



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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Volume 22 Number 6

REFLECTIONS ON MY RETURN TO HURUMA

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

Landing in Mwanza brings that sense of “returning home.” So why do I keep returning to Tanzania, to Mwanza, and to Huruma? The Holy Spirit continues to call. It’s a dramatic way to deepen love of God and neighbor.

HURUMA. True to its name, which translates as compassion, Huruma School for Children with Disabilities radiates love: as Agnes challenges Ehudi to stand for five minutes, as Oki offers Abubakari a steadying hand, as Kilemesha signs encouragement to Amina, as Rosi leads singing, as Kudra beams after receiving a high-five from his teacher, as Joshua shows off his new shoes, as Juma smooths the corners of the coaster he’s sanding, as all proudly sing Tanzania’s national anthem—the love is palpable. The students respond wholeheartedly to the dedication of their teachers and the friendship of their classmates.



Huruma teacher, Agnes, provides therapy for a handicapped child.

Photos by Mary Ryan Hotchkiss



Bertha demonstrates sign language to a deaf child.

Students learning to walk use the stairs and the railing leading to Sr. Lucia’s office, to strengthen leg muscles and for balance. Getting to greet Sister motivates them for this strenuous effort. We are so grateful to Holy Family Parish and to St. Francis Parish for sharing their classrooms. The parishes’ commitment to Huruma is evidence of a growing appreciation in their society for the blessings and potential as well as the rights of the disabled.

Like the mustard seed planted in good soil, Huruma is growing; it has committed teachers, rising enrollments, local leadership, and a supportive parent group. Faithful to Maryknoll values of welcome and solidarity with the poorest, Lay Missioners David and Caitlin Rosser instill hope and courage to try new ways.

Challenges remain, mainly in the areas of funding, individualization of instruction, and recognizing the potential of those with disabilities. Lack of funding affects many areas: adequate salaries and professional development for staff; transportation and life skills training for students; repair, maintenance and security of buildings.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. Beyond Huruma and Maryknoll, Tanzanians are warm, welcoming and uncritical. Whether at church, on the street or in the market, I was greeted wholeheartedly by those whose lives I had shared for nine years. I walked with relish through villages, cassava or amaranth fields, in the shade of mango trees or between banana leaves, admiring the bright fabrics on passing women and in shops. Waking

with the sunrise to the chorus of myriad birds is a delight. Where else can I have fresh avocado for breakfast every day of the month!

On the other hand, the widening economic gaps are evident. New large homes are being built while many individuals struggle

more than ever to provide food for their children. Whereas electricity for those who have it is more consistent, most still have none. Traffic is even more chaotic than two years ago, and walking the streets of the city requires more vigilance.

Tanzania is now feeling the repercussions of the 2008 economic downturn in Europe and North America. We are one world. Our commitment to just trade relations will have positive effects on Tanzania.

Yes, I still have much to learn from Tanzania in the way of generosity, patience, perseverance and valuing relationships.




STEWARDSHIP

How about that Pope Francis! Whether they are Catholic or not, people are noticing what he says, on most any topic, and liking it.

Pope Francis recently addressed ecological sensitivity, saying that societies ought to be investing in eco-friendly enterprises. His statement fits with our theme: **Stewardship** of the earth. The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns and *No Tan Lejos Del Horizonte* have provided pertinent articles (pages 4 and 5). Because Maryknollers walk with the people, they know that when the environment is exploited, the poor will suffer.

In this issue, Affiliates also tell us of their strong connections with Tanzania and of their concern for immigrants, and detainees, and the poor.

We encourage you to tell us about your Chapter's actions and concerns. We always appreciate your articles on any topic of interest to Affiliates. (The theme for the next issue is *Compassion*.) Please send your articles to nsfa@MaryknollAffiliates.org.

Feel free to comment on any article at notsofarfield.org. You can also share your ideas and experiences at www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates or at the web site: <http://www.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 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

Good news from Albany on MAC 2014! Our conference website, www.mac2014.org, is fully functional and ready for visitors. Look for links to Stony Point, biographical material on our keynote speaker, Father John Sivalon, and more. Most important, the registration instructions and form are available. We strongly encourage Affiliates to register as soon as possible; early registration will help us to gauge the attendance as we progress with planning.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who submitted materials for the DVD on Affiliates' activities. Many Chapters from every area of the US and several foreign countries sent a variety of materials which will become an important feature of the Conference.

Work continues; note the Scholarship Announcement on page 3, and look for updates in future issues of *Not So Far Afield* and on the MAC 2014 website. 

Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson

David Stocker

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

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

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

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BRINGING HOPE AND FRIENDSHIP TO DETAINEES

Pat Bader - Seattle Chapter

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) is the national network of the US immigration detention visitation movement. In contrast to prisoners in the US prison system who have certain rights, detainees can be locked up indefinitely. They have no right to an attorney, no right to a visitor, and no right to a free phone call. Nearly half of these individuals will be transferred between detention facilities, far from home, without family and friends being informed. They are shackled, put on a bus, and not told where they are going.

The visitation program matches detainees who have asked for visits with screened volunteer visitors. In many cases, detainees are in a detention center far away from their family and friends, so they seldom have visitors. The volunteer visitor's role is one of friendship, goodwill, and concern for the detainee. The visitor meets with the detainee at least twice a month for as long as the detainee is held at the Detention Center.

After taking a tour of the facilities, I volunteered with the Visitation Program for the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, WA. The Geo Group, under contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), operates it as a for-profit facility. With nearly 1,600 detainees, this facility is one of the largest in the country. ICE spends over two billion dollars a year on the US detention program.



Photographing detainees is not allowed.

I visited two detainees, both from Central America. Pablo (not his real name) came to the US in the early 1990s as a political refugee and worked most recently at a computer/electronics shop. He has a wife and three children in the US. He was stopped for a minor traffic violation—a broken taillight—and was

taken into custody. He hoped he would be released quickly because he feared for his life if he were to be deported to his country. After about four months, he was deported, and I am concerned about his safety in his country of origin.

Juanita (not her real name) has three adult children and six grandchildren, all living in the US, most of whom are US citizens. She had document irregularities with some showing her maiden name and some her former

married name. She was detained and then moved to a facility over 1000 miles way from family. We visited for a couple months, and then one day she said she had been Informed of her upcoming deportation. She had tears in her eyes; she realized she would only see her children and grandchildren if they traveled to visit her in Central America. After getting to know her, it was also a sad day for me.

Although some detainees are granted their freedom through the US courts, about 400,000 are deported each year. One detainee from Eastern Europe finally was released from the NWDC after 18 months in confinement. A fellow volunteer visitor developed a bond with her that has endured since her release.

Comprehensive immigration reform is needed to assure human rights to immigrants. The visitation program gives detainees hope and encouragement throughout their confinement. For more information about the program or to become a volunteer visitor at a Detention Center, please go to CIVIC's website: www.endisolation.org.



MAC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2014

As in 2011, Maryknoll Affiliates Conference (MAC) 2014 attendees may apply for a "Conference Fee and Travel Scholarship." The scholarship program is made possible by your generous funding of Affiliate operations the past few years (and our Executive Coordinators' careful management of your dollars), along with funds provided by the Congregation and Society.

The goal of the program is to encourage representation from as many as possible of the over fifty Affiliate chapters located in the US and around the world. We also hope that, with scholarship assistance, individuals who have not yet had an opportunity to attend an international conference will be able to do so.

With scholarship funds limited, we ask applicants to explore and consider all possible funding sources that may be available to them. In 2011, over twenty attendees benefited from Scholarship assistance; we hope that as many or more will be assisted through the 2014 program.

The application form can be accessed at www.MAC2014.org. Applications are due by January 15, 2014. Email your completed form to Dave Schaffner, at dschaffn@calpoly.edu. Depending upon funding availability, applications may be accepted after the January 15th deadline.



TIME FOR FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT*

Edited by David Stocker

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is the first national church to divest from fossil fuel companies. Jim Antal, president of the Massachusetts conference of the UCC, said, “We can’t continue to profit from wrecking God’s creation—not through our pensions, not through our endowments, not by our personal investments.” Universities, religious institutions, local governments, and other investors are reevaluating the social cost of fossil fuel industries.

Chuck Collins, senior scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C., has written, “Divestment is not simply an economic strategy, but also a moral and political one. If slavery is wrong, is it wrong to make a profit from it? If apartheid is wrong, is it wrong to make a profit from it? If it is wrong to wreck the planet, then it is wrong to profit from it.”

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, whose watershed article, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math,” appeared last year in *Rolling Stone* magazine, draws attention to mathematical and scientific realities of global warming. He focuses on the asymmetrical effects of liberating carbon from organic compounds banked by the planet over millions of sunny days. Releasing that carbon to the atmosphere by combusting fossil fuels is having a massive and irreversible impact and will alter life on earth.

Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry spends \$440,000 each day lobbying Congress to maintain its profitability and to marginalize alternative technologies. The industry is pro-active in chartering foundations and funding laboratories that produce flawed science dressed up to look like objective academic analysis. Environmentalists have termed this “fracademia.”

Far more is spent searching for new sources and new means of extracting oil and natural gas. If corporations extracted, refined and sold for consumption only what they already have in reserves, the resulting rise in global temperature would produce catastrophic results for all life on the planet. The business model

of fossil fuel extraction is incompatible with the future of humanity. Yet, at the bottom line, it is consumer demand that motivates the fossil fuel industry; running our cars and appliances, heating our homes, bringing food to the table, and waging war. Would we be happy using sun and wind power if we could imagine the life style changes that significantly reducing fossil fuel consumption will require?

McKibben, Antal, Collins, and others now challenge faith-based organizations to make their substantial portfolios reflect a sane destiny for the people of earth. This powerful long-term strategy takes a page from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement for justice in Palestine. Divestment must be engaged in conjunction with local direct action and community-based solutions to impact the root causes of the climate crisis. Groups like Rising Tide, an intercontinental network of grassroots

groups, believes that to build the climate justice movement, we can have no keystone – no singular solution, campaign, project, or decision maker. All people of conscience are urged to find a local environmental action group and to become informed.

Universities and faith-based organizations are called to the forefront of the campaign against climate change. Students at hundreds of universities are building pressure upon their trustees to divest from fossil fuel corporations, with early successes at Hampshire and Unity colleges. It is essential that this growing campaign succeed.

The UCC’s courageous divestment from fuel stocks is a rational economic and political act based on the morality of spending and investment. We need to shift money away from the profit-driven fossil fuel sector to better alternatives if we want humanity’s children and grandchildren to have a chance at a decent life. As McKibben says, “You can have a healthy fossil fuel industry or a healthy planet, but you can’t have both.”

**This article originally appeared on the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns website at <http://www.maryknollogc.org/article/time-fossil-fuel-divestment-campaign>.*



Releasing carbon to the atmosphere by combusting fossil fuels is having a massive and irreversible impact and will alter life on earth.



ECOLOGY AND SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Andrea Linares - Guatemala Chapter

[This article first appeared in Spanish, in the May 2013 issue of No Tan Lejos del Horizon.]

Creation is the beginning of our faith and an alliance between the Creator and the created. Genesis (the origin) discloses the creative process of the universe, "our home." The word ecology originates from the Greek "oikos" which means "Common House," "Home," "A Place to Live"—where humans collaborate responsibly with the natural world and walk into the future as a sacred community. Many years ago, the Greeks called the land Gaia from the words for "live" and "house" because they saw it as a place where people are known for creating harmonious relations between themselves and the Earth.

Actually, we humans are "violating the inalienable rights" given to us by the Creator. It is society's duty to respect them, putting aside privilege and personal rights. The conquest and exploitation of the resources that Mother Earth provides us have threatened the environment's capacity to support us. Those with economic power do not want to change the economy's structure because they don't believe the warning signs. They continue stimulating consumption and a use-and-discard attitude, producing more, thus polluting the water, the rivers, the earth, the sea...

This crisis is an opportunity to look around and review our relationship with God and nature. We must stop seeing God as not of this world, a being separate from nature. God is within each one of his creatures, a permanent source of life. To destroy nature is to destroy something given life by God. Nature is a sacrament of God who expects from us contemplation, gratitude, and praise for life and our common dwelling place.

Our mission is to look about from a spirituality like that of St. Francis of Assisi, recognized by the Catholic Church as the Patron of Ecology. On November 29, 1979, John Paul II announced that the "Song of the Creatures" should be preserved so that now and in the future, it will draw attention to our relationship with our common dwelling place.

At Easter in 1225, with this song, Saint Francis proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection and his Hallelujah that Christ reconciled and gave peace in his cross to the people, the stars, the creatures, plants, and nature. This Canticle should be internalized in order to assume an austere life, avoiding consumerism, profits, and luxury, and, above all, to seek community to strengthen supportive relationships.

**THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES***

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
 All praise is Yours, all glory, honor and blessings.
 To you alone, Most High, do they belong;
 no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
 We praise You, Lord, for all Your creatures,
 especially for Brother Sun,
 who is the day through whom You give us light.
 And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
 of You Most High, he bears your likeness.
 We praise You, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars,
 in the heavens you have made them bright,
 precious and fair.
 We praise You, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air,
 fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
 by which You cherish all that You have made.
 We praise You, Lord, for Sister Water,
 so useful, humble, precious and pure.
 We praise You, Lord, for Brother Fire,
 through whom You light the night.
 He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.
 We praise You, Lord, for Sister Earth,
 who sustains us
 with her fruits, colored flowers, and herbs.

**The complete prayer may be found at prayerfoundation.org/canticle_of_brother_sun.htm and at notsofarafield.org.*

THE RANDOMNESS

Anita Bright – Professor, Portland State University

A poetic reflection on her 2013 visit to Tanzania

Through an accident of birth, I am wealthy with unearned privilege. And where do I keep my privilege? Am I carrying it in my wallet? Am I harboring it in my backpack? Have I hidden it within an interior pocket of my shirt, specifically intended to keep things safe? Where is my privilege, and am I doing a good job of keeping it masked?

No, I'm not. It's no secret, this accident of birth, no matter how I might try to convince myself.

I wear this unearned privilege, my accident of birth, like a flashing, aggressively Las-Vegas-lit neon sign, unable to be shrouded or stilled. My intentionality is for naught. My purposefully unpolished toenails; my purposefully plain haircut; my purposefully simple garments. My privilege is evident everywhere, coming off me in waves. My privilege shows. I am my privilege.

My unearned privilege shows in the quality and quantity of my shoes, three pairs for this trip alone.

My unearned privilege shows in my documents, my passport thickened with evidence of other, earlier journeys similar to but different from this one.

My unearned privilege shows in my face, my 44-and-a-half year old face, mostly unlined thanks to daily sunscreen for the last two decades, and lots of indoor work.

My unearned privilege shows in my teeth, beneficiaries of my lifelong access to regular dental care.

My unearned privilege shows in my body, thickened with adipose tissue that is a testament to my lifetime of abundant access to food.

My unearned privilege shows in my resistance to infectious diseases, my body girded and guarded through my series of injections and tablets before I set forth.

My unearned privilege shows in my very presence in this space, having comfortably crossed borders and oceans and continents to stand in this spot to now breathe this air and now hear this music.

And most vividly, my unearned privilege shows in my eyes, I know it does, as I shatter with sorrow and outrage as I contemplate the randomness of my unearned privilege. I am newly humbled in each moment.



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

"Comfort, give comfort to My people," says your God.—Isaiah 40:1

AFFILIATES CONNECT WITH REFUGEES THROUGH ESL

Patricia Roehrig – Greater Milwaukee Chapter

St. Michael's faith community is a very welcoming and alive community with a unique multicultural and multilingual spirit. Readings and music at liturgies are inclusive of the new languages. The primary ethnic groups in these past years have been Lao, Hmong, Mexican, Puerto Rican, African-American, and Euro-American. More recently, Karen, Karenni, and Chin ethnic families have joined us from Myanmar/Burma and the refugee camps in Thailand.

Many of the refugees spent ten plus years in the camps. Life there meant the lack of sufficient food, especially nutritious food, and not enough bamboo to build their huts. The tens of thousands of people living in the camps lacked medical care and educational possibilities. And leaving the camp for any reason brought with it the very real possibility of arrest by the Thai military.

One reason refugees are fleeing from Myanmar to the camps is the extensive presence of landmines. A number of our refugee family members have been



Photos courtesy of Jackie Maggiore

Alice Murray tutors Lili Paw.

blinded and/or have lost limbs in landmine explosions. They also flee the constant direct military tactics and the Burmese determination to deny the smaller ethnic groups access to education and health care.

Several Maryknoll Affiliates in Milwaukee, Wisconsin have recently become actively involved in serving immigrant refugees at St. Michael's Parish, located in our central city.

St. Michael's began offering these refugees adult ESL classes in October 2011, but changed to one-on-one tutoring as of June 2013. We realized that students were no longer coming for classes because of getting jobs and because they were frustrated by the difficulty of learning a new language. We have found that the one-on-one tutoring better suits their needs. Their needs range from learning our alphabet to more advanced study for the citizenship exam. This complex group of refugee families speaks several dialects. This necessitates different interpreters.

of multiple other details. Jackie recently made the observation that "it is interesting that our Milwaukee Affiliate group has never decided to do a group project yet here we are individually choosing to volunteer with the St. Michael's refugees." We are called!



Ralph Robers work one-on-one with his student.



Lori Robers tutors her ESL student.

Our ESL students (25 at this time) are matched with volunteers from six urban and suburban Catholic parishes. Most of our current 19 teachers are retired from various professions; two are currently full-time nurses, and one is a recent graduate of Marquette University. These teachers include Maryknoll Affiliates **Alice Murray, Lori Robers, and Ralph Robers.** [See photos] **Patricia Roehrig**, also an Affiliate, coordinates the program.

Within this past year we have changed our Affiliate meeting location from individual homes to participating in the multilingual Mass at St. Michael's, followed by our gathering in the parish library.

St. Michael's has been a blessing for so many refugees beginning with the original German immigrants 130 years ago; our faith community continues to be a blessing for our new immigrants from Myanmar. The immigrants are an equal blessing for our St. Michael's faith community, bringing hope and God's wondrous expression in each one of the People of God. It is also a blessing for our Milwaukee Maryknoll Affiliates, for in our participation at St. Michael's and in our

Needs that have surfaced through our ESL classes include optical, dental, prosthetic, and other serious medical issues, and Social Security and immigration issues. The St. Michael's Pastoral Minister, Sr. Alice Thepouthay, SCSJA, is very involved with addressing these needs, as well as other basic needs, such as finding apartments, furniture, bedding, and household items. Maryknoll Affiliate **Jackie Maggiore** is currently accompanying one of our refugees through the SSI process, which includes making appointments, arranging for an interpreter, driving, and taking care



service to the refugees, we also become a part of the Karen, Chin and Karenni families.



Lori Robers – tutor and friend

MORE CHAPTERS IN ACTION – PAGES 8-9

MWANZA AFFILIATES

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

It is especially good when Maryknollers come together. Taking an evening from their busy lives, Affiliates in Mwanza, Tanzania, welcomed us three Affiliates from Portland, Oregon: **Mary and Manny Hotchkiss, and Bertha Haas**. Bertha already knew some of the Mwanza Affiliates from her nine years in Mwanza as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner.

Secondary schools are taught in English in Tanzania; several of the Affiliates were secondary teachers or other professionals and were comfortable with our English. As young women, many of them had attended Rosary College, which Maryknoll Sisters had organized in Tanzania. We all introduced ourselves and shared something about our lives. As the principal at a girl's school, one Affiliate invited us to visit her school the next day.



Photo by Manny Hotchkiss

Maryknoll Affiliates Mwanza Chapter and visitors, July 2013

Standing l-r: Nicas Nibengo, Revocatus Mugyabuso, Bertha Haas, Agnes Medard, Yacobo Chacha, Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss. Seated: Shukrani Nibengo and daughter, Constansia Mbogoma, Mary Mujermula, Elizabeth Bushiri, Magdalena Bariti, Not in picture: Jocelyn Juma and Manny Hotchkiss

We shared what it means to be Maryknoll Affiliates:

- We come together in love, to share, enjoy each others company, exchange ideas, and celebrate.
- The Maryknoll Sisters in particular have given us love and education, and now we are able to give it to others.
- It encourages me to help the needy.
- Maryknoll Affiliates are like a yeast that helps the whole area.
- I'm not alone. We're strong when we're together.
- The spirituality is most important to me.

We prayed, sang, and enjoyed the best home-cooked food we'd had in Tanzania. The Tanzanian/Maryknoll hospitality made it good to be there.



FATHER PRICE CHAPTER EVENTS

Jan Howard and Gaye Hieb – Fr. Price Chapter

Our Father Price "Meet & Greet" at St. Therese Catholic Church on August 14 was a huge success! In the African tradition, if it rains at your special event, it's supposed to be a sign of good luck. We certainly felt we had that.

Our "Family Day Camp" started in the morning at St.



Photos courtesy of Gaye Hieb

Therese Catholic Church Fellowship Hall, on the beach at Wrightsville Beach, NC. **John and Mary Moritz**, our Regional Coordinators from Jacksonville, Florida,

A young participant and John Moritz prepare for beach fun.



helped with tasks such as kite assembly, arts and crafts, and bubble-blowing. Affiliates **Selena, Debbie, Rosita,**

and **Sabine** all helped with specific endeavors while we awaited the arrival of the families who were coming to enjoy a luncheon, a day at the beach, kite-flying, and certainly, riding the waves.



A joyful gathering of Day Campers.



Bob Short, left, meets and greets members of Fr. Price and Comunidad Misionera de Santa Maria Chapters.

ALONG THE WAY

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

In mid August of this year I took a road trip from Boston to Wilmington, NC, and visited Affiliates, MOGC Office personnel, and other Maryknollers along the way. Looking back on the wonderful adventure and the images that move in and out of my mind’s recollection, a grateful smile comes over me thinking about the people I met and the things we talked about. I can honestly say that, without exception, even a single exception, I was encouraged and moved by the hospitality, dedication and goodness I saw and felt each day along the way.

I was proud to so often sit in on conversations and service initiatives wrapped in a worldview that would seem strange, if not outright anomalous, in the mainstream marketplace (and Congress). Sometimes we can take each other for granted. We get used to each other’s genuine striving, global vision and kindness. Looking in from the outside, those good things couldn’t elude me.

A line from the emeritus Brazilian Bishop, Dom Pedro Casaldáliga’s “*Questions for Climbing and Descending Mount Carmel*” comes to mind:

*If in the face of the empire
You surrender hope and truth
Who will proclaim the mystery
Of utter freedom*

No one I met along the way had surrendered hope or truth. It was obvious to me in quiet, small ways and, once in awhile, in roaring, big ways, that mystery was being proclaimed every day in the face of the power brokers.

Along the way, these things happened. That phrase strikes me as better usage than “taking a trip.” It seems to slow things down and allow us to be present and more attentive to each other and the world around us. It helps us, as Casaldáliga said in another stanza, “...to hear the voice of the Wind.”



SHARE YOUR SKILLS?

The Maryknoll Affiliates need volunteers with web skills (or the willingness to learn a few) for posting and maintenance. For more information, please contact Bob Short at inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

The Outreach Committee of St. Therese provided a special luncheon, as well as bags of school supplies. All 37 guests enjoyed the festivities before the rains descended on us. St. Therese Catholic Church has been a generous friend to us for many years, and this event proved no exception.

The evening concluded with our scheduled pool party being moved into the hosting hotel due to the torrential rain. Change for Change donations supplied the hors d’oeuvres for the gathering.

We were joined by Comunidad Misionera de Santa Maria, the Hispanic Affiliate chapter from St. Mary Catholic Church, in welcoming the new Affiliate Executive Director, **Bob Short**. This small and intimate “Meet & Greet” gave everyone an opportunity for a lovely getting-to-know-you experience. Sadly, some of our affiliate members could not attend due to flooding of low-lying areas.

Before leaving town, Bob, Mary, and John made time to see **Anne Hamilton** and **Eileen Dickinson**, long-time supporters of Maryknoll and original Father Price Chapter members, who now live at a nearby nursing home. We felt very blessed to have our national and regional leaders visit our area.



Bob Short and John and Mary Moritz visit Ann Hamilton and Eileen Dickinson.

SCARY CHOOS: A MISSIONER’S TALE

Veronica Holland – Maryknoll Lay Missioner*
and Seattle Affiliate

Immediately after orientation, I was off to Language School in Musoma, Tanzania, to learn Kiswahili. It was to be three months of only classes. Our meals, laundry, and room cleaning were taken care of. Father Ed, director of the language school, also found little jobs for us to do. Mine was to help a young teacher, “Martha,” complete her student visa application so that she could begin graduate school in the US. In spite of a spotty Internet, detailed visa questions, and a new fee payment system, the application was finally submitted and visa application interview requested. Only two months remained for the interview, getting plane reservations, and packing to leave.

“Martha,” her two young boys, and her husband live in Mwanza, which was my designated mission site. We met several times to talk about entering the United States—what the process was and just anything she could think to ask. “Will they have someone who can cut my type of hair?”, “Will I be able to get any familiar food?”, “What kind of diseases do they have there?” (Is there malaria, yellow fever?)

What I could not prepare her for was the separation from her children. After she went to the US, I invited them to come to my house so that we could “Skype.” After the first Skype date, the children said, “if I can’t see Mama for real, I don’t want to just see a picture.” The sacrifice is on both sides; hopefully, the benefit of getting her Master’s will be worth the separation.



Photo by Veronica Holland

Martha’s husband and sons visit Veronica to Skype with Martha.

But almost every Saturday, when we have electricity, they take a bus ride for one-and-a-half hours to Skype for 45 to 60 minutes. At home they have no electricity, nor indoor plumbing. One Saturday the boys needed to ‘make themselves comfortable’ and asked to go outside. That is the literal translation of *I Have to GO* in

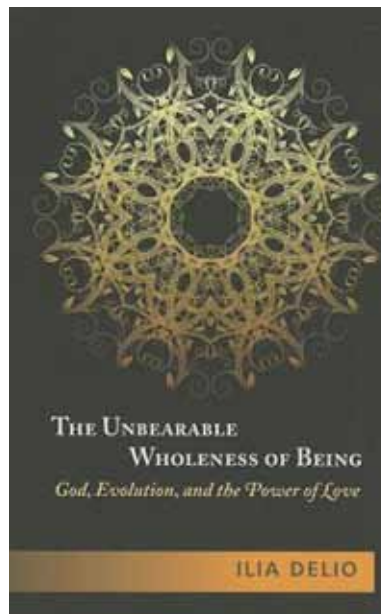
Swahili. So I said, “Use the choo inside,” and showed the young boys into the toilet. After a few minutes, I offered to drive them home. Five minutes down the road, Dad said we needed to stop. The boys had to go, again? Apparently my Western toilet had been as scary to them as the African squatting toilet is to me. After that it was a calm ride home to their beautiful valley surrounded by rock gardens.

*Veronica is now in the US recovering from a medical condition.



**THE UNBEARABLE WHOLENESS OF BEING,
A REVIEW**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter



Encouraged by Seattle Affiliates Roger and Kitty Schiltz’s emphatic endorsement, I bought the book, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love*, by Ilia Delio, from Orbis. Meditating over it page by page, over several months, I am continuing to be blown away by her explanation of Teilhard de Chardin’s writings on evolution and love.

I think her grand view fits well with a mature ongoing search for the Other.

I subsequently learned that Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, is a well-known speaker and author with multiple books and articles. This August, at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Assembly 2013, she emphasized love and authenticity and listed some Lessons from the Book of Nature:

- “We live in an unfinished universe....
- Life is dynamic, adaptive and creative.....
- Openness is the mark of biological evolution....
- Beware of balance, stasis or perfect harmony....
- Recover the capacity for wonder and awe....
- God is the divine depth of love in every living thing, the fountain of fullness of love.”

I urge you to read her Orbis book and contemplate God’s powerful, evolving love.



RIP – SUZANNE COLLINS

Seattle Affiliate **Suzanne Collins** made her final journey home on Monday, September 2nd. Fr. Tom Marti, MM, presided at the celebration of her life at St. John Vianney Church, in Kirkland, WA. Born August 31, 1926, in Dunsmuir, California, Suzanne grew up in Woodland, CA, and graduated from the University of Nevada.

At their recent Seattle Chapter meeting, affiliates shared their own special memory of Suzanne: “Little wisp of a woman; she was determined to attend Maryknoll Affiliate meetings; she made you feel special; she was a living example of turning ‘lost’ desires into new opportunities, especially teaching ESL at local libraries; she knitted hats for missions; she was an artsy dresser; she celebrated her 87th birthday in the hospital; she always had a sparkle in her eye; she was spunky; she had smiles for all.”



We will all remember her many cheerful greetings, warm smile, twinkling eyes, and the way she always made us feel so special. Suzanne will be dearly missed.



**B&B
WITH A
MISSION**



Mary Lou Doran, a strong advocate for Maryknoll who has worked for the Maryknoll Mission and Education Department, is serving travelers and helping Fr. John Barth MM. All the profits from her Bed & Breakfast in Buckeye, AZ, will go to support Fr. John Barth’s mission in South Sudan. Maryknoll Affiliates and college students may know Mary Lou from her many years at the Maryknoll Call and Response house she hosted in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Bed & Breakfast location: 35 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport in Buckeye, AZ. Rooms are available by week or month, November 2013 through April 2014. Contact Mary Lou Doran: 623 695 6932 or marilu85029@yahoo.com.



NEWS FROM THE KNOLL

NEW DVD. “*Trailblazers in Habits* documents great women doing great things,” headlines an on-line *National Catholic Reporter* article and slideshow – <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/trailblazers-habits-documents-extraordinary-women-doing-extraordinary-things>. It highlights a new video of the Maryknoll Sisters’ trailblazing exploits. Over 160 on-line responses to the NCR article show that the Maryknoll women’s stories still inspire and touch readers.

The entertaining feature-length DVD is well worth purchasing. Its web site, trailblazersinhabits.com, provides over 20 minutes of spellbinding video clips of the Sisters working overseas, first in China, and in the US, at Japanese internment camps during World War II and integrating a hospital in Kansas City in the 1950s.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION. A Youtube video shows Sr. Janice McLaughlin, MM, at the induction of the Maryknoll Sisters’ founder, Mother Mary Joseph, into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY, October 12, 2013. Mother Mary Joseph was recognized as a woman of extraordinary vision and drive. Sr. Janice’s 10 minute presentation comes after 2:09:30 in the 3-hour video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7Sf6Zt7ExM&feature=share&t=20m33s. She thought Mother Mary Joseph would say that this honor celebrates, “Women everywhere who strive to make the world better for all.” Following a custom initiated by Mother Mary Joseph, Sr. Janice invited attendees to enjoy the feast day of their patroness, St. Teresa of Avila, with an ice cream sundae.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Fortin, who died on August 18. For nearly 70 years, she served in the Philippines, Hong Kong, El Salvador, and the US, as a teacher, principal, liaison for crippled children, and as “front door” minister.

Sr. Blanche Thiel, who was 87 when she died on August 29. In her 64 years with Maryknoll, she was dietitian, public health researcher, hospital pastoral care worker and more, in MO, OH, NY, HI, and CA.



Sr. Mary Driscoll, of Portland, OR, who died at 90 on October 2. In her 70 years in Maryknoll, she taught in HI, NY, CA, and KY; served in several novitiates and in leadership positions. She retired in 2010 in Monrovia, CA, then in 2013 moved to the NY Sisters’ Center.



What's Inside?

Reflections on My Return to Huruma 1

Stewardship.....2

MAC 2014 Update/ MAC Scholarships Available for 2014.....2/3

Bringing Hope and Friendship to Detainees.....3

Time for Fossil Fuel Divestment4

Ecology and Saint Francis of Assisi.....5

The Randomness6

Affiliates Connect with Refugees through ESL.....6

Mwanza Affiliates.....8

Father Price Chapter Events8

Along the Way9

Scary Choos: A Missioner's Tale 10

The Unbearable Wholeness of Being, A Review 10

News Items: RIP – Suzanne Collins, B&B with a Mission, News from the Knoll..... 11

