

Always A Missioner

a newsletter for MKLM Returned Missioners

Greetings from Bethany!

This last quarter has been a real busy one. In July, I led our final Notre Dame/ Marquette immersion-academic experience in Chile. As always, I returned energized by the quality of young people who participated in this experience. It is sad to see this program of 16 years come to a close, but because we will no longer be operating in Chile, we will be shifting our efforts to similar initiatives in other regions.

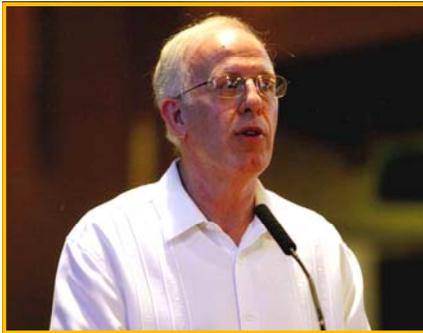
In August we were busy with the big celebration of our 35th anniversary and the jubilees of the classes of 1975 and 1985.

Thanks to all of you who continue sending good articles and news items. Please send your article for the Spring 2011 issue to P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307 or to alwaysamissioner@mklm.org.

In the Spirit of Maryknoll,
Cecilia

WORDS FROM MKLM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanksgiving greetings!



Sam Stanton welcoming the 35th Anniversary Mass Assembly

Dear Friends,

Special greetings to all as we near the season of Advent. May this time of preparing for the coming of the Christ be one of reflection and peace for each of you.

Since the last edition of "Always a Missioner," many important events have occurred in the life of

Maryknoll Lay Missioners. In June, missioners who brought their contracted membership to an end gathered at Bethany for a retreat and time of closure. I want to thank each of these fine missioners for their years of service to mission and to Maryknoll. May the God of Life bless them in their continued commitments to serve those in need and in their dedication to building "a more just and compassionate world."

In August, excitement filled Bethany, as well as the Maryknoll Society's and Sisters' Centers, when more than 50 MKLM jubiliarians and their family members gathered to celebrate their 35th and 25th anniversaries of sending. The groups

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Where I thought I had failed, God had succeeded, and love had prevailed

by Paddy Cronin Favazza ('85 Nicaragua)

"Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation, for the future that only He sees."

This quote by Corrie ten Boom hangs on a wall in our home, beneath the pictures of our four children. But these sentiments were hardly on my mind when I joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners. As a single special education teacher, I had high hopes of putting

my background to use in Bolivia (where I went to language school) and in Nicaragua, my assigned country. I then planned to come back to the US and do reverse mission work in my field. But, in reality, I had no



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Thanksgiving greetings.....

had time to catch up with one another and to spend time with old friends at the Society and Congregation, and were guests for a meal at both centers.

One of the major highlights of the weekend was the celebration of the 35th anniversary of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Many friends from the Congregation and Society, board members, other Returned Missioners, staff, and donors joined us at the Mass of thanksgiving presided over by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, followed by a festive banquet on the Bethany grounds. MKLM's 35th anniversary is the feature of the November issue of Maryknoll.



Frank and Josie Cuda ('75 Bolivia) presenting the bread and the wine during 35th Anniversary Mass

In October, MKLM's seven regional coordinators came together for the 2010 Global Council to discuss the realities of mission today, and to plan for the coming year. They provided leadership with input on those realities, and feedback on the recently developed five-year strategic plan. This meeting was followed by the one-day Mission Assembly, which has legislative authority over MKLM's charism statutes. The week culminated with a meeting of the MKLM Board of Directors.

Among the important decisions reached was the re-initiation of families in mission. The recruiting goal for 2011 is fifteen candidates, and will include one family. We will continue to study the feasibility and associated costs of families in mission; however, it is definite that one family will be invited to participate in 2011. You will be hearing more about this development in the months to come.

In our recent meetings, we reviewed our five-year strategic plan. Some of the important goals to be accomplished over the next five years are to:

- Triple our income to stabilize and reduce the amount of drawdown from the principal of our investments.
- Send at least 15 missioners a year into mission.
- Have 10 to 12 missioners in each region at any given time.
- Investigate the opening of two new regions (in conversation with Society and Congregation lead-

ership) over the next five years.

- Strengthen collaboration with the Society, Congregation, Affiliates, and Returned Missioners, while expanding our partnerships with other mission organizations.
- Continue to study facility options that are more cost effective.

We believe that this plan is a realistic blueprint for the next five years, and that it will increase our ability to lay a solid foundation for MKLM's role in the future of laity in mission. We will call upon your expertise and experience as this plan unfolds in the years to come.

As Returned Missioners, you are an important part of what we have been, what we are, and what we will be in the future. We count on your assistance, support, and participation as we build for the future. Each of you continues to be a part of the family!

Last but not least, the end of this year will bring yet another significant transition: Alicia Butkiewicz will step down as Director of Missions. Alicia has served on the leadership team for eight and half years. She has helped guide our organization through two major and challenging transitions. Her strategic and focused style has helped the Association to weather storms and position itself for a bright future. We are grateful for her service. Alicia will take some deserved time for renewal after January 1st, and will later take on a new U.S.-based assignment to help MKLM continue its growth.

After a thorough search process carried out by the governance committee of the Board of Directors, Margo Cambier ('91) was asked to assume the responsibility of Director of Missions. Margo holds an MBA and worked at IBM and Catholic Charities before entering Maryknoll Lay Missioners. She and her husband Erik served in Tanzania and then returned to the States where Margo worked in Admissions. In 2006, the couple went to Venezuela, and after the decision to close out MKLM's Venezuela Region, they transferred to El Salvador where they have been in mission since 2007. Congratulations, Margo, and welcome back, Margo & Erik!

In Maryknoll,

Sam Stanton, Executive Director

COVER STORY *continued from page 1*

idea of what any of this meant, how it would happen, or that most of my Maryknoll experience would not even happen in Latin America. But, off I went, with those high hopes and, an open heart.

Of course, I fell in love with both countries – but most of all, I fell in love with the children. While in language school in Cochabamba, we were encouraged to volunteer in the community, to experience the culture, to meet our neighbors - in short, to find a way to contribute while developing our language skills. So, on weekends I volunteered in an orphanage for children with disabilities and on weekdays, I volunteered in the infant room at another orphanage where, on any given day, there were 1-2 adults taking care of 25-30 babies. I learned that many of the children had been abandoned because of their family lived in poverty or because the infant had a disability. Each day we worked our way around the infant room, holding, changing, feeding, and singing to every child. After we made it all the way around the room, we would start all over again. It was one of the most labor intensive jobs I ever had and I absolutely loved it. I truly felt humbled and privileged to be there each day. Eventually I learned how to hold multiple babies at once, and saw how older children helped feed the younger ones. However, in spite of our best efforts, some infants showed signs of “failure to thrive”. I soon came to recognize it in their vacant eyes or when their whimpering cries gradually turned into silence. Many mornings, I took a deep breath before rounding the corner into the infant room, not wanting to know if one of the babies did not make it through the night. I can honestly say I was never the same after that profound experience. I promised myself that one day, I would take one child out of an orphanage and give them a life that held enough love and music and tenderness to survive their childhood.

I went on from there to look for work in other orphanages in my host country of Nicaragua, where many children had become disabled and orphaned due to the ongoing war and loss of family. Just as I was



adjusting to life in Nicaragua, I had to return to the states without completing my three year contract. I was so disheartened and, truthfully, felt like an utter failure for leaving before even getting started. But this past summer at our Maryknoll Lay Missioners reunion, I recalled with old friends how my brief Maryknoll Lay Missioners’ experiences became deeply woven into my personal and professional life and how they continue to accompany me even today.

In my professional life, I went on to obtain a doctorate in early childhood special education, and have spent years researching attitude formation and writing curriculum related to promoting attitudes of acceptance towards those who have differences and disabilities. Each year, I use examples of my experiences as an MKLM missionary when teaching future educators about working in diverse communities, the impact of poverty and neglect on child development, and the cultural differences in response to disabilities. Maryknoll Lay Missioners impacted my personal life as well. After marrying my best friend, we agreed to adopt one child from an orphanage. However, when we finally got around to it, we decided to adopt two children, Ana-Marlise and Petr, who were siblings living in an infant orphanage in Romania. A year later, Isabella was born, and then we spent the next 5 years looking for Alina-Ioana, the sister of Ana-Marlise and Petr. The thought of leaving their sister behind was unimaginable to me, so, the oldest came last, joining our family at the age of 10. She is now a nursing major in college and like her mom, has high hopes of working in orphanages in Central America. It is a future I could not have imagined, a future whose seeds were planted long ago in an open heart, as I made my way around the orphanages in Bolivia and Nicaragua. And, long ago I realized - where I thought I had failed, God had succeeded, and love had prevailed. To this day, I remember with fondness and deep gratitude my many Maryknoll experiences which live on in my life and in the lives of our children.

CHURCH TALKS

IF I CAN DO CHURCH DATES, SO CAN YOU!

By Mary Ann Cejka

It was evening of what proved to be the hottest day of 2009. In a sweltering church in Queens, the Catholic congregation tried hard to listen to an elderly priest cheerfully droning on and on in a long and tedious homily - I cannot recall about what - even as every few minutes, the roar of jets landing on the LaGuardia runway behind the church drowned out all other sound. By the time I was able to head to the lectern in the dreaded "after Communion" time slot to talk about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, I looked down upon a sea of sweaty, weary, faces. "They're dying to go home," I thought - and to be honest, so was I.

Fortunately, I had come prepared with stories about our ministries in Cambodia and Tanzania. The faces of what had initially appeared to be a semi-conscious congregation suddenly came to life. A good story - and Maryknoll Lay Missioners has many - is like a jolt of caffeine. Even tired human beings find themselves suddenly alert and attentive. At the end of my talk, which I had managed to keep to a few minutes in length, the members of this none-too-wealthy congregation reached for their wallets and tossed money into the second collection. After Mass, despite the heat, several people lingered around the MKLM display that I had set up in the back of the church. Some asked questions, some asked for my prayers, and a few quietly slipped me an extra donation.

I am not, and have never been, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. But on that particular weekend of August 2009, no Lay Missioners, either current or returned, were available to do our church date at the Sunday evening Mass. Church dates once arranged must be kept, so Ellen O'Connell, knowing that I had some credentials and experience in pastoral ministry, asked me to fill in. I have since covered church date

weekends in Albany and at the Jersey Shore. In both instances, parishioners had reason to be elsewhere. The church date in Albany was at a parish with a large population of African immigrants and, as fate would have it, that Sunday was the final game of the 2010 World Cup! When I did the Jersey Shore church date in August, the weather was perfect for a day at the beach - which was where Mass attendees were eager to head. Yet in both instances, the stories of Maryknoll Lay Missioners' ministries held their rapt attention. People gave generously, studied our vocations brochures, and took home copies of our publication, *Voices of Compassion*.

You know by the title of this article where it's going: if I can do church dates, so can you. Indeed, your efforts will be more effective than mine, precisely because you have served in mission! Even if your time in mission was long ago, you still carry about in your head and heart the faces, names, insights, and stories of mission. Needless to say, it is never hard to connect these stories with the Sunday readings. That connection, particularly with the Gospels, is not accidental - it is why Maryknoll Lay Missioners exists.

If you've served in mission, please consider extending that mission in the United States by volunteering to do a church date for MKLM. Plenty of materials are available to help you put it together. You will find that your fellow U.S. Catholics want to hear your stories - and when they do, they will support our ministries!

Mary Ann Cejka is Grants Manager & Promotional Writer for Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Share your Mission Story!

Might you be able to help MKLM by sharing your mission story at your Parish or maybe one arranged by Ellen O'Connell? Please contact her at **610-622-5012** or **oconnell@mklm.org** to learn more.

SPOTLIGHT ON OVERSEAS MISSION

A MISSIONER, JOURNALIST AND EDITOR



Judy is a journalist and editor. Her non-fiction work *Ecofeminism in Latin America* (Orbis books, 2007) won second place in “Best Gender Issues” at the Catholic Press Association in 2007. She recently published

Blood Flowers, a historical novel that pays tribute to the four religious women killed in El Salvador in 1980. To purchase the book, go to www.amazon.com and search Mary Judith Ress, *Blood Flowers*.

Judy joined MKLM with her two sons, Peter and Benjamin, in 1990. Judy is originally from Massillon, Ohio and has lived and worked in Latin America since 1970. She was a member of the Cleveland Mission Team to El Salvador from 1970 to 1972, worked in the Peruvian Andes from 1973 to 1976, and worked in

Chile with the American Friends Service Committee from 1977 to 1981). Judy returned to Lima, Peru and worked as an editor of *Noticias Aliadas/Latinamerica Press* from 1982 to 1989), then went to Chile with Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 1991.

Judy has a doctorate in Feminist Theology from the San Francisco Seminary, a Masters Degrees in Economics from the New School of Social Research, and a Masters in Spanish from the Universidad Internacional de Mexico.

She founded the Con-spirando Collective, an organization that has nourished the eco-feminist theological debate in Latin America. For the past 12 years, she has also been involved in Capacitar-Chile, developing formation and training programs that contribute to bettering the quality of life of poor women, with an emphasis on health.

RETURNED MISSIONERS HIGHLIGHTS

We are the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we serve

by Jim and Roberta McLaughlin ('03 Cambodia)

Earlier this year, we returned to Cambodia for a 5-week working visit. We were there at the hottest time of the year: daily temperatures averaged 104 degrees. We experienced heavy rains, and because of poor drainage systems, flooding on the streets.

Jim returned to Cambodia to continue working on capacity building for microbiology labs. Through the NGO Diagnostic Microbiology Development Program, (DMDP), Jim has been able to identify 6 microbiologists, each of whom volunteered for 6 weeks to train at the bench. Siuly, a Khmer American, was also there with them. She also worked as a volunteer for 14 weeks. Jim and a colleague at Stanford founded DMDP. Check out www.DMBDP.org

Since December 2008, when we finished our 5 year contract period with MKLM, we have returned to Cambodia three times, each time for a month. There is always so much to do there; the people whom we have helped and with whom we have walked welcome us back so warmly.

Roberta always has a “home away from home” at Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP). As students graduate and new ones matriculate, the staff remains. The director requests help with mentoring in various areas, including leadership and team building. Roberta continues her work on critical thinking skills for the new advanced class that is being designed. The students are active in different community development work. They



still work on Khmer Rouge Tribunal issues, and are looking ahead to a Reconciliation process. Since oil and gas have been discovered the students are advocating for transparency in revenue management. More information can be found at www.yrdp.org.kh.

Many of the Cambodian people are working at doing so much and against great odds. The divide between the “haves” and the “have nots” grows wider. The government finally passed anti-corruption legislation, but there are concerns about its future implementation. In the words of a prominent activist at a recent youth forum, “[the law] is for the government to use against NGOs and human rights leaders.” It is so easy to be drawn back to Cambodia. In our time as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, we made strong connections in the country. We have been touched by so many people: a disabled 17-year-old boy who works for \$1.50 a day pulling a cart to buy recycled materials from households, a female motorbike taxi driver who works long hours to support her two sons’ education, the list goes on and on.

Roberta will soon do a team retreat with the staff of a local anti-trafficking NGO. We reconnected with the Maryknoll Cambodia Mission Team (CMT) at its Wednesday liturgy. While in Cambodia the CMT office moved once again and Jim was able to help with the move.

It is easy to understand the phrase, “Once a Missioner Always a Missioner”. The underlying attraction to mission remains whether abroad or in the US. So many that were missioners overseas continue to mission in the US. We are the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we serve, wherever we are.



Jubilee Celebration of the 1975 and 1985 Classes



On Thursday, August 26, members of the classes of 1975 and 1985 began to arrive at Bethany. Three members of the class of '75 and 17 from the class of '85, as well as spouses, children, and former staff participated in the weekend's festivities. The activities began on Friday with a lunch at Bethany with current and former MKLM staff. In the afternoon the participants had an interesting and informative tour



of the seminary with Bro. John Blazo, followed by a very welcoming dinner hosted by the Fathers and Brothers and organized by Fr. Ernie Lukaschek and Nancy Kleppel. At night we started our traditional life-lines process with the guidance of our dear Mary D'Arcy.



On Saturday we continued the life-lines process and at noon we took the traditional group pictures with the assistance of MKLM alum Lynn Monahan, who is currently a Maryknoll Magazine staff member. After a potluck lunch with Returned Missioners and Affiliates from the area, we met with the Leadership Team and with Adrianna Melnyk of the Advancement team for an update about MKLM's current reality and future plans. After the meeting everyone took part in a joyous mass with Archbishop Dolan presiding. He praised Maryknoll as a whole and particularly MKLM for the great ministry we provide around the world. The liturgy was guided by Mark Koenig ('78 Venezuela) and Ellen O'Connell ('91 El Salvador) and the Cross bearer was Steve Paone ('85 Venezuela). Mass was followed by a magnificent dinner under starlit skies on the Bethany lawn, and included a beautiful slide show about our 35 years in mission. The evening ended





with a lively and fun Gaudeamus animated by Bob Short, Cindy O'Donnell and the music of Renato Abella and friends. Jon Prudhomme (husband of Bonny Brunner, class of '85) also interpreted some great songs. We sang, danced and had a wonderful time!



On Sunday we celebrated a Eucharistic Liturgy presided over by Fr. Bill Vos at the Maryknoll Sisters' Chapel. In the context of the sending of Sister Rosemarie Milazzo to the African Peace Team, Sam and Cecilia Stanton-Espinoza renewed their commitment with Maryknoll Lay Missioners. It was a beau-



tiful and prayerful moment. Accompanied by several sisters, we closed with a tour of the center and mission museum. After the tour we enjoyed a great lunch during which MKLM alums were able to reconnect with many friends from the Congregation. MKLM alum and current member of the Congregation Sr. Anastasia Lott coordinated the entire visit.

The reunion weekend was a moving experience for all, and hugs and tears of joy were shared throughout the weekend. For some, it was their first return to Bethany since their Return Renewal. It was so wonderful to welcome two of these - the beautiful families of Jane Barga and Paddy Cronin-Favazza '85. The weekend was truly a celebration and affirmation of what it means to be an MKLM missionary: taking your shoes off in sacred respect when entering the culture of the other, and relying on your friends to be there for you in the process.



101 DAYS FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

by *Jeanine Boucher-Colbert*

Fall blessings. On this International Day of Peace, I am writing to share this **invitation to global solidarity that may never be so urgent**. Please invite your community today to respond to this invitation by the Bishops of Sudan through prayer, learning or acting together.

What if you had been given the chance to prevent the genocide in Rwanda?

What would you have done?

What if you had the chance to bring peace to Sudan?

What would you do?

Sudan is at a life or death crossroads and the fate of its people hangs in the balance. In early January of 2011 the people of southern Sudan will vote on a referendum that will determine if the country of Sudan should be divided into two separate countries - north Sudan and south Sudan. **The resolution could be as good for Sudan as the election of Nelson Mandela was for the people of South Africa, or the resolution could trigger violence and be as horrendous as the genocide in Rwanda.**

The bishops of Sudan are calling us to act. Our Catholic tradition demands we answer the call to be the hands and voice of peace. In this vote, our role is not to take sides, but rather to stand up for the poor and vulnerable.

The launch of the Peace in Sudan effort draws attention to the need for a peaceful vote in Sudan and calls for the attention of global leaders, particularly those of the United States. In the coming days and through the referendum vote, **CRS will keep you informed about the unfolding situation in Sudan**. We have produced various **prayers, liturgical aides, youth/young adult focused resources, and legislative advocacy opportunities**. More videos, activities, prayers and lesson plans will be added to the website, <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org>, in

the weeks and months ahead until January 1st. Keep coming back!

What is CRS asking of you?

We invite you to be in solidarity with the bishops and people of Sudan. Explore how you can best share this news with your community/school/parish/network. Specifically, we invite you to consider the following:

Share and use the resources: Listed below is a sampling of resources that are currently available on the Peace in Sudan website: <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org>.

Watch this 3 minute video and share it to understand this peace building campaign: <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/>

Pray as individuals, a staff community or an organization: Join CRS and Catholics all over the world in prayer by using the Reflections for 101 Days of Prayer for Sudan: <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/pray/>

Become engaged with us: Bring this issue to the attention of our leaders in Washington: <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/advocate/>

Add your voice for the people of Sudan: Schools, parishes and organizations can become part of our Global Solidarity map sponsored through the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Initiative: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>

Thank you for joining us in this historical moment. May our God of justice and truth guide us all at this momentous time.

Peace,

Jeanine

Jeanine Boucher-Colbert (Brazil '01) is a Youth Program Organizer who aims to mobilize youth for charity and social justice by fostering a greater understanding of all people as members of one human family, to contribute to the greater good of the world community. She and her family served as Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Brazil.

ADVANCEMENT

Below you will find the November and December travel schedule for Dave Loretan, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, and Ken Preston, Major Gifts Officer. During their travels, Dave and Ken meet with donors to thank them for their gifts, to update them on the work of MKLM and to ask for their continued support.

If you can refer friends or family who would be interested in meeting with David or Ken, or if you could provide hospitality for them while they are in your ar-

ea, please call Dave at 914-944-0300 ext. 217, or 914-450-2915 (cell) or e-mail at dloretan@mklm.org.

November 1 – 4: Minnesota - Iowa

November 8 -12: Michigan

November 29 - December 3: Upstate New York

December 6 – 10: Arizona - New Mexico

Thank you in advance for your support and participation!

SPECIAL PRAYERS...

In 2010, several Maryknoll Lay Missioners have faced difficult health challenges. We give thanks to God for the healing that has occurred, and we want each to know that we continue to hold them in prayer:

Mary Jo Commerford ('94 Venezuela, US) continues her recuperation at home in The Dalles, Oregon. After months of chemotherapy, she underwent surgery on August 28. We are so grateful for her progress. Many blessings and hugs to Mary Jo, Phil, Sarah, and Maza.

Kip Hargrave ('83 Bolivia, US) who had surgery in August and has recovered fully. Many blessings on Kip, Terri and their family.

Kathy Ryan Arroyave ('77 Guatemala) was recently diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Know that we are with you, Kathy. Many prayers for her, Danilo and children in this difficult time.

Madeleine Yu-Phelps ('06 Brazil) went through a difficult health challenge earlier this year and thankfully has experienced a positive recovery. We give thanks for the improvements in her health and continue praying for her full recovery. We give thanks to God for the support and comfort Anne Marie, Jonathan and Grace have received.

Tom Scott ('05 Tanzania) is recovering from his treatment for cancer. Also, Tom will not have to have the open heart surgery that was predicted. We are very grateful for his very positive recovery.

And **Dave Loretan**, our Director of Major Gifts, is back working at Bethany and recovering well from cancer.

For all these blessings, we give thanks to the God of Life!

CURRENT MKLM NEWS

ORIENTATION 2010

MKLM is so pleased to welcome to Bethany the seven members of the Class of 2010. This year, for the first time in our history, the class is comprised of all women:

- o **Bolivia:** Ann Kennedy and Kathleen Lang
- o **Brazil:** Katherine Coldwell, Catherine Heinhold and Melissa Witcher
- o **El Salvador:** Mary Ann Carmel
- o **Kenya:** Judith Walter

One Maryknoll Sister joins them in their Orientation Program – welcome Sr. Jareen Aquino, MM!



Front from left to right: Katherine Coldwell, Catherine Heinhold and Judith Walter. Back from left to right: Mary Ann Carmel, Kathleen Lang, Melissa Witcher, Ann Kennedy and Sister Jareen Aquino, MM.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010 ORIENTATION CLASS

Started Sunday September 13 and will end December 12 at Bethany, Maryknoll, NY.

IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE

Saturday, November 13th, 2:00pm – Sunday, November 14th, 6:00pm at Georgetown Hotel and Convention Center, Washington, D.C. MKLM will participate in a break-out session discussion panel on Nov. 13th, 8:00pm-8:45pm Theme: Discerning options for post-graduate service in mission

2010 SOA WATCH VIGIL

November 19th-21st - MKLM Exhibit and Recruitment Table – Fort Benning Road at the gates of Fort Benning

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday December 10 at 8:00 pm in Queen of Apostles Chapel, Maryknoll, NY.

SENDING CEREMONY

Saturday December 11 at 3:00 pm at Maryknoll Sisters' Chapel, Maryknoll, NY.

REUNITE, REMINISCE AND RECONNECT

HERE AT BETHANY!

1976, 1986 and 1996

CLASS GATHERING

August 5 - 7, 2011

For more information call Cecilia Espinoza at
914-762-6364 ext. 207 or
write to alwaysamissioner@mklm.org

MANY BLESSINGS!

In June Maryknoll Lay Missioners transitioning out of the consolidated regions arrived at Bethany for a special program to honor them and their time in mission.

Participants included Amy Braun, Christine Perrier, Elizabeth Thaibinh, Kathy Vargas, Pat Denevan, Phil and Kathy Dahl-Bredine, Randy and Susan Hinthorn, Ted and Maruja Gutmann-Gonzalez.

The program featured a workshop on healing, a retreat day with Sisters Lila Hull and Janet Hockman, a transitioning workshop with Mary D'Arcy and of course time to attend to business.

The program ended with a beautiful Blessing-Eucharist planned by the participants. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors and we thank them for their long-time services to the poor of Chile, Mexico, Peru and Thailand.



Gehrig Family ('99 Bolivia). Jessica (9), Nicholas (6) and Anthony (5) love school and are busy with basketball, soccer, piano; Jessica is taking a Musical Theater class. Felicia is teaching 5th grade at the children's school, St. George. She loves teaching Language Arts, Social Studies and Religion, as well as Spanish to grades 1, 2, and 3. She is also involved with the Maryknoll Mission Education Team (MMET), an initiative of



the North Texas MK Affiliate Chapter. She has been giving mission formation workshops in various parishes throughout the Diocese of

Fort Worth. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Texas Mission Conference, which is planning its next annual conference in Fort Worth Feb. 25-27, 2011. Jason enjoys his job at Tarrant Regional Water District in Fort Worth. He is especially grateful that he can still dabble in international water projects in his "spare time". He was in Bolivia for nine days in September. CRS has contracted him to do research on water conflicts, and he is enjoying his work, and is also grateful for the opportunity to visit old friends. As a follow-up to his book **WATER AND CONFLICT: INCORPORATING PEACEBUILDING INTO WATER DEVELOPMENT**, published by CRS earlier this year, Jason will be one of the panelists (alongside Tom Bamat '82 Ecuador, Brazil, US) to speak at the Villanova University Symposium on Water and Justice, to be held on Nov. 8-9. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the Gehrig Family!

Hicken Family ('81 Venezuela, Mexico, US). Our family is well. Chris (29), recently spent 5 months in Asia, Joe (26) continues working on Capitol Hill, Jonathan (24) works for the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UCSD, and Josh (15) is a sophomore loving high school! Steve continues working at WAGES (Women's Action to Gain Economic Security—Latina women's cooperatives) and I still work at Family Paths as a therapist with lower income children and their families (mostly Spanish speaking).



LETY VARGAS, one of the Bi-Centennial Voices



One of the evening family activities that Leticia “Lety”, daughter of Kathy Seib and Javier Vargas (Mexico '85), has enjoyed since childhood was imitating popular singers. Today, Leticia Vargas de Altamirano sings to reach, in her words, “the plenitude in life”. She

was one of the most talented participants in Opera Prima, the Bi-centennial voice program and competition in Mexico which ran from May 9 - June 27. She was one of five finalists and promising voices selected from several hundred that participated in this competition. Lety sang in the presence of a live audience of 10,000 people and an international television audience. Her participation in Opera Prima has opened many doors for her. Recently Lety debuted performing the stellar role of Violetta in the Opera “La Traviata de Verdi”. She was invited to assume the role by the Opera Company of Morelos, Mexico.



Leticia was born in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico 1979 and currently lives and works in Querétaro, Mexico. At a very early age she demonstrated interest in singing. At her first exposure to opera, she was captivated by the magic of the music and the voices, and knew what she wanted to do in life. She began her musical preparation when she was 10 years old. She decided to participate in Opera Prima in search of new opportunities and to project and perfect her opera career. “I always felt I had the vocation to be a singer”, Lety said.



JAVIER Vargas y Kathryn Seib Vargas, papás de la soprano.

Besides singing in choirs and taking voice lessons, Leticia studied in the “Taller Lírico Giuseppe Verdi”, in the Federal District of



Querétaro. Later she won third place in the National Concurso “Carlo Morelli” and had the opportunity to sing in the National Palace of Bellas Artes.

Since she started singing, Javier and Kathy have supported her choice of career. There is no doubt that art and music is part of the Seib-Vargas Family. During the 1985 orientation program, and later, there were many occasions on which Javier shared his beautiful tenor voice and his tremendous capacity to create music and stories for his children, as well as for various important moments and experiences of his life. The famous Mexican opera star, Ramon Vargas, is the first cousin of Javier. Ramon has performed in the Metropolitan Opera in New York, as well as throughout the world. When Pope John Paul II visited Mexico, Ramon sang for him. Those that have been privileged to know Kathy over the years know that she also has a beautiful soprano voice and that she loves to sing. So as we say in Spanish, “la música corre por sus venas” - music runs in their veins.

Leticia has sung roles such as Lucia (Lucia di Lammermoor), Adina (L’elissir d’amore), Elvira (I Puritani), Norina (Don Pasquale), Susana (Le Nozze di Figaro), Amina (La Sonnambula), Micäela (Carmen), Musetta (La Bohème), Giulietta (I Capuletti e I Montecchi), Liu (Turandot), Baby Doe (The Ballad of Baby Doe), among others. There is no doubt that Lety Vargas has a promising career as an opera singer. As she has said, “I commit myself to put all my effort and dedication to succeed in what I love, singing”.

For those interested in following her career and listening to Lety’s beautiful voice, please visit <http://www.youtube.com> and search for Leticia Vargas de Altamirano.

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Always A Missioner

a newsletter for MKLM Returned Missioners

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- Current and Returned Missioners' Children
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- Updates - Maryknoll Community
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The Cronin-Favazza (Paddy '85 Nicaragua) Family at the Jubilee Encounter, August 2010



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