



Voices Of Compassion





Cover photo: Maryknoll Lay Missioner Hang Tran entertains a young child while visiting patients at a Sick Center where she serves in mission in Phnom Penh, Cambodia Photo courtesy of Sam Stanton







To visit us, learn more about becoming a Lay Missioner or to support us, please visit our website www.mklm.org

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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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) is a separate and distinct organization from the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Maryknoll Sisters. MKLM has its own self-governing Board of Directors and raises all of its own resources to serve the poor and marginalized in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Although we often join together to serve in mission, MKLM is independently responsible for raising the means to recruit, train, send and sustain our Lay Missioners.







LOVING OUR **NEIGHBORS**

FOR 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

Dear Friends,

in our calling to serve in mission as lay Catholics. We are led by our statement of mission, which we articulate as reflecting the "mission of Jesus," as we apply our time, skills and faith journeys and we "live and work with poor

communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world."

This August 2015, we joyously begin a year of celebration to mark our 40th Anniversary year. This milestone prompts us to look back at how lay

mission has evolved over the years, and recognize our role in shaping and sustaining its growth. We are proud to continue living into the reality that mission is a calling from our Baptism. Serving the

least, the last and the lowly through overseas mission is integral to our very faith - and a reflection of our relationships with Jesus, the U.S. Church and our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Pope Francis echoes this belief in his Evangelii Gaudium, where he reminds us that through experiencing God's love for us, "...we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?"

Many Maryknoll Lay Missioners experience this every day – they are fed by the Spirit, which energizes them to direct their attention and time toward serving people on the margins of society, who lack friends, connections and influence. In this edition of Voices of Compassion, you will read examples of these ministries, such as in Cambodia where

As Maryknoll Lay Missioners, we believe passionately

Sam Stanton shares a moment with a Cambodian child

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?...For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (James 2:14, 26)

Dee Dungy offers compassion and dignity to the elderly living in slums, and Hang Tran accompanies people experiencing terminal illness or cancer treatments.

You will feel the dynamic pull of mission as told by Dwayne Fernandes, a Lay Missioner member of our most recent class in 2014, who shares his story of discernment and enthusiasm for serving in overseas mission in the article "Mission Possible." And you will be touched by the ever-widening ripples of impact that Joe Regotti, our late Director of Mission Services, continues to have on the people he served throughout his life-long dedication to following Jesus' command to "love our neighbor."

Mission is for all of us to "own," one way or another. We welcome your support and invite you to continue shaping the future of mission with Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Thank you for your gifts, your prayers and for believing as we believe, that mission is for all.

Here's to celebrating the next 40 years!



Breaking Nown Barriers

Imprisoned by Silence

Life can be very difficult for those who are deaf in Cambodia. This is the case even for those who are lucky enough to receive services, training and/or education. One such center offering these services is the Deaf Development Programme (DDP), at which several Maryknoll Lay Missioners serve in ministry.

Fr. Charlie Dittmeier, Associate Priest with Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Executive Director at DDP, relates that when students, who live in nearby Phnom Penh, return to their families at the end of the school day, they sign an adapted gesture that represents the meaning "I'm going home." However the hand sign used, is that of placing a cage onto their palm, as if they were re-entering a state of solitary confinement. For many deaf students, returning home to their own families is akin to locking themselves into a closed room. It is typical that deaf people do not receive understanding at home and are limited by no common language and the lack of value their family members may place on their gifts and intelligence.

Fr. Charlie has played a pivotal role in building DDP's stellar programs for 14 years. Every year, the center serves approximately 550 people, although he estimates the need is far greater. DDP currently has a staff of 87, including two other Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Nancy Davies and Karen Bortvedt. Programs that DDP supports include: education (120 total students across seven provinces served), sign language interpretation, entrepreneurial/job skills training, sign language development, deaf community development, and social services.

Fr. Charlie's in-depth awareness of the challenges that deaf Cambodians face is key to DDP's programs working to overcome those obstacles. He defines his role as "creating points of intersection between the hearing world and the deaf world – in essence, to overlap those two universes." Provincial school outposts for DDP enable rural students to remain closer to their

Maryknoll Lay Missioner Fr. Charlie Dittmeier signing with deaf students at DDP



homes and families and receive a free education specialized for the deaf from certified teachers (who undergo two years of training for deaf education), plus free room and board. Due to the high cost for these services and intense educational program, DDP is currently only able to support 120 total students in these seven outpost schools.

Imprisoned by Discrimination

The Vietnamese living in Cambodia often have a history so deep, that they can trace the memories back several generations. However, for as long as Vietnamese immigrants have lived in Cambodia, they have also experienced discrimination. Barriers exist at many levels, creating challenges for Vietnamese communities living alongside their Cambodian neighbors, in part due to both ethnic groups' disinclination to intermingle. Possessing very little in the way of government identification and documentation, Vietnamese immigrants often encounter limited or no access to Cambodian schools, social services, land rights or government aid.



Boeung Toumpun daycare children receive extra cuddles from Joan Hilton, who was visiting with a Friends Across Borders mission immersion group

MKLM IN CAMBODIA

Through the efforts of the Catholic community called Boeung Toumpun (BTP), several Maryknoll Lay Missioners work alongside disadvantaged Vietnamese youth, who are gaining access to the basic needs they lacked, as well as a new vision for the future. BTP serves poor Cambodian and Vietnamese communities, education programs tailored to both groups. Special acculturation training is provided in the structured Vietnamese youth programs to help these children better understand and adjust for the societal norms of Cambodia. When BTP began aid for Vietnamese youth education programs three years ago, not a single child was enrolled Vietnamese Cambodian government schools. Today, more than 60 students have completed, or are currently enrolled in, a government school. The promise of education and the

employment opportunities qo alongside are powerful incentives.

Lisa Pirie, a returned Maryknoll Lav Missioner who served in mission from 2002-2012, trained Cambodian teachers and pre-school youth. Today, Maryknoll Lay Missioner Sami Scott supports the educational programs of BTP with financial coordination and planning. Lisa, Sami and others working with the BTP ministry help break down the cultural barriers that so frequently prevent children from equal access to education. These efforts continue with a focus on reducing friction between the two ethnic communities by equipping students, parents, teachers and other community members with tools to avoid discrimination and harriers to education rights.



Maryknoll Lay Missioner Sami Scott with daycare children served by the Boeung Toumpun Catholic community in Cambodia

Imprisoned by Loneliness

Dee Dungy is a Maryknoll Lay Missioner serving in Cambodia, primarily in Anlong Kangan, a forced eviction resettlement area about 45 minutes outside of Phnom Penh. As part of her ministry, developed an Elder Care Program that consciously proclaims the gift of the aging and their contribution to the world. Dee states: "The project aids an average of 40 Khmer Rouge survivors. The domino effect of aging, poverty and social placement weighs heavily on them. We approach the Elder Care program holistically. The project replaces the loneliness these people feel, with meetings that give them a voice; topics range, including surviving a war, battling back and joint pains, quandary over why their children have forgotten them and ways to make a small income. Other social activities include cultural outings, "how to" workshops educational and Wellness **Awareness** Programs,"

Working in healthcare service ministries, Maryknoll Lay Missioner Hang Tran often observes the desperate depths of loneliness confronting Cambodians who have been abandoned or are facing serious illness. During spring of 2014, assisting with Vietnamese language translation, she accompanied the Maryknoll Mental Health Team, consisting of Khmer psychologists led by Fr. Kevin Conroy, to visit a so-called drug and alcohol "rehabilitation" center a couple hours outside of Phnom Penh.

Hang remembers, "It was a for-profit, jaillike center that housed people with mental illness and drug addiction. Inside the gate on the trash-strewn landscape, there were several clusters of small concrete structures or huts. At the far back of the center were



Maryknoll Lay Missioner Dee Dungy pays a visit to drop off food and share encouragement with an elderly Cambodian woman

MKLM IN CAMBODIA

a series of cages perched on top of small open septic ponds to catch the run off waste. The sights and smells were nauseating as we approached the cages.

Through the gap of the horizontal bars of a wooden cage, a figure crouched on the floor - arms hugging legs, so small that it was hard to tell whether it was a child or an adult. The sounds of footsteps and voices did not stir this figure. Her face seemed uninterested in visitors. It was not known how old she was or how many years she had been in that center or inside the cage. I spoke to her in Vietnamese, inquired about her health and made small talk. Still, she did not engage in the conversation. Eventually, I asked if she would like to shake my hand. Not at first, but several minutes later we held hands across the gap of the cage and sat guietly for a while. It seemed like a precious first contact for both of us and for the team."



Maryknoll Lay Missioner Hang Tran during her two encounters with Tan Tat Chien

Subsequently, the Maryknoll Mental Health Team recommended to the woman's family that she be transferred to a local Missionaries of Charity house for more adequate and compassionate care. A year later, when Hang visited the woman at her new home, she encountered a welcome transformation. "Now, she sat peacefully in the company of other residents and the workers' children playing in the courtyard. She walked with me in the garden and picked flowers to give me. She put flowers behind her ears herself, as a woman would. Only by the grace of God, through the work and good will from individuals and organizations, could a woman once caged and stripped of dignity be rescued and restored to life and health. Her name is Tang Tat Chien."

Mission POSSIBLE:

A STORY OF DISCERNMENT

by Dwayne Fernandes

hen a septuagenarian who stands barely five feet tall and weighs less than a hundred pounds gives you the impression that she has no qualms about getting arrested, you know you've encountered a woman worth knowing!

Veronica Schweyen was my introduction to the world of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. When I lived with this Maryknoll Sister in 2012, she willingly injected me with tales of her life amid the poor of Tanzania. Add to this her front-line activism on the streets of Washington, DC, as part of the Maryknoll Office | for Global Concerns, and you've got me hooked on a historic institution that fosters passion for social iustice.

I could not have chosen a better time to be a Maryknoll Lay Missioner than right now. With the impetus of Pope Francis, who provokes you to be

different, dares you to sidestep the discipline of the Pharisees unabashedly imitate the Son of God, you know you've got your back covered. This papal stimulus is intoxicating: it makes me proud to tout Catholicism, "come out of myself,"* "grow in boldness"* and embark on a resolute option for the poor.

I am counting the hours to my "mission possible" in El Salvador, I have downsized the last 44 years of my life to a backpack and a medium sized

suitcase. But armed with the mandatory vaccinations of a rather stringent nurse, a travel-kit of eclectic Indian spices and the piano chords of rustic Spanish songs, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and journey with the sacred people of this land. (*Pope Francis)



Missioners serving in El Salvador. His story imparts his "call to mission," during the timeframe prior to his Class' sending. If Dwayne's story inspires you, and if you are discerning a call to overseas mission, please visit our "Become a Missioner" tab to learn more about our process and to request an Application. You also can contact us by phone, at 1-800-818-5276 or by email at join@mklm.org.



Dwayne with fellow Maryknoll Lay Missioners in El Salvador. shown with images of four American churchwomen who were martyred there.

I have a personal connection with El Salvador because my very dear friend comes from here. He spoke of a wrenching need to leave his family behind because of poverty and gang-violence and cross the US border. His story, seared with visible scars, opened my eyes to the horrors of riding the "Beast," (the train many immigrants ride while making this journey), skirting snakes and thugs, sleeping by the tracks, surviving on the hospitality of strangers and swimming across dangerous currents.

As a migrant myself, I can relate to the feeling of leaving family, navigating the trials of geographical boundaries and cultures, stretching a meal to stay on budget, toeing unwarranted lines, and having to lower my eyes for being the different person in the room.

For a while, I chose to forward a sum of money equivalent to a cup of coffee to better the life of a person nameless to me. But then I met a spirited Maryknoll Sister, I felt the prodding of a revolutionary Pope, I witnessed the arrests of ordinary people clamoring for justice, and I craved the need to be on the front-line.

And that's when I dialed 1-800-818-5276 (Maryknoll Lay Missioners' recruitment line).

Counting our Photo credit Anita Klueg



When Sue Kelly discovered treasure trove children's οf illustrated books depicting a variety of saints that her mother. late Jo Frazier, had authored, she knew that they

deserved a loving home where they would be cherished. The series, Saints for Today's Youth, portrays characters such as St. Martin de Porres, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Jesser known Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Jo had often donated her books to Catholic schools as one way to share her love of the saints with the children. Jo also was a strong believer in the work of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, which she shared with her daughter Sue. Therefore, Sue's first thought was to call Maryknoll Lay Missioners when she realized approximately 1,200 copies of the books remained from her mom's estate.

The books were distributed among Maryknoll youth projects based Mombasa, Kenya; Mwanza, Tanzania; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Students at a Tanzanian private primary school received books that will support its English teaching program. In Cambodia, youth within the International English-speaking

Catholic Church community received books on St. Nicholas Day as a Christmas gift. The books are a valuable literacy and faith formation tool for the students and their families, while providing a global perspective of the Church for youth who may never travel beyond their own countries.

In Kenya, these pictures depict women and girls in a group called Wana Maria, who meet weekly to say the rosary, learn more about their faith and serve as the liturgical dancers for Mass at St. Martin de Porres Parish every Sunday. Books were also given to first Communion students at another Kenyan parish, St. Francis, and distributed to MKLM-directed HOPE Project (Helping Orphans Pursue Education) students and to members of the local Christian community.

On behalf of the children who will enjoy this donation for years to come, Maryknoll Lay Missioners thanks Sue for this unique gift, and for her continued support of the organization.



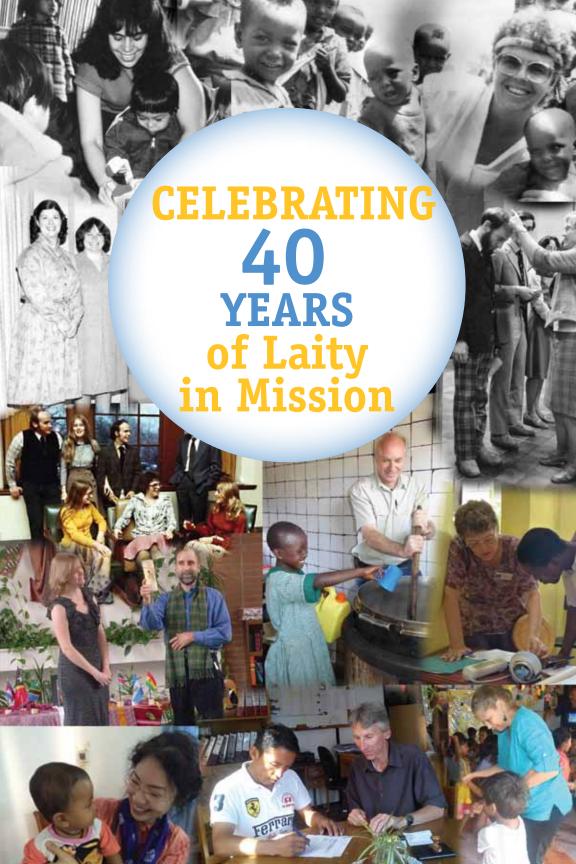
Join Us in Creating a More Just and Compassionate World











CELEBRATING 40 YEARS of Laity in Mission

Imagine feeling so compelled by the needs of people in situations of poverty and injustice that you choose to leave the life you know behind, and travel to a country where you are a stranger so that you might accompany people on the fringes of society and serve them in mission. This is the reality of becoming a lay missioner. It requires a degree of selflessness beyond a level which many of us feel capable. Since 1975, more than 700 U.S. lay Catholics have done just that, and crossed borders to serve in some of the world's poorest communities with Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Using the skills and talents with which they have been blessed, Maryknoll Lav Missioners care for the sick, comfort the afflicted and support the poor and marginalized. They are committed to working with others for structural change about a more just and compassionate society.

In their own words...

Susan Nagele is a long-term Lay Missioner now in her 31st year, currently serving in Kenya. She relates her experience of being in community with other religions and cultures: "We, as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, try to be a bridge between our home culture and Kenyan cultures. That is one of our eight core values. We all know many Kenyan Muslims, Christians and people of other faiths who are peaceful, generous and loving. Let us admit our prejudices, move forward and love each other and embrace one another in peace and forgiveness. Then we can build a world that loves through our differences because we are beautiful, we are the image of God."



(Page 15) Photos courtesy of Maryknoll Archives, MKLM, Sam Stanton and Anita Klueg



Melissa and Peter Altman, Lay Missioners in El Salvador with their two young children, Eli and Evey, express their intention of living in mission: "Life in mission has been life-giving. Although it is challenging to adjust to a new culture and a new language, going through the experience as a family has made it much easier: inside our home our life is verv much the same as it would be anywhere. In a country where so many people are leaving to try to find a better life in the U.S., we have been told that our presence as a family is a sign of hope. As Maryknoll Lay Missioners, we are not only called to serve the people but also to share life with them. Our children attend schools in which all of the students are Salvadoran and we live in an area where there are no other foreigners, so we are truly integrating into the culture. We have been moved by how we have been embraced by people and we know that we are receiving far more than we are giving."

Michael and Ashley Leen, Lay Missioners serving in Tanzania since early 2014, publish a personal blog that shares reflections on their role: "It occurred to us that, as missioners, our job description is not a job description. It is a life description. It is a vocation. By that we mean a strong inner calling towards a particular way of life - not a job, but a way of life. And life does not occur between 9 AM - 5 PM. We "work" when facilitating seminars, talking culture with Tanzanians on the public bus, buying food in the outdoor market, conversing with beggars on the street or inviting the neighborhood children into our home to play. Each moment is an opportunity to enter more fully in the reality of life of another human being, to further shape and define our character and to respond with love and compassion."





CELEBRATING 40 YEARS of Laity in Mission



Teresa Villaruz, a Lay Missioner from MKLM's most recent class of 2014, writes: "Being here in Kenya, there is a certain temptation to look at the poverty around me -- the 44 to 90 kids per classroom, the 10 x 12 foot homes people live in, the heel-sized holes in the dirty socks of the children -- and to say, how lucky I am that I grew up in America. How lucky I am that I have had the opportunity to go to college, to travel and see the world, to live the American dream. And this is all true. I am incredibly lucky, but the thing is, these youth are incredibly lucky, too, in ways that I am not. I think when we get into that mindset of the haves and the have nots, we fail to see the lessons that can be learned from our friends here, we fail to see the areas in which we are impoverished and in which they are privileged."

History in the Making

The rich history of those who have served Maryknoll in mission as Lay Missioners extends to even before an organized program for laity in mission existed. From 1930-1937, Dr. Harry Blaber (Brooklyn, NY) served in China as Maryknoll's first Lay Missioner. This pioneer was followed by many other Catholic Lay Missioners who also felt the call of mission and were willing to blaze the trail, often serving in global mission alongside Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters. In 1975, their vision became a reality, when the first Lay Mission Office was established. In 1995, Missioners Maryknoll Lav became incorporated under New York law as a non-profit organization and began operating independently.

Fast-forward to 2015, where each year Catholics with a passion for mission from young adults to retired—single, married or part of a family - all step through the doors of Maryknoll Lay Missioners brimming with energy and excitement to begin the process of orientation to their new lives as missioners. They already hold academic degrees and professional experience in specific ways of serving others - for example, through healthcare, education, faith formation, human rights and social justice advocacy, sustainable development or organizing for peace and justice. They all share a common goal to work for sustainable change for the poor and marginalized, in themselves and in the global church.

Where will Maryknoll Lay Missioners be in another 40 years? We believe that through prayer, hard work and in partnership with our generous supporters, we will continue to grow. We will build bridges to other cultures, sharing resources and love with those in need, transforming and growing in our own faith and strengthening the call to mission for the U.S. Catholic church and beyond. We are very much looking forward to the journey wherever God's love will take us and are so happy to be traveling on this journey with you.

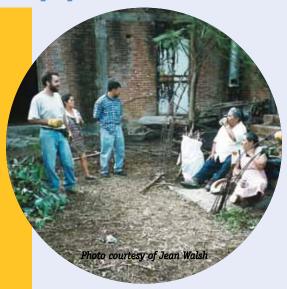


Following the celebration
of Maryknoll Lay
Missioners'
35™ Anniversary, during
which he presided at Mass,
Cardinal Dolan stated in
a letter his opinion of
MKLM's influence regarding
mission, "Maryknoll Lay
Missioners is positioned
to play an important role
in the current and future
mission efforts of the
Church in
the United States..."

A Legacy of LOVE OE REGOTTI

Contributed by Bill Jordan, Ceci Schickel, Don McNeill CSC and Sam Stanton

Joe Regotti walked a creative path of prophetic holiness.



Starting with his roots in Pennsylvania, he embarked on undergrad education in South Bend, Indiana and then to Chile in pursuit of peace and justice. He then developed professionally and spiritually, founding Assisi House in DC, aiding Farmworkers in New York and serving in mission in Guatemala, Nicaraqua and Oaxaca, Mexico. He journeyed through emotional and physical turmoil, through malignant brain tumors where doctors gave him months to live, while Joe's spirit said, "That is not God's plan nor is it mine." Joe's path was intentional and saintly. Over a dozen years after that "months to live" diagnosis, Joe finally moved from this life to the next, all the while inspiring new generations of faithfilled pilgrims to embrace similar, yet unique roads less traveled.

Joe was committed to building a more just world based on gospel values. He played a pivotal part in quiding hundreds of U.S. Catholic lay people to realize their call to cross-cultural mission. people encountered this call via Joe through Maryknoll Lay Missioners, where he served as a Lay Missioner in Mexico from 1997-2001, and then as Director of Mission Services from 2001-2014.

Regardless of where we each encountered Joe, we are joined together in our common grief at his passing in January 2015. Joe Regotti was a true friend to so many, and was clearly guided throughout his entire life by exemplifying service for others.

Joe attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergrad, where he was voted "Most Outstanding Graduate" of his class. He quickly became a visible force on campus, joining the Farm Labor Organization Committee (FLOC), seeking to aid farmers who wished to unionize. and assisting with campus boycotts. Ceci Schickel is a former University of Notre Dame classmate, who later followed in Joe's footsteps as a Holy Cross Associate in Chile. She remembers, "Joe was never

afraid to stir things up. He was incredibly passionate and had a unique ability to agitate our consciences into being bigger, better and bolder people."

During the early 80's, when Ceci and Joe served as Holy Cross Associates in Chile, it was a tumultuous phase of history with General Pinochet in power. Ceci observed that in the midst of this chaos. "Joe was good at building relationships in solidarity and very involved at the community level. He set a certain tone and pace naturally, as a leader does."

Father Don McNeill CSC, a University of Notre Dame professor who taught Joe, recalls his vibrant and questioning nature that enriched the classroom experience, "I'll always remember theology class when Joe would constantly pose questions. It was a great gift he brought, this capacity not to take things for granted."

Father McNeill also had the privilege of visiting Joe in Chile and remembers being impressed both by Joe's adept use of the Spanish language, as well as his gracious approach to mission; Joe never supposed he knew more than the people he accompanied.

Bill Jordan first met Joe in 1985 when Joe was returning from two years as a Holy Cross Associate in Chile. Bill shares,

"I was a senior in college choosing between the Peace Corps in Africa and Chile with Holy Cross. Joe made the difference as I was leaning heavily towards Africa, intimidated with the prospect of faith centered community in Chile, while envisioning work with small family farmers on either continent. Joe's down to earth way of explaining how faith had become

more central and vibrant in his life in Chile, than it had ever been before, impressed me as genuine and real. Here was a person I could emulate in my own life. Here was a person who had walked the rural roads of Chile helping the very kinds of farmers I sought to accompany and somehow serve."

Bill goes on to describe, "What a privilege it was to walk those same rural roads and visit the same campesino farm families that spoke of Joe as a friend, co-worker, and sorely missed "gringo campesino." Single mom Sra. Mirtha spoke of Joe's daily letters to his girlfriend back home; Don Victor Cruz rode horses into the mountains with Joe to get goat cheese; and Domingo Varas learned to turn organic compost piles all in a spirit of "accompaniment," which Joe articulated so clearly upon his return.

If there was one message Bill most clearly remembers Joe explaining while back at Notre Dame to speak about the experience, it was that, "The value of putting one's life with the poor is not how much you can teach others less fortunate that yourselves, rather, by accompanying the poor, we come to realize our common bonds of humanity, and those physically poor people and



communities bring us closer to the God of all humanity, making us holier pilgrims in the process."

With profound experiences of faith-based witness in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Photo courtesy the United States, Joe and of Ceci Schickel his beloved wife Jean were pushing ever deeper into the mystery of accompanying the poor as members of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, when news of a late stage brain tumor in 2000 marked a major turning point in their lives. Instead of shying away from the death sentence medical experts tried to tactfully relay, Joe seemed to say, "Life is Stronger." He radically transformed his diet to a completely organic menu involving hours of daily food preparation combined with profound spiritual reflections every day. They both embraced this unforeseen bend in the road with the faithfulness of Job.

It is easy to be intimidated by such profound commitment, but Joe never made you feel inadequate in your own life options. Instead, a warm embrace from Joe contained both affirmation and challenge, with a strong dose of focus in the face of our society's many distractions."

As anyone who knew Joe recognized, he deeply loved his family and wore that love upon his sleeve in a beautiful way. This vivid love was apparent especially for his daughters - Hannah and Maria, his grandson - Brandon and his wife - Jean, who was his soulmate.

Ceci Schickel fondly remembers, "Joe had a great sense of humor and always a twinkle in his eye. He was often bursting with laughter, finding the funny or ironic in the smallest and most ordinary of things." Ceci is blessed to have had Joe's

presence as godfather to her son Owen, born in 2003, and she is godmother to Joe's daughter Maria.

Sam Stanton, executive director of MKLM, also remembers Joe's dedication to social outreach in the context of his work with training, recruiting, quiding and organization's sustaining the Lay Missioners, "Joe strongly believed that we as laity are called from our Baptism to mission, here at home, as well as across borders to other lands and cultures." Sam continues, "He represented the kind of role model we all aspire to become, and forever left his mark on our hearts."

Although he no longer walks with us in body, Joe's spirit lives on and his invitation clearly remains, "Embrace the poor and come closer to God on the path less taken."





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FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS

is Maryknoll Lay Missioners' mission awareness program.

Join us to experience what you could never discover in travel brochures, films or books. You will see what life is really like in communities where Maryknoll Lay Missioners are living out their faith and helping create a more just and compassionate world.

UPCOMING MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

- CHILE Notre Dame-Marquette
 February 9 25, 2016
 Deadline for signups: October 9, 2015
- CAMBODIA JustFaith Ministries
 February 12 21, 2016
 Deadline for signups: October 12, 2015
- EL SALVADOR JustFaith Ministries
 June 10 19, 2016
 Deadline for signups: February 10, 2016
- CHILE Notre Dame-Marquette
 July 9 25, 2016
 Deadline for signups: March 9, 2016
- TANZANIA JustFaith Ministries August 5 – 15, 2016 Deadline for signups: April 5, 2016
- CAMBODIA Mission Discernment Trip August 12 – 21, 2016
 Deadline for signups: April 12, 2016
- BOLIVIA Portland, ME Diocese August 6 – 18, 2016 Deadline for signups: April 6, 2016
- BRAZIL
 November 5 15, 2016
 Deadline for signups: July 5, 2016



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maryknoll lay missioners CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE











Inspired by Jesus' mission, Maryknoll Lay Missioners respond to basic needs and help to create a more just and compassionate world.

Throughout our 40-year history as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, more than 700 lay people have crossed borders to serve some of the world's most impoverished and oppressed people. We strive together for justice, peace and fullness of life. Through our ministries, we seek to change unjust structures and promote forgiveness. We assist those living in extreme poverty, victims of human trafficking, persons falsely imprisoned and those affected by war. We offer our compassion and skills through over 100 ministries which encompass: healthcare, education, microenterprise, restorative justice and the propagation of faith. Our efforts to-date are only a beginning however, as we seek to continue to share the future of mission and lead by example.





Thank you for your generous gifts in honor of our 40[™] Anniversary!

Your donations provide for our Lay Missioners who are serving in mission overseas and enable MKLM to recruit, train, send and continually sustain our Lay Missioners who are serving Christ's call. Please call (800) 867-2980 to process gifts by phone or visit www.mklm.org/donate

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Credit card gifts: Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover								
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*Please note: We require a \$10 minimum for Credit Card and EFT transactions

Please direct your gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and mail to: PO Box 307, Maryknoll NY 10545-0307.



After 18 years as a lay missioner in Brazil, I feel deep gratitude for the opportunity to have met and worked with so many wonderful Brazilians. Their hospitable spirit, open attitude and deep faith were a gift to me and I hope to bring these values to my new work as Director of Mission Services for MKLM. This move has been a big change for me—from a city of 20 million people to a village of 45,000 inhabitants! However, I truly believe that the Spirit is present!

More than ever, I am convinced that our world needs folks committed to direct service in compassion and dedicated to change the unjust structures that cause such suffering in our world. We are a global community and many of our members are living on the edge where they are excluded and marginalized.

I believe that lay people play a key role in mission and hope to contribute to opportunities for lay candidates to mission. I invite you to become a Maryknoll Lay

Missioner! Come join us and experience the rich diversity of another culture and the privilege to share life with others in another country. Opportunities abound for you to work side-by-side with our brothers and sisters to respond to their necessities and to work collaboratively to help preserve the environment and natural resources.

In mission.

Photo credit Sam Stanton

Joanne

Joanne (middle) was a panelist at the 13[™] Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days gathering in Washington D.C.

Nation Photo credit Sam Stantor

Joanne can be reached at jblaney@mklm.org or 914-236-3451. Learn more about joining MKLM or request an Application by visiting our "Become a Missioner" tab on our website, mklm.org.



Margaret (Gigi) Gruenke (Class of 1999) is a classic story of how experiencing overseas mission will change your life. Shortly after graduating college, Gigi first gained exposure to mission work while serving in Peru for three years. After raising a family back in the U.S., Gigi returned to mission, this time as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in El Salvador.

As a mental health professional and a licensed clinical social worker, Gigi chose to accompany victims of war and trauma as her ministry. This life of service and compassion had a significant impact on her worldview, which continued when she moved back to the States in 2007 to work with Latino youth in Montgomery County, MD and in her private clinical practice. Giqi is fulfilled in particular by working pro bono to address the needs of adolescents who have recently crossed the U.S. border from Latin America, and providing clinical supervision at The Torture Abolition and Survivors Coalition, Int.

(TASSC). She remains a strong advocate of MKLM and contributes to the organization every month as a Companion in Mission. "This is sacred to me, to be able to help sustain the organization that sustained me for nearly eight years in mission."

"Having gone to mission two times, first as a college grad, then as a liberated mother, I've realized that mission will inform your life irrespective of age."



Gigi speaks with Salvadoran massacre survivors while serving mental health and war victims through her ministry from 1999-2007. Photo courtesy MKLM.

TODAY, the face of mission is rapidly being transformed by the ministries, lives and compassion of lay people. As we celebrate 40 years of mission service as Maryknoll Lay Missioners, we take pride in honoring our alumni, numbering more than 700 men and women. As Gigi's story illustrates, the ministries our Lay Missioners began overseas don't end when they return home. Rather, our returned missioners continue to serve people in need and "live out the Gospel" across our nation and beyond. Please visit our "Returned Missioners" page on www.mklm.org and our "Always A Missioner" Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AlwaysAMissioner to stay connected and learn more.



Provide sustained support to MKLM as a **COMPANION IN MISSION!**



Companions in Mission is Maryknoll Lay Missioners' sponsorship initiative. It is a simple way to set up a regular, sustained donation to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and offers you the satisfaction of knowing that your gifts help our Lay Missioners offer relief and hope to some of the world's most suffering and forgotten people. Continuous financial support, whether monthly, quarterly or annually is critical to our Lay Missioners in the field doing God's work. If you choose to become a Companion in Mission, you become part of a community of compassionate and caring people who partner to bring an end to poverty and social injustice worldwide.

As you read the first-hand experiences of our Lay Missioners in action in this issue of *Voices of Compassion*, our hope is that you will be moved to join us in our mission. If you would like to give ongoing support, or find out more about the benefits of becoming one of our *Companions in Mission*, please contact Richard Gatjens at 1-800-867-2980 or rgatjens@mklm.org. May God bless you as you bless others with your gifts!