

Always A Missioner

a newsletter for MKLM Returned Missioners

Thanks to all our contributors to “Always a Missioner”,

who have shared their stories and news through this newsletter. Our next printed newsletter will be sent in October of this year. Please send me your reflections, experiences, remembrances and updates to share with others who are part of the extended MKLM family and history. Also, every other month I'm sending a shorter e-newsletter to those that have provided their e-mail addresses. Please continue keeping us informed of address, phone and e-mail changes so we can keep you in the loop. Stay in touch with us by checking our Always a Missioner Intranet at

www.alwaysamissioner.org

Easter blessings,
Cecilia
friendsofmission@mkmlm.org
914-762-6364.

WORDS FROM MKLM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Easter greetings!

The picture on the right was taken recently when I accompanied a number of our Board members and several friends to visit the MKLM missionaries in East Africa. This child, in a slum on the outskirts of Mom-basa, Kenya, has the school logo on her uniform, with the motto at the bottom saying “Yes We Can!”, borrowed of course from Barack Obama’s campaign. This encounter typified our many marvelous experiences, leading each of our Board members to say this journey into mission was

“a life-changing experience”.



Rev. William Vos, Board Chair

That our Board members would take the time from their busy lives (and pay their way!) to visit our missionaries in their mission sites is an indication of the exceptional commitment they have to mission and specifically mission as lived out by our Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Stated simply, the Board of Directors, established in early '07, is composed

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Dreams of Social Justice and Eradicating Poverty

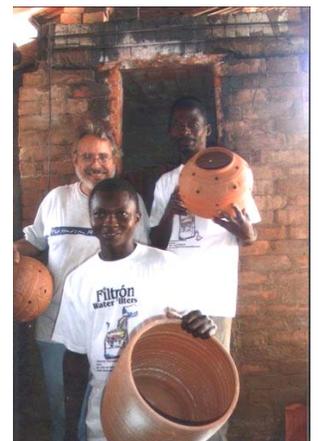
Contributed by Kathy McBride '77 Venezuela



Kathy McBride

At a young age, Kathy McBride and Ron Rivera each had dreams of social justice and eradicating poverty. Both joined organizations of volunteer or mission service to the poorest in Latin America.

Kathy worked for eight years in community development in a squatters’ settlement on the outskirts of the city of Caracas, Venezuela. Her primary work involved literacy training and teaching primary health care to women factory workers.



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Easter greetings.....

of 11 really exceptional people who are committed to share time, talent as well as their personal “treasure” to assure the future of MKLM.

I had the privilege of working with our leadership in selecting our Board members. After serving in mission for 19 years with Maryknoll (East Africa), I became a member of the MKLM Advisory Board which in turn collaborated in giving birth to the Board of Directors. The need for a Board of Directors to oversee MKLM rose from the decision to restructure our organization based on a model that better represents laity in mission (rather than the Religious model we had inherited from the Maryknoll Society and Congregation).

Thus at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened in April '06 the MKLM delegates voted to formally and legally set up the Board which would be composed of 2 current MKLM members, 3 former MKLM members and 6 at-large representatives. Great care was taken thereafter to select a very representative group of people who would bring a variety

of gifts to this important governing body. Unfortunately space does not allow me to introduce each person, but the diversity we enjoy assures that MKLM is in very competent hands, providing the needed oversight to maintain our position as the pre-eminent lay mission organization in the US.

A prime function of the Board of Directors is the fiduciary responsibility, assuring MKLM's financial stability as well as the good use of our resources. During the current economic crisis we on the Board are very conscious of the heavy responsibility we now bear to come up with the necessary resources to maintain a positive mission spirit within our organization and to plan for growth in the future. While it is a trying time and we're dealing with some exceptional challenges, I can say that whenever we gather for Board meetings and when I see the intense work carried on by our various Board committees I am most confident that we will have a grace-filled future in mission.

Best wishes for a very blessed Easter season!

Rev. Bill Vos, Board Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

Deacon Tom Cornell

Father of Deirdre Cornell Gould, '02 Mexico, will be honored by Pax Christi as a Peacemaker.

A veteran of civil rights struggles, peace movements, military draft resistance and community-building, Deacon Tom Cornell offers too much to put into words. He is a veteran of the Catholic Worker Movement, former national secretary of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, a founder of Pax Christi, U.S.A., and the only Catholic living

or dead who served as lieutenant to both A.J. Muste and Dorothy Day. He worked closely also with Barbara Deming, Thich Nhat Hahn, and, through Andrew Young, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cornell has an extensive background in war resistance as organizer and vanguard participant. He served prison time for his acts of nonviolent resistance against the Vietnam War and was pardoned by President Jimmy Carter.

Cornell has spent considerable time in Iraq both before and after the most recent U.S. invasion.

The Awards Reception will be held Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 3 to 6 PM at Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York.

Excerpt from Speaker Biographies, Wheels of Justice organization

Dreams of Social...

She joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 1977. In 1984 she moved to Nicaragua where she worked with the Christian Base Communities.

Ron Rivera, a Bronx-born Peace Corps volunteer, spent much of his life as a development worker in Central and South America, he discovered his life's mission in Ecuador in the early 1980's. A Guatemalan chemist, Fernando Mazariegos, was showing local potters a ceramic pot he had invented. It was made of clay mixed with sawdust or ground rice husks that burned off during firing, leaving pores so tiny that they blocked the passage of water-borne bacteria while letting the water seep through. The filter pot was easy to make and cheap to buy. Suspended inside a five-gallon container to collect the water, it could purify one to three quarts an hour, drawn through a spigot.

After Ron moved to Managua in 1988, he and Kathy, who had been high school sweethearts, reunited and eventually married. Since then they put their dreams together.

Kathy has been the Central America Regional Co-Director for the Center for Global Education/Augsburg College since 1994. In addition to her position as Co-Director, Kathy teaches a History/Women's Studies in the CGE semester program abroad and has worked with the Center for Global Education in Nicaragua since 1988. Kathy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Latin American Studies from George Mason University and a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University, with a concentration in International Education.

For the last decade of his life, Mr. Rivera has traveled all over the world setting up microenterprises in Ghana, Cambodia, Yemen, Colombia and other countries. Many thrived, especially after Mr. Rivera began organizing the workshops as profit-making

microenterprises. Some produced filters for a short period and then shut down, either abandoned by their sponsors or caught up in political turmoil, as was the case with a workshop in the Darfur region of Sudan.



Beverly Pillers, the chairwoman of the board of Potters for Peace, said Mr. Rivera's factories had produced about 300,000 filters, selling for \$5 to \$25, and used by about 1.5 million people. At the moment, 13 more filter factories are scheduled to begin operating by the end of next year. "I saw Ron as a Pied Piper," said Robert Pillers, the treasurer of Potters for Peace. "He had the capacity to draw people in and then give them the means to accomplish something."

Ron Rivera was now a left-leaning, power-to-the people potter. Pottery became Rivera's way of laying his hands on the world's problems. He later joined the staff of a small organization called Potters for Peace, seeking out indigenous potters across Latin America and helping them refine the way they mixed glazes and built kilns in order to increase their profits and therefore their power.

Working with rural women, Rivera encouraged them to create their own new - ceramic to be free of exploitation. Ron passed away in late 2008; he



is survived by his wife, Kathy McBride, and four children.

Ron Rivera, Kathy McBride and Family

CURRENT MKLM NEWS

Board of Directors visited MKLM in Africa



Board Members Frank Johnson (from North Carolina) and Mike Wrob (Texas), with Coral Salvador, MKLM and Sister Veronica Wanjiru, she is in charge of a major HIV/AIDs program in Mombasa, Kenya.



Frank Johnson with a child at Mahali pa Usalama (literally meaning "A Safe Place") in Mombasa.



Frank Johnson with a child and mother at a MKLM run center for children with disabilities.



Board Member Marj Humphrey, former MKLM, back visiting staff at the health center where she worked for many years in Kitale, Kenya.

CHURCH TALKS

MKLM may be speaking at a Parish near you. The states where we will be are CA, CT, FL, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, TX, WI. For the specific parish & city, visit www.mkmlm.org and from the menu bar click on "Our Work", then U.S. Programs, then Church Talks.

We welcome the opportunity to visit your parish/faith community.

Call **Ellen O'Connell** at 610-622-5012 or email oconnell@mkmlm.org if you would like us to visit.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

25 Years Serving the People of Sub-Saharan Africa

Dr. Susan Nagele came to Maryknoll Lay Missioners practically right out of medical school and has served the people of sub-Saharan Africa since that time. Susan, a member of the class of 1984, will join other members of her class in a jubilee celebration to take place at Bethany from August 14th thru 16th of the present year.

Susan is originally from Urbana, IL which is in the diocese of Peoria. She graduated from the University of Illinois and from the University of Southern Illinois Medical School. Over her 25 years of mission in three countries of Africa, Susan has been a committed communicator with her home parish of St. Patrick's in Urbana as well as with other friends and those who have supported her in mission. Susan has indeed been a bridge between her sending community and those she has been privileged to work with and serve in these 25 years.

Susan's first ministry was in Tanzania at a rural hospital located in a vast Maryknoll parish setting in the Musoma diocese. In 1991 she moved to southern Sudan to begin a primary health care program for the Diocese of Torit. The diocese was in the midst of a civil war, and she had to move from place to place, so this was not possible. She established several dispensaries and health centers in various parishes. She also began a TB treatment program that treated over 500 people before it had to be closed because of the war. At one point she was the only doctor for more than 30,000 displaced persons in

two camps. In 2000 her work was featured on *ABC's Niteline* as an example of an American doing something good around the world as we entered the new millennium.

Susan moved to Kitale, Kenya in December 2003 and works in Kiminini, a small town 20km (12 miles) from Kitale in the Trans-Nzoia District. Kitale is a town of about 50,000. The District has an absolute poverty level of 55%. The combination of poverty and AIDS has resulted in a health crisis in the area. Susan works as the physician at Kiminini Cottage Hospital. This is a 30-bed cottage hospital run by the Diocese of Kitale. Recently the diocese has renewed efforts to improve the quality of service there. Susan's ministry directly responds to their appeal for help. The hospital performs minor surgery, has a pharmacy and laboratory. One of their programs is Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS. The hospital serves many who have "opportunistic" infections due to AIDS. Susan works in direct patient care, teaches health care staff and does work in administration. She also serves as the Medical Advisor to the Health Coordinator for the Diocese of Kitale. She provides supervision, teaching and consultations through ongoing visits. Her medical skills and extensive experience in Africa make a valuable contribution to the health care needs of poor and less fortunate people in Kenya.



Susan Nagele in Sudan

SPOTLIGHT ON RETURNED MISSIONER CLASS OF 1984

Lisa Sullivan and Nine SOA Watch activists visited Chile

"We came to Chile in order to meet with Chileans concerning the violation of the human rights during the Pinochet Regime, situations of torture, disappearance and assassinations. These abuses took place at the hands of graduates of the School of Americas," Sullivan said. The visit to Chile is one of the 16 visits they've made to different countries in Latin America asking governments to withdraw from SOA. They had meetings with activists that survived the regime. This is a movement to bring

about the personal stories to know what the effects of the School of Americas are in real lives. In Chile, there were more than 3,000 disappearances or assassinations along with thousands exiled and tortured so it is clear what the effects of the School of Americas were in Chile. Sullivan says, "we wanted the SOAW activists to share their stories and commitments, and the sacrifices it meant for them to work to close the school as well as hear the stories of the Chileans that were affected by the military dictatorship in Chile and the international politics of the US foreign policy towards Latin America."

The SOA team was able to talk to some members of the Chilean government such as the Subsecretary of Defense as well as to a Chilean congressman. They met with the Chilean Human Rights counselor to the Congress and were able to ask him to review the issue of the SOA and the future of the institute. They met with many former political prisoners, victims of torture, families of detained, disappeared and executed persons and the organizations that support them. They listened to their stories and deeply grew in their understanding of the Chilean experience and they dialogued with these SOAW

Renewing Connections!

By Mary Anne Perrone (Bolivia '86)

We flew into Santiago, Chile on the eve of the first election since the military coup in 1973 – the one that would oust dictator Augusto Pinochet. It was December 1989 and we were lay missionaries in Bolivia. Having two pre-school age children, we did not travel or sight-see much during our mission stay in Latin America. But this trip was different – we were visiting Rick's mother's family members in Santiago, whom I had never met and whom he hadn't seen for over 20 years. Our trip to Chile was facilitated all the way by the Maryknoll missionaries there. We were met at the airport by Mary Sue Smiaroski, (Chile '85) whisked to the Center House overnight, and then sent on a four-hour train trip the next day to Linares where we stayed with Sam and Cecilia Espinoza-Stanton. We spent three great days there visiting their worksites, visiting

Fr. Steve DeMott, and enjoying Maryknoll hospitality. It was there that we celebrated with everyone the peaceful, democratic repudiation of the ruthless dictator and the hope of democracy with the newly-elected president.

Of all the experiences there those few days, one has stayed with me all of these years. As soon as we got to Cecilia and Sam's house, Cecilia asked if we would like to see where she voted that day – her first ever opportunity to vote, even though she was many years past legal voting age. We walked over to the now-empty neighborhood school, into a simple room with a few simple wooden tables. Cecilia proudly took us to one of those tables, and said with her eyes shining brightly, "This is the table where I voted." It was as if a miracle had occurred at that table, her enthusiasm so great for exercising her long-denied right.

Fast forward 10 years, and we are living in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We get a call from Ted and Maruja

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MKLM Returned Missioner Appointed Associate Dean at Emory University

Victoria Armour-Hileman ('88), an award-winning scholar and former member of MKLM leadership, has been appointed associate dean of religious life and chaplain at Emory University. Her appointment to the newly established position was announced by the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, dean of the chapel and religious life at Emory.

"Victoria Armour-Hileman brings considerable gifts to this new position," said Henry-Crowe. "Her commitment to higher education, spiritual formation, and inter-religious work, as well as a passion for liturgy and the arts, make her an extraordinary addition to the Emory community." Armour-Hileman, began her new role Aug. 1 of 2008, after graduating from Hebrew Union College in May of 2008.

Armour-Hileman holds a Ph.D in British and Ameri-

can literature from the University of Iowa. She is the winner of numerous awards in music composition, writing, liturgy and poetry.



Vicki Armour-Hileman

Armour-Hileman is the author of a non-fiction book, "Singing to the Dead," on her work with indigenous Mon refugees in Thailand, and co-author of "Defenseless in Detention," on the detention of children in Hong Kong at the end of the Vietnamese refugee crisis in Hong Kong. Vicki served as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner both in Hong Kong and Thailand before being elected to the first leadership team of the newly founded Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful in 1994.

Emory University is one of the nation's leading private research universities and a member of the Association of American Universities. Known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate college

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RENEWING.... *continued from page 6*

Gutmann-Gonzalez, lay missionaries in Chile, whom we had never met. They would be in our town for a conference – did we have room for them and their three daughters for a night or so? They spent one or two pleasant nights with us, we had some great talks, and then they were on their way back to mission.

Another ten years passes, and we now have a new mission in Chile. Rick’s mother has passed away and we have a portion of her ashes to return to the sea near her childhood home in Cartagena. In January of 2009, we return to Chile for the first time in 20 years. We contact Cecilia here in the U.S. and she helps us make contacts and gives us some good tourist advice! Once again, Maryknoll hospitality is at our disposal. We find out that Ted and Maruja are still in Chile and we contact them by email (how our mission experience back then would have been different with email!). They remember us -- and are delighted to host us at their home and mission site in Vilches. We get a close-hand view of their work in the community on eco-spirituality and sustainability and are in awe of their long-term commitment to mission and to the people of Chile. We meet the other lay missionaries in Talca, Sarah Burgess and Judy Ress in Santiago and learn of the great work with women’s leadership that they are facilitating in the area. Our time was so enriched by the sharing of time and space with each and all of them. We are grateful for the work they are doing and for the connection we enjoyed with them.

We were able to scatter Rick’s mother’s ashes in Cartagena, a sacred task for us. We reconnected with her family members in Santiago with whom we had lost complete contact. We visited Villa Grimaldi, the torture/detention center turned Peace Park, along with the cemetery where so many victims of the Pinochet regime are buried and remembered -- another sacred privilege. And we renewed our connection with a vibrant part of the Maryknoll family in Chile, who amid all the changes of the last 20 years, have continued accompanying the poor with presence and with hope.

MKLM Returned... *continued from page 6*

of arts and sciences, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities, Emory is ranked as one of the country's top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to its nine schools, the university encompasses The Carter Center, Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Emory Healthcare, the state's largest and most comprehensive health care system.

EU Media Relations - April 2009

RECRUITMENT

Do you know anyone thinking about doing overseas mission with Maryknoll?

Let them know about the **Maryknoll Vocation Encounter** – a gathering of women and men contemplating service with Maryknoll as Sisters, Lay Missioners, Brothers or Priests.

What: Maryknoll Vocation Encounter

Theme: “Reaching out in Love, Rooted in Hope”

When: July 30 – August 2, 2009

Where: Maryknoll Center (Ossining, New York)

For more information and to register, they can contact:

Michelle Born, Recruitment Manager,

Tel: (914) 762-6364, ext. 114,

MBorn@mkim.org

For any returned missionaries in the New York area, we would love to have you join us for any part of the weekend, to engage participants in informal discussion and share your Maryknoll experience with people who are discerning applying to one of the Maryknoll entities. You are also welcome to join us for Andean music and dancing on the evening of Saturday, August 1st. Please be in touch with Michelle if you plan to attend.



Mary Anne Perrone ('86 Bolivia) in Chile during the 1990 Presidential Election.

Tribute to the DeMott Family

If there is family that embodies the essence of Maryknoll, it is the DeMott family. Maryknoll priest Steve DeMott was known and loved by so many lay missionaries throughout the 80's and 90's. Steve served as chaplain for several formation groups at Bethany and in his work as a journalist visited many lay missionaries on site. From '86 through '92 he worked along with Father Ted Von der Ahe, MM on a rural pastoral team in the diocese of Linares, Chile that included the Stanton-Espinoza family ('85), Terry Miller and Joan Kelly ('87) and Mary Coonan ('82). Brothers Jim ('79) served as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Korea and Mike ('84) served in Peru.

This family had as its strong and faithful matriarch, Marie Ryan DeMott. Marie was pregnant with her 9th child when her husband died of cancer. She raised her nine children with a sense of faith and justice in Omaha, NE where Marie continues to reside at age 90. In recent years her faith has been tested. One of her sons was lost in a fire in the 1970's. Her oldest daughter, Mary died of cancer four years ago. Fr. Steve passed away in 2006 of cancer as well, and her youngest son Charles passed of cancer as well a year ago. Recently the oldest of the boys, Peter, was killed in a tree cutting accident. Peter was well known in the non-violent struggle for justice and in the Catholic Worker Movement. When Steve died Peter couldn't attend the funeral mass because he was imprisoned for pouring blood on a nuclear submarine. Peter was not only an inspiration to his siblings, and a support to his widowed mother, but was a symbol of values to so many.

Mark Koenig ('77), former MKLM director, shared: "One of my strongest memories of Peter was from a visit he made while his brother Jim was going through orientation. At the time Peter was living in D.C. in community - I believe it was at Jonah House. The community was committed to living as simply as possible. Part of their rationale was to have little or no income so as to avoid paying taxes that would support war. To eat, the community members would visit the dumpsters of local groceries stores and salvage food. They found this process not only provided enough food to feed themselves, but that they were also able to provide food for a number of homeless. Seeing the potential benefit

that could come from other people's garbage, a few of the community members felt they should purchase a used pick-up to broaden their "harvest". No one in the community owned a vehicle as they relied on public transportation. This turned out to be quite a divisive topic for the community. Some argued that a pickup would help them accomplish a greater good and some argued it would be compromising their commitment to live simply.



Fr. Steve DeMott on the left with the Linares Team

I often thought of his story as we struggled with issues of what it means to be a community during the MKLM orientations - and within all of Maryknoll. On the one hand our efforts to be a community and live simply paled in comparison to that of Peter on his friends. On the other hand I realized that no matter what level of community and living simply we achieved the tension of what it means to be true to that commitment will never go away. We never arrive, we simply continue the journey.

And let us pray for the good souls of Peter and Steve and the other members of the DeMott family who hold us close in our journeys - as we do them."

LISA SULLIVAN... *continued from page 5*

activists and prisoners of conscience to bring attention to the "School of the Assassins".

"By coming together and hopefully closing the School because of our joint effort this will allow us to look at other issues which touch us at both sides of the borders, other issues of militarization such as Guantanamo and such as military bases in Latin America that have a negative effect on this continent. We hope to have success in finally closing SOA and being able to move on to other issues in Latin America affected by negative and abusive foreign policy," said Sullivan.

For more information about the work of the movement to close the SOA go to <http://www.soaw.org/>

Excerpts from DVD The Right to Live in Peace

STUDIES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV) is looking for an Executive Director.

The E.D. will analyze the organization's strengths and challenges, assess its niche in a competitive faith-based volunteer program market, and provide recommendations for the organization's future

Bachelor's degree required. MA preferred. Management, fundraising, financial, computer skills required.

Please send cover letter and resume to ekelly@nygoodshepherd.org. No phone or email inquires, please. **Deadline:** 5/1/2009.

CNVS is offering a position as Campus Recruitment Associate.

CNVS is seeking former volunteers who will be attending graduate school in the fall of 2009 to be a Campus Recruitment Associate. It is expected that CRAs will dedicate 10-15 hours to this work each month. They will be awarded a stipend of \$750 for the year and will be provided with funds to carry out their campus-based activities.

For more information on the job contact Katie Mulembe at 301-270-0900 ext.14, kmulembe@cnvs.org **Deadline:** 5/29/2009.

SPANISH IMMERSION TEACHER, Minnetonka, MN

Position available with International Spanish Language Academy. **Duties:** conducts classroom instruction of all basic subjects in Spanish; interweaves Hispanic cultures into class activities. **Qualifications:** B.A. in education; Spanish fluency; teaching license; effective classroom management; enthusiasm for high level of parent involvement. **Deadline:** 6/30/2009. For more information and to apply, phone: 952.746.6020; e-mail kterhaar@islacad.org; website: www.islacad.org.

UPDATES: RETURNED MISSIONERS

Thanks, thanks and thanks!

- **Steve and Laura Brown, Class of 2005**, along with their children, Emily, Anna, and Ella, have returned to the United States from mission in Chile. Laura said: "Greetings from the Brown family! It's been almost two months since we've returned to the U.S. and in between all the rocky moments of culture shock, amazing things are happening. Steve and I are so excited to share the news with you that we are in the midst of creating the Charlottesville Catholic Worker, houses of hospitality and an urban farm."
- **Dick and Nancy Bureson, Class of 1996**, have returned from mission. In addition to Dick and Nancy's service to the people of El Salvador, and later Mexico, as well as the diocese of San Diego, CA, Dick also recently served on the MKLM Board of Directors. Dick and Nancy wrote: "These past 12 1/2 years have been such a blessing to us that we find ourselves lacking for words to adequately express our feelings. We are so incredibly grateful, not only to the lay missionaries, but also to all of the dedicated staff working at Bethany. Our hearts have been touched and our eyes have been opened by the people that we worked with in El Salvador



and Mexico as well as by all the dedicated missionaries in the Association."

- **Dennis and Kate Callahan, Class of 2007**, along with their children Amalya, Benjamin, and Noah, have transitioned home from their assignment in Bolivia. The Callahan family came to MKLM from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- **Eileen Charleton, Class of 1988**, has returned from mission. Eileen served with MKLM in Venezuela (88-99), U.S. Operations (Jan '00 - June '04), and Tanzania (July '04 - Feb '09). Eileen shared: "I reflect on the roads I have traveled, the places I've lived and the multitudes of children, young people and adults who have passed through my life (and whose lives I have impacted positively or negatively). Some touched me for a brief moment while others walked with me, guiding and challenging me to become all I have been created to be. In every place I have lived ... Buffalo, NY; Wellsville, NY; Cochabamba, Bolivia; Barinas and Barquisimeto, Venezuela; Ossining, NY; and Musoma, Tanzania ... I have seen another face of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In each of these places and with every person, God has challenged me to read the Sacred Scriptures in a new way, from a new perspective ... reflecting from the perspective of the poor, the sick, the innocent children and the aged."



FROM OUR STAFF

MKLM Reflections *By Kathy Wright*

Dear Alumni,

I was going to say fellow alumni, but that's not exactly true although I do feel a part of all of you. Nonetheless, I bear the title of "retired" employee instead!! When you read this it will be a little over a year since I left MKLM and I've had some time to reflect on just what those thirty years meant to me.

Sometime in the 80's the old Service Team spent a morning doing our spiritual lifelines and it was a fascinating process for me to see how far I had come from "growing up Catholic" in the 40's and 50's. As some of you know my parents' home was a home away from home for the seminarians while I was in high school, so, reflecting on those years, and all the years thereafter with MKLM really was an incredible insight into how much Maryknoll was a part of my life – almost 60 years!

When I try to think of just one word to describe my experience in MKLM only one word comes to mind – PEOPLE!!! That's what it was really all about. People interested in going overseas, the staff I worked with, the people overseas – what learnings they gave me. As that old expression goes "When the student is ready the teacher will appear". I am thankful that I was open to learning new things, especially about myself. One of the most important of those was listening to you sharing your life stories during your interviews at Bethany.



My dad was an alcoholic but I had never even considered the impact that had on my life until I heard some of your own stories. It made me see that his alcoholism had some effects on who I was and I began reading and going to ACOA meetings. How wonderful that was and how it helped me to look at myself differently.

Another huge learning for me was going overseas to the three continents, seeing the work you folks were involved in. Visiting all those countries opened my eyes to how universal poverty is, but how the people find joy in simple things, and are happy to share what little they have with you. Having a lay missionary working in admissions with me gave me more insights into mission life. It also kept me from getting stale, or getting into a rut of "that's how we always did it"!!!

My life is very different these days as I have become a caretaker for my husband whose health is quite fragile. Witnessing the compassion you have given to each other and to those you went to serve has helped me to be patient and accept that this is my role in life at this time. I am so grateful to all of you for the examples you have been to so many people, not the least of whom is me! I thank you from the bottom of my heart for entering my life. I hold you all in prayer and ask that you do the same for me and Larry.

Peace and blessings,

Kathy

FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS

Service Learning opportunities

Friends Across Borders is working with several universities to place students on Serving Learning experiences with the poor. Some of the Universities are Notre Dame, Marquette, Villanova, Holy Names, Ohio Dominican and Seattle University. If you have contacts with Universities that would like to partner with

Maryknoll Lay Missioners please put them in contact with **Cecilia Espinoza**, at 914-762-6364 or write to

friendsacrossborders@mklm.org



MOGC INVITES

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC), as part of the Faith-Economy-Ecology (FEE) working group, is co-hosting the Forum on Faith, Economy and Ecology: Moving beyond growth to a sustainable Earth community. Held May 2-3, the forum hopes to engage communities of faith more deeply in creating economies that support right relationships between humans and the rest of creation. The forum will be held in Washington, D.C., near Catholic University; space is limited to 75 participants. A meeting fee of \$100 covers the meeting itself (speakers, facility, materials etc.) plus lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Additional meals will be available at the forum's site, the Center for Educational Design, which also has 20 rooms available at \$30 per night additional cost on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information visit the MOGC website, www.maryknollogc.org, and click on the "Faith-Ecology-Economy" box on the left menu.

As part of the preparations for the Catholic Church's Extraordinary Synod on Africa (October 2009), the MOGC offers "Together with Africa: Celebrating Hope," a weekly email service. Each week, a prayer, an action alert, an update or a "story of hope" will be sent. Every week, each item will be updated on the website,

www.maryknollogc.org/togetherwithafricacelebratinghope.html.

Sign up on the website or contact us at ogc@maryknoll.org, or call **202-832-1780**, or write P.O. Box 29132, Washington, D.C., 20017. Follow the MOGC on Twitter – our user name is **MkIGlobalConcer**. Check out the MOGC page on Facebook – Maryknoll Global Concerns.



2009 MIP MKLM's annual Mission Integration Program has been scheduled for May 10-22.

Each year, Bethany Building welcomes MKLM missionaries who return from their country of service after their first contract. The participants, (or, MIPers, as they are tenderly referred to) include Celine Campas (Cambodia/Vietnam), Steve Chinnavaso

CLASS OF 2005 MIP

(East Timor), Tara McKinney (Tanzania), Sarah McLaughlin (Brazil), Kim Nagy (El Salvador), Jason Obergfell (Andean), Steve Pohl (Andean), Tom Scott (Tanzania), Becky and Joe Sherman (Andean), and Vikki Smith (Kenya/Zimbabwe).

Some of the missionaries will return to mission overseas. Others have decided to continue their journey of faith here in the United States as Returned Missioners.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CLASS OF 2005 MIP

Starts Sunday May 10th at 3:00 PM to May 22nd 2009 at Bethany, Maryknoll, NY.

GLOBAL COUNCIL & MISSION ASSEMBLY

Starts Sunday June 7th, to 14th, 2009 at Bethany, Maryknoll, NY.

MISO 2009

Starts Thursday July 9th to 24th, 2009, it will take place at Bethany, Maryknoll, NY.

REUNITE, REMINISCE AND RECONNECT HERE AT BETHANY!

1974, 1983 and 1984 CLASS GATHERING August 14 - 16, 2009

RSVP by May 8 calling at **414-461-1810** or write to friendsofmission@mklm.org

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Points of interest:

- Returned Missioners Highlights
- Updates Returned Missioners
- Special Goodbyes!
- Current and Returned Missioners' Children
- Current MKLM News
- Updates - Maryknoll Community
- Office for Global Concerns
- Calendar of Events and Much More



Quinn, Magdalena and Fiona Kelly-Miller ('87 Chile) and Samuel Villagra, son of Cecy Stanton ('85 Chile) celebrating Easter in Milwaukee, WI



P.O. Box 307
Maryknoll, NY 10545 – 0307

PERSON'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

TOWN, STATE, ZIP