

# VOC



maryknoll lay  
missioners

Where The Compassion Of  
The Faithful Transforms Lives

## Voices of Compassion



# WITNESSING JESUS

The love of God lives in all of us and  
being a witness means letting that  
love pour out of us.



# 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.mklm.org](http://www.mklm.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,

Do you love the springtime as much as I do? It seems that everywhere I look, I see new energy and new life. The snow has melted here at Maryknoll. The flowers are beginning to bloom and the sun's warmth is staying longer into the evening.

I hope you had a happy and blessed Easter with your loved ones. During Easter we celebrate new life as well – the new life that comes with the Resurrection. At this time of year I often think of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Saddened by the loss of Jesus, they walked toward Emmaus, and on the road they met a stranger.

The two walked with this stranger. They talked and shared stories with him. And then, in the simple gesture of the breaking of bread, He was made known to the two disciples. It was Christ walking with them all along. In that one simple gesture, they witnessed Him.

Around the world, Maryknoll Lay Missioners is witnessing to the Gospel — sharing in the lives



Sam Stanton  
Executive Director



The first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we find ourselves treading on peoples' dreams, worse, we may forget that God was there before our arrival.

– Bishop Kenneth Cragg

and the experiences of those in need. You'll read some of the missionaries' stories in this issue of *Voices of Compassion* – generous people doing wonderful work.

As we continue to strive toward a more just and compassionate world, we continue to look for places where we can do the most good. Recently, at the invitation of the Maryknoll Sisters, I visited Haiti to explore the potential of sending lay missionaries there. I also visited China, where Maryknoll has its roots, for the same reason. There are people in this world who need our help, and we will go to the ends of the earth to find them.

Finally, I would like to share with you some news that Maryknoll Lay Missioners center has moved from Bethany to the Walsh Building.

Bethany was very dear to us and we spent many years there. But I must say, and I think everyone would agree that after only a few weeks, Walsh feels like home. The building is not this organization – our missionaries, our staff and our friends like you are this organization. And wherever we are, as long as we are paying witness to the Gospel, Maryknoll Lay Missioners will always have a home.

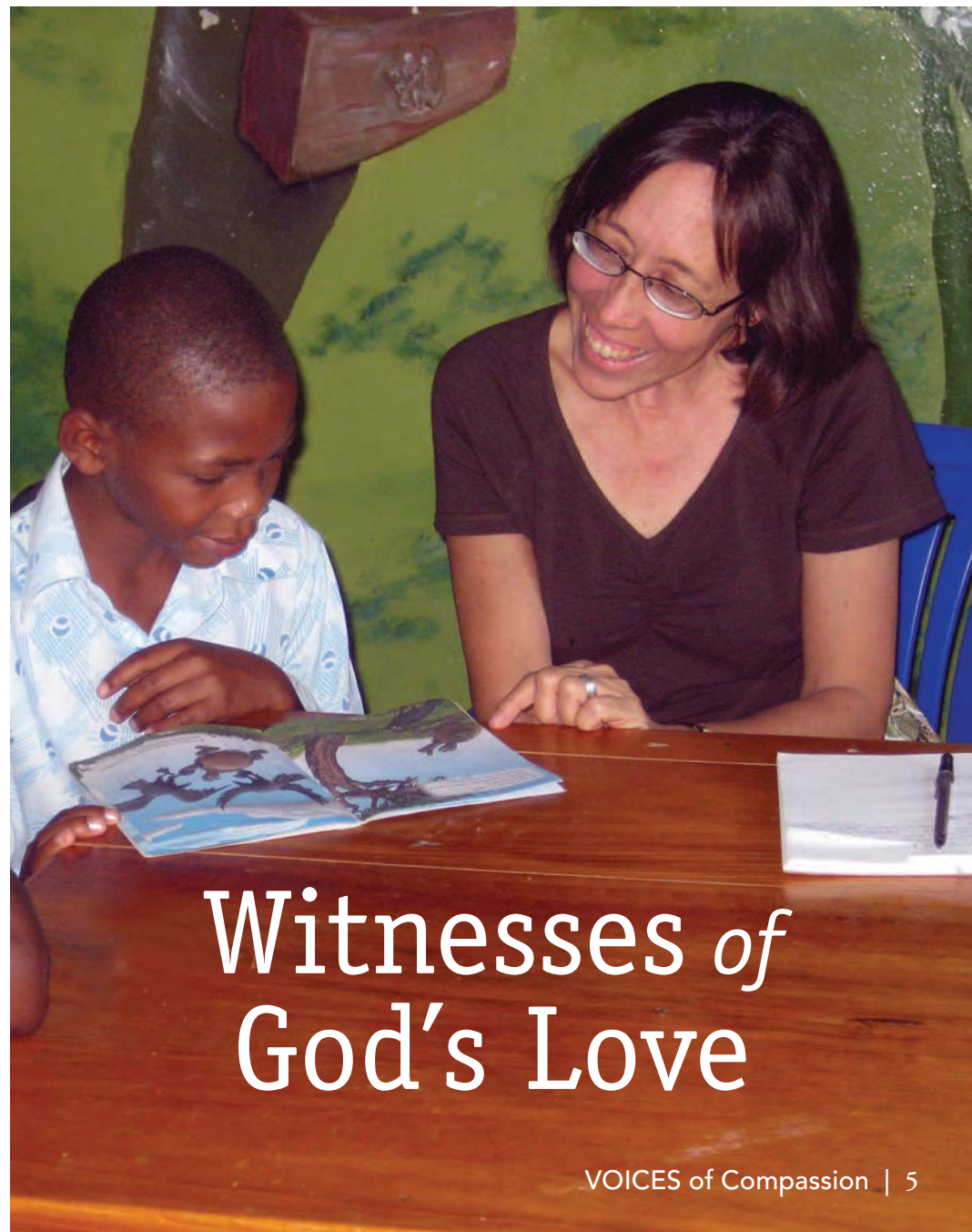
Thank you for all you do for us, and for those we serve.

Sincerely,



Sam Stanton  
Executive Director

We recognize, celebrate and give witness to the Risen Jesus in every person we meet.



# Witnesses of God's Love

The Gospel is not a theory, or a doctrine, but an invitation to new life. Therefore our faith is reflected not only in words, but in our communities, our work, and the way we live our private lives.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners come from all over the United States and from a wide variety of backgrounds and professions. They come because they are called – to love and to serve the poor and marginalized throughout the world. They are called to be a witness to God’s loving compassion, and through that compassion, to transform lives.

Have you ever witnessed God’s love in your own life? Maybe you have, but you did not realize it. We all have sacred memories and moments we cherish, and within those moments is the reality of God’s presence.

Our missioners are called not only to witness God’s love, but also to be witnesses of His love for others. As followers of Jesus we are people who choose life, and who call others to do the same – even when the circumstances seem too difficult to bear. In Africa, Asia and Latin

America, Maryknoll Lay Missioners are doing just that. Our lives are centered on prayer, community and service, and the commitment to bring the whole of our lives under the influence of the Gospel. Here are some of the ways our missioners are living those lives.

## Brazil



**Katie Coldwell** joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 2010. Since then she has

been working in Brazil on a number of projects, focusing on human rights, healthcare and education. One of her roles is in prison ministry, and it is there that she most strongly witnesses Christ’s love. Her experiences are reminiscent of Matthew’s Gospel. The apostles ask, “Lord, when did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?” Jesus’ reply is, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me...”



The Kenyan people are a constant witness through their generosity, prayer and joy.

*“I am a witness to Christ’s love when I visit women in prison. What I am doing there is not nearly as important as the fact that I am there. A kind*

*word, a loving embrace, a good laugh – I witness to these women through my presence. But equally important, and perhaps less noted, is the fact that*



# As lay missionaries we learn and are challenged by trying to be witnesses of Christ's love.

*these women are a witness to Christ's love for me, too. They show me Christ's love through their deep gratitude... being a witness is about letting God move through us – both in the way we are witnesses, and the way we are witnessed to.”*

**Joanne Blaney** also ministers to the people of Brazil and has been with Maryknoll Lay Missioners for many years. Focusing on justice and peace, she serves more than 160 people each week in Sao Paulo. One family, in particular, was a shining example of witness to Joanne.

*“Dona Maria arrived in Sao Paulo with her children in search of work after her husband lost his job because of illness. The family lived on the streets for a number of years collecting recycled materials to sell. According to Maria, it was God's love that sustained them through all of their difficulties. I met Maria when she brought her two oldest girls,*



Finding God in unexpected places is the gift of being a missionary in Brazil.

*Juliana and Josie, to our Youth Center for classes. Today, the family lives in a small two-room house in a very poor, violent area of the city. Maria is known in the neighborhood for her generosity and kindness. The witness of God's overflowing love is evident in Dona Maria and her family. What a privilege to know her and what an inspiration for my life – the presence of God in unexpected places is the gift of being a missionary!”*

## El Salvador



In 2007, **Larry Parr** became a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. For the past six years he has been in El Salvador working on civil and human rights, economic development and education. Larry witnesses to more than 600 families in Las Delicias, a very poor and

rural community about 45 minutes outside of San Salvador, the capital city. As he reflects on his service to the Salvadoran people, he recognizes the importance of becoming a part of their community.

*“Witness is an important value for the missionaries in El Salvador. We do not only serve the Salvadoran people,*



In El Salvador we get to know the youth and show them there are people that care.

*we also share our lives with them. It is a mutual relationship of giving and receiving, so that we can work together to help build the Kingdom of God. We strive to be present to the communities where we live, and walk with the people on the journey for justice. Many missionaries in El Salvador work with at-risk youth. These missionaries are mentors for these young people and try to show them that there is hope in life. We get to know the youth and show them that there are people that care. We laugh, pray and cry together. We immerse ourselves in the reality by walking with the people and living in the community with them.”*

## Bolivia



In Cochabamba, Bolivia, **Eileen** and **Bill Velicky** work in pastoral ministry and healthcare. This is their third contract with Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and they have served all over the world with us. While Eileen focuses on youth ministry and physical therapy, Bill is working on local wheelchair production, making them more accessible to the Bolivian people.

*“Perhaps many missionaries begin their journey thinking how they will primarily be sharing their skills as a doctor or a nurse or as an engineer with people less fortunate than they. We surely did. But all missionaries soon discover something much richer through the many encounters and*

*relationships they experience in their new culture.*

*We have met hundreds of incredibly strong women in Tanzania, Cambodia, East Timor and now Bolivia, who struggle and suffer and*

*yet continue to joyfully give life to the world in all they do. We have learned that we are part of giving life to the world, too. In every birth we celebrate, every death we mourn, every meal we share, we join in proclaiming with our brothers and sisters and all of creation*



As missionaries we enter into a sacred place, invited to share the sufferings and joys of those we serve.





Wherever we serve, God is in the little gestures of humility, support and solidarity.

*that Christ is Risen. Truly Christ is Risen! We have learned that God's true mission for us is to recognize, celebrate and give witness to the risen Jesus in every person we meet on this amazing journey through this wonderful life we have been given."*

## Tanzania



Across the Atlantic Ocean, our missionaries are having similar experiences. In Tanzania, **Katie Reid** and **Joanne Miya** are working in the city of Mwanza – Katie is focusing on

## We witness simply by being there.

women and children's rights, while Joanne is the Director of Uzima Center, which serves those with or afflicted by HIV/AIDS.

*"I think at this stage, I have learned more about witness than I have demonstrated it," Katie says. "The faith and fortitude of the people here, in the face of insurmountable challenges is a real lesson. The people in Tanzania know that everything relies on God. They put their lives in God's hands and live each day with faith and gratitude."*

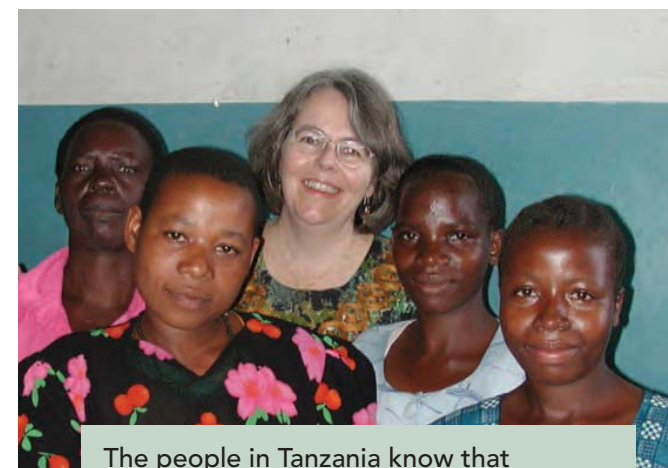
Joanne, in her work, also witnesses God's love. *"At Uzima, our staff of two provides service to more than 300 adults and close to 50 children who are HIV-positive. This is only possible because many of those who come to Uzima Centre have taken to heart the call to witness to others. It*

*is not easy to be open about your HIV status here; the consequences can be severe. Yet, these brave people share their stories, encourage others to get tested, teach them how to manage their treatment and most of all offer hope."*

## Kenya



In Kenya, two more Maryknoll Lay Missioners are addressing the needs of families affected by HIV/AIDS. **Curt** and **Anita Klueg** just recently returned to Kenya, and will soon



The people in Tanzania know that everything relies on God.

In all of our encounters we try to show compassion and to be visible signs of God's love.

be directing the Helping Orphans Pursue Education (HOPE) Project. This project supports over 120 students in education.

*"We are constantly amazed by the support and generosity of the local community. Each month the women gather together to support each other in prayer. There is a saying here, 'Kutoa ni moyo wala si utajiri' It means, 'Give from the heart, not from your wealth.'"*

*The Kenyan people are a constant witness to us as Maryknoll Lay Missioners – through generosity, prayer and joy. Through our support to each other in our Maryknoll Lay Missioner community, and our Kenyan colleagues and friends, we remind each other of our commitment to do what is good, right and just. We learn; and we are challenged to be witnesses of Christ's love."*

## Cambodia



**In Cambodia we witness by focusing on three priorities.**

The first is a focus on the youth, as they not only make up the largest segment of Cambodia's population, but will also be the ones to carry the work of the Church into the future.

Another priority of the Church in Cambodia is enculturation. Prior to the Khmer Rouge, the Cambodian Catholic Church was very European in its architecture, thinking, and practices. As the new church is emerging, it is deliberately being reborn in a Khmer style.

A final priority of the local Church is inter-faith dialogue. Buddhism, the main religion in Cambodia, is mostly an inner-directed belief system. It does not have much outreach and does not proselytize. Buddhists are very happy for Muslims or Jews or Christians



Whatever you did for the least of them you did for me.

to follow their own way of belief. This cooperation can promote tolerance and openness, enhance our understanding of our respective religions, deepen our spirituality, and help to achieve a solid and peaceful foundation for addressing the many issues that confront Cambodia.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners strive to be witnesses to the Gospel in many ways, as you have seen. We challenge all that is oppressive or dehumanizing in cultures and strive to show compassion by being visible signs of God's love. Our missioners go out into the world to give people

hope – to be the witness of God's love that so many desperately seek. All of them, though, find something surprising in return. Witness is not a one-way street. As we enter into our communities, and as we share in the lives of those we serve, we find that we also share in that witness. By reflecting God's love to those we encounter, they in turn reflect that same love back to us. As Joanne Blaney wrote to us from Brazil, *"The presence of God in unexpected places is the gift of being a missioner."* May we all try to recognize, and to be witnesses of that presence.



# Blessed with Good Friends

Frank Johnson is a good friend to Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Born in North Carolina, he grew up reading the Maryknoll magazine learning about the missions. *“As almost all Catholic children at the time, a vocation was constantly presented as an option,”* Frank recalls. *“To me, the thought of becoming a missionary was enchanting... my earliest perceptions of third world countries came from the brave men and women who left everything to give of themselves and to exercise their faith in the ‘Field Afar.’”*

Frank and his wife, Linda, met at Belmont Abbey College and married after graduation – but it wasn’t until 2000 that their relationship with Maryknoll Lay Missioners was rekindled, through their son. *“There happened to be a Maryknoll Lay Missioner at Chapel Hill where my son, Mitch, had just graduated from law school. She suggested that Mitch visit a missionary in Venezuela and he brought me along. After two days, I was hooked...”*

Since that trip, Frank has been deeply involved with us and with our mission. In addition to visiting Venezuela with Mitch, Frank and Linda have been to Kenya and Tanzania, and have also made trips to our center in Ossining, NY. The trip to Africa was a transformative experience for Frank.

*“The core purpose of the trip was to assess the viability of mission work in East Africa. Maryknoll Lay Missioners has an endowment that was hit hard by the most recent recession... as board members, we are required to be fiscally responsible for the organization. It is imperative that we get a look up close from time to time, to maintain a good and honest perspective of the realities our missionaries are facing. From Lake Victoria through the Serengeti, all the way to Mombasa, Kenya, on the Indian Ocean – we visited many different mission sites... none of which we could, in good faith, cut off.”*

From everything Frank has learned about us, it is still the commitment and faith of our missionaries that he is



Frank and Linda Johnson on a Friends Across Borders trip.

drawn to. *“I love the fact that they go to an area and help the people to learn to care for themselves... they teach their faith through their works – not necessarily evangelizing, but living the teachings of Our Lord – aiding the poor, healing the sick and providing shelter for the least of our brethren. I’ve seen where the missionaries live, and where they work. They do this out of love and a truly deep commitment.”*

Because of good friends like Frank Johnson, Maryknoll Lay Missioners is able to do wonderful things around the world. In addition to all his service to us as a board member, Frank and one other board



member, Tom Healey, are Knights of Malta. Through the generosity of the Order of Malta, we were able to strengthen the work of Maryknoll Lay Missioner Ann Greig and her Health Through Nutrition Soy Project in El Salvador. The Project provides Salvadoran families better nutrition and health through the use of soybeans. We are grateful to the Knights of Malta for their help, and to the Johnson family for being such good friends to Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

# PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS!



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

Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) offers U.S. Catholics, like Minh Nguyen, 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.

**If you would like to learn more,** or speak with a lay missioner, contact Debbie Northern at (800) 818-5276, ext. 123 ([dnorthern@mkmlm.org](mailto:dnorthern@mkmlm.org)) or Joe Regotti at ext. 122 ([jregotti@mkmlm.org](mailto:jregotti@mkmlm.org)).

## History of Bethany



In 1925, the Maryknoll Sisters purchased the property which would come to be known as Bethany, and began construction on the present Georgian style building (old wing) on the foundation of the burned out estate. The Sisters envisioned using the residence as a guest house and on November 21, 1925, the home was dedicated during the first mass and re-named Bethany.

We know from the New Testament that Bethany (literally “home of cleansing”) was the location of the



Bethany to Walsh.

home where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived. It was there that Jesus went to rest, to be himself and to enjoy his special friends. It was also there that Jesus raised Lazarus to new life.





The residence served as a rest house primarily for lay women who would come from as far away as New York City to enjoy rest, relaxation, prayer and reflection. By 1939, it became a popular place, especially for women teachers.

By 1945, Bethany became primarily used as a residence for Maryknoll Sisters who had returned from service in overseas mission and who were either elderly or infirm. To accommodate the growing number of such returned missionaries, the Maryknoll Sisters added a new wing to the original structure and completed that work in 1956.

The Sisters decided in the mid-seventies that their Sisters housed

at Bethany were too isolated from the Mother House. On December 4, 1978, the Sisters Congregation sold the residence to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Initially, Bethany served as the Center for the Maryknoll Mission Program which was offered to seasoned missionaries, both Maryknollers and missionaries from other communities. Almost immediately thereafter, the Maryknoll Lay Mission Program moved from the Seminary Building into Bethany.

Because of the growth and vitality of the lay missionaries, the 1990 Chapter of the Society petitioned the Vatican to include lay missionaries

in the Society Constitutions. The Vatican declined but asked that separate structures be set up for the lay missionaries. Accordingly, in 1992 a committee of lay missionaries and Society and Congregation leadership was formed to carry out a planning process. After a period of investigation and reflection, a separate structure both civil and canonical was founded on August 15, 1994 – the feast of The Assumption of Our Lady. Since that time, over 700 lay missionaries have passed through Bethany and many regard it as home.

On March 10, 2013, we had a final liturgy and lunch at Bethany and

bade a prayerful and fond farewell. We walked in procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's statue to our new home and prayed,

*Hear us, almighty and everlasting God, and in your goodness send your holy angel from heaven to watch over and protect all who enter into this building, be with them and give them comfort and encouragement.*

*Help all who work, labor and learn here to embody the spirit of mission and to remain faithful to the charism and history of Maryknoll and that of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners who seek to transform lives by living Gospel values and being voices of compassion and witnesses to peace and justice.*





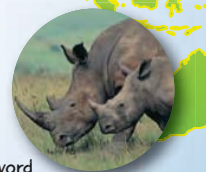
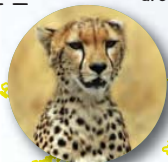
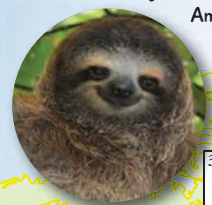
Maryknoll Lay Missioners help people in many countries.  
Solve the puzzles to find out about the places they work around the world.

### Across

3. The sloth is incredibly slow. They like to hang out in the jungles of this South American country:  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. The cheetah is the fastest animal on the Earth. It likes to hunt on the plains of  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. Maryknoll Lay Missioners help many  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ around the world.



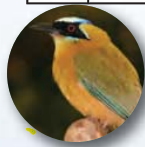
### Down

1. The Asian elephant has smaller ears than its African relatives. It likes to live in the forests and fields of  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. The torogoz is the national bird of this Central American country \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. Llamas help the people of  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ by carrying large loads and supplying material to make yarn.

4. The word rhinoceros means "nose horn". They roam the plains of this African country  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### Clues:

Tanzania  
Brazil

El Salvador  
Kenya

People  
Cambodia

Bolivia

## 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

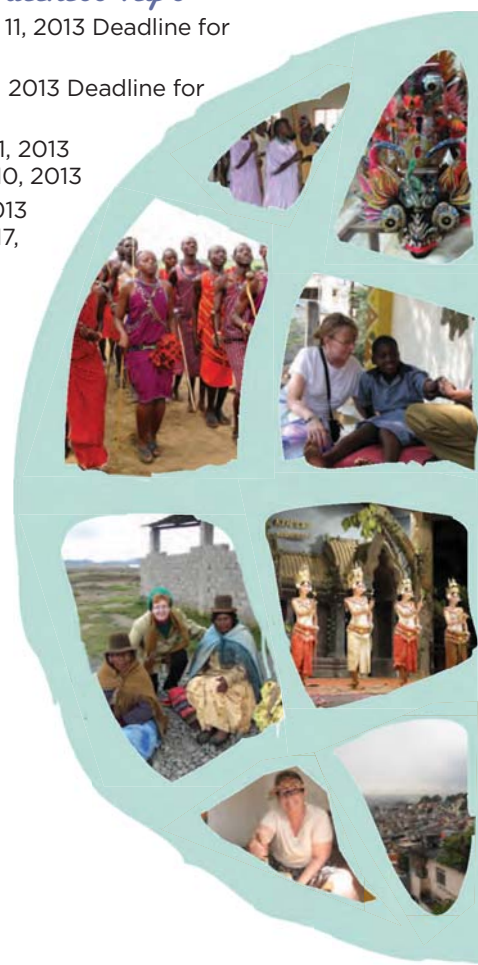
- **EL SALVADOR**, August 2 - 11, 2013 Deadline for signups: May 3, 2013
- **TANZANIA**, August 8 - 20, 2013 Deadline for signups: May 8, 2013
- **CAMBODIA**, August 10 - 21, 2013 Deadline for signups: May 10, 2013
- **BRAZIL**, August 17 - 28, 2013 Deadline for signups: May 17, 2013
- **KENYA**, September 7 - 19, 2013 Deadline for signups: June 7, 2013
- **BOLIVIA**, Oct. 26 - Nov. 7, 2013 Deadline for signups: July 26, 2013
- **CAMBODIA**, Feb TBD, 2014 Deadline for signups: November, 2013
- **EL SALVADOR**, March 7 - 17, 2014 Deadline for signups: Dec 6, 2013

### Contact Us Today:

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# You can Give and Receive at the same time.

## *Want to know how?*

There is a way to make a gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and get something back in return. It's called a Charitable Gift Annuity, and it makes stable, fixed payments to you for life in return for your gift. It's a great way to both give and receive.

Through our partnership with the National Catholic Community Foundation, MKLM is able to offer this gift opportunity to our donors. Establishing a charitable gift annuity is smart, rewarding and simple! In just five steps, you can create a gift that will provide for your future as well as ours.

To learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities and other life income gifts, please contact Margaret Cuccinello, Advancement Director at: (800)867-2980 or via e-mail at [mcuccinello@mklm.org](mailto:mcuccinello@mklm.org).



## *Did you know?*

Charitable gift annuities have been around since the early 1800s. Over the years they have evolved into one of the most popular charitable life income plans.