

VOC



maryknoll lay
missioners

Where The Compassion Of The Faithful Transforms Lives

Voices of Compassion



Building Bridges of Faith



MKLM Mission Statement

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work in poor communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.

Contact Us



To visit us, learn more about becoming a lay missioner or to support us, please visit our website www.mkmlm.org



Please Visit our Chapel on the Maryknoll Lay Missioners website and light a candle.



Find Us on Facebook.



Maryknoll Lay Missioners meets all 20 charity standards of the Better Business Bureau.



Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a proud member of the National Catholic Development Conference.

Dear Friends,

We are a lay Catholic community called through baptism to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crossing boundaries of culture, nationality and faith to join our lives with impoverished and oppressed people of the earth.

That is the first sentence of Maryknoll Lay Missioners' vision statement. I think it is the heart and soul of what this organization hopes to accomplish.

Our missioners build bridges – they are built on faith, and generosity, and they are built across boundaries and nationalities. The bridges being built by our missioners in Africa, in Central and South America, in Asia, span all the way back to us – those of us who live our vocations here at home.

Part of being a missioner is taking your skills and your faith and your love, and sharing them with the people and the communities who need us. But there is another part of being a missioner – sharing the realities of those less fortunate with us at home.



Sam Stanton
Executive Director

The Gospel calls for transparency. The generous men and women who have answered the call and gone forth live that transparency every day, and in so doing they become a part of the communities they serve. When that happens, we are blessed to be able to experience those communities – in the joyful times, as well as the sorrowful – through our missioners.

In this issue of Voices of Compassion, you will read about some of the missioners who are building bridges between us, the Church here at home, and some of the places around the world that

truly need our help. Our missionaries in the field, those of us here at Maryknoll Lay Missioners' Center, and all of you who support the work we do with your prayers and generosity – all of us together are building a global community, a universal church.

"She was only two years younger than I... I imagined myself living in her home... what a difficult life."

One of the programs we have at Maryknoll Lay Missioners is called Friends Across Borders. It gives parishes, schools, organizations and individuals the chance to do mission outreach overseas. A young man named Max recently returned from a trip to El Salvador, and he offered the following reflection about a young woman he encountered.

"Her name was Yeimi. She was a 16 year old girl who lived with her grandparents in the community. After a half hour or so of conversation, it was time to go, and it wasn't until I had returned to the retreat center that my eyes were open. 'Why do I live better than Yeimi?' 'What gives me the

right to a better life than her?' She was only two years younger than I... I imagined myself living in her home...what a difficult life."

We are blessed. You, me, all of us – we are all very blessed. Along with that blessing comes a responsibility, and that is to try and walk with those less fortunate; offering our prayers when they are needed and our assistance when we can.

Our faith is building bridges. I hope you enjoy reading about them, and I hope it inspires your own faith as we draw nearer to the holy time of year that is approaching.

In mission,



Sam Stanton

P.S. Please visit www.mklm.org if you would like to learn more about Friends Across Borders, our Missioners, or any of the work we do. We have just redesigned our website so we can share information with you more easily and we have included new and exciting videos for you to view!

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS!



Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) offers U.S. Catholics, like Anita Klueg, pictured above, the opportunity to respond to their mission call by living and working with poor communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We invite you to give back from the skills and gifts with which you have been blessed, and work for sustainable change in an overseas community, in yourself, and in our global church.

*Become a Lay
Missioner and
Make a Difference
in the World!*

If you would like to learn more, or speak with a lay missionary, contact Debbie Northern at (800) 818-5276, ext. 123 (dnorthern@mklm.org) or Joe Regotti at ext. 122 (jregotti@mklm.org).

Let Your Light Shine

A group of people, mostly young adults, are gathered at night. They are holding lit candles, and the scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the candles. A man in the foreground, wearing a dark shirt, is holding a lit candle. To his right, a woman is wearing a white shirt with the brand name 'Joma' visible. The background is dark, suggesting an outdoor night setting.

Faith is an encounter with Jesus,
and we must do what Jesus
does: encounter others. . .

—Pope Francis

One of the core values of Maryknoll Lay Missioners is Building Bridges with the Church in the United States. When we send someone on mission, that person becomes a representative of the U.S. Church, and the Church supports our work. We show respect for our supporters by communicating to them about our mission experiences, and by carefully stewarding the resources they pass onto us.

My “Bolivian feet” are still getting strengthened to complement my “United States feet”, however, crossing over the bridge via a church talk was a profound experience for me.

We contribute to the understanding, respect and connectedness of all peoples. We are building a global community – one where we look at all of God’s children as our neighbors, not only those who live next door. The people we serve, and our missionaries in the field want to share their lives and experiences with those of us who remain at home.

their way. The people you are about to meet are spreading faith, hope and love around the world, building bridges back to us.

Donna Stiglmeier has been in Bolivia since 2011. After twenty years of working for non-profit organizations, she came to us. She has enjoyed the common thread of economic justice and bridge building throughout her professional life, and that joy has continued as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. She recently talked about what it was like to come home and share her experiences with others.

“With my feet planted in Bolivia, I returned to the

United States and shared stories from a new and forming vantage point... We can learn about Bolivia through the United States, and the



Cardinal Dolan celebrates with us on our 35th Anniversary

There is no distance too far for faith, hope and love to overcome. There is no language barrier, or cultural difference that can stand in



An enthusiastic welcome to El Salvador

Bolivian reality can teach people in the U.S. to re-commit to freedom for all people around the world, and make manifest God’s invitation to love each other... wherever we find ourselves. Bridges are strongest when the feet are firmly planted in both places, but my Bolivian feet are still getting strengthened to complement my ‘United States feet...’ ”

Kim Fischer, who is on mission as a language teacher, is having a

similar experience in Brazil. Kim is in Sao Paulo with her husband and two year old son Christopher, and has been since last year. She spoke of her experience at World Youth Day:

“When World Youth Day took place in Rio de Janeiro, several of the Brazil missionaries were fortunate to be able to accompany Brazilian pilgrims on the Jornada. At the same time, we kept in contact with youth teams in the U.S. that have previously supported us,

updating them on the events of the Jornada, and exchanging prayers and support. In this way, World Youth Day was celebrated around the world, even if people couldn't physically travel to the celebration city."

As **Catherine Heinhold** (another lay missionary in Brazil) said, "My own feet are planted in two places now – in the U.S. Church (which nurtured, formed and trained me) and the Brazilian Church (which welcomes, challenges and is an important community). I can't live with my feet in these two places without building bridges, communicating the reality here to those back home..."

Our missionaries often encounter social injustices in their ministries. Through her work, and the sharing of that work with people here, she is building bridges between individuals and on which justice will continue to travel.



Connecting with the young in Kenya

Sometimes our missionaries build bridges between individuals and communities with cultural or religious differences. That is one of the things **Judy Walter** is doing in Kenya. In addition to her ministry as a Registered Nurse in charge of St. Patrick's Bangladesh Clinic, Judy works with the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics, in an effort to bring together different faiths, languages and traditions.

"Besides my ministry in health care, I also feel very committed to this Interfaith initiative," she writes. "I am mentor to a group which consists of one Muslim and two Christians. [In an effort to come together] They have chosen to work in the slum where our clinic is located, and the problem they have chosen to address is the youth who

Watching the city of Sao Paulo and its joys and suffering through a visitor's eyes, it is even clearer how much goodness can exist in the world when people of different cultures are brought together to share in community.

do not attend primary school... it has grown to be a vital connection with new friends in ways we never could have imagined."

James Havey is building another kind of bridge – the kind that helps marginalized people within their own communities feel safe and secure. Since last year, James has been working to combat sex slavery in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In order

to do so, he has brought together other nonprofit organizations. His work is difficult, and he draws on the inspiration of other missionaries, both past and present, for strength.

"If change is really to be had, it requires unyielding devotion and passion. Charlie, taking years to develop a whole new form of sign language... Maria, spending hours developing lesson plans... Sami,



Celebrating World Youth Day



We invite you to visit us in Cambodia

making sure that the Bung Tum Pun church community can receive basic health care... seeing how these men and women devote their entire lives to putting others first, I am being transformed even further. It would be selfish not to invite you all to share in these experiences..."

One of the ways Maryknoll Lay Missioners is building bridges with the U.S. Church is through our Friends Across Borders program. We recognize that not everyone can commit to a long term mission experience, so in 1994 we began FAB which is a short term mission outreach opportunity.

James extends an invitation to all of you to participate.

"Through Friends Across Borders you, the reader, have the opportunity to come and see for yourself what we as missionaries do everyday throughout the world. This magazine and its stories may be just words on a page, but there is a possibility of those words becoming a true and life giving reality. I know that my home Archdiocese of Cincinnati is planning a trip to Cambodia in 2015; perhaps you would like to come to?"

It would be selfish of us to not invite you all to share in mission with us and see for yourself how hard we work to help to create a more just and compassionate world.

James echoes the sentiment of all of our missionaries. All of them want to share their work with you. The responsibility to offer people ways to participate in mission is assumed by both new and experienced missionaries. We offer a partnership in our work, inviting you to contribute to our mission both through your prayers and financial support, and we invite you to form real, life-giving relationships with the communities we serve.

As **David Rosser**, a missionary in Tanzania said after he was paid a visit by a couple from home, *"The opportunity to share the work and concern with fresh, caring faces gave an extra boost to missionaries here... we*



We strive to grow together as a global Christian Community in Tanzania

hope they were able to bring back that same enthusiasm and share it with their church community in Oregon!"

Later in this Voices of Compassion you will read the story of one of our recent FAB participants on her trip to El Salvador.

Those are the bridges we are building.

Dear Friends of Maryknoll Lay Missioners,

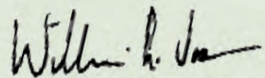
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, our missioners and especially those whom we serve, I am proud to present you with our 2012 Financial Statement.

Each one of you who supports us is a vital member of our mission-sending community. You are absolutely critical in making it possible for us to call forth and send committed Catholic lay men and women to Asia, Africa and Latin America each year.

Thank You! You have invested in an essential venture of our Global Catholic Church: Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are excited about our future and hope that you will share in it with us. Please contact me if you would like further information about us and our mission work.

In the Mission of Christ,

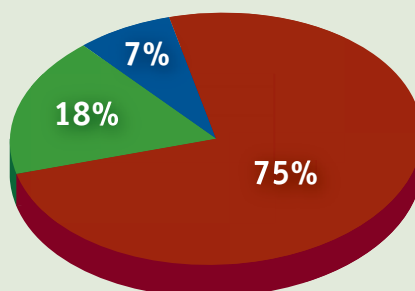


Father Bill Vos, Chair, MKLM Board of Directors
mklmchair@gmail.com



Fr. Bill Vos, Chair, MKLM Board of Directors with students.

EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION



Program Services
Fundraising
Administration

Does not include transfer of property back to Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, Inc. for satisfaction of mortgage obligation

MKLM Board of Directors:

Kathy Bond	Marjorie Humphrey	Mary Sue Smiaroski
Dave Cappellari	Frank Johnson	Sarah Welch
Charlie Dittmeier	Michael Noonan	Mark Wittenburg
David Dreiling	Rhonda Paver	Mike Wrob
Thomas Healey		

FINANCES

2012 Operating Income and Expenses

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

General Public Support, Bequests, Foundation Support, & Legacies	\$3,281,478
Grants from Trust	1,625,000
Investments & Reserves	248,382
Other Revenue	62,013

Revenue Total \$5,216,873

Program Services

Mission Work	\$2,466,462
Education & Recruitment	649,291
Transfer of Property **	5,031,624

Subtotal \$8,147,377

Support Services

Fundraising	\$740,774
Administration	306,004

Subtotal \$1,046,778

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICES EXPENSES TOTAL

\$9,194,155

NET ASSET BALANCE

\$801,339

** Transfer of property back to the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, Inc. for satisfaction of mortgage obligation.

Blessed with Good Friends — Dave Cappellari

Like many friends of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Dave Cappellari came to know about us during a visit to the developing world. While there, he encountered some of our missionaries, and was drawn to the work they were doing. Years after that initial encounter, Dave has visited many of our missions, and serves as a member of our Board of Directors.

“I’ve visited Kenya, Tanzania, Cambodia and El Salvador,” Dave recalls, “and there is one common denominator, and it’s why my heart is with Maryknoll Lay Missioners. The way the missionaries live their lives among the people in need... they live their lives by spreading Christ’s word. It’s a unique way of preaching, of living the Gospel.”

In that reflection, Dave captures the essence of our mission and vision. By becoming part of the communities we serve, not only are we able to make more effective



Dave Cappellari on a FAB trip

change, but we are able to share those experiences with our friends and families. Dave has seen Maryknoll Lay Missioners building bridges in their ministries, and it has had a lasting effect on him.

“In San Salvador, Larry Parr works with the youth. He builds bridges through soccer, to keep them from joining gangs. Charlie Dittmeier’s work with the deaf in Cambodia, helping to develop and teach sign language... in each country you have four, or six, or eight missionaries doing something different. Every project is unique. There is never a lack of need, and there is always something to fit a missionary’s individual talents. That’s why it’s so nice to go and see all the ways people spread Christ’s love.”

Through his visits to our mission sites, and his work here at home to spread the message about the work being done, Dave continues to help Maryknoll Lay Missioners build bridges from the field to the United States. And like all of us, Dave realizes that there are a number of organizations who need support. But there is one reason above all why Maryknoll Lay Missioners has a special place in Dave’s heart – the length and the depth of the commitment being made by our missionaries.

We build bridges on which justice travels

“When they [the missionaries] come, they sign up for three and a half years. An awful lot of good can be done in three and a half years. All of the work they do for individuals, and for communities, I’ve seen it. I’ve experienced it. Maryknoll Lay Missioners recruits strong, qualified and involved individuals. There is a lot of diligence in this organization, and I would invite anyone to learn more about it.”

With friends like Dave, people who dedicate their time and resources to learning more about us, our mission of building bridges between the United States and the developing world is made easier. There is nothing like seeing someone’s face when they experience a mission site for the first time. Hopefully many of you will get to have that experience one day, and help Maryknoll Lay Missioners continue being a builder of bridges.

What My FAB Trip Meant to Me

Maryknoll Lay Missioners works hard to establish and maintain relationships with local Churches throughout the United States. We have long lived in the spirit of Pope Francis' words where he speaks of 'the encounter' with others. One of the ways we provide the opportunity for encounter is through our Friends Across Borders Program.

Pope Francis tells us:
"The Church must step outside herself. To go where? To the outskirts of existence — she must step out. Jesus tells us: "Go into all the world! Go! Preach! Bear witness to the Gospel!" (cf. Mk 16:15). . . In this "stepping out" it is important to be ready for encounter. For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others. . . with our faith we must create a "culture of encounter", a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently, as well as those who hold other beliefs, who do

not have the same faith. They all have something in common with us: they are images of God, they are children of God. Going out to meet everyone, without losing sight of our own position." (5/18/13)

This past summer, one of our Friends Across Borders trips went to El Salvador. Tara, a young Catholic from Connecticut, was on that trip. She tells us of her encounter there:

A former California resident and a faithful Christian, Ann Greig, MKLM embarked on a mission over twenty years ago in a compassionate response to the protein deficiencies in El Salvador. It was not long before people desired to know the secret behind La Programa de Soya's soy milk, and surrounding cities needed to learn how to integrate soy into their diets. Surely, the motive to learn is why I found myself desperately attempting to communicate with representatives of local restaurants and crowded near tables covered with vibrant vegetables and plenty of soy.



We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love.
— Pope Francis

As a young North American, I was frequently grabbed by the wrist and introduced to the volunteers at El Programa de Soya and the Church's youth group. They would all welcome me with their innocent grins, and then continue to thank me for my presence. Our conversation would drift towards the duration of my stay, the reason for my visit, and would be brimming with quizzical eyes that

yearned to understand the words of the other's lips.

I was shocked by their hospitality towards me; I was shocked by their willingness to move past our nation's tensions and look past the United States's involvement in their civil war. Not only was I welcomed with open arms and an open heart, but I was told that I



am home. I realized the amount of God in these amiable people. Each displayed God's forgiveness. Similar to God, each demonstrated love towards others of different races and languages.

In Ann's soya, I met a cheerful and hilarious worker named Vilma who has brighter eyes than you would if you were a 40-something year old single mother and whispering brown eyes that

communicate more than Spanish ever can. When she took my hand, she gently placed a tiny black seed into my palm and stated "Borla". Borla flowers blossom in loud blues and purples while their stems grow voraciously. She pointed at the plant in the corner of the musty Church room and lifted a single finger, stating "uno". It was then that I realized that she was attempting to explain to me that Borla flowers develop from a single seed, stolen

or snatched by an admirer lucky enough to behold it.

As I stood in the whirlwind of shouted instructions and thoughtful questions, I began to realize the power of the Borla. I continue to dwell on how such beautiful things can sprout from a single object handed down by another, and I continue to smile in thought of its blossom. Surely, Ann planted her seed by venturing into the crowded and smog-filled streets of El Salvador in order to apply her education to a greater cause. A stunning fuchsia, her flower is the helping hands of a community and the

healing of a nation. By the kindness of a Salvadoran woman haunted by gang violence and lurking threats, I have been given insight and have witnessed true poverty and crisis.

It is our duty as children of God to respond to our mission in life- whether it's being kind towards foreigners from a country that has wronged you, forgiving an enemy, or dedicating your life to God's plan despite lingering questions and uncertainty. Maybe it is our duty to plant the Borla seed handed down to us by faithful listeners and to have the courage to let it grow. All it takes is faith.

Did You Know?

The three branches of Maryknoll -

- Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers,
 - Maryknoll Sisters,
 - and us, Maryknoll Lay Missioners -
- are each separately funded and operated.

Although we often join together to serve in mission, each entity depends on its donors for support.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners serves the poor in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

To learn more about us, and how your support creates lasting improvements worldwide, visit mklm.org.





Maryknoll Lay Missioners help people in many countries.
Find the 7 differences in these two scenes of a
fruit market in El Salvador.



Pupusas are a popular food in El Salvador. They are sometimes filled with meat, cheese and beans.



Hawksbill turtles live off the coast and have nesting sites on the shores.



Soccer is the most popular sport in El Salvador.



Salvadorans celebrate their heritage during *fiestas patrias*.

Answers: (from left to right): 1. recycle logo on jug; 2. lady's shirt color; 3. watermelon on jug; 4. half watermelon on pile; 5. coffee cup; 6. toucan; 7. gecko on wall

Friends Across Borders



Friends Across Borders is Maryknoll Lay Missioners' mission awareness program. We invite you to deepen and enrich your understanding of mission by joining us on an exciting mission trip.

You will have the opportunity to experience what you could never discover in travel brochures, films, or books. You will experience what life is really like in communities where MKLM missioners are living out their faith, and working for, and with, the local people.

We look forward to hearing from you and accompanying you on an experience that will change and enrich your life.

Upcoming Mission Awareness Trips

- **EL SALVADOR-JustFaith, June 20 - 29, 2014** Deadline for signups: Feb. 21, 2014
- **CHILE-Notre Dame and Marquette, July 7 - 21, 2014** Deadline for signups: April 7, 2014
- **BOLIVIA, August 9 - 21, 2014** Deadline for signups: Feb. 10, 2014
- **TANZANIA, August 9 - 21, 2014** Deadline for signups: Feb. 10, 2014
- **CAMBODIA-JustFaith, August 16 - 28, 2014** Deadline for signups: April 18, 2014
- **BRAZIL, August 16 - 28, 2014** Deadline for signups: March 3, 2014
- **KENYA, June 13 - 25, 2015** Deadline for signups: Dec. 12, 2014
- **CAMBODIA, February 14 - 26, 2015** Deadline for signups: Aug. 15, 2014

Contact Us Today:

CECILIA ESPINOZA

Maryknoll Lay Missioner

Friends Across Borders Manager

P.O. Box 307

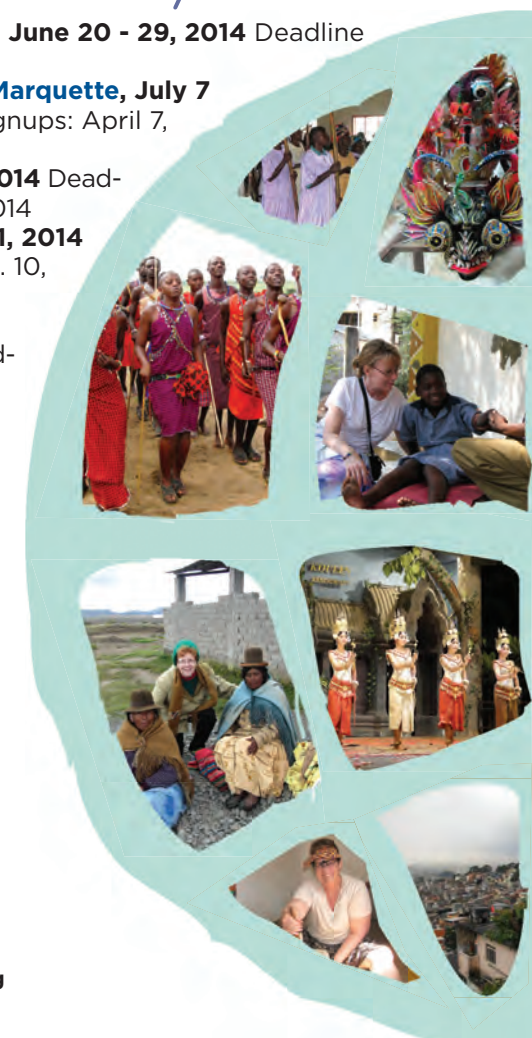
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307

Phone: 914-762-6364 ext. 207

FAX: 914-762-7362

friendsacrossborders@mklm.org

www.friendsacrossborders.org



Our Missioners Build Bridges

They are built on faith and generosity, and they are built across boundaries and nationalities. All of us, together, are building a global community – a universal church.

