



Always A Missioner

June 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

I want to thank every person that has contributed to this new e-newsletter issue and I invite all of you to continue contributing with your stories and sharing about your life, work and ministries.

I'm currently living and working in NY! Sam and I drove out with Mari this past weekend after all the packing and cleaning and closing out that moving signifies. I had some very meaningful farewell celebrations, one with the Mission Office Team of the Archdiocese, with whom I worked putting together workshops for Returned Missioners, another one with the Central America Committee with whom I worked on the planning of the annual celebration of the Maryknoll Martyrs in El Salvador. Our final farewell party was with the Milwaukee MK Affiliates Chapter. It was really wonderful!

Leaving Milwaukee has been an emotional and tiring time but we are happy to look forward to getting settled again and being in NY. It isn't an easy time in the Association as you know, given the economic realities and I can see the amount of work and worry our MKLM members and staff has and I know how helpful it will be for me to be here together and have a home again.

Please continue sending your news and updates to friendsofmission@mkmlm.org and I will share them.

Much peace to each of you,

Cecilia

NEWS

MKLM Service Learning Participant Named University of Notre Dame Valedictorian

The University of Notre Dame's 2009 valedictorian, Elizabeth Brennan Bollman, was a participant in an MKLM-sponsored summer service learning program in Cambodia in 2008. Bollman is the second ND valedictorian in 6 years who had participated in an MKLM service learning program during their undergraduate years at ND. The first was Margaret Laracy who participated in the Chile Program in 2002. Margaret is the niece of Returned Missioner Lind Remmele ('86).

Bollman, a biological sciences major from St. Joseph, MI earned a 4.0 grade point average and was a member of the Glynn Family Honors Program. A peace studies minor, she received the 2008 Yarrow Award from Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies in recognition of outstanding academic performance and service. She also was a member of the Dean's List each semester. Elizabeth Bollman gave her commencement speech in the presence of President Barack Obama on Sunday, May 17.

Maryknoll Vocation Encounter for Prospective Applicants

From July 30 to August 2, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, together with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Maryknoll Sisters, will host a Maryknoll Vocation Encounter. The weekend is a joint gathering of individuals discerning a minimum of 3½ years of mission with Maryknoll Lay Missioners, or a lifetime of mission with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers or the Maryknoll Sisters.

Participants in this spiritual and informative event gather to learn about Maryknoll's mission efforts; to listen to mission stories from those who have worked in Asia, Africa, and the Americas; and to engage in small group discussion and reflection to facilitate their own discernment process. Feedback from previous participants has affirmed that their interactions with returned lay missionaries was one of the most meaningful parts of their experience. If you are recently returned from mission and interested in joining us for any or all of this weekend, please contact Recruitment Manager **Michelle Born** at mborn@mklm.org or 914-762-6364, ext. 114.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners Speaking at Parishes Across the U.S.

Several returned missionaries have been very helpful in creating an opportunity for Maryknoll Lay Missioners to speak at their parish or faith community. These speaking opportunities provide an excellent way for us to share our passion for mission and welcome others to join us. Please let us know if you would like us to visit your "neck of the woods" by contacting **Ellen O'Connell** at 610-622-5012 or ocConnell@mklm.org. We can help you every step of the way! [Check out](http://www.mklaymissioners.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=29&Itemid=50) (http://www.mklaymissioners.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=29&Itemid=50) where we will be speaking - we may be in your neighborhood.

CLASS SHARING ➡

Rosemary Barbera (Class of 1987)

Eduardo and I knew from the time we decided to marry that we wanted kids but were not sure we needed to be "biological" parents. As social workers, both Eduardo and I have worked with children foster care, and Eduardo spent a number of years during his childhood in an *internado*. We knew we wanted children of Latino origin and as a bilingual, bicultural family, we were committed to raising our children to be proud of their history and cultures.

Our road to adoption was longer than we anticipated. We both began graduate degrees and wanted to finish them. Eduardo earned his MSW from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000 and I earned my Ph.D. in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College in 2003. In late 2004 we began to contact adoption agencies in Philadelphia and embarked on the road to adoption.



In October 2006, we became the pre-adoptive foster parents of a three-month-old baby boy of Puerto Rican heritage who had no name. We named him Carlos after the son of a good friend of ours in Chile. Carlos Carrasco, the Chilean, was one of the many disappeared in Chile's dark night of dictatorship. Eduardo and I have both worked for years with his mother Norma for the protection of human rights not just in Chile, but around the world and we wanted to honor both her and her son by naming our son Carlos. In July 2007, our adoption of Carlos through the public child welfare system was finalized.

Ironically, the day we went to pick up Carlos at the foster home, we met a nine-month-old girl before we met him. She was walking around the kitchen of the home. Exactly one week after Carlos' adoption became finalized we became the foster parents of that girl, Mariana. She is also of Puerto Rican heritage. Eleven months later her adoption was finalized.

In our home we speak almost exclusively in Spanish to the children since we want them to grow up with at least two languages. They are fully bilingual and learned early on the difference between Spanish and English and with whom to speak in which language. They have really amazed us in this and so many other ways! Both Carlos and Mariana love music and they both make up their own songs and constantly dance! They are best friends, and rivals as siblings! When one is at home sick, the other mopes around all day at school. They are good company for one

another, and we love to watch them play, talk, sing and dance together. The best is when they are not aware that we are watching – it is a joy!



This year all four of us traveled to Chile. For the past 16 years I have been bringing groups of my students to La Pincoya in Santiago to participate in a summer camp there. Last year Carlos went with me, but Mariana could not go because her adoption was not finalized so she and Eduardo stayed home. This year the whole family made the trip. Mariana loved having her third birthday in Chile. They were treated like royalty wherever we went – in the feria, at the Fiesta de los Abrazos, on the bus. It was wonderful to watch them further bloom there among so many family and friends who had waited with us for their arrival. They filled up on fresh bread, loved eating pastel de choclo and humitas, and came backing speaking good Chilean Spanish!

We cannot imagine our lives now without Carlos and Mariana. We are not sure how we got by so many years without them in our lives. It is a real privilege and joy to share our lives with them and we really are blessed by life to be their parents.

Presently I teach Social Work with a focus on human rights and international issues at Monmouth University in New Jersey. I continue my work with community organizations in Chile, working with a youth group there, as well as a neighborhood council. And, I am working with the Association of the Family Members of the Disappeared to gather the stories of the strong women who began this organization and to then tell those stories. Often times the stories of their loved ones are highlighted, but we miss out on the stories of these incredibly strong, courageous and resilient women.

In the U.S. I work with the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (www.economichumanrights.org) as we build a movement to eliminate poverty. I am also active with a community organization building leadership and doing activism with Latino/a immigrants in Philadelphia called Juntos (www.vamosjuntos.org). Eduardo is a social worker and supervisor for the Department of Human Services in Philadelphia, working with children and families at risk.

TJ (Meyer) Hellman (Class of 1999)



TJ (Meyer) Hellmann and his wife Rachel "officially" adopted Gloria Jean Hellmann.

Paul Freese (Class of 1981)

Paul L. Freese, Jr. shared with us a little bit about his life and work. He currently is the Director of Litigation & Advocacy for Public Counsel, the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations and the largest provider of **pro bono** legal services in the United States. He has been a member of the California State Bar since 1988. He joined Public Counsel in March 1994, and acted as Directing Attorney of the Homelessness Prevention Law Project for more than six years before being promoted in January 2001 to his current position in which he supervises more than 40 attorneys and their staff. From October 2007 through March, 2008, he was appointed as Public Counsel's Interim President and CEO.

Paul continues to be committed to the poor and marginalized. This includes his participation in several committees regarding Mental Health Services, Homelessness & Poverty, Children, Juvenile and Family Services. He has received numerous awards, including the Antonia Hernandez Public Interest Award from UCLA School of Law; the "Courage Award" from the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness in February 2009, the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Toberman Neighborhood Center, March 2009, the "Hero of Hollywood Award" from My Friend's Place youth services center in October 2007, and the Info Line of Los Angeles' Community Corazones Unidos Award for "outstanding community service" in October 2005.

Paul was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner engaged in human rights work and was the first Maryknoll Lay Missioner to receive an appointment to a Regional Position, serving in his last year as the Justice & Peace Coordinator for the Philippine Region. He is married to Dr. Denise Freese, a family physician with UCLA Medical Group, and has two sons, David age 14 and Paul Leo, age 12.

Joan Sharkey Durning (Class of 1986)

Joan shared, "My girls have just finished school and we are trying to find the "new summer normal." We are one week into school break. Both of my girls will be in full-time school in the fall and it is hitting me that there is no going back to holding hands in the park at 10am come September! It is making me sad. Where does the time go? I can't believe your children have grown up (seems like just yesterday they were running around Bethany) and my children seem to be changing before my eyes."



Joe and Denise Sandman (Class of 2002)



Joe wrote "We are all well." The kids are just finishing up their first year of school back in the states and all did above average in everything except maybe English. We didn't move back to our old house as we had outgrown it but moved outside Lexington to a smaller town and really love it. We have made lots of friends through school and church. The kids go to a small Catholic school of about 160 students. Getting the kids into a small school coming back was a great choice as I think it helped with their transition a lot. Rachel goes to high school next year.

Wow! I have been working full time since we got back and am still getting used to the pace of working in the states. At least I have a job in this economy. The Santos Meekers came down for a visit during spring break the first week of

April and we had a blast reconnecting with them. It was great being in the states with someone who we were in Brazil with. I hope all is well for you all and I look forward to keeping in touch on how things are going with MKLM.

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrating Classes of '74, '83 and '84

The planning for the celebration of the Classes '83 and '84 is moving along. John Zionce, class of '74 will join us too. The big gathering will begin Friday August 14th with the Association Anniversary Mass at 11 am. Fr. Ed Dougherty, Maryknoll Society Superior General, will preside. The liturgy will be followed by a luncheon with the Bethany Staff and after that we will have a Maryknoll and MKLM update and that will be followed by dinner at the Sisters.

On Saturday August 15 we will have Life Line updates by Class, the traditional Class and Group pictures, a barbecue at the Maryknoll Seminary. The afternoon will close with a celebration and dinner in the Bethany Dining Room at 5 p.m. The Saturday activities will close with a Gaudeamus and great fun to be held in the classroom. Maryknoll Missioners and Returned Missioners of the area are invited to participate.

On Sunday, August 16th we will close the anniversary activities with a Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. in the Bethany Chapel. During that mass Susan Nagele, in the context of community will ritualize her continued commitment to mission with Maryknoll.

If you belong to one of these classes please make sure you RSVP your participation with all the details; number of people from your family attending, arrival and departure times, etc. Your presence will make our celebration more complete! Please RSVP with Cecilia at cespinoza@mklm.org or call 914-762-6364 ext. 207 to make reservations or get more info.

JOB & STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

1) FIELD ORGANIZER • Boston, MA

Position available with Corporate Accountability International.

Duties: halts abusive practices that threaten public health, the environment, and our democracy.

Salary: \$27K–\$30,600.

Deadline: 9/10/2009.

For more information and to apply, **e-mail:** organizing@stopcorporateabuse.org; **phone:** 617.695.2525; **website:** www.stopcorporateabuse.org or www.stopcorporateabuse.org/content/jobs#FO.

2) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZER • DC

Position available with Corporate Accountability International.

Duties: leads organizing on campaign challenging big tobacco; cultivates NGO and government allies to advance the global tobacco treaty and protects it from tobacco industry interference; produces action alerts and other materials; organizes at international meetings and conferences.

Salary: \$36K –\$42K.

Deadline: 9/10/2009.

For more information and to apply, **e-mail:** jobs@stopcorporateabuse.org; **phone:** 617.695.2525; **website:** www.stopcorporateabuse.org.

3) PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, AMERICAS • New York

Position available with American Jewish World Service.

Duties: provides administrative support to the management of AJWS' portfolio of grants in Latin America and the Caribbean; collaborates with program officers on setting grant making policy in the region as part of a closely knit grants department.

Qualifications: B.A./B.S. required; Spanish fluency (written and spoken); one year programmatic work experience at a community-based organization, foundation, international development, or human rights organization; experience living and working in the region. Deadline: 7/24/2009.

For more information and to apply, **e-mail:** opportunities@ajws.org; **website:** www.ajws.org/jobs.

4) Bowling Green State University • Bowling Green, OH

Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural and International Education (MACIE).

Fellows will work with educational organizations in northwest Ohio. Fellows will receive graduate assistantships that include full tuition waivers and stipends.

Contact: Dr. Margaret Zoller Booth

Phone: 419.372.9950

E-mail: boothmz@bgsu.edu

5) Drew University • Madison, NJ

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT): Fellows will tutor and teach in the Orange School District.

Each Fellow will receive a 40% tuition scholarship.

Contact: Linda Swerdlow

Phone: 973.408.3285

E-mail: lswerdlo@drew.edu

6) Duke University • Durham, NC

Fuqua School of Business

Master's of Business Administration (MBA) with concentrations in accounting, decision sciences, entrepreneurship and innovation, finance, leadership and ethics, management, marketing, operations management, social entrepreneurship, and strategic consulting.

There are also Certificates of Excellence offered in finance and marketing as well as a certificate program in health sector management. Joint degrees in other professional programs also available.

Benefits (financial): up to 25% tuition credit.

Contact: Matthew T.A. Nash

Phone: 919.660.7791

Fax: 919.660.1096

E-mail: mnash@duke.edu

7) Marquette University • Milwaukee, WI

Master of Arts in Communication, Educational Policy and Leadership, English, History, International Affairs, Political Science, Public Service, Social and Applied Philosophy, or Theology; Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering or Economics; Master of Business Administration.

Benefits: full tuition scholarship and monthly stipend.

Contact: Carole Ferrara

Phone: 414.288.5861

E-mail: carole.ferrara@marquette.edu

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY WITH OTHERS?

SEND A NOTE FOR OUR AUGUST E-NEWSLETTER

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