish. They want to maintain the Vatican II reforms, and they want to understand their faith.

Most members receive and enjoy the NSFA, but some don't receive the Monday Affiliate website update email. In the NSFA, they want to read what other Affiliates are doing. Punch said she'd like to learn more

about socially responsible investing, particularly what Maryknoll, as an organization, is doing in this area. They'd love to have Maryknollers visit them. We suggested the Chapter Companions program to them. This chapter would like to also connect with other chapters and suggested using Skype to at least share a prayer during meetings. They asked, "Where is the next regional meeting?" They hosted a regional conference in 2011.

After Evelyn told us that as a young woman she investigated other religions including Hinduism and various Christian groups, Punch commented, "We try to take the positive from each group we meet." At their meetings, they discuss a reading included in the agenda by Lee and share their reflections. Punch added, "Lee (currently serving as a Regional Coordinator) deserves a lot of credit for keeping the group connected, on track with what the Maryknoll Affiliate Board is leading us to do."



SHARE THE JOY



You can make your RCs* very happy just by adding their email address to your Chapter distribution list. Then they will automatically receive the notices and notes of your Chapter gatherings. RCs want to know how they can help you and connect your chapter to others with similar interests. If you have a change in membership or contact person, let them know.

While you're at it, please also add the email address of Bob Short, our Executive Coordinator [rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org], and the NSFA, [NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org] to your elist! Your news about a visitor or activity could spark ideas in other chapters.

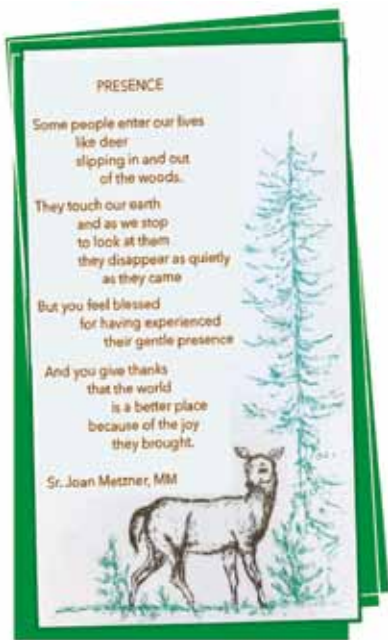
* RC = Maryknoll Affiliate Regional Coordinator. Find your Regional Coordinator's name and email address at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/regional-coordinators-what-we-do.html>.



ONE WOMAN'S MISSIONS

Ellie Hays – Reno Affiliate

With my highlighter in hand, I read the NSFA, marking things that especially interest me. I loved seeing the suggestion to use the Maryknoll Affiliate pillars of Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action at meetings. Sr. Norie's January article, "Norie—A Presence with Past Connections," reminded me of an article I wrote for the February 1995 *Not So Far Afield*. At that time, I had given away 5,700 *Presence* cards by Sister Joan Metzner, MM. I was a casino floor supervisor (pit boss) at Harrah's Casino and I gave them to any and all I thought to be receptive. I retired in 2002, but it is still my mission. I just had 2,000 more *Presence* cards laminated, bringing my total to around 17,000.



We have been busy in Reno. In November, Fr. Steve Judd, MM, celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest and Missioner at a Mass and dinner at Carmel of Reno, with us Affiliates and the Carmelite Sisters. In January, when Reno Affiliate Charles Hancock passed away, Fr. Steve said the funeral Mass and met the next day with Charles's wife Catherine and the family. They've been friends since the 80s.

I was peaceful and spiritual when in the Navy before moving to Reno many years ago, but my connection with Maryknoll led me into nonviolence. On December 3rd, I took my Vow of Nonviolence* at Carmel of Reno for the 31st straight year. I always make my vow on or near December 2nd, the anniversary of the martyrdom of four church women, Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean, who were murdered in El Salvador in 1980. Ita and Maura were Maryknoll Sisters.

In February, I attended the County Commission meeting in Reno along with folks from the Life, Peace, and Justice Commission of the Diocese of Reno, ACTION (Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada), and other organizations. We are supporting affordable housing and homeless resources at both the local and the state level.



*See <https://paxchristiusa.org/resources/vow-of-nonviolence/> Tens of thousands have taken the Vow of Nonviolence since it was composed by Eileen Egan and Rev. John Dear.

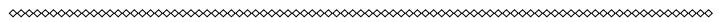


Photo courtesy of Kyungsu Son, MM



Father Kyungsu Son poses with Bartimeo students and support team in front of the men's prison in Lima, Peru.

GREETINGS FROM PERU

Hugo Castro Campos -
Niño Jesús Chapter, Lima

Hello, we twenty Affiliates of Capítulo Niño Jesús are former catechists of the Parish of the Child Jesus, where Maryknoll Fathers worked in the past. We meet the first Sunday of each month.

We are collaborating and helping in a couple of areas. A group of us collaborates at Casa Bartimeo, which is directed by Maryknoll Father Kyungsu Son, MM. There they train the visually impaired in massage therapy through both theory classes and practice.* In other projects, we work with elders and with young people at the secondary level of Colegio Estatal.



* See the article, "Casa Bartimeo, A light of hope for the blind in Peru," in the March 2017 issue of *Maryknoll Magazine* (<https://maryknollmagazine.org/2017/03/improving-lives-blind/>). The above photo was reprinted from this article.

Photo by Gloria Tan.



COVENANT CONTINUES

Gail Kelley –
Misioneras Hispanas Chapter

On February 18, 2019, 13 of the 15 members of the Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter Misioneras Hispanas Santa Maria, founded in 2011, gathered together. They renewed their Covenant to be missionaries in the spirit of the Maryknoll Mission Movement: to bring Christ’s words and love to where it is not known, especially to the poor and unempowered, while living a life of simplicity, spirituality, global vision, community and

action. They are unique among the 36 Affiliate Chapters in the United States in that their membership is comprised of all Latina women, working within a Parish structure. Their mission is the evangelization of Hispanic people living in the fourteen trailer parks around the Wilmington Area.

Melita Angel and Gloria Tan, the present and past coordinators, worked with Norma Rivera, the Basilica of St. Mary’s coordinator of Spanish Ministries, to define this unaddressed need. Father Chesco Garcia, the Parochial Vicar of the Basilica of St.

Mary’s, blessed the women before their Covenant was received and accepted by Gail Kelley, representing the Maryknoll Affiliates’ local Regional Coordinator and the Executive Coordinator.

Gail pointed out that these women were walking in the footsteps of the “Tar Heel Apostle”—Father Thomas Price. Father Price, the first North Carolinian ordained to the priesthood, was born in Wilmington. Eventually becoming the Co-Founder of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, he is being proposed for canonization and is represented by the Raleigh Diocese.



A SPECIAL VISITOR FROM TANZANIA

Mary Moritz and Shelby Miller -
NE Florida Chapter

The Northeast Florida Affiliate Chapter was blessed to have Sister Mariana Clemence from Tanzania speak at the April meeting. She is a Franciscan Sister of St. Bernadette, and a parish in St. Augustine, Florida sponsored her trip to the US. Sister Mariana said the order has 220 active Sisters and almost 50 more women are preparing to join them.

Sister spoke of the many ways the Sisters reach out to the poor and needy in Tanzania, in the spirit of both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Bernadette. These include educational and medical work, as well as caring for orphans, lepers, and refugees. The Sisters don’t wait for poor people to come to them for help but travel to the smaller villages to “find them in their environment.” She noted that the many African dialects make communication difficult and impressed us with her command of English, her third language.

Sister Mariana helps unemployed youths and single mothers become self-employed and works on projects to provide reliable and clean water, the lack of which leads to water-borne diseases.



Photos by Bryan Williams

Chauffeur Brian Schoonover and Sr. Mariana Clemence

As Affiliate Brian Schoonover drove Sister Mariana to our meeting, she asked him the cost of the minivan that they were riding in. When he told her that it was a \$30,000 car when new, she gasped and said, “Do you know how many houses that could buy where I live?”

We were all reminded of how much we have and how our lives are very different from those of the people whom Sister Mariana serves. But despite the poverty that Sister confronts daily, her smile never left her face. As we listened to her, we shared a wonderful bag of cashews that she had brought from Tanzania. We also enjoyed seeing her wear a Flagler College sweatshirt over her habit, a gift to her from Brian, her “chauffeur.” Affiliate Shelby Miller concluded that “Sister is a warm, generous, and joyful woman, firm in her faith and vocation.” Our understanding of life in Tanzania was enhanced by Sister’s open sharing with us.



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE?

Matt Rousso - New Orleans Chapter

Wilton, a young unschooled boy, lives across the road from our community garden in the back corner of barrio Santa Ana in the town of Esquipulas, Guatemala. Wilton stays with his mother and father in a very simple two room house—it has only a single light bulb hanging in the front room and one water faucet, which seldom gives water, attached to a make-shift sink. Because of drought during most of the year, the municipality does not receive enough water from its source for all the inhabitants of Esquipulas, especially those who live on the outskirts. Wilton also has a 19-year-old sister, Wendy, who lives in an adjacent structure with her 2-year-old baby.

Photo from ModernSurvivalBlog.com.



During a recent mission immersion program in Santa Ana, I was working in the garden with eight of our seminarians from St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, LA, along with Don Chenco, our gardener, and his young helper, Pablo. Several years ago we had to hand-dig a well in our garden because we could only get a little water from the nearby stream where women come daily to wash clothes. In the midst of the morning work, Wilton walked up to me shyly and handed me a folded piece of paper, saying it was *de mi* (from my) *papa*. I opened the paper and read the scribbled Spanish note, having to decipher some of the words which were badly misspelled. The letter was a heartfelt plea for help!

“Dear brother Mateo and the other brothers. I make a cordial greeting in the name of Señor Jesús and our mother, always virgin María. The objective of the present (note) is to beg a favor that if you can give us water because my wife and children are dying of thirst because there is no water. Jesus says in his word that the one who gives a glass of water to these little ones makes it with me. Signed: Catalino Vasquez, husband of Josefina Hernandez.”

We immediately made provisions to get water from the well for Catalino and his family.

Since my return home, that moment in the garden has been in my mind and heart almost constantly. It has made me think a lot about water. I remembered that the first words of the Bible are about the presence of God in the waters of the earth: “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and *the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*” (*Gen 1:2*) And I’ve thought about the fact that before I was even born I lay in the waters of my mother’s womb for months.

In early March, the internet kept sending me messages about March 22nd being the day proclaimed by the UN and the Catholic Church as World Water Day. I learned a lot of random facts like:

- *the* human body is made of some 65 to 70 percent water
- water covers 70.9 percent of the planet’s surface
- 97% of Earth’s water is salt water; only 2.7% is drinkable
- \$0.002 per gallon is the average cost of US municipal tap water - 1/3 of what the world spends on bottled water in one year could pay for projects to provide water to everyone in need
- there is about the same amount of water on Earth now as was millions of years ago
- unsafe water kills 200 children every hour
- 1.2 billion people worldwide have limited access to clean water.

Water is Such a Blessing! I have been thinking a lot about how blessed I am to have such easy access to clean water—we have some nine faucets in our house, and with most of them we can draw unlimited amounts of cold water or hot water; we have several flushable toilets; we can take refreshing showers whenever we want; we have enough water to cook with, to water the plants, to wash the floors, to brush our teeth, to drink day and night. I feel so blessed! At Notre Dame Seminary, just around the corner from our house, there is a beautiful sculpture of Jesus with the woman at the well; hearing Jesus in this Gospel story ask the woman for a drink of water makes me think of Catalino’s letter “...if you can give us water because my wife and children are dying of thirst?” Though I feel blessed and privileged to have easy access to an abundance of clean water, how can I not feel sad thinking of the more than a billion people like Catalino’s family who do not have such access. How can I feel good knowing that children are dying every minute from unclean water?

While I appreciate and enjoy water in my corner of the world, I know that I must pay attention to the reality of the global water crisis. I must be concerned that so many of my brothers and sisters are not experiencing this blessing. Clean water has been a concern of the Church for quite some time:

...the Catholic Church was among the first major international institutions to defend the idea that access to fresh water is a fundamental human right, and it has enshrined this idea in authoritative teachings, such as the 2004 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church” (NCR 4/20/18).

Our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, devoted a section of his encyclical *On Care for Our Common Home: Laudato Sí* to the issue of water (cf: LS #27-31). He says unequivocally:

...access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. (LS #30)

The water crisis is a right to life issue! He adds:

Our world has a grave social debt toward the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.

In many of his homilies and speeches, Pope Francis reiterates the need for the world community to make better use of our resources: to ensure that all peoples would share in the blessing of clean water. He, along with others, speaks about the growing threat that the shortage of water in undeveloped countries poses to the safety of peoples and the world as a whole. Some even say that the crisis over the shortage of water could be the cause of the next world war. Realizing just this one blessing of easy access to clean water (there are many other blessings we could acknowledge!), do we not see why so many impoverished people from undeveloped countries risk their lives trying to cross our borders to get into the land of plenty?

So What? In my reflections, I have been hearing the call to act more responsibly. This is a call to all of us in the developed world. So what does acting more responsibly look like? Pope Francis has named a few ideas in his writings and talks, such as:

We cannot sustain our present level of consumption; we must stop wasting and discarding; we need to attend to the pollution we are producing by certain mining, farming, and industrial activities ... we must

not turn water into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. (LS #29)

I am left with a number of haunting questions:

- **Make Connections:** Do I really believe that we live in a completely inter-dependent world, that what I do affects the common good? Should knowing about the exorbitant amount of water it takes to produce 1 pound of beef (1,799 gallons) affect my meat consumption? If tap water has been proven as safe as and significantly less expensive than bottled water, and doesn't add great amounts of plastic which pollute our oceans, am I justified in my use of bottled water? Am I willing to examine the ramifications of my decisions?
- **Curb My Wastefulness of Water:** Am I willing to change some of my daily actions in order not to waste so much water? Pope Francis keeps saying we have to make an “ecological conversion” (LS #216-221). Does that apply to me and the way that I waste water? The American Wildlife Foundation says, “every day, the average American family uses about 552 gallons of water compared to the average African family, which uses about 5 gallons of water a day.” What can I do to stop using so much water? [Consider “20 Ways to Conserve Water” <https://www.care2.com/greenliving/20-ways-to- conserve-water-at-home.html>]
- **Be a Provider:** Catalino asked me to provide water for his family. Am I being asked by more of my brothers and sisters in the world to provide them with water? Should I not connect with and donate to organizations working to provide water to people in other parts of the world? [See <https://www.classy.org/blog/5-nonprofits-make-clean-water-global-reality/>]
- **Appreciate and Enjoy!** Maybe one of the most important things I am being called to do is to stop taking water for granted—to take my time as I drink water, or wash with it, or water my garden. Is there a call here: to better appreciate water and to really enjoy it?

I'll never forget how impressed I was when I first read *Laudato Sí* and heard Pope Francis quoting the bishops of Brazil, who said, “*Nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus (the place) of God's presence*” (LS #88). Sort of reminds me of that quote from Genesis: *God's Spirit is still hovering over the waters!*



*Abridged from: Spirit Whisperings #9,
by Matt Rouso, March 25, 2019*

Photos courtesy of Jerrie Drinkwine



What a beautiful and loving experience for all. I didn't think I would be of much help here.

Asylum seekers, with only these clothes, will go to all corners of the United States to sponsors (usually relatives) who are paying for their trip. They will live with their sponsors awaiting their trial as asylum seekers for up to two years or more. They will not be able to work at this time or travel far as they have ankle GPS to show their whereabouts.

Volunteers from Kirkland ready to cross borders to welcome refugees.

BORDER VOLUNTEERS FROM KIRKLAND, WA
 Roger Schiltz – Seattle Chapter

In March, Kitty and I welcomed asylum seekers from Latin America on the Texas-Mexico border at McAllen, Texas.

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change.
 – Pope Francis, Lent 2017

Bienvenido! Welcome! We welcomed the families, moms, dads, and kids with smiles, handshakes, and kindness. Moms and dads were immediately relieved to be in a safe, kind, and loving place—the Respite Center in McAllen, Texas. We felt like real Americans with our history of welcoming strangers into our country and real Christians with love in our hearts.

Sr. Ann, a Sister of Mercy from Philadelphia, oriented us to the well-used former nursing home. We followed her wondering what task we could do as volunteers. The first room was packed full of donated clothing from all over the US that needed to be sorted into women's, men's, and children's clothing. Someone had to do this separation of clothing. Next were the rooms for clean clothes, a separate room for infants' clothes, shoe room, coat room, and men's clothing rooms. The women's room was a special place for the women volunteers and women to meet. They fitted and refitted clothing considering style and preference.



Guess who missed the group photo—Kitty and Roger Schiltz.

In the next room, three or four volunteers were making ham and cheese sandwiches for the 500 people who process through this facility each day. Kitty volunteered with others from 9AM to 4PM, making over 2,000 sandwiches each day. The sandwiches were part of a lunch a bag that included 4 sandwiches, 2 bottles of water and 7 snacks per family. This lunch would be packed for their Greyhound bus ride to their sponsors.

We continued our guided tour of the Respite Center. No one had chosen a place to work except a nurse and her translator. They would be in the clinic every day. One day they saw 90 patients. All food, clothing, and the facility for these 500 people a day were donated privately.



The cleaning crew, l to r: Robert Wynne, MM, Roger Schiltz, and Sunna Todd

Using all our senses and our hands, working together in community making Christ alive, we are the body of Christ being God's hands in the toilets and laundry room in the Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.



After 24 hours or less, the migrants leave the Respite Center after a shower, a meal or two, and a nap. They have been welcomed, given clean clothes and a ticket to travel to their sponsors in the United States. They have a lunch and a note saying they do not speak English to be used along the way. They will travel many miles away from their homes and the border seeking a better life in the North.

Sister Ann led us to the far end of the former nursing home. The building is on its last legs, but the facility functions with athletic mats for beds in small private rooms and space for children to play outside. Sr. Ann led us to the last place. All 17 of us listened. Sr. Ann said, "The toilets haven't been cleaned in 3 days (500 people a day), and the showers have to be cleaned, and towels (for 500 people a day) have to be washed." Fr. Bob, Sunna, and I volunteered.



Back at the Respite Center, the work will continue with the same activities again and again. New crews will come to volunteer, and the whole beautiful welcome will continue as well.



"God promises refreshment and freedom to all the oppressed of our world, but he needs our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. He needs our hands to offer them help...

above all, God needs our hearts to show his merciful love towards the least, the outcast, the abandoned, the marginalized.» – Homily, Mass for Migrants, Pope Francis 2018

The two women's toilets and the two men's toilets were flush toilets that plugged up if toilet paper was put down them. Used toilet paper was placed in trash cans beside the toilets. Garbage overflowed the cans and a foot-high pile of soiled toilet paper remained on the floor. We wore two pair of plastic gloves cleaning and emptying the soiled toilet paper. What beauty! (There is irony here.) What a beautiful experience we had working together cleaning the filthy toilets and washing towels and clothes.



We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between 'master' builder and the worker. We are the workers, not the master builders, the ministers, not the messiah. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

—From "A Future Not Our Own," by Bishop Ken Untener, written in memory of Saint Oscar Romero. This painting appears near the hospital chapel where Romero was shot during Mass.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Rich Lessard – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Chair

Do you ever wonder what other Affiliates think about a particular topic? Curious about how alike or different Affiliates are from each other? Are there things that other Affiliates are doing that could have some impact on you personally or on your Chapter life? As members of the Maryknoll Affiliates, belonging to different Chapters and separated by distance, traditions, culture, and language, we may sometimes ask ourselves and/or other Chapter members similar questions.

The Affiliates’ “Question of the Month” (QTM) initiative provides a forum that responds to these questions and is an opportunity for Affiliates to be in dialogue with the greater Affiliate movement. This dialogue is one of the ways that each of us can become better informed about our movement, discover the wisdom within and among us, and ultimately have a part in guiding, supporting and strengthening the bonds of the Affiliate movement. We hope all Affiliates share in this desire and will participate in this QTM initiative.




Each month, along with the responses to the previous month’s question, a QTM form will be e-mailed to all Affiliates who have their e-mail addresses on file. Responses are anonymous, unless you wish to share your name and contact information. And since it is the intent and hope that QTMs will come from individual Affiliates or Chapters, you can also suggest a question that will be considered for a future QTM. The questions are as important as the responses to them and will generally be selected by considering whether it will have the effect of evoking responses that will foster and enhance our Affiliate movement.

This month’s QTM is really one question, but asked three different ways:

“What does it mean to you to be a Maryknoll Affiliate? Why are you an Affiliate? What meaning or purpose, if at all, does being an Affiliate bring to your life?”

If you need to update your email information so that you are sure to receive the QTM form, please contact Bob Short at rshort@maryknollaffiliates.org.

We thank you for your participation in helping to make our Maryknoll Affiliate movement stronger. 

APPALACHIA IMMERSION

What do orange water, coal dust, and American chestnut tree seedlings have to do with Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*?

Join the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers from August 5-9 on our annual immersion trip/pilgrimage to the holy land of Appalachia to find out.


This **5-day immersion trip**, in collaboration with Glenmary missionary Father John Rausch, who has



lived and ministered in Appalachia for decades and is an expert on the issues there, includes:

- Pre-trip orientation and post-trip debriefing
- On-site introduction to the cultural, economic, and spiritual realities in Appalachia from leaders of the community
- Areas demonstrating the effects of mining, and mining reclamation
- Practical simplicity: living off of the grid
- Opportunities to learn from community redevelopment projects
- Visit to a church-inspired health clinic which treats the uninsured of the region

Estimated cost: \$650.00 This includes room, breakfasts, lunches and transportation. Dinners are the responsibility of the participants. We will begin the trip in Lexington, Kentucky, and travel through the nearby Appalachian region. Participants are responsible for their travel to and from Lexington, KY.

For more information, contact Deacon Paul Bork: pbork@maryknoll.org or phone 716-796-8919. 

News from the Board

INTRODUCING ROXANNE HUGHES-WHEATLAND

I am so happy to have found the Maryknoll Affiliates. It was an answer to prayer. After returning from a semester in Lima, Peru, where I went to finish my requirements for a Master of Arts degree in international development, I was looking for an opportunity to combine my interest in international issues with my Catholic faith. While searching online for a language program that would help me continue to improve my Spanish, I stumbled upon The Language Program at the Maryknoll Mission Center in Cochabamba, Bolivia. That led me to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and information about the Maryknoll Affiliates. I was thrilled to find out that there was an Affiliates group in Washington, DC, which is close to my home in Columbia, Maryland. After contacting the coordinator for the group, I began attending the monthly meetings and the rest is history.

I met a wonderful group of people that have helped expand my spiritual life, and in time, I became the



group's coordinator. While the role of coordinator for the Washington, DC Maryknoll Affiliates is demanding, I find the opportunity rewarding. I am also blessed to have had the opportunity to attend MAC 2014 in New York and MAC 2017 in Guatemala along with my husband, John. Since 2018,

I have been serving on the Maryknoll Affiliates Board, which has given me the opportunity to expand my association with the Maryknoll Affiliates and contribute to maintaining the viability of the Maryknoll Affiliates movement.

Personal Facts: I am married and have one adult daughter living in Canada who is a computer scientist. I also have a private psychology practice in Maryland. My favorite pastimes include reading, traveling, listening to music, attending religious retreats, keeping abreast of concerns being addressed at the United Nations, and walking in nature.



MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE – 2019

Several Affiliates have found Mission Institute programs to be rich sources of strength and inspiration. Which Mission Institute 2019 offering speaks to you?

- May 12-17 **All the Light We Need**
Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF, D.Min
- May 19-24 **Oasis in the Overwhelmed**
Millie Grenough, MAT
- June 7-9 **Mission Empowered by Love**
Marie Dennis, MA
50th Jubilee Celebration of Mission Institute – Carolyn Woo, PhD
- June 16-21 **Traveling the Road to Joy with Thomas Merton and Friends**
Christine Bochen, PhD
- June 23-28 **Mission Inter Gentes: Egalitarian Missiology for the 21st Century**
Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC

July 7-12

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality
Rev. John Philip Newell, PhD,
and Cami Twilling

Find the complete schedule through September and application forms at:

<https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute/>

Register online or request an application form by:

Email: missinst@mksisters.org
Phone: 914-941-7575 @ 5671
Mail: Maryknoll Mission Institute
Maryknoll Sisters
PO Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311



PRAYERS REQUESTED

Jack Sullivan, MM, served on our team of Executive Coordinators in the early 2000's and has always offered his support, creativity, and deep commitment to our movement. His emphysema has been complicated by flu and pneumonia. It will mean a great deal to him if we Affiliates keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

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