



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

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HAVE YOU SEEN *JUSTICE FOR MY SISTER*?

Kathee Hennigan Bautista – Greater LA Chapter

One joy of being an Affiliate is walking together in the expression of our Global Vision pillar. Sometimes we support one another without fully realizing the full extent of our contributions. One project that Affiliates have encouraged has blossomed into a multinational campaign to eliminate domestic violence.

My daughter, Kimberly Bautista, is an activist filmmaker. Since the Greater Los Angeles Chapter was an early contributor during a kick-starter campaign, she shared a screening of a rough cut of her documentary film, *Justice for My Sister*, at the Western Regional Affiliate Conference in San Diego in 2010. The film explores the problems of femicide (murder of women) and impunity in Guatemala by following the lead character, Rebeca, as she seeks justice for the murder of her sister. A rich discussion was held after the screening regarding the themes in the film. As a result several Affiliates made financial contributions towards the completion of the film.

Since that time, Kimberly has built a network of advocates, in both Guatemala City and Los Angeles, who pair the presentation of the film with workshops on violence prevention, positive communication and relationships, reframing masculinity and breaking the cycle. Presentations have been made in over 160 communities in Guatemala in addition to screenings around Los Angeles and in 13 countries on four continents. Kimberly is now on a five-country tour of Central America, screening the film and participating in panel discussions with community organizations, law enforcement officers, students, various embassies, and the United Nations Women's Organization. UN Women is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Movies that Matter from the Netherlands, partnering with Guatemalan Aquí Entre Hombres, is the current funder of Justice for My Sister Collective's campaign to redefine masculinity with the Guatemalan organization.

The film-based campaign has expanded to include a text messaging program in Guatemala to connect audiences to services. Kimberly is currently working on a web-based project that spotlights the stories of women who have transformed their lives following experiences of gender-based violence. Their stories serve as an inspiration to others to take steps to improve their life situation.

Justice for My Sister, well received as an anti-violence campaign, has been acclaimed at several film festivals. It recently won "Best Documentary" at film festivals in Los Angeles and Guatemala City; "Best Foreign Film" in Nevada; "Camera Justitia" in Holland and "Ojo Latinoamericano" in Bolivia.

The greatest impact of *Justice for My Sister* is that it resonates with the experiences of viewers. Individuals affected by violence identify with Rebeca, the protagonist in the movie. Her courage and personal transformation give hope and set the stage for individuals to reflect on actions that can be taken to improve the lives of women in their communities.

Joining Kimberly in 2011 on her first campaign in Guatemala, I was touched to meet Rebeca and her family and to share in their grief and recovery. I also participated in the vigil and march that are held annually on November 25, a Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women.



Kimberly Bautista (in hat) and Kathee Hennigan Bautista (middle) walk with Guatemalan activists.

Maryknoll Affiliates continue to support this film by promoting recent screenings. The Affiliates of Greater LA sponsored a screening at the Maryknoll Sister's residence in Monrovia. Affiliates in Guatemala spread the word about local screenings and Affiliate Ana

Lucía Ramazzini helped to organize and sponsor a screening through an advocacy network, including EducaGuatemala, of which she is a member.

I am personally inspired by the networking and solidarity Affiliates have shown by supporting this project through prayer, financial contributions, encouragement, and viewing the film.



COMPASSION

Compassion. It's the theme of this issue, and the emphasis of Phase One of the JustFaith program. Compassion is a missionary's hallmark and the first step to loving service. Appropriately, compassion is evident in the articles in this issue.

We feel a special compassion for Fr. Jim Madden who has done so much to spread and support the Affiliate Movement. A few years ago we roasted Sr. Ellen MacDonald as the mother of the Affiliate Movement. Jim Madden, who was co-coordinator with Ellen, should be considered our father. Remember him in your prayers as he deals with his illness.



Did you remember the Affiliates in your New Year's resolutions? Are you a Facebook aficionado? Affiliates can post, like, and comment at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates Could you help with our web page or newsletter? Perhaps you have a great Affiliate meeting topic to share with us for an EZ meeting for the NSFA (see the centerfold article)? Do mission from the comfort of your home! Contact us at inquiry@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.

THANK YOU, AFFILIATES!

David Schaffner – Board Finance Committee

For the third consecutive year, your contributions have fulfilled our budgeted goal of around \$21,000. This budget funds operations, the only section of the budget pie the Affiliates provide. Our Maryknoll partners—the Society, Congregation, and Lay Missioners—pay for the Executive Coordinator's salary and benefits.

This year, the Annual Appeal received over 190 responses, an increase of over sixty percent from three years ago! It is most heartening to see this increase, which occurred at all levels of participation. My take on the increase is that you see the Affiliates as an important part of your faith and life journey.

For 2014, our budget goal is a modest \$20,600. These funds cover the daily necessities of the Affiliate movement at the international level: travel for our Executive Coordinator, Bob Short; publication of *Not So Far Afield*; and other necessary expenses. Your contributions, in addition to the generosity that you show both locally and globally, keep the Affiliates robust.

The 2014 Appeal Letter and form were mailed in late October. We hope you have responded or have them in a place where they will float up to the top of your to-do list. If you do not have them, the letter and form are on our website, www.maryknollaffiliates.org. If the phone is easier for you, call the Fathers and Brothers at 1.888.627.9566 and say that you are giving to the Affiliates Mission Account 4014. Thanks for the ways that you give.



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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“Who do you say that I am?”**US AND THEM**

Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –
Portland Chapter

Have you met the *thems*? Did *they* speak another language? Do *they* have AIDs? Do *they* observe another faith? Are *they* mentally ill, immigrants, disabled, homosexual, felons, or a different race or economic class?

The Maryknoll Affiliate Mission Statement asks us to cross borders, geographic and otherwise. The Maryknoll Lay Missioners say they build bridges connecting us to others.

During our brief time with Bertha Haas in Mwanza, Tanzania, she told us that when she was a Lay Missioner through 2011, she saw disabled children being regarded as *them*. That treatment inspired her to found the Huruma Centre School for handicapped children. David and Caitlin Rosser, MKLM, carry on her work.

Some parents from an adjacent school asked Caitlin, “Will my child get sick if he plays with *them*?” A principal at a public school was incredulous when she saw that a young girl with misshapen arms was not only able to type on a keyboard but could actually read what she typed. Some other Tanzanians doubted that any teachers would be willing to work with disabled children not their own.

At a local parish, special liturgies, such as a blessing of the disabled children, helped the parishioners to also see *them* as part of their community. Further acceptance occurred when the bishop approved First Communion for the Huruma children who understood the meaning of the sacrament.

Who are the *theys* in your community, in your life?

At the Huruma Centre, we were able to work and play with the students. At the end of the day Manny said, “I no longer see the children as handicapped. Each child is a unique individual, just a child.” Close contact made the children one of us, no longer a them.

In Tanzania, about one third of the population is Muslim. A teacher at a Tanzanian nursing school told me she didn’t want to have more than one Muslim student in her class or *they* would get together and cause trouble. However Fr. Jim Elbe, MM, working at a

parish in Mwanza, said, “We encourage parishioners to work with the Muslims as neighbors. The parish built a bathroom for a local public school which had none.” The whole community profited, Christian and Muslim. We talked with the leader of a jumuiya, a small Christian community, who shared his experience with Muslims on his street. He said, “One Muslim family is a good neighbor. Another woman in my jumuiya is married to a Muslim. He is a good husband and she is an active Catholic. She will host the next jumuiya meeting in their home.”



Is a person of another faith one of us, or one of *them*?

When we first arrived in Tanzania, traveling with our parish group, we were introduced to many local priests and seminarians, all with short hair and wearing cassocks. I often confused them and called them the wrong names. Two blonde women in our group complained that the Tanzanians also confused the

two of them. After we spent time together and got to know each other as individuals, black or white, we saw each other’s uniqueness and we all became us.

Who are the *theys* in our community, in our lives? The disabled, immigrants, homosexual, felons, or a different race or economic class? Our mission as Affiliates is to cross borders, wherever we are. *They* are waiting for us to cross that border, to build that bridge, to welcome *them* to become one of us.



FAB(ULOUS) TRIP TO KENYA

Kathie Gribble - Board Member, Fox Cities Chapter

These are just a few of the highlights of my Friends Across Borders (FAB) journey to Kenya with the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in September 2013. I think I have always wanted to visit Africa because I feel African music and dance express all the best emotions of life with the whole body. This trip immersed us in the lives of the people of Kenya in Eastern Africa and the ministries of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

In the Kitale area, I visited over tea and treats with five girls at the St. Monica Catholic girls' high school after their energizing, inspiring, Sunday Mass. I felt honored and privileged to spend quality time with these young women, to hear about their educational aspirations. I delighted in their interest in learning a bit about my life and what womanly wisdom I had to share. Their gift of some intricate red tree blossoms touched me deeply. One girl came to me as we were about to board the vans with the email and phone number of her parents so I could keep in touch. We all seemed to bond. I was so impressed by the disciplined behavior and hospitality of all the girls there.



Banking on Women micro-finance center

song and dance at the women's groups. I noted the organization, planning, and concrete vision of these groups, and was impressed with how they seemed to love working together as a team to help each other. Most surprising is that their work is supported and facilitated by a department of the diocese called Gender Department. The diocesan bulletin board had a large flier entitled "Women's Liberation." Not what I expected in Kenya! Hope and joy abounds from visiting these micro-finance projects of church groups.



Photos courtesy of Kathie Gribble

We also visited many classrooms at the public Weaver Bird School where John Korb MKLM teaches, meeting teachers and having lively interaction with the classes. We were hosted for afternoon tea and entertained by the youth group for whom John is the moderator. I was impressed again with the hospitality but also the dedication of the principal and teachers. I especially noted how respectful, caring, and grateful the students were toward their teachers and guests. A very simple lunch of beans, corn mush, and chopped greens was prepared in two giant cauldrons in a tiny room. Hundreds of children were well served every day from these very rudimentary facilities.

We went to Table Banking (micro-finance) meetings of groups of men and women of four parishes. They greeted us with enthusiasm as we arrived, and with



We toured three different types of clinics providing basic health care to the poorest settlements. As a former lab tech, I loved visiting the laboratories and observing procedures for testing for malaria and other diseases. Some of the facilities had small areas for maternity deliveries. I was surprised to learn that all nurses in Kenya are trained midwives. I witnessed comprehensive compassion at these well organized and clean facilities. Since the clients often don't know what causes their conditions, health education is a big part of treatment. The clinic staffs sometimes go into the community and find people suffering from conditions they don't realize can be healed or improved, especially epilepsy and HIV-AIDs.

In coastal Mombassa, Kenya, we went to the Mombassa Prison, where both men and women are incarcerated. Human dignity, transforming violent

behavior, and enabling treatment seemed to be the theme of this prison. Goals and values were written all over the walls of the entrance, but nothing about punishment. Maryknoll Lay Missioner Kurt Klueg facilitates the Alternative to Violence Program (AVP) at the prison. We learned that most in AVP are serving life sentences. It was phenomenal meeting with guards and prisoners and hearing of their experiences working together in AVP. Compassion and joy seem possible even in prison. These Kenyans focus on the innate goodness and dignity in every human person. This prison seemed a holy place—holier than most churches!

There was never a dull moment for me at the two-hour mass at the Klueg family's parish. Even though the singing at the mass was in Swahili, the passion and rhythm made me feel connected with the people, the prayer, and with our God. The liturgical dance up in front, the bringing up of gifts—donations and food for the poor, all the movement of hands and clapping just captivated me. I find myself trying to restrain myself from moving at home in Appleton, WI, as I sing at Mass. How can I keep from moving to the music? I guess I was made to engage my whole body like the Africans, but my German Irish heritage has kept me restrained all my life. I will miss most the lively liturgies of Kenya. How can I keep from dancing!



My experience of individual people in Kenya confirmed my sense that Africans are less inhibited by pretense and are more open to experience and appreciate any other person, any guests – especially ones different from themselves. I have seen how they help strangers and work together to survive in community. I don't think they would understand the degree to which our American culture values individual independence. I find myself envying those who are so community connected and supported. This Africa experience has made me more aware, more grateful, more

compassionate for needy people in my community, and more loving and hopeful for all of God's great diverse human situations and challenges.

Additional stories of Kathie's FAB trip organized by the Maryknoll Lay Missioners are at: <http://www.friendsacrossborders.org/newsroom/articles/richness-of-mission-life-in-kenya/>



EXCERPT FROM "THE PILGRIM"

by Josef Honerkamp*

What was the magic of their secret?

Was it the memory of the busy and noisy, strange City?

Was it the color and beauty of exotic flowers and sunsets?

Was it the unbelievable sweetness and richness of wines grown and ripened on the other side of the globe?

Was it the aftertaste of the spices which strange foods had left on their tongues?

What was it all about?

Was it the laughter echoing through their souls?

Was it a song, a melody?

Was it just a memory of the face they could not forget?

Was it a smile that had warmed their hearts?

Who will ever know?

So they returned to their cobblers' benches and broken shoes...

To their trading stores and wares...

To their oxen, ploughs, and farms...

To their sick-houses and their dying...

To their schools and books and students.

And it followed them.

Because now it had gone to their very center.

Somehow they lived on. But...sometimes they still wondered...and

THEY WERE NEVER THE SAME AGAIN!

* Maryknoll Lay Missioner, class of 1975, who served in Western Samoa, Bolivia, and the US



We offer these pages as a quick meeting format or for you to enjoy by yourself.



EASY MEETING: TRAILBLAZERS IN HABITS

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Preparation:

1. In your meeting announcement, suggest to chapter members that before the meeting they go to the DVD web site: trailblazersinhabits.com, and preview the video clips. Someone in your chapter might want to order and own the video and show it in its entirety at your gathering. The video could also be used later as part of an educational effort in your parish or school.
2. For background information, read the two short articles at <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/trailblazers-habits-documents-extraordinary-women-doing-extraordinary-things> and <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/sisterrosemovies/2013/10/my-interview-with-director-nancy-tong-on-the-innetwork/>
3. Read this page and preview the video clips online or on the DVD. Locations of the video clips on the DVD are noted in parentheses.
4. Equipment: If using video clips from the website, an Internet connection will be needed. Gathering around a computer screen may be adequate for a small group. A larger group could use a video projector or television. Determine what you will need and arrange to have the appropriate equipment and connecting cords available.
5. Test the equipment and Internet connection beforehand.

Photos courtesy of Jackie Maggione

MEETING PLAN

Opening Prayer: The following prayer is one option, or you may wish to read “the Prayer of St. Francis,” or select another prayer. One good source is *The Maryknoll Book of Prayer*, pp. 30 and 31.

Lord of all our troubled world:

*We pray for all who suffer,
for refugees and orphans,
for families disrupted by war.*

*We pray for church workers and missionaries,
for all who work with the afflicted.*

*Help us to work for justice,
without which we have no right to peace.*

—Sheila Cassidy, from *Good Friday People*, Orbis.

Viewing Clips/Discussion:

Each clip is about 2 minutes. We suggest several clips and discussion questions below, but all the clips are interesting.



6. On <http://trailblazersinhabits.com/clips/>, watch video clip #1 on the left. (DVD 34:40 - 36:40)

Discuss: What does this clip suggest to us in dealing with problems we encounter today?

Have you used an Easy Meeting? Tell us how it worked for you. Do you have any suggestions to improve the format?

Also, please share the topics and resources that led to an especially effective meeting for your chapter. We could feature them in future issues. Send to nsfa@maryknollaffiliates.org.

 FROM THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR'S DESK

GUATEMALA REVISITED



7. Watch Video clip #3. (DVD 39:00 - 44:35)

Discuss: Have you found yourself in a situation where people were experiencing discrimination?

What did you do? What could you have done?



8. Watch Clip #5. (DVD 14:13 - 17:47)

Discuss: How do we deal with other ethnic groups today? How do Maryknollers deal with them?



9. Watch Clip #6. (DVD 49:10 - 51:29).

Discuss: How or when have Maryknollers or the Maryknoll charism inspired you?

What new approaches to mission do we need to consider now?

Closing Prayer:

Reflect on the words of Mother Mary Joseph:

“God has yet a great work for us to do.”

Enjoy your community as is your practice.

In early November, I participated in the Latin American Maryknoll Society's Regional Assembly and Retreat. Also invited were Sr. Jane Buellesbach, representing the Maryknoll Sisters, and Sam Stanton and Fr. Bill Voss for the Lay Missioners. It was an especially positive meeting wherein Maryknoll hospitality, genuine collaboration and easy, unadorned camaraderie were manifestly present every day. We can't know for sure if this was a foretaste of things to come within Maryknoll, but it was very encouraging.

A unique expression of Guatemalan hospitality followed on Friday evening, toward the end of my stay, when Affiliate Board member and Guatemalan native, Patty Barneond Garcia-Tres came by the Center House to take me to dinner with her family. She drove her two sons, Ricardo and Diego, and me (her husband Ivan had to work late) through heavy Guatemala City traffic for close to two hours before—surprise!—we arrived at a picturesque mountain-top restaurant looking over the city of Antigua. I'm not sure if I was more surprised to be driven all the way to Antigua or that Ricardo and Diego didn't resent my causing them to take such a long ride. In fact, they couldn't have been more friendly and mature young men.

On Saturday, Fathers Juan Zuniga and John Spain invited the Guatemalan Affiliate Chapter to a social and dinner at the Center House. That chapter is perhaps the most generationally diverse of all chapters. Just before we ate together, Rosa Beatriz Castaneda de Larios, contact person for the Chapter and editor of the Spanish language Affiliate newsletter, *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, provided an overview of the many activities and projected plans for the group. For all of us, it was clear that Maryknoll's mission vision had already taken root in these Guatemalan Affiliates.

Having served in Latin America in the 80s and 90s, I was very aware of the violence and grave injustices that were happening throughout many Central American countries during those years, especially towards the indigenous peoples. I can only have a small sense of what that does to a people. However, on a few occasions, walking through the streets of the capital city, I thought I could see what I viewed many years ago: in many people's faces the same perseverance, courage and faith that speaks of the dignity of the human heart.—Bob Short



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

MKLM REVERSE MISSION IN CALIFORNIA

Paula Schaffner – CA Central Coast Chapter

Our chapter was blessed in November by a visit with Maryknoll Lay Missioners Kathy Bond and Flavio Rocha. We learned how they live in mission in Brazil and were inspired to find new ways to be missionaries in our own area. During and after a potluck dinner, they shared their experiences.

Kathy and Flavio discuss Brazil with Affiliates Joan Bogle, Margaret Mott, and Joyce Miller.



Photos by David Schaffner



Kathy and Flavio are long-time Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Sao Paulo. Kathy has been a Lay Missioner for 20 years and Flavio for 10. Meeting in Brazil, Flavio's native country, they married 13 years ago, and have a daughter, Maya, 8.

Kathy works with international women in prison, including giving classes on health issues.

Flavio participates in a holistic health center run by Franciscan (sisters?) women religious on the periphery of Sao Paulo, focusing on leadership formation. He uses The Theater of the Oppressed, created by the Brazilian Augusto Boal in the early seventies, to address individual and societal forms of oppression in a creative, non-violent way. They act out the problem and then elicit possible solutions from the audience, encouraging cooperative problem solving. He was surprised that even with the violence these people experience in their neighborhoods, they chose to address the need for better public transportation.



A MARYKNOLL-JUSTFAITH-MARYKNOLL STORY

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Being Maryknoll Affiliates has connected us with peace-building, so we were primed for the new JustFaith module, Just Peacemaking. Karen Bortvedt, who was back home visiting her parents and recuperating from a broken foot, also joined the group.



Photo courtesy of Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss

Karen, seated, center (blue sweatshirt), is surrounded by our Portland, OR, Just Peacemaking group.

When Maryknoll Lay Missioner, Cecilia Espinosa, came to Portland, we hosted a pot luck dinner for her and included Karen. Connecting with Cecilia's Maryknoll spirit and hearing the call of the Spirit, Karen Bortvedt applied to be a Lay Missioner. We now connect through her blog, thelifeandloveofkaren.blogspot.com/, as she begins her ministry with Maryknoll in Cambodia.

JustFaith Ministries (JFM) partners with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Maryknoll Affiliates and the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns. JustFaith program graduates are attracted to the Maryknoll charisms for peace and justice. Many Affiliates find JustFaith a way to extend our community and mission outreach.



During training in Ossining, NY, Karen talks with MA Board meeting attendee Paula Schaffner.



Photo courtesy of Paula Schaffner

KIRUMBA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Veronica Holland – Lay Missioner & Seattle Affiliate*

After arriving in Tanzania in early 2013, I began assisting at the Kirumba Vocational School at St. Joseph Parish, Mwanza, for teenagers who are not able to pursue further academic studies. They learn cookery, tailoring, knitting and embroidering, as well as hospitality, hotelier, and wait service, hoping these skills will help them get a job. Some students may intern as a hotel maid or wait staff person while continuing to take English and mathematics classes.

Prayers, in English, are part of the school routine, but the prayers are often not understood. I help translate prayers and lessons to Kiswahili because I have a dictionary, and they don't.

work without props and use notes copied from previous teachers' English copy, sometimes with misinformation and misspellings. The students copy the lessons from the board. Besides paying tuition, they have to buy their own books and uniforms.



Students cook up a feast.



Veronica helps students cook bondazis for the school's tea.

Each day the students have duties such as cleaning the classrooms or preparing tea and bondazi. Bondazi are similar to the raised donuts in the US, but they are fried in hot oil on a charcoal burner—indoors, with the windows open.

On Fridays, the students give the building a special cleaning: washing the floors, walls, and windows; cleaning the cobwebs from the outside of the building; and sweeping the school/church yard.

The sewing machines are treadle and many have missing parts. The students share measuring tapes and have to ask the principal for thread. They use the same machines to sew free-form embroidery on fabric stretched on hoops. The stitching width of the embroidery varies with each student's own rhythm.

The texts are in English. Often, even the teacher does not have the books listed on the syllabus. Teachers



Veronica in the sewing class at the Kirumba Vocational School

I was pleased that the cooking class covers basic nutrition, nutritional biology, and chemistry, i.e. proteins, carbohydrates, types of sugars and their sources. Describing metabolism in Kiswahili is a challenge. The word for metabolism is metibali, adapted from English.

One might wonder, "Why are classes taught in English?" Tanzania was an English protectorate until 1964 and has many tribal languages. As a unifying effort, Tanzania adapted both Kiswahili and English as national languages. Few textbooks are in Kiswahili, so most of the studies are in English. For many people, Kiswahili is a second language and English a distant third. The English teachers know much of the grammar but few of the colloquialisms and speak with Kiswahili pronunciation and accent. All of this is not surprising since it has been just 50 years since Tanzania became a country.



Editor's note: In July 2013, Manny Hotchkiss and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss were fortunate to visit Veronica and the hotelery class on the day she had arranged for a field trip to a local tourist hotel. The hotel manager spent 2 hours showing them every aspect of the hotel, stressing the importance of service, initiative, and attention to detail. We got the impression that these students had never even been in such an hotel. We were amazed at the resources and role model Veronica provided for the teachers and students.

**Veronica Holland is back in the US, recovering from a medical condition.*



CALL TO ACTION

Inspire Catholics, Transform Church

LIVING OUR BAPTISMAL CALL

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

The Call to Action Conference (C2A) in Milwaukee was a profound renewal of our baptismal call.

From Nancy Sylvester's pre-conference session on compassionate conversing, to Miriam Therese Winter's final keynote reminding us that though we have to live institutionally, we must never think institutionally, we were challenged to remember, "We are the Church." Therefore, although we can rejoice in the freshness of Pope Francis, it is we who will bring the changes we want to see in the church. There is no stopping the Holy Spirit if we will just align ourselves with her.

After elucidating Luke's portrayal of Jesus' Baptism, Megan McKenna posed the following for our nightly examination of conscience, "When did I give delight to God today?"

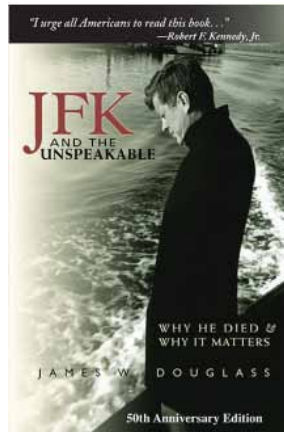
Teri Bays, music minister, queried our customary prayer and song, "Come, Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is already here. We don't have to call her to come. Instead: Holy Spirit, you are in our lives!



Paul Lakeland called on us all to agitate with our bishops for the opportunity to respond directly to the questionnaire to prepare for the synod on the family, not just for C2Aers, but for all the laity. Too many important issues are left out of the background paper: domestic violence, sexual abuse of children, alcoholism, machismo, human trafficking, etc. What can we do about this?

Of course, there were many other tantalizing sessions from which to choose. Roy Bourgeois was part of the panel on "The Future of Catholic Ministry" and stayed for the entire conference. The Maryknoll Sisters had a booth.

Altogether, the experience was marvelous and energizing.



PROJECT UNSPEAKABLE

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss –
Portland Chapter

Like many Affiliates, I have an indelible memory of hearing that President Kennedy had been shot. On November 22, 2013, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Kennedy's assassination, we and people across the country, including some at the SOA Watch Vigil in Columbus GA, attended Readers Theater performances of Project Unspeakable. ProjectUnspeakable.org was inspired by the Orbis hardcover book, *JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters*, by James W. Douglass.

The Simon and Schuster website for the paperback version of *JFK and the Unspeakable* warns, "He chose peace. They marked him for death." Jim Douglass explains that the term "unspeakable" comes from the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton. In the soul-shaking events of the 60s, "Merton sensed an evil whose depth and deceit seemed to go beyond the capacity of words to describe."

Project Unspeakable highlights similarities between the assassinations of JFK, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Robert Kennedy, all of which occurred within a period of 5 years, 1963 to 1968. Whether there are direct connections between these assassinations or not, evil is present today and there are still powers that respect no limits. I note the pattern of the American use of guns and violence.

Project Unspeakable supports and encourages further performances of their script and conversations about the unspeakable. Details are at their web site.

Margot Adler aired a segment on NPR about Project Unspeakable on Nov. 30: <http://www.npr.org/search/index.php?searchinput=Project+Unspeakable&date/d=0&programId=0>



OUR READERS COMMENT:

Nancy McFarland: Just wanted to let you know I appreciated your review of Ilia Delio's most recent book in NSFA. I've read and loved all 3 of her recent books. I think she is spot on! It's always nice to read a review that gets to the heart of a book.

Beth Begley: Kudos to the communication committee -- new online format for NSFA is very inviting and attractive. [Check it out at notsofarfield.org!]



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

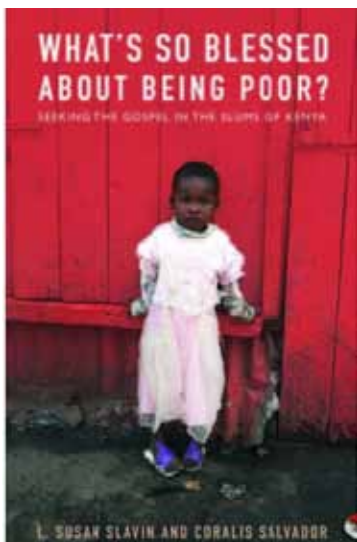
Fr. Jim Madden, who founded the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement with Sr. Ellen McDonald, has notified us that he has cancer and asks for our prayers. Father Jim has remained in close contact with the Affiliate family since stepping down from his leadership position and has continued to offer support to us on many, many levels. It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude to Jim or our concern in learning of this diagnosis. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you, Father Jim, throughout this time.

WHAT'S SO BLESSED ABOUT BEING POOR?

Reviewed by Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

Order this one now! (By L. Susan Slavin and Coralis Salvador, *Orbis*, 2013.) And while you're at it, order copies for your family and friends! You'll want to share it without losing your copy.

Let me confess right at the start that I read it because Coralis was my mentor and roommate during my language practice in Mombasa in 2003. This is a book you will not be able to put down—I read it in one evening. Its narrative style makes it easy to read on one level, but it will shake up your entire being and stick to you from the opening image of human waste squishing between your toes as you walk through the slums of Nairobi in sandals to Coralis' final reflection that "This is God's kingdom bearing the fruit of joy and unconditional love."



The book answers the title question by interviewing HIV/AIDS orphans and their guardians who have participated in the AIDS Orphan Project that Coralis, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, has administered from 2001 to the present. For example, "Kabeba believes that 'every day of life holds a purpose to fulfill. Each moment that I live is the blessing.'"

In addition, Coralis traces her spiritual development as she "becomes the hands of God" in her various ministries in Mombasa, Kenya.



Work continues on MAC 2014.

MAC 2014 UPDATE

We hope that by now you have visited the Conference website—www.mac2014.org, to check on its many features and links: the information concerning Registration, Conference Fee and Travel Scholarships, and much more. We especially urge all Affiliates to register for the Conference as soon as possible. Right now, the Conference may seem to be far off in the future, but we all know how quickly time flies. Before we realize it, the Conference will be only weeks or days away; don't be "caught" without your reservation—register now.



We have set three main goals for MAC 2014:

1. To provide education on a new understanding of mission. Fr. John Sivalon's keynote speech on Friday will address this topic.
2. To foster a greater connection with the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. To this end, Sam Stanton will lead a presentation on Saturday.
3. To increase general awareness of what is currently taking place in our various Affiliate Chapters. On Saturday, the DVD presentation utilizing materials submitted by Affiliate Chapters will help to attain this third goal.

Please keep checking the MAC 2014 website and future issues of *Not So Far Afield* for Conference updates.



SHARE YOUR SKILLS?

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

NEWS FROM THE KNOLL

Sr. Eleanor Keeney, who died on Nov. 29, was born in NJ, trained as a nurse and then joined Maryknoll in 1948. Her medical expertise took her to Ceylon, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and the US, where she established various programs: AIDS support, rural clinics, hospice, home care, and more.



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