



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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Volume 22 Number 1

CPT AND ACCOMPANIMENT: STANDING WITH VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN HEBRON, PALESTINE

*John and Peggy Holm – Christian Peacemaker Team
(CPT) Reservists*

In the summer of 2012, the Holms served in Hebron, accompanying those suffering under the systemic violence of Israeli occupation. Merwyn De Mello, a former Maryknoll lay missionary and presently a Chicago Affiliate chapter member, is also a CPT reservist. He forwarded this article to us.

Sadly, it was just another day in the market (suuq) in the Old City of Hebron. This ancient and narrow street, with shopkeepers selling their wares, was crowded with local shoppers buying food, clothing, and items for the home. We have our Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) apartment and office in this neighborhood. We know these shopkeepers very well: buying our food, water, and other items from them, sitting with them daily, and being the recipients of their gracious hospitality not only in their shops as they offer us tea, but also in their homes when they invite us to share dinner with their families.

Without warning or explanation that afternoon, at least 60 Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers entered the suuq from all sides. The soldiers entered with weapons drawn, searching all of the shops in the suuq. The owners were given five minutes to close up their shops. This was very difficult to

accomplish since many of their wares were out in the street corridors of the suuq. Two CPT members were present in the suuq when this was occurring. Without allowing enough time to close the shops and leave the area, the soldiers blocked both ends of the market and detonated many percussion grenades at close range (one hitting and bouncing off of a CPTer before exploding two feet from him.) Panic and chaos ensued as the crowd attempted to close their shops and leave. The IDF trapped over 100 shopkeepers and shoppers (both local and international.)

Suddenly the IDF released everyone, allowing exit at only one end of the market. Over the next hour, IDF soldiers began searching nearby homes, throwing percussion grenades into each home before entering. About two hours after the beginning of this incident, the IDF retreated back into their military base next to the suuq.

Even two days later, we were unsure as to why the IDF took this action. Most Palestinians seemed to believe that it was the new brigade's way of exercising their power by using collective punishment tactics on the people of Hebron.

That evening and the next day, we spent time in the suuq, sitting with the shopkeepers and listening to their feelings of fear and frustration. Laila, the owner of a women's cooperative, had lost her voice because she had been screaming at the soldiers while inhaling the smoke from the percussion grenades. She was visibly shaken for days. We sat with her and others as they mentally and physically navigated this collective punishment, wondering when the

next time would come. This type of harassment, which is very rarely reported in the U.S. press, is one of the many ways that the Israeli government has been systematically oppressing the Palestinian people for 64 years.

Laila was thankful for our presence, as well as the presence of other international peace workers in Hebron. For us, as frustrating as it was to not be able to stop the ongoing harassment of the Palestinian people, at least we could stand with them and assure them that they are not alone in their struggle for justice. The need for accompaniment remains now more than ever.

CPT invites Maryknoll Affiliates nationwide to participate in a CPT delegation. Learn more about CPT at www.cpt.org and about delegations, in particular, at www.cpt.org/participate/delegation. You may also contact the CPT Delegations Coordinator, Terra Winston, by writing to delegations@cpt.org.



IDF Soldiers Returning to Their Base Next to the Suuq

ON ACCOMPANIMENT

In this issue, we see that we define who we are by those with whom we partner and those whom we accompany. Our centerfold article features Affiliate Mary Logan’s invited talk at the September 2012 Maryknoll Centennial Symposium about her accompaniment of young people.

In our previous issue, Affiliate Board Chair, **Ann Carr**, and Executive Coordinator, **Bob Short**, reflected on that Symposium and inspired us with the challenges which Affiliates are uniquely situated to address. **Paul Masson**, MM, Affiliate Board member, spoke on the Symposium Maryknoll Leadership Panel. He expressed the challenge in this way: “Many people in the US Church see Maryknoll as one Family: Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Lay Missioners, and Affiliates. Our Chapter document states: ‘Our Charism commits us to take the initiative in partnering with those who share the name Maryknoll and with those who share similar values...’ This vision of the Maryknoll family means we sit at the table as equals, with respect and love. Are we up to this change and transformation, this dying to privilege and clericalism and open to a new life of family and community?”

As Maryknoll Affiliates, in this new year, this new century with Maryknoll, may we rise to the challenge to do the work needed to sit at the mission table as equals, with respect and love.

[See the full texts of the Centennial Symposium presentations at www.maryknollsisters.org/catholic-mission/index.php/articles/609-youre-invited-centennial-opening-liturgyon-january-8 .]

Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*. Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God’s call to participate in Jesus’ mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God’s creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God’s unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples. Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service in more than 30 countries. If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or call toll free 877-897-2386 or e-mail inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

MAC 2014 UPDATE

Dates: June 19-22, 2014

Location: *Stony Point, the site of the 2011 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference*

On November 10, members of the Albany Chapter Planning Committee met with the Maryknoll Affiliates Board to report on their progress to date. The Board gave unanimous approval to the theme: “Maryknoll Affiliates, the Third Wave Emerging into the Future.” Conference updates, including more information about the Third Wave, will appear in future issues of *Not So Far Afield*.

AIMING FOR A THREE-PEAT IN 2013 APPEAL

David Schaffner – Affiliate Board Finance Committee Chair

We’re all looking forward to 2013—another year of the challenges of living the four pillars of our Affiliate calling in our local and worldwide communities. And one more challenge: we are also asked to financially support the Movement.

In early December you received the 2013 Appeal letter and materials. As mentioned in that letter, the good news is that, with your generous support, for the past two years we have met our budget goals. Your contributions cover the operating costs of the Affiliates, such as necessary travel for Bob Short, our Executive Coordinator, and printing and mailing the *Not So Far Afield* newsletter.

Our financial challenge this year is to broaden the base of support. As the appeal letter stated, “Many hands make light work.” If you have put the appeal letter on your “to do” list, your moving it to the “done” list will be appreciated. If you misplaced or for some reason did not receive the December letter, it can be found after logging on to the Affiliate website at: <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news-and-information-70/financials/1068-affiliate-appeal-letter-2013.html>

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner
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We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners as well as suggestions for articles. Articles are published in as timely a manner as possible and in conjunction with appropriate themes when applicable. All submissions are subject to editing. Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities or their members. Please send any letters to the editor, articles, photos or inquiries to the address below. You may also contact us if you no longer wish to receive Affiliate mailings, prefer to receive them by e-mail or read them on the web, or if you have changed your address. Maryknoll Affiliates
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Rejoicing in the Whole
- A Magnificat

By Ann Hayden, MM

O Great Beauty, I delight in the wonder of all creation which, in Your own time, is becoming whole and one. You have gifted me with an attentive heart, a quick mind and a loving spirit. I rejoice in all Your gifts to me and, in that richness, claim nothing of more value than kinfolk and friends. They know the gifts and failures of my free will.

If later generations call me blest, then I will have done only my duty and the praise is to You alone.

You have strengthened the rise of inspired women and have scattered the power of denial in men. You have filled human need with the bread of life and turning anew to one another, we recognize a partnership of sharing in abundant fruitfulness.

Together we build the future, remembering your mercy in mutual forgiveness. Those who will not partner see their strength decline and bear no fruit for the long way ahead. O God, Your help is as close as our shared breath. Your promise to us is, as it was with our ancestors, filled with faithfulness.

ACCOMPANIMENT: THE GRACE OF MUTUALITY IN TIMES OF BLESSED UNCERTAINTY

Ann Hayden, MM – Maryknoll Affiliate Board

To accompany another is to 'go with' them as a companion or to journey with them. The word accompaniment is often used in musical terms when someone plays a musical instrument or sings a vocal part designed to support or complement another activity. How wonderful to add this musical note to our ongoing quest for the core of God's deepest desire for us in mission. I imagine that God's desire for us is, at its core, like a dynamic dance in which the only music is relationship and the only mission is love.

Many of us were raised on more static images of God's 'plan' for us and of the mission to which we are called. Fifty years ago in the Vatican II renewal, our minds were opened, our images of God expanded and our understandings of God's mission for us were changed forever. With a new articulation of the gospel call to mission as a clear mandate of our baptism, with a new analysis of Christian life and Catholic social teaching, and with an understanding of Church as a pilgrim people, we made conscious choices to journey with the poor and to work for justice and peace-building. To witness to the Gospel became a synonym for 'stand beside' and 'walk with' the marginalized in their struggle for fullness

of life. We learned the importance of solidarity with and accompaniment of our local and global neighbors in the midst of natural and social disasters, and our shared fear, grief, joy and suffering became a profound acknowledgement of our human condition. Mutual evangelization became a new norm for mission life. Ordinary living with, neighboring, and serving among became a journey of discovery of the God who dwells in our midst.

The mission call to the transparent compassion of accompaniment is filled with everyday good news as we encounter God-With-Us accompanying us in a profound process of transformation to a lived practice of trust, truth telling, and forgiveness. Most important for us as missionaries is a delight in God's presence among us making all things possible with only our small "yes."

2012, a year of centennial celebration, finds Maryknoll Sisters still crossing borders at all levels of relationships and ministry, making our home with the poor, the stranger, the "other." Hospitality and inclusion are intentional practices. Diversity is an enrichment of life, and sustaining communion shapes our structures even as partnership must shape our mission response into the future, if we are to have a future. Yes, the future of Maryknoll mission is uncertain, yet that uncertainty is a blessing, a new call to reliance on the Spirit of God-With-Us in ways we do not understand yet. We have a future only if we build it together. It will require of us all of our hope, all of our attention for listening and imagining, and all of our energy for creative and compassionate service with others. Given the challenges to us today as we seek justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, I believe that the future of the human community, of the whole earth community, awaits our response. Brothers and sisters, what will be our answer for the future?

Perhaps it is as simple as this Shaker song, written by Elder Joseph to accompany dancing in a Shaker community in Maine. It gives us a hint of what accompaniment, the grace of mutuality in times of blessed uncertainty, is all about.

Simple Gifts

*'Tis the gift to be simple,
'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down
where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves
in the place just right,
'I will be in the valley of
love and delight.
When true simplicity
is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we
shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be
our delight,
'Till by turning, turning
we come 'round right.*



**MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE GATHERING:
"WOMEN OF MISSION"**

Gaye Hieb & Sr. Janessa Therese Howard –
Fr. Price Chapter, Wilmington, NC

Recently the Father Price and Misioneros Hispanos Affiliate Chapters in Wilmington, North Carolina treated nine Affiliate members to a close-up look at the work of Catholic Sisters, their ideals, and their roles in important American foundations.

*St. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton,
Ven. Henriette DeLille,
Mother Mary Joseph Rogers,
and all Holy Women – pray for one another and for the world!*

Our opening prayer utilized the prayer card, *A Litany of Women for the Church* by Joan Chittester. We viewed a brief trailer about the Catholic Sisters Touring Exhibit 2009-2012 which featured Sisters discussing their perspectives and their historical mission. Father Price Coordinator Gaye Hieb presented examples of pioneering women and Sisters who blazed trails in American nursing, teaching, medicine, social work, social justice, and care-giving on the battlefields and among dirt-poor immigrants. Among the illustrious examples were Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton (1774 -1821, the first native-born citizen of the US to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church), Henriette DeLille (1813–1862, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, made up of free women of color), and Mother Mary Joseph Rogers (1882-1955, foundress of the Maryknoll Sisters).



Our guest, Sr. Marion McGillicuddy, S.U., based at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wilmington, recalled, "I walked out of my parents' house on September 14, [1942] and into religious life as an Ursuline Sister". The Ursuline branch that Sr. Marion joined (there are two main branches) was founded in 1606 in France, and the Sisters there were never cloistered nor habited, being the oldest non-cloistered female teaching order. The other branch of Sisters of St. Ursula was founded by Angela Merici (1474 –1540, an Italian religious leader and saint who founded the Order of Ursulines in 1535).



The Ursulines were the first Catholic sisters to land in what is now the US. Sr. Marian said, "Counted among Ursulines are the first female pharmacist, the first woman to contribute a book of 'literary merit,' the first convent, the first free school and the first retreat center for ladies. Ursuline Sisters provided the first classes for female slaves (which continued until abolition), the first classes for free women of color, and

for Native Americans. Ursulines provided the first social welfare center in the Mississippi Valley. They operated the first boarding school in Louisiana, housing and educating a large number of Catholic Hispanic girls and women from Central and South American countries. Ursulines also operated the first school of music in New Orleans."

These Ursulines also worked in health care, "...establishing one of the first hospitals in New Orleans, along with an orphanage. They treated malaria and yellow fever in slave populations when that care was not politically or socially accepted. Ursuline sisters treated both British and US soldiers wounded in the [Revolutionary] war in the same [hospital] building. They may have been the first group of women propagating the ideals of diversity."

Sr. Marion told us that at the time of the Ursulines' arrival in the US in 1727, "...catechetics and education was the need. Although education is always crucial, today the need is social justice... Those deprived of education are among the worst oppressed. [That is why] our Sisters went to missions in Africa. We have Sisters who wear 100 hats."

Sr. Marion, consecrated to the service of God for 70 years,, works in literacy and runs the ESL (English as a Second Language) program at St. Mary Catholic Church, a parish with an abundant Hispanic/Latino presence. While we certainly recognize and honor the 100 years of service of the Maryknoll Sisters, we focused upon Sister Marion as a local example of selfless giving and appreciated that she was available to talk with us face-to-face.

**MARYKNOLL MISSION PRESENTATION:
STILL BREAKING MISSION TERRITORY**

Sr. Janessa Therese Howard – Fr. Price Chapter

In October at St. Mark Catholic Church, two 8th-grade classes learned about the importance of Mission when Father Price Affiliate Gaye Hieb presented Mission and Maryknoll at their school in Wilmington, North Carolina.

That North Carolina still needed to respond to mission needs was the topic of the day. Emphasis was on Fr. Thomas F. Price, co-founder of the Maryknoll Mission Society (Fathers & Brothers) in 1911. Catholics, especially the young, were urged by Ms. Hieb to take up Fr. Price's vision and step deeper into his boots. Price's initial trails of love and conversion activity, ministering to those who had never encountered Jesus, led him from his hometown to capital city Raleigh, and finally to China. At the time Thomas Price was reaching out in faith to peoples of the Orient, North Carolina was still considered mission territory by the Church.

Tying in the Year of Faith theme, the students showed understanding of how faith connects to any mission, whether for the Church, for one's own family, for one's philosophy of life, or for making it through hard times. The idea of forming a youth affiliate chapter interested several of the children.

JUST PEACEMAKING

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

The angels sang, "Peace on earth, Good will to all." As our nation struggles with our longest war, an obscene military budget, and unrest in many areas of the globe, I'm singing about several ways to promote peace, justice, and nonviolence.

With this prayer I express my hope that all will be true peacemakers, so that the City of Man may grow in fraternal harmony, prosperity and peace.

—His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, from his address in celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2013, www.vatican.va.

Both JustFaith and Just Peacemaking are intense and ecumenical programs for small groups learning about Catholic Social Teaching through excellent readings, prayers, and videos. See www.justfaith.org. JustFaith and Just Peacemaking are synergistic with our Affiliate pillars of spirituality, global vision, community, and action. A number of Maryknoll Affiliates have already participated in the JustFaith program, and some chapters have partnered with JustFaith groups.

Maryknoll has many connections with JustFaith. Some of the resources are produced by Orbis. The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers have sponsored JustFaith along with other justice-oriented organizations: Catholic Relief Service, Bread For the World, Pax Christi, Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), and Catholic Charities. In the summer of 2012, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners led an immersion trip to Central America for JustFaith Graduates. For 2013 the Lay Missioners are considering immersion trips for JustFaith graduates to South America, Asia, or Africa. A JustFaith graduate in our area applied to be a Lay Missioner after completing a Maryknoll Friends Across Borders immersion trip a few years ago.

The Archdiocese of Portland has endorsed a strong JustFaith program and every year groups are formed in several parishes and Protestant congregations. Near the end of the 30-week program, participants connect with the sponsoring organizations. Since we don't have resident Maryknoll personnel in our area, my husband and I have been asked to speak to them about Maryknoll.

This year we are participating in a Just Peacemaking group, using the 12 week follow-on module to JustFaith. JustFaith partnered with Pax Christi to produce that module. Marie Dennis, formerly director of the Maryknoll Office For Global Concerns, and several other of the Pax Christi international leadership, provided insightful and inspiring articles for the text. U.S. Bishops and Church documents also guide our discussions of peace and nonviolence.

The Pope publishes his message for World Peace Day every January 1. Many Catholics are not aware of it so our parish holds a special Peace Mass on Epiphany Sunday featuring the Pope's peace message for the year. In 2013, his title is "Blessed are the Peacemakers." The aim of the message, according to the Vatican press release, is to "encourage everyone to take responsibility with regard to peacebuilding." The full text is available at the Vatican web site.

Many other resources on peace and nonviolence can be pursued individually. Authors such as John Dear, SJ, Henri Nouwen, and Thomas Merton challenge us to walk the path to peace. Many of their books are available through Orbis at a generous discount to Affiliates. The National Catholic Reporter will send emails linking to the weekly "On The Road To Peace" column by John Dear. A recent *Sojourners* magazine article reviewed the book, *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, by Susan Brooks Thistlewaite. Besides books, our local library stocks videos that question our warring ways, such as, *Why We Fight*, and *The Forgotten Bomb*.

In this new year may we all sing more, learn more, and do more to build peace on earth.

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*A resolution at the 2010 Western Region Conference asked Affiliates to pray for peace every Monday.*  
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**MEETING OUR REGIONAL COORDINATORS:
 MARY & JOHN MORITZ**

Sr. Janessa Therese Howard – Fr. Price Chapter

The Thomas Price and Misioneros Hispanos Affiliate Chapters in Wilmington, North Carolina met new Southeastern Regional Coordinators Mary & John Moritz, from Jacksonville, Florida. The Moritzes toured the downtown historic area with Affiliate Coordinator Gaye Hieb to see Thomas Price's commemorative plaque on 3rd Street and St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church—now an historic landmark—where Fr. Price was baptized, confirmed, and ordained. Later, Affiliates, prayer partners, and volunteers met for dinner at the Olive Garden, where the pasta seemed to bring out the best in all 17 persons who attended.

John and Mary head up the Jacksonville Affiliate, a relatively new Affiliate group. Mary told us that on average twelve or so regulars have been meeting once per month for the last three years. One of their favorite Affiliate activities is holding a Movie & Discussion night once a month, featuring films like *Gran Torino*, and *The Wave*, that contain powerful messages that provide a frame for social and religious controversies.

Mary also said that a main goal for this Southeast Region is to gather the materials for spiritual formation and to archive resources that will help Chapter leaders plan relevant meetings. Topic examples for meetings might be Immigration Reform, Human Trafficking, and Peace Conventions.

Affiliate presentation at the Maryknoll Centennial Symposium: "Mission into the Future," Sept. 28, 2012.

MISSION INTO THE FUTURE IN THE US

Mary Logan – Red Bank Affiliates

I work primarily with children and teenagers in New Jersey. I hope to expand upon the lessons that I've learned from these children and apply them to the broader Maryknoll context.

In 1973, hearing my decision to enter Maryknoll, my mother said: "We don't have any objection to your wanting to be a Sister; in fact it would make us proud, but couldn't you join the Benedictines down the street and work in our parish?" Two years later, at the age of 24, I was headed for Taiwan, already homesick and crying and not quite sure that I had made the right choice. In the midst of these somewhat frightening thoughts, the pilot announced that we were about to cross the International Date Line. My reaction was: "Awesome! The International Date Line."

Let's face it. All who have been called to Maryknoll were bitten by that adventure bug a long time ago. Cross the International Date Line or work in Elizabeth, NJ? Was our sense of adventure a characteristic that God has used to call us to Maryknoll? That same sense of excitement and adventure of mission later took me to India and Bangladesh.

In 1983, after a very difficult process of reflection, I returned to New Jersey and left the Maryknoll Sisters. I felt like I had never left Maryknoll, but how could I be faithful to my call to participate in mission with the Maryknoll charism in the State of New Jersey? A unique characteristic of Maryknollers is if you tell them that you live in Kenya they are so happy for you. If you are working in Cambodia or the slums of Brazil, they are not only happy for you but perhaps a bit envious.



Photo courtesy of Mary Logan

Mary Logan with children in Mombasa, during Friends Across the Border trip to Kenya, summer 2012

Tell them you live in New Jersey, and they feel so sorry for you.

Is it possible to live mission in New Jersey or even in the United States? Maryknoll's charism from its inception 100 years ago has always been mission in the fields afar; mission overseas, in other lands. Yet mission in the United States has also been a small but integral part of Maryknoll mission: the Japanese school in Los Angeles; the work in Chinatown in Chicago; Transfiguration Parish in Chinatown in New York City; the Office of Global Concerns; the work in the United Nations; and the work of many Affiliate Chapters. There is poverty in the United States and people who are marginalized, who are deprived of their basic human rights, and who suffer from hunger on a daily basis.

Maryknoll has always had a deep presence in mission in the United States. In his wonderful article, "Mission to New Evangelization," Father John Gorski, MM, articulated that after Vatican Council II, the Church began to move away from the concept of mission territory and to make a **"transition from a territorial to a situational idea of mission. How human groups relate to Christ in their concrete historical situations became more important than whether those people lived in mission lands."** So I asked, how do we identify situations in New Jersey, situations in my high school, where the Kingdom of God is not yet: where people are bullied; where people are deprived of their rights? Are not these situations also crying out for evangelization and the proclamation of the Good News?

In what way does the Maryknoll charism relate to mission in the United States? Here is the challenge as Maryknoll moves forward into the next 100 years. Three brief stories about the Affiliate youth members are illustrative:

First Story

Although retired, I'm still involved with the youth group and the Maryknoll Affiliate Club. At the beginning of the term, the Red Bank Catholic High School (RBC) secretary said she had to stop registering students for the Maryknoll Affiliate Club because we were in violation of the fire code. There's a limit to how many people can fit in one classroom at one time, and the club had far exceeded that limit.

In years past, some people may have thought that these kids signed up to be in this club because they were hoping to get an A in my class. But now most of those students don't know me personally. So what is the attraction of Maryknoll to an endless stream of teenagers who have been bombarded with values of consumerism, materialism, individualism, and in many cases, outright selfishness? Where are these legions coming from, violating the fire code?

What is unique about these kids whose call to community, prayer, a global vision and a desire to participate in mission is stronger than values they've been brought up with? They are out there, and it is Maryknoll's responsibility, in a sense,



Photo courtesy of Mary Logan

RBC members present Maryknoll lay missionary Kathy Dunford, a 1961 alumna of RBC, funds raised for her Kenya medical clinic.

to provide the opportunity to develop their vocations and their desire to respond to mission in the future. They are our future.

Second Story

Each year the high school Maryknoll Affiliates teach a lesson on mission in our grammar school. Jesus said go forth and proclaim the Good News—he didn't say wait till you're 30 to start that. Last year, right before Christmas, my students visited the third grade, telling them how we are all participants in mission. The children's task was to draw and color little Christmas cards and write a message to a child living in Kenya or in Cambodia. Then we would send the cards to children in other countries so that they knew that we were thinking of them.

Sitting at the back as the children colored their cards, I saw little Patrick dig his hand into his pocket, take out four quarters and lay them out on his desk. He pondered for a few seconds, picked up one of the quarters, put it back in his pocket, and hid the other three quarters under his card. He asked my student for scotch tape and meticulously taped his three quarters inside the card. He saw me looking at him, and came back to where I was seated.

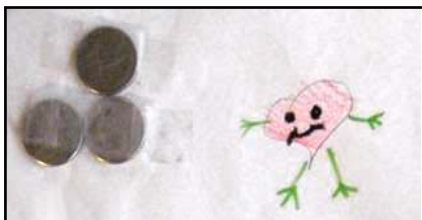


Photo courtesy of Mary Logan

When I asked Patrick what he was doing he looked at me with these big brown eyes and said: "I don't have to have a snack today."

We had never mentioned money, donations, and when you're in the third grade your snack is one of the highlights of your day. Snacks at our school cost seventy-five cents, and Patrick is surrounded by a culture that says Christmas is about "What am I going to get?" With no prompting, from the goodness of his own heart, he had a unique desire to share

what he had with another child. What is Maryknoll's role in the lives of these children as we move into the future? How do we provide community and opportunity and a prayer-based faith and global vision that will encourage and nourish and nurture the souls of these children?

Third Story

Our school is predominantly Caucasian, Irish, Italian, Catholic, but there are strong minorities of Hispanics and Haitians and African Americans. The students are friendly with each other in class, but at lunch and free time, they tend to go off with their own groups. Yet my list of Maryknoll kids



Photo courtesy of Mary Logan

Red Bank Maryknoll welcomes new members.

was very trans-cultural. One teacher asked me, "How do you attract all the kids from all the different groups to join your club?" I don't do anything; I just put up a sign-up sheet. What is it about the charisma of Maryknoll that transcends groups, ethnicity, language, background, socio-economic degrees? How do we continue to create these communities?

I think Rose provides one answer. Rose lives with her aunt in Asbury Park near a Missionaries of Charity's mission. Her parents sent her out of Haiti to get an education, and she is a scholarship student at my school. Rose joined the Maryknoll club and it turns out she is a wonderful artist. When we make friendship bracelets or draw cards to send to children in other cultures, Rose is the most sought-out student in the club. She gives wonderful advice to the other students about how to bead that bracelet or draw on their cards.

One day after class, Rose asked, "Can I tell you something? You know my family is poor. In fact, we are so poor that sometimes we have to go to Mother Teresa's Sisters' place to get food. Sometimes it's very hard for me to be in this school with these rich kids, being a scholarship kid. ... But ever since I've joined Maryknoll (that's the phrase they use), it's the first time I've felt like my gifts are being used. It's the first time the kids have come to me to ask for help on a project." She said: "The kids are nice to me but it's the first time I've felt that I'm not just receiving, that I have something to give also." And she said, "I can't tell you how proud that makes me."

As we move forward, we have three challenges: 1) to continue to identify situations where the Good News is

crying out to be proclaimed, whether the situations are in the Town of Ossining or in Nairobi, Kenya. 2) As we continue to identify people in situations that are crying out to hear the Good News, all Maryknollers—Affiliates, the Lay Missioners, Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters—must continue to create community and opportunities for all baptized Christians who wish to live out the Biblical mandate to preach the Good News to all of God’s people. 3) As we continue to build these communities, to build them in such a way that the poor and the marginalized are not just hearers of the Good News but proclaimers of the Good News.



Photo courtesy of Mary Logan

Two students display collected used sneakers and shoes on delivery to Ron Covey, Maryknoll Affiliate from Houston, at Newark airport.

Let us build these communities in such a way that young children are not just the recipients of mission but doers of mission. Let us build communities in which the Patricks and the Roses of our lives are co-partners with us in mission, joining with St. Peter, who declared in the Acts of the Apostles: “Silver or gold I have not, but what I have, I will give to you.” In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, let us rise up and walk, let us rise up and jump, into the next century with that same type of excitement and wonderful sense of adventure with which we all received our first mission assignment.

ACCOMPANYING AN IMMERSION GROUP TO HAITI

Kevin Foy - Mission Promotion Coordinator, Seattle

In the days leading up to a visit to Haiti, I felt like I really should not be going. With a busy life at work and home, and with my wife being pregnant, it just seemed like a crazy thing to be doing. But I went anyway... .

Getting off a plane in Port-au-Prince and working my way through customs and baggage claim was an overwhelming experience. I quickly instructed others in my group simply to say “No, mési,” (“No, thank you”) to men offering to “help” with our bags, and they followed my example. Soon we were in a van riding through the streets of Port-au-Prince, swollen with crowds of the over three million Haitians that populate the city. As the sights and sounds of the city enveloped us—people buying and selling goods, intense traffic, Red Cross vehicles, UN trucks mounted with machine guns—I suddenly felt that God was calling me to be there.

As a mission promoter for the Maryknoll Society, my role was to provide a spiritual component on this parish immersion experience. I hoped to help the group view their experiences in the larger context of God’s mission. As part of this task, each night I led prayer and reflection on one of the Beatitudes, a strategy that I had learned from Matt Rouso, a veteran Maryknoll promoter. On the third day of our journey, we visited a feeding program in Port-au-Prince. Twenty years ago, a local woman, Madame Samson, approached a non-profit with a proposition: if they provided the funds, she would prepare a hot meal six days a week for the neighborhood children. For many, this would be the only full meal that they would receive each day. Now in her eighties, she still fulfills this duty for 75 local kids.

When we visited, we met a young woman named Gloria, age 17. She spoke impeccable English, which she had taught herself by watching television shows from the US. She was helping out with feeding the kids, so I asked her how long she had helped out in this program. It was the wrong question! She explained that she had been receiving meals there since she was a little girl. Sure enough, after the others were fed, she, too, sat down to eat. We also met Mackenson, 19. He had graduated from high school and now needed work. (Haiti has a 70% unemployment rate.) He asked members of our group if they could get him a job. When he learned that one of us was a priest, he asked for prayers.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Foy

Kevin and Gloria at Madame Samson’s feeding program.

For that evening’s reflection, the day’s Beatitude, fittingly enough, was “Blessed are the Meek...” I explained that the meek are sometimes described as those who “hunger for bread and thirst for dignity.” We had just witnessed this in raw form: young people like Gloria who rely on Madame Samson for their daily beans and rice; people like Mackenson who thirst for the dignity of work and opportunity. On our last night in Haiti, members of the group thanked me warmly for the reflections that I led, and commented on how much they looked forward to them each night.

I have come to appreciate more and more the role of Maryknoll in accompanying people towards a deeper experience of faith. The presence of Christ in the poor and vulnerable is so central to our faith that if we do not choose to encounter it directly, we are denying ourselves a deeper relationship with God. As a mission promoter, I am privileged to play some small part in helping people make sense of these experiences. Needless to say, I no longer doubt why I went to Haiti!

Reflecting on the unjust treatment missionaries have suffered for accompanying others makes us more aware of current instances of torture.

TORTURE: A MARYKNOLL AND CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Ainsley Rositto, Intern – Office for Global Concerns

In 1944, Maryknoll Regional Superior Trinita Logue and Sister Brigida Keily, were arrested and imprisoned for eight and a half months in underground cells in the torture house at Fort Santiago, in the Philippines. Penny Lernoux’s book, *Hearts on Fire: The Story of the Maryknoll Sisters*, describes how they were placed in neighboring cells and shared the floor with “twenty-four other women, communicating through sign language because they were not allowed to talk.” Trinita “was beaten, struck with clenched fists and bamboo rods, thrown down and kicked. When she refused to give names,



she suffered the water torture. ”By the time Trinita emerged from Fort Santiago, “she had lost eighty pounds” and “could hardly walk.” Brigida suffered from life-threatening physical damage and many “screaming nightmares” after her release. Throughout the past 100 years of Maryknoll mission history, Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers, and Brothers have been imprisoned alongside the people with whom they live and work in countries around the world. The debilitating physical and mental effects of torture on these Maryknoll missionaries are something no human being should ever have to face.

Torture is not an issue consigned to the past. Solitary confinement is considered by some to be a form of torture and occurs even now in U.S. prisons. Torture of military prisoners is also a troubling issue in international relations. It is important for people of faith to take action against torture because it violates a fundamental concept of Catholic social teaching that every human person possesses an inherent God-given dignity that should never be overlooked.

A new tool is available to raise awareness of the Catholic perspective. The document *Torture is an Intrinsic Evil: A Catholic Study Guide for a One-Session Workshop* can be downloaded from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) web site. It is geared to inspire thoughtful reflection and discussion on the issue of torture in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church. This resource includes thought-provoking group discussion questions and is accompanied by video clips of first-hand accounts of torture survivors, military interrogators, and comments from experts

on Catholic social teaching. The videos may be downloaded or streamed from the NRCAT website at www.nrcat.org/intrinsic-evil or on DVD by contacting the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns at (202) 832-1780.

We pray for all those who suffer from violence, and for those who inflict violence, and for ourselves, that we may all learn the way of the nonviolent Jesus.

—Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, Portland Chapter

The Maryknoll Affiliate web site will accept your prayer requests at the Prayer and Spirituality tab after you log in: www.maryknollaffiliates.org/prayerspirituality/prayerspiritualityresources/prayers.html .

MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE NEWS BRIEFS

Please send us news of your chapter and also update your chapter web page or view and add to the Facebook page.

Nick Petraglia recently presented on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) at the Goshen New York Chapter.

Manny Hotchkiss of the Portland Chapter has been coordinating his parish’s Adult Forum on CST. In November the topic was “Solidarity,” illustrated by a presentation by the parish group that had traveled to Moshi, Tanzania, in July 2012. The Tanzania Connections group had contributed towards installing a water system in a rural parish, and now hope to help them with a mill to grind corn.

Ronni Gilligan on Long Island didn’t get taken out to sea by Sandy and wasn’t really worried about her house washing out. She said, “It was quite exciting and humbling to see the ocean roll up my street and meet the bay. There was so much destruction around here...many people losing everything, but, as terrible as it was, it was also beautiful how everyone really helped each other...and how many volunteers showed up with food, water, and even underwear! So many of us have Christmas lights up, it’s like a determined spirit of hope and looking forward, and yea team...it has all been a mission right on Connecticut Avenue.”



SAVE THE DATE!

NORTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING:
Finding Our Inter-Connectedness In God, Mission, and the Affiliates

Saturday, May 4, 2013, 8:30 A.M. To 4 P.M.
Registration Will Follow

Sometimes we are called to accompany not only people at risk, but Earth itself.

PRAYER PILGRIMAGE TO EARTH'S WOUNDS

Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM* – Coordinator, Office of Life, Justice, and Creation Stewardship of the Gallup Diocese

The desert and horizons of New Mexico have a mystical quality, ceaselessly inviting and reminding one of the luminous, unending horizons of Holy Mystery. Even after living here eight years, I remain in daily awe at how God continues to communicate in and through Creation.



Photo by Paula Schaffner

Recently, some friends and I took part in an unusual prayer pilgrimage. Sr. Maureen, Betsy Windisch, Pat Sheely, and I had been meeting monthly this past year to discuss readings in "Deep Ecology," a program prepared by the Northwest Earth Institute. For our final meeting of the year, we decided to make a prayer pilgrimage to wounded places of Earth in our sacred bioregion of New Mexico, to pray for the help we need to participate in Earth's healing and help change our human life patterns that threaten the life systems of Earth: water, soil, air, plants, trees, all creatures.

In the light of dawn, we first set out for Church Rock, about three miles East of Gallup, where on July 16, 1979, the largest radioactive waste accident in U.S. history took place. United Nuclear Corporation had failed to properly reinforce cracks detected in an impoundment dam at the Church Rock uranium mining site. The weakened dam burst, releasing 100 million gallons of radioactive liquid materials and 11 hundred tons of uranium tailings. Radioactive sludge flowed into arroyos of Puerco River downstream, through downtown Gallup and into Arizona. Much later, traces of radioactive waste were detected in California.

This Superfund site is still being monitored and periodically sprayed with water to keep the remediated covering from eroding in the wind. We prayed there, mindful of the thousands of Navajo miners and their families who were exposed to high levels of uranium radiation without protective clothing, oxygen masks, or any warnings of the health hazards from government and mining officials.

Next, we traveled eighty miles on Interstate 40 to Laguna Pueblo, where we visited the site of the former Jackpile Mine. It was the world's largest open pit uranium mine during

its period of operation from the 1940s to mid 1980s. This gaping wound in Earth, 4 miles by 7 miles and 1,800 feet deep, was clearly visible from a space satellite that captured on film the multiple pocks of this prolonged intrusion beneath Earth's surface. It seemed overwhelming to pray at such a place scoured of every last trace of life. How does one begin to heal such open wounds created to mine the uranium possibly used in the atomic and hydrogen bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the enriched uranium in 3,000 nuclear missiles stored at Kirkland Air Base, just a mile from central Albuquerque? Only a gigantic leap of faith in God's limitless power permitted us to believe that our simple prayer for healing and reconciliation at this sacred, wounded site could ever make a difference on Earth.

From Jackpile Mine, we continued northward another ten miles to Marquez, the former uranium processing mill site for all uranium-laced soil dug out of Jackpile Mine for thirty years. Here, high security fences sealed off the entire region, with radioactive warning signs posted along the seemingly endless enclosure. We took heart at the multicolored wild flowers, cactus and sage defiantly claiming the land where we stood outside the fenced security area. They appeared to stand with us, urging us on in our bold resolve to somehow be instruments of healing and reconciliation for Earth and all life's community. These were truly soul-searing places to be in, and to meditate and pray on behalf of all the human family, for the interrelated web of life on Earth.

With the bright summer sun making a steady descent in the West, we ended the day on the summit of Mt. Taylor, one of the four sacred mountains of the Navajo, the Laguna, and Acoma Pueblo peoples. Surrounded by towering red cedars and piñon pines, we seemed to be enveloped by the sacred silence from which the first revelatory word of God came forth as the flaring forth of the Universe 13.7 billion years ago.

*This we know; the earth does not belong to humanity;
Humanity belongs to the earth.*

This we know.

*All things are connected like the blood that unites one family.
Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of
the earth.*

*Men and women did not weave the web of life; they are
merely a strand in it.*

Whatever they do to the web, they do to themselves.

— Words of Chief Seattle to the President of the United States, 1854

We were reminded that God remains steadfast in Covenant love with us and with all Creation. It is God's dream that is nudging us to a more heartfelt desire to be part of the healing and reconciliation God intends for us all. In the awesome unfolding of God's ongoing creation, and in the story of the Universe, this is our moment, our time to live out the dream—wherever it may lead.

**Sr. Rose Marie presented at the 2012 Maryknoll
Affiliates Western Region Conference in Las Vegas.*



**WRAP-UP
ON ACCOMPANIMENT**

Bob Short – Executive
Coordinator

*I want to know if you be-
long – or feel abandoned;
If you know despair
Or can see it in others.*

—from “Self Portrait,”
by David Whyte

How do I write about “accompaniment” without being overly spiritualized, didactic, preachy, or abstract? The advantage of quoting a rather famous poet at the outset is that, even if all that follows does nothing to enlighten, at least there would have been a good beginning. The second, more important, advantage is that a good poet can get to the heart of the matter with few words.

The best starting place to learn about almost anything is through reflection on our experience of the lived reality—in this case, of accompaniment. What it looks and feels like has something to do with complete acceptance and trust without judgment, questionable agendas, or foreign ideologies attached.

The first image to surface is that of our dog, Lucky, now deceased. Animal lovers will know well what I describe as the in-the-moment-tail-wagging-gleeful-barking-undivided-attention-complete-acceptance greeting a dog will inevitably give, while only asking for a little water, a walk and, well, dog food. Apart from the tail wagging and gleeful barking, this might serve as a legitimate portrait of accompaniment. It is about pure being with and no questions asked. It is a way to enter into the holy ground of another culture (or the person next to us).

My guess is that this is how God accompanies each of us as well along the way. As it is said, “God does not love you because you are good; you are good because God loves you.” I think Maryknoll Affiliates sense all this at a gut level.

[David Whyte’s entire poem may be read at www.panhala.net/Archive/Self_Portrait.html.]



Prayers are requested for **Roslita Green Mallia**, one of the founding people in the NYC chapter, who died Sunday, Jan 6th, 2013. She will be sorely missed by her husband, Carmelo Mallia.

**NEWS FROM THE KNOLL
AWARDS**

In September, for his work in the early intervention program, **Father Brendan O’Connell, MM**, received the Health Services and Dedication Award from the Chinese Health Department, the Premier, the Head of the Legislative Yuan, and the President of the Republic of China.

In November, Lay Missioner **Dr. Susan Nagele**, who has served 28 years in Kenya, Sudan, and Tanzania, received the AMA Medal of Valor for courage under extraordinary circumstances. (Details at: <http://www.maryknollaymissioners.org>)

**UPCOMING MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE
PROGRAMS:**

May 5 – 10: Boundless Compassion: Living the Heart of the Gospel – Joyce Rupp, OSM

May 19 – 24: The Bible Story Anew: Challenges for Life and Mission in the 21st Century – Carol J. Dempsey, OP



**WANTED: LESSON PLANS
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
SOLIDARITY, MISSION...**

Share your great ideas with others and enter the contest to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card! For details, visit: www.maryknoll.us/home/resources/teachers/lesson-plan-contest.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Maryknoll Priest and Brother Jubilarians will be honored at the Maryknoll Center in New York on June 21, 22, and 23, 2013. Anniversaries include: 65th – 4 members; 60th – 13; 50th – 12; 40th – 6; and 25th – 5 members.

PRAY...

with Sr. Maria Rieckelman, MM, who, as of January 8th, is on hospice and reports: “And lo and behold, I remain on my journey. ... I continue to receive loving and wonderful care in the Eden Community at Maryknoll and hope I will be around much longer than I expected... let us continue to exchange prayers and love along the way.”

The March/April issue of **Not So Far Afield** has the theme of **PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**.

Please send your articles and news about your chapter by early February to nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org.

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