



Not So Far Afield

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

July/August 2020

Volume 29 Number 4

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT WHITE PRIVILEGE?

Writing in the *National Catholic Reporter**, Father Bryan N. Massingale, professor of Theology at Fordham University, offers a daunting list of suggestions:

1. *Understand the difference between being uncomfortable and being threatened.* There is no way to tell the truth about race in this country without white people becoming uncomfortable. Because the plain truth is that if it were up to people of color, racism would have been resolved, over and done, a long time ago.
2. *Sit in the discomfort this hard truth brings.* Let it become agonizing. Let it move you to tears, to anger, to guilt, to shame, to embarrassment. Over what? Over your ignorance. Over the times you went along with something you knew was wrong.
3. *Admit your ignorance and do something about it.* Understand that there is a lot about our history and about life that we're going to have to unlearn. And learn over. Malcolm X said that the two factors responsible for American racism are greed and skillful miseducation. We have all been taught a sanitized version of America that masks our terrible racial history. (Massingale suggests that his book *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* is a good place to start.) Ask your bishop how anti-racism is part of your church leaders' formation for ministry.
4. *Have the courage to confront your family and friends.* I understand the desire to have peaceful or at least conflict-free relationships with family and friends. But as the Rev. Martin Luther King said so well, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Silence means consent. Or at least, complicity.
5. *Be "unconditionally pro-life."* St. Pope John Paul II spoke these words on his final pastoral visit to the US. He summoned Catholics to "eradicate every form of racism" as part of their wholehearted and essential commitment

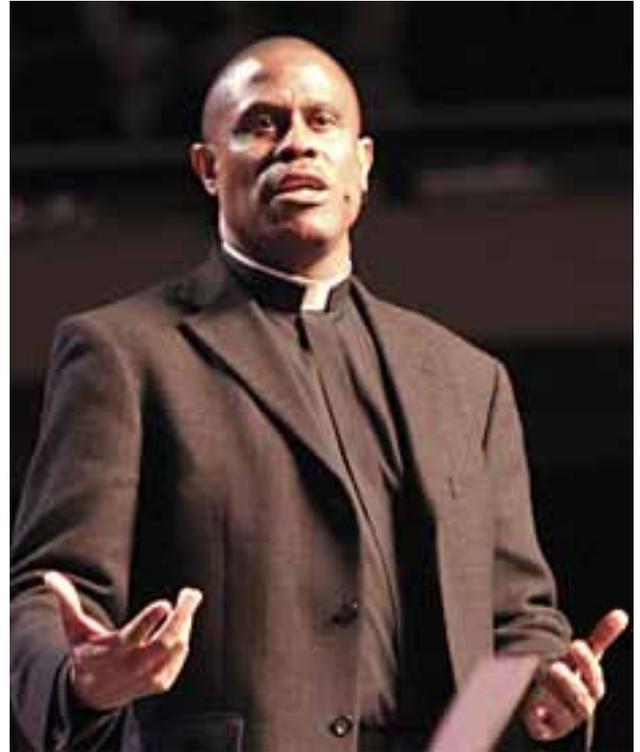


Photo courtesy of Father Bryan Massingale

to life. This has a very serious consequence: You cannot vote for or support a president who is blatantly racist, mocks people of color, separates Latino families and consigns brown children into concentration camps, and still call yourself "pro-life."

Finally, Massingale says, "This soul sickness can only be healed by deep prayer. Yes, we need social reforms. We need equal educational opportunities, changed police practices, equitable access to health care, an end to employment and housing discrimination. But only an invasion of divine love will shatter the small images of God that enable us to live undisturbed by the racism that benefits some and terrorizes so many."

For greater understanding of what white privilege means and more detail about these steps to neutralize it, read Massingale's full article at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/assumptions-white-privilege-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>.



*This article originally appeared in *National Catholic Reporter*. Reprinted with permission.

YOU NEED TO UNMUTE YOURSELF!

On Zoom calls, we are often reminded to unmute after we have muted our computer's microphone out of respect for others on the call. The structures of race, gender, economic status, etc., have kept some voices effectively muted in our world. Now millions of people have taken to the streets and loosed their voices. We see them virtually and sense the uproar, but we might struggle to truly understand their feelings. Discuss it in your chapters and in the streets. You need to unmute yourself!

This NSFA issue features advice on white privilege from Fr. Bryan Massingale on our cover because Catholics and the Church have often been slow to truly support minorities. The book group on Women Deacons noted a parallel between the treatment of women in the Church and Blacks in society. The LA Affiliate Chapter shares their discussion of race relations, proposing reconciliation and constructive actions, and asking for your ideas.

The pandemic has given us all time to think and to examine our priorities. See the articles with resources from the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns and the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center to help prepare for voting these priorities in the fall elections.



Not So Far Afield (NSFA) is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates and is also available online at MaryknollAffiliates.org. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: The Field Afar. Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners.

Mission Statement: Maryknoll Affiliates, while continuing to pursue their own life's journey, commit themselves to the mission goals of Maryknoll in the context of Chapters that gather for prayer, reflection, and action. Maryknoll Affiliates challenge one another to witness to mission as a way of life by going beyond borders, locally and globally, walking with the poor and excluded, and striving for peace and justice for all of God's creation.

For further information, see MaryknollAffiliates.org or contact Executive Coordinator Bob Short, email Affiliatebshort@gmail.com, or write to:

Maryknoll Affiliates
P.O. Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

NONVIOLENCE SPEAKERS AND ACTION

World-famous leaders of active nonviolence—Father Richard Rohr, Dr. Erica Chenoweth, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Kazu Haga, Rivera Sun, and many others—will be presenting live online from August 6 to 9, 2020, as part of the Campaign Nonviolence National Conference. See paceebene.org/cnvconference2020.

The Conference, “Embracing the Nonviolent Shift,” initially planned to be held in Albuquerque,



moved online due to the pandemic. A live online vigil for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, noting the 75th anniversary of the bombings, and online nonviolence training are also included. Live

events require a ticket, but in previous years recordings have been free online after the conference.

After participating virtually and being inspired, begin planning your own nonviolent action for the Campaign Nonviolence Week of Action (paceebene.org/action-week), September 19-27. The Campaign Nonviolence Pledge urges “Practice nonviolence by joining the global movement to abolish war, end poverty and racism, stop the destruction of the earth and foster a more just, peaceful and nonviolent world for all.” Over 2,000 nonviolence events are already planned during this week around the world. Your efforts will help keep the Nonviolent Shift going through the November election.



Not So Far Afield Co-Editors:

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

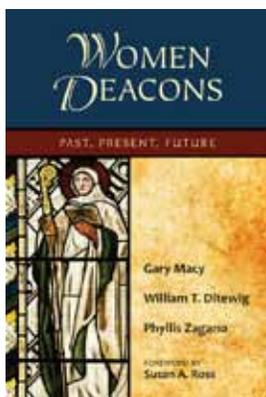
Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

Submissions: We welcome letters to the editor, articles, photos, and suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. Please contact us at the address below.

Subscriptions: To report a change of address, subscribe, unsubscribe, or change to/from print or digital versions, email: NSFA@MaryknollAffiliates.org, or write to:

NSFA, c/o Maryknoll Affiliates
P.O. Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

WOMEN DEACONS?



Maryknoll Affiliates connected over four Zoom meetings around the book, *Women Deacons Past, Present, Future*, by Phyllis Zagano, Paulist Press (<https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/4743-4/women-deacons.aspx>).

Reflecting on the experience, one Affiliate offered:

This group was thoughtful and wise, involved in many good things, and mutually supportive. This was a lively conversation, with folks from Wisconsin, New York, California, Oregon and Washington on the calls. These wide-ranging conversations were helpful to have at a time when wisdom in our country and our church is so needed.

We talked about the gifts of women in the church, and how much work there is to be done. We drew parallels between the challenges of racism in our country and sexism in our church.

While discouraged by the lack of structures in our church where women may be heard, we took heart in the history of women deacons, and in the evident leadership of women in all parts of society. As always, the Maryknoll way of accompaniment and respect gives us hope in the many good people continuing to build the Kingdom of God.

Another Affiliate commented:

The pain and hurt of active, faithful women in the Church expressed around the place of women reminds me of the hurt and pain I have heard expressed by African-Americans and others who are marginalized in our society.

Western and Eastern Church women served the People of God as deacons from the early Church through the 11th century. Also, Western and Eastern Churches, not in union with Rome but with valid sacraments recognized by Rome, have a nearly unbroken history of women deacons to today. In recent times, some Roman Catholic bishops and Cardinals have spoken to the wisdom of women serving the People of God as ordained deacons.

The book's extensive scholarly analysis of the history and possibilities for ordaining women as deacons provides insight into the legalism of the



Wall hanging painted by Joanne Miya, Maryknoll Lay Missioner, in Tanzania, originally for the 2012 Maryknoll Sisters Jubilee.

Church in its institutional practices, not far from what Jesus encountered with the institutions of his lifetime. But it only briefly mentions that at least in developed countries women are respected as intellectual and spiritual equals to men and they are the role models for the girls who come behind, which to this lay Catholic male are overriding reasons for ordaining women as deacons.

Another book group is forming for the fall. Send Bob Short (Affiliatebshort@gmail.com) your suggestions for a book to discuss.



Translation on the Fly

If you need translation during a Zoom meeting which is partly in Spanish, try the Google Translate App on your phone. Select Spanish to English and the Voice option and put the phone close to your computer's speaker. The App will detect the Spanish and give an almost immediate translation to English in text on the phone screen. The accuracy of translation may vary with the conditions.



**CROSSING BORDERS IN GEORGIA:
AN EASY IMMERSION?**

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

There are many paths to community, spirituality, and action. In the 1940s, Koinonia Farms chose to work the land in southern Georgia with a group of committed Christians, including a few Black families. Koinonia means: Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians.



Manny and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss last fall with Linda, our tour guide, in the cold chocolate-making kitchen. We were offered samples!

For decades, Koinonia suffered for their acceptance of Blacks, enduring KKK visits, boycotts, economic problems, and poor treatment by the local community. Though they are still committed Christians respecting human diversity and responsible bio-diversity, now they are better accepted as a beacon of Christian inclusion working for peace and justice. A number of their members are Catholic.

Koinonia supports itself through the sale of farm products, a mail-order catalog, retreats, and hospitality. Koinonia welcomes long- or short-term volunteers to share their table, housing, and work. We enjoyed and recommend at least a half day at Koinonia; ours included a video, prayer, lunch, and tour. Visit KoinoniaFarms.org to learn more and to register for the components of their hospitality that work for you.



Manny Hotchkiss meets a cook preparing pecans.



FAITHFUL VOTING AND GLOBAL CONCERNS

In a series of two-page briefs, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) addresses key global issues to consider for the 2020 US elections. Inspired by the Gospel and Maryknoll missionaries' commitment to stand with vulnerable communities around the world, MOGC urges US citizens to consider these issues and vote to advance the cause of peace, social justice, and the integrity of creation.



A new brief will be offered every two weeks at maryknollogc.org/resources/2020-us-election-briefs-faithful-voting-and-global-concerns until the November elections. The briefs use the See-Judge-Act Method to examine global issues of social justice based on the lived experience of Maryknoll missionaries. Live and recorded webinars and more resources are also available. Pertinent facts, a Maryknoll connection, and a brief prayer make the down-loadable brief appropriate for mailing, emailing, or use at meetings. The first four issues cover:

- *Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Invest in Peace*
- *Welcoming Refugees, Welcoming the Stranger*
- *Climate Change and Care for Creation*
- *Sanctions: Nonviolent Tool or Lethal Weapon?*

In the first brief, **Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Invest in Peace**, Sr. Jean Fallon reminds us, "Hiroshima Never Again!" August 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As we mourn the deaths of over 120,000 people in the US from COVID-19, we remember that 250,000 people died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The White House budget of about \$50 billion for nuclear weapons is compared to the country's need for 100,000 ICU-grade ventilators for COVID-19 treatment at a cost of \$5 billion. The brief includes the following prayer:

Pope Francis's Prayer at Hiroshima

In a single plea to God and to all men and women of good will, on behalf of all the victims of atomic bombings and experiments, and of all conflicts, let us together cry out from our hearts: Never again war, never again the clash of arms, never again so much suffering! Come, Lord, for it is late, and where destruction has abounded, may hope also abound today that we can write and achieve a different future.



**SR. CONNIE POSPISIL—
ROOTED IN TWO CHAPTERS**

Rosa-Beatriz Castañeda – Guatemala Chapter
Santa Orlando – Albany Chapter

In Lemoa, Guatemala, every morning for 15 minutes Sr. Connie Pospisil (who died in May), connected with Nature, placing herself under the Jacaranda tree. She said, “It generates energy for me. I love its branches because they grow naturally on all sides; I enjoy seeing the tree. Before Easter, I admire how its purple flowers make a carpet on the ground.”

Trees are recognized as powerful symbols of transformation, liberation, growth, and resurrection. How can we not connect Sr. Connie Pospisil, MM, with the life-giving trees? From her simplicity, she encouraged people to get out of their comfort zone to open up to a world full of wonderful experiences.

From her love for nature and the depth of silence, Connie tried to live in balance and to understand the relationship and communion that exists between Mother Earth, the Cosmos, and Humanity. That energy received from the trees led her to establish relationships with children, youth, adults, and those around her.

Like the tree in Lemoa, little by little, Connie’s branches spread. In 2007, Sister Connie and Father Thomas Goekler introduced the Affiliate Movement as another expression of the Maryknoll family. They are considered the co-founders of the Guatemalan Affiliates, which officially began in 2009 and is now known as the Guatemalan Maryknoll Affiliates – Sister Connie Pospisil Chapter.

She was a stable force with roots that spread underground, connecting groups from all over the world.

The branches continued to expand; Connie suggested that during the month of November, the senior students at the Monte Maria School could experience life in rural Lemoa. They would understand the reality of Guatemala and dialogue with the people, learning about their needs, hopes, and sufferings. As they taught reading, writing, and mathematics, they learned to love and value the vulnerable population of Guatemala.

Connie collaborated with others to help develop the Nutritional Center of Lemoa, which cares for malnourished children from birth to five years and supports the children’s families with food. She also instrumental in developing the Guatemalan Institute

Her joy, inner strength, and authenticity allowed her to touch our hearts; Her spirit lives on in all of us.

of Radio Education (IGER, in Spanish) which offers distance courses to young people who cannot attend a formal school. Both of these programs owe their success to Connie and Valentina Castro, a Guatemalan Affiliate and social worker who helped by communicating with the people and managing these programs that have changed many people’s lives.

Sr. Connie was truly a metaphor for the Tree of Life.



Small in stature, her arms were raised upward—open and welcoming. She was a stable force with roots that spread underground connecting groups from all over the world. A knock on the door in 2009 was the start of the partnering between the Albany Affiliates and Lemoa. The members of the Albany Chapter wanted connection, to be rooted in the works of Maryknoll. We communicated by email and bimonthly Skype

conversations.

Over the years, the Albany Chapter funded over 80 stoves for the community, many water filters, and countless becas—scholarships for continuing education. Albany contributed to the nutrition program (a dream come true for Connie) and the IGER distance learning school. The small aldea (village) of Lemoa was seeing great changes due to Connie’s efforts. Whenever the Sisters returned to Maryknoll in NY, Connie would reserve a car and drive 2½ hours to spend the weekend with us. Connie became family; our relationship was full of love and laughter.

When delivering the homily at the closing Mass of the 2014 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference, Connie said,

We need to actively engage our imaginations in shaping visions of the future. ... It is a time of transition, a time for hope, for trust in things unseen, for planting seedlings that will grow to shade the justice and peace of future generations. The times we live in may indeed have greater need of imagination, risk, and daring than of patience.

Connie was one tree in a forest of many. Her joy, inner strength, and authenticity allowed her to touch our hearts; her spirit lives on in all of us.



MY MARYKNOLL JOURNEY

Mary Morris Williams – NE Florida Chapter

On Thursday, January 30, my husband Bryan and I boarded a plane in Jacksonville, Florida, flying to El Salvador to join the Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) program, Friends Across Borders. We met the other 11 participants the next day at the airport, had a big pizza lunch/supper, and then headed to the capital, San Salvador. Lupe Garcia organized us and directed the pre-mission preparation from the MKLM headquarters in New York.



Mary Morris Williams at memorial for Sisters and Lay Missioners martyred in El Salvador in 1980.

Although we saw a few employees in the airline terminal wearing masks, we were not concerned about the coronavirus. After an intense social, educational, cultural, and spiritual journey in El Salvador, we returned home on Saturday, February 8. In retrospect, I see Bryan and me as two lucky ones, taking an international trip shortly before travel slowed drastically and then mostly stopped.

A highlight of this trip was bringing with us a large suitcase of dresses made by the South Jacksonville Dress-A-Girl group. After our trip, these dresses were distributed to the people who use the services of Patronato Lidia Coggiola in El Zaité. Maryknoll Lay Missioner Becca Muder serves at this location with the early childhood education program and the Women’s Support Group. She also led our FAB group along with Mary Delaney, an MKLM who had served in Nicaragua.

In general, I feel fortunate to be a “crafts person.” I have plenty of supplies for sewing and knitting and



Girls in outreach education program in El Zaité, wearing donated dresses.

feel able to use time at home to love my “neighbors.” During our extra time sheltering at home, I have had more time to sew dresses for girls and women. These get distributed to mission groups around the world and to local social service agencies (homeless and abused shelters and outreach programs). Another activity that keeps me busy is telephoning people I know in assisted-living facilities whose confinement has been more extreme than ours. And of course, I telephone my own family, three brothers and three sisters. We are scattered, some in New York, one in Scotland and one in Michigan. We are reaching out to each other more, surrounded by this world crisis.



Bryan Williams in front of building that houses Patronato Lidia Coggiola in El Zaité.

My involvement in the Northeast Florida Affiliate Chapter introduced me to the Lay Missioners who came to speak to our group, which led five years ago to a FAB trip in Brazil and then to this one in El Salvador. Maryknoll has become an important part of my spiritual journey and drawing closer to God.



Photos courtesy of Al Drinkwine



Jerrie and Al in front of Respite Center

PRE-PANDEMIC BORDER REPORT

Al and Jerrie Drinkwine – Seattle Chapter

The last week of February 2020, Jerrie and I, along with Karen and Mark Smith, returned to Catholic Charities in **McAllen, Texas**, on the US-Mexican border. Our visit with Sister Anne Connolly, who heads the Humanitarian Respite Center, was both refreshing and alarming.



A local volunteer, Al drinkwine, Sister Anne Connolly, and Karen and Mark Smith in the new Humanitarian Respite Center

The center is now relocated across the street from the Greyhound Bus Depot, making it extremely convenient for asylum seekers traveling to their sponsors. The former dance hall has been miraculously transformed into the Catholic Charities Respite Center, containing all the former services but on a more workable basis. The large dance area now provides a place to distribute clothing and other personal items, a children’s play area and other supportive services. Amazingly, volunteers come from many local churches, as well as city management.

The alarming aspect reflects our government’s policy changes. The center receives only 8-10 asylum seekers per week compared to 500 per day a year ago. Therefore, necessities such as rice, beans, sanitary supplies, and diapers are being transported by van from McAllen to **Brownsville, Texas**, about one hour away. At Brownsville, volunteers deliver the supplies across the border to approximately 3,000 asylum seekers who are desperately in need of food and human basics. An estimated 2,000 live in tents

and bathe and wash their clothing in the Rio Grande’s muddy waters. About 1,000 asylum seekers are located throughout the adjacent Matamoros, Mexico community.

In Brownsville, we stopped at several locations and each time were greeted by informative individuals, as though we were being guided. A few blocks from the border, a man on his porch told of weekly vans from McAllen parking in front of his home to transfer supplies to wagons to be pulled across the border bridge. On the west side of the bridge, we could see women washing clothes in the muddy Rio Grande River and children playing in the water. Only a few tents were in sight. On the east side, the University of Texas at Brownsville blocked our view.



Walking to the border, at the bridge we met a small group of individuals from varied US locations and listened to their stories. The only tents visible were those of our government where processing was to take place. It was as though our government intentionally blocked our view of the massive need. I don’t recall all the facts but the processing was deliberately slower than slow. The living situation of the several thousand individuals and families would be totally disastrous with the COVID-19 virus.

Catholic Charities’ need for food and supplies is tremendous, but financial support is specially welcomed. With donated cash, they can support their local sources as they obtain the exact items needed. Cash donations may be offered at: www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org/respitcenter/donation.aspx.



OUR APPROACH TO ANTI-RACISM
 Kathleen Bautista – Los Angeles Chapter

Like citizens everywhere, members of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter have watched with interest as people throughout the world begin to speak out about racial injustice. While most of us are practicing “safer-at-home,” we consider how we as individuals and as a chapter can add to the conversation during this pivotal period in history. Recognizing the need for racial reconciliation, we looked at the process that Archbishop Desmond Tutu followed with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after the fall of apartheid in South Africa. Tutu recommends the following steps in reconciling damaged relationships: 1) Tell (and listen) to the story; 2) Name the pain; 3) Seek or grant forgiveness; 4) Rebuild or release the relationship.

With this process in mind, we held an ad hoc follow-up meeting at which we considered what actions we can take as a chapter to bring about healing. We are still in the process of investigating the feasibility of these suggestions and will be making decisions about which to pursue during our July Chapter meeting. In the meantime, we would like to share our ideas with the wider Affiliate community.

We framed our brainstorming around the question: What can we do as a Maryknoll Affiliate group to encourage reconciliation in our country between whites and blacks?

Steps that we can take immediately:

On our Facebook page, we recommend that individuals watch the movie *Just Mercy*, currently showing on Netflix. (www.justmercyfilm.com/)

Take an assessment on implicit biases at implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/

Various members of our group are investigating the values, objectives and activities of the following groups to determine if we can support or join in with their causes:

- Black Lives Matter (local level)
- Poor People’s Campaign – www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/

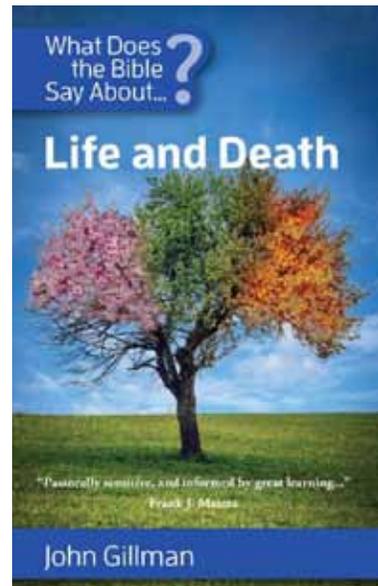
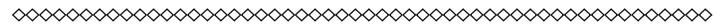
- Just Faith – justfaith.org/programs/
- Campaign Non-violence through Pace e Bene – paceebene.org/
- Network Lobby (Nuns on the Bus) – networklobby.org/
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) – www.fcnl.org/
- Bread for the World – www.bread.org/

Interview members of the Black community to learn their priorities and objectives; otherwise we are just making assumptions from a White worldview.

Advocate for federal scholarships for Black students as a form of restitution for prior harm.

In the future: Consider hosting a film screening and discussion of *The Long Shadow*.

Perhaps you can add to these ideas.



LIFE AND DEATH ISSUES

What Does the Bible Say About Life and Death?*

By John Gillman, PhD

In his new book, which is part of the New City Press series, *What Does The Bible Say about...?*, San Diego Affiliate John Gillman addresses questions about Life and Death. He offers insights into our desire for an abundant life and a good death, as well as the complexities around such pressing issues as martyrdom, suicide, and life after death. Punctuated by poignant stories of human suffering and redemption, his responses are rooted in the distinct traditions of the Judeo-Christian scriptures and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

*Available in bookstores and on Amazon.





I WISH I'D SAID THAT!

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

As I read the summer issue of the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center's (IPJC) quarterly newsletter*, Matter of Spirit, I said, "I wish I'd written that!" but I don't have to because they did:

Help Us Take Back Our Democracy

- Politics – How We Organize Our Lives Together
- Ethical Journalists and Discerning Readers
- Proportional Representation – One Solution to

End Voter Suppression

- We Need More Than Civility – We Need Grace
- Conscience, Candidates & Discipleship in Voting

The issue even includes reflection points and a prayer, making it perfect for a gathering of Maryknoll Affiliates. The Portland Maryknoll Affiliates have already used IPJC newsletters for two meetings: on military spending in the US and on the environment.

IPJC (www.IPJC.org) is composed of 22 sponsoring and affiliate communities of Catholic Sisters in the Western US. Maryknoll is present on their editorial board through Annapatrice Johnson, Team Leader for the Western Region & Young Adult Outreach of US Mission Education for the Maryknoll Fathers.

Reading this IPJC newsletter has underlined my need to help Take Back Our Democracy this fall by campaigning for my preferred candidate and issue and VOTING.



*Summer Matter of Spirit: www.ipjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AMOSsummer2020-fl2-WEB.pdf. You may listen to podcasts of these articles at ipjc.podbean.com/.

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

—Maya Angelou

THE FIRST TIME

Bill Murphy – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Member
Boston Chapter

*my Nike tennis shoes inch their way into the marketplace.
I, a new language learner, am overwhelmed by a collage of strange sounds, raucous colors, a cacophony of smells,
pungent mangoes and papayas, peanuts roasting nestled next to wooden skewers of beef and lamb barbecuing,
brash splotches orange, green and maroon katenge cloths
draped together calling for a chance to adorn some local.
Everything a haggle –
how else does one bond?
not the price; the relationship.
Can't I just pay you what you ask or what I want to pay; then move on?*



*No
Stop. stay. have some tea. waste time with us.
Haggle –
don't know what to say, don't know how to say it.
learn the language; learn to listen and listen to learn.
This is love-making, gently teaching one another
how to communicate, how to connect.*





MEET A MISSIONER

Here’s a sampler from Meet a Missioner Mondays*, hosted on Facebook by Karen Bortvedt-Estrada, in which Maryknoll Lay Missioners share their experiences and views of mission:

Dr. Susan Nagele, East Africa: “Peace is the absolute number one prerequisite for a good health program.”

Kathy Bond, Brazil: “Three things led me to be a missioner; three things come to mind: service, faith, and adventure.”

Dr. Anne Berry and Dr. George John Stablein, Tanzania. Anne: “It’s a good lesson in humility to try to live as a guest in someone else’s culture and someone else’s language that you don’t really understand or speak very well. ... What I have to offer is myself; that is what we each have to offer.”

Liz Mach, Tanzania: (44 years in Maryknoll Lay Missioners, returning to Minnesota soon): “What I would love to do is continue speaking. ... I really don’t want to retire; that would be awful to just stop...”

Melissa and daughter Evey Altman, El Salvador. Melissa: (in response to the question, What gives you hope?) “For me the hope is the Salvadoran people, who are very resilient. They’ve lived through a civil war ... [They say], ‘We’re going to get through this,’ ... ‘Today I give to you, because tomorrow I might be in need.’ Their acts of solidarity give me a lot of hope.”

Abby Belt, Haiti: “What speaks to my heart is the unending generosity I find here ... I compare life to a mosaic that’s built by single shards ... by itself one shard isn’t important or beautiful or both, but collectively the image it presents of our lives is so breathtakingly beautiful ... and one of the beautiful facets of mission is ... how irrevocably intertwined our mosaics *become*.”

Other missioners you may enjoy getting to know better include Flavio Rocha, Heidi Cerneka, and Dee Dungy. If you’d like to hear from a certain lay missioner, send a Facebook message to suggest him or her to Karen.

*Meet a Missioner Monday programs are live on [Facebook.com/MaryknollLayMissioners](https://www.facebook.com/MaryknollLayMissioners) at 11AM (EDT) on Monday mornings.

Recorded videos of all the previous programs are available at mklm.org/meet-a-missioner-monday.



Maryknoll Lay Missioners offer a Virtual Retreat:

**DISCERNMENT
July 24-26, 2020**

Think and Act Both Globally and Locally

How do you see your future in global mission? How can you act locally in your church, community, school or family but think globally? Is your path to move overseas and serve?

This three-day virtual retreat experience will provide a time, space, and process to reflect on your unique call. Participants will engage in a small group discernment process, spend time with a spiritual director/mentor, and join in moments of fellowship.

To request more information, email retreats@mklm.org.

**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS
IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC AND POLARIZATION**

Karen Bortvedt-Estrada – Maryknoll Lay Missioner

Although COVID-19 kept us from gathering in person for MAC 2020 on June 25th, Karen joined us virtually, using Zoom to present her workshop on how to converse with those who believe differently from us with understanding and respect.

If you missed her interactive presentation, you can still hear Karen’s message at

youtu.be/785QLBVbtms.

News from the Board



PANDEMIC DELAYS AFFILIATE MID-YEAR APPEAL

WELCOME YOUR BOARD / REGIONAL COORDINATOR TEAM

Manny Hotchkiss – Maryknoll Affiliate Board Member
Portland Chapter

Last November, the Affiliate Board established a “Board/Regional Coordinator Engagement Committee.” They plan for Board members, along with a Regional Coordinator (RC), to visit each chapter in their region to improve communication and community between the chapters and the Board.

Board/RC teams have already started reaching out to chapters in their regions. Zoom meetings have made the coming together much easier. For example, the team of Board Member Manny Hotchkiss and Northwest Regional Coordinator Ralph Maughan recently visited via Zoom with the Seattle Chapter for their monthly meeting. Manny and California Regional Coordinator Hugh Menton also “Zoomed” with the Los Angeles Chapter. An ad hoc committee will contact the international chapters by email: Ginny McEvoy – Philippines, Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland – Africa, and Rosa Beatriz Castañeda Ramirez – Latin America. The teams are on the move!

Chapter contacts and Affiliates can expect a call from your team in the near future. Please welcome them and weave them into your group. After all, Maryknollers are all about community!

The Maryknoll Affiliate Executive and Finance committees have delayed the typical mid-year Affiliate Appeal letter. They recognize the financial burden that the pandemic has placed on individual Affiliates and have delayed the request for funds toward the 2020/2021 Affiliate budget at this time. They will revisit the decision when the financial forecast for the year is clearer and when the printing and mailing facility at Maryknoll, NY, is again operating.

Donations to the Affiliates and to all the Maryknoll entities are still being accepted. Checks can be made out to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, for the Maryknoll Affiliates, and mailed to Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311.



PANDEMIC STRIKES MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE CHAPTERS

*Your prayers are requested for the health of all Affiliates and for their families and Chapters.
We remember especially the recently deceased:*



Grace Kishumba, Mwanza Chapter, Tanzania



Carlos Acázar Pérez

Niño Jesús Chapter, Peru

What's Inside?

What Can We Do About White Privilege? 1

You Need to Unmute Yourself! 2

Nonviolence Speakers and Action. 2

Women Deacons? 3

Crossing Borders in Georgia: An Easy Immersion? 4

Faithful Voting and Global Concerns 4

Sr. Connie Pospisil—Rooted in Two Chapters 5

My Maryknoll Journey 6

Pre-Pandemic Border Report 7

Our Approach to Anti-Racism / Life and Death Issues 8

I wish I'd Said That! / The First Time 9

Meet a Missioner / Virtual Retreat - Discernment 10

News from the Board / Pandemic Strikes Chapters 11



The beauty of women in the Church.
See page 3.

