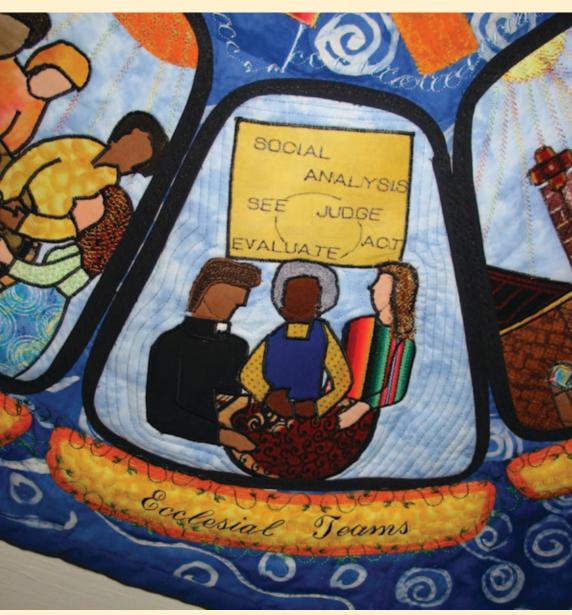
VOICES of maryknoll COMPASSION

Volume I 2012



We are lay, religious and ordained missioners working together as equals in mission.

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 learn more about becoming a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, visit: www.mklm.org/4change
- To support our work, visit: www.maryknolllaymissioners.org







We congratulate our Sisters in Mission on their 100th anniversary and pray they be granted many more years of making God's love visible throughout the world.



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



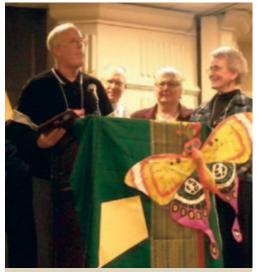
Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a proud member of the National Catholic Development Conference.

Dear Friends,

Prayerful best wishes to all of you from all of us here at Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

s I reflect on all that has happened since I last wrote to you, I cannot help but be struck by how the Spirit continues to work in and through Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Every day we see glimmers of hope where there was once only despair - even if it is something as simple as seeing to it that a child has a decent shirt and pair of shoes to wear to school. Don't get me wrong, there is still much to do but in this season of renewed hope I can't help but believe that the Spirit of our Risen Lord is working with and through us to serve those God has entrusted to us. Like St. Paul, we believe, "Because we have this ministry through God's mercy, we do not give in to discouragement." (2 Corinthians 4:1)

Our missioners work in 7 different countries but the needs are all very similar—clean water, nutritious food, suitable clothing and medicine. Maryknoll Lay



Sam Stanton, Executive Director, receiving mission award for MKLM

Missioners, like many other charitable organizations, works hard (and with your generous help) to fulfill those needs. What makes us different, however, is our faithbased foundation built on our Eight Core Values. One of those Values is our commitment to working within Ecclesial Teams. By that we mean that we, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, work together as equals

Cover Photo: Our 8 Core Values are beautifully represented in an original piece of art by former MKLM Missioner Eileen Charleton, Venezuela, Tanzania and US, Class of 1988.

with religious and ordained people in mission. We take seriously the words of Blessed John Paul II that, "It is not possible to live and grow in the faith without the support of a group, a Christian Community. It is here that you will learn to build a better world." (L'Osservatore Romano, 7/1/85)

Our missioners are working hard and in collaboration with other Catholic laity, priests and religious to serve and support the poor and spread the good news of Jesus every day. In Kenya we work with and celebrate the local Church as we accompany the people in their struggle to realize human dignity. In Tanzania we create communal life with our African family, the Maryknoll Society and Congregation and our Maryknoll Lay Missioners - sustained by prayer and mutual accountability. In Cambodia we are part of the Cambodia Mission Team which includes all Maryknoll entities as well as others. The Cambodia Mission Team is first and foremost a community guided by values based on human and civil rights and our Catholic tradition and heritage. In Latin America we have worked alongside our Maryknoll

partners since 1976. Our dream is that through our example and with God's help all people will be able to use their creativity in ways that will strengthen them and empower them to build a more participative and inclusive society and Church. And last, but not least, we are part of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. Located in Washington DC, we work there as a part of the ecclesial team to educate and advocate on public policy issues that affect the people we serve around the world.

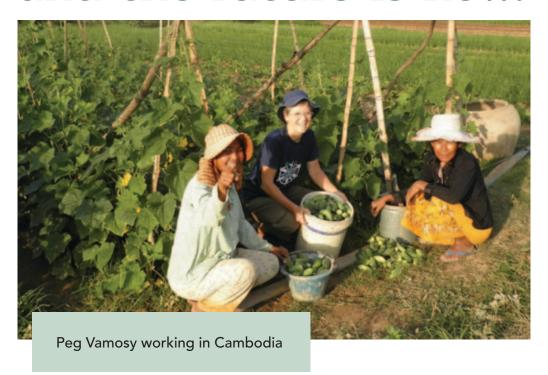
So as you read through this edition of Voices of Compassion please know that we here at Maryknoll Lay Missioners truly believe that the Risen Christ calls everyone to labor in His vineyard and that the Holy Spirit empowers all with various gifts and ministries for the building up of the body of Christ.

God bless you.

Sam Stanton

Executive Director

Ecclesial Teams: The future of the Catholic Mission... and the future is now.



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..." John 15:5 (NIV)

ave you ever seen a vine? They Lcan grow in the most unusual, seemingly impossible, situations. Vines grow up the sides and through the windows of abandoned buildings. They coil around tree trunks, clinging to them in a display of strength, climbing higher, and higher, and higher...

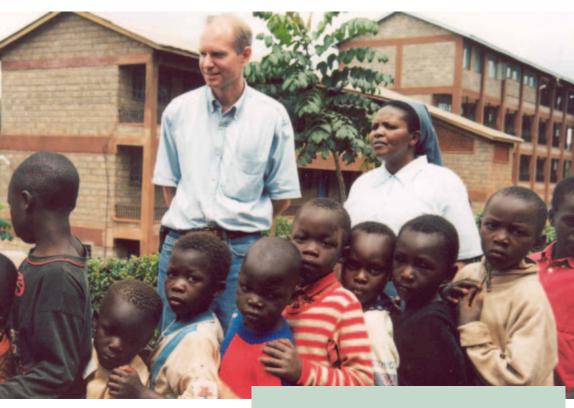
"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

Jesus tells us in John's Gospel that He is the vine, we are merely the branches. He has done the most difficult part – the part that no other could have. Through Jesus' work on Earth, the healings, the miracles and the fasting; and through His passion death and Resurrection, Jesus paved the way for us. As the branches clinging to His love, it is our job to attract others to the vine - something we all do in different ways.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is but one part – one branch – of the Maryknoll family. Together, along with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Maryknoll Sisters, we form one of the largest foreign mission movements in the world. We are blessed by a century of experience and by the continued dedication of the men and women who bring their commitment and passion to the Maryknoll movement - be it as a priest, as a Brother, a Sister or a lay missioner.

There is, however, a major shift occurring in the Catholic Church. It began some time ago, but its pace has certainly accelerated, and will continue to do so in the coming years. That shift is the shift in the responsibility for, and leadership of, the Church and its many wonderful ministries.

There is a shortage of young men and women joining the seminary or the convent. We can neither deny, nor ignore that. However, a diminishment in the number of ordained and religious does not mean our mission rings any less true, nor does it mean that the need is any less great. It simply means we



Russ Brine with students in Kenya

need to adapt to the reality we face. Though the number of men and women choosing religious life may be declining, we are blessed that so many hardworking and faithful lay people contribute to our mission, and to the Church as a whole.

When someone expresses a desire to be a lay missioner, they are

listening to something deep within themselves. They follow their faith, as Isaiah did, answering God's call and following His guiding hand wherever it may lead. Here are some of the places where God's hand has guided our lay missioners - and the work they are doing with others:



Maryknoll Mission Community of El Salvador

Africa



iz Mach first heard the call to become a missioner in 1976. Today, thirty-six years

later, she is still answering just as Isaiah did. "Here am I. Send me!" Liz has spent time in a host of different mission sites and ministries, and her experience is invaluable to the local community where she serves.

"In Tanzania, where I am now, we are very involved in building

ecclesial teams. We work for, with and through the local church which is very important to us," she says.

Through her descriptions of life in Tanzania, one thing is evident. The missioners - whether lay, religious or ordained – form something very special: community.

Liz told us about volunteers working with the Sisters in HIV/ AIDS work, and sharing Pastoral Theological Reflection (PTR) with both the Sisters and the Fathers and Brothers. Holidays and special events are celebrated together, and perhaps most importantly, a natural support system develops. After all, even though our missioners are living their faith in a very meaningful way, they are still far from home.

One message that Liz relayed seemed particularly poignant, and is an example of how blessed we are to have so many dedicated lay missioners. "We have continued some projects begun by the Congregation after the Sisters have retired and returned home," she says. Thank God for their presence and their passion for continuing these ministries. Without them, what would happen to all the good work that has already begun?

Latin America



ne of the blessings of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners is the vibrancy and energy

our younger missioners bring to our organization. People like Larry Parr,

who joined MKLM in 2007 and today is working to better the lives in Las Delicias, a very poor, rural community in El Salvador.

We work for, with and through the local Church which is very important to us.

Larry, too, is blessed with the encouragement and the experience of a strong ecclesial team in El Salvador, where the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, the Fathers and Brothers and the Sisters form a group called the Maryknoll Mission Community of El Salvador (MMC). They meet monthly for prayer, fellowship and presentations on issues that affect their ministries – issues like violence, migration and the environment. The MMC members also visit each others ministries, and provide support and guidance for each other.

That support and guidance came in handy when a tropical depression struck El Salvador. With the entire country in a state of emergency due

to the heavy floods, the Maryknoll Family – Lay Missioners, Sisters, Priests and Brothers alike – everyone pitched in during that difficult time.

We have been formed not just from common experience but by our faith and the belief we can make a difference.

Larry serves more than 600 families in his ministries. He works with FUDECSA, a foundation that aims to enhance the community through education and development. Larry helps the youth in Las Delicias with their leadership, team building and social skills. In addition to his work with FUDECSA, Larry is also involved with a new project called Playing for Peace – a communitywide initiative geared to gang prevention. More than 100 boys and girls age 7 to 17 participate – they study, work, play and pray together.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners serve throughout Latin America - not just in El Salvador, but in Bolivia and Brazil as well. With the dedication

of people like Larry Parr and the rest of our missioners, we will be there as long as we are needed.

Asia



here are currently 8 MKLM missioners in Cambodia – all living

in the city of Phnom Penh. Their proximity to each other allows for them to share their work with each other - the successes as well as the struggles. Together with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and the Maryknoll Sisters, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners comprise the Cambodia Mission Team (CMT).

The CMT meets at least once a week – business is discussed, but the primary focus of the meeting is fellowship, Mass, and to share a meal together. The community has been formed not just from the common experiences of its members, but by the very thing that guided them to Phnom Penh in the first place – their faith, and their belief that they could make a difference.



Our Lady of Maryknoll

Fr. Charlie Dittmeier has been with MKLM as a missioner for 25 years. While technically not a "lay missioner," (he is a diocesan priest from Kentucky), Fr. Charlie was in Hong Kong from 1987-2000, and since then has been working with the deaf in Cambodia.

His work is particularly challenging because of the circumstances he faces within the country – a form of sign language wasn't developed there until 1996. There were also no organizations designed to assist the deaf until the late 1990's. Fr. Charlie is not just teaching sign language, he is helping to develop the language that will give voice to those who would otherwise be mute.

Susan Sporl also works with the deaf in Phnom Penh, serving around 40 deaf clients and their families as a Social Services Advisor. Susan's work has helped to organize the services that are now available for the deaf, and her experience in social work and counseling has proven invaluable during her years in Cambodia.

Susan came to MKLM from Seattle, Fr. Charlie from Kentucky. Each was in a very different place in their lives when they committed to becoming a missioner. But there was something that drew them to leave their lives in the U.S. and to cast their nets out into deeper waters.



Washington D.C.

For some, following their faith means traveling to far-off

places – like Susan and Fr. Charlie, or Larry, or Liz. And for others, their talents keep them closer to home.

Dave Kane works at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns in Washington, DC – an ecclesial team with members from each branch of Maryknoll – the Fathers and Brothers, the Sisters and the Lay Missioners. As Dave says, collaboration is important – and it is happening all the time.

"As far as how we work [together], everything we do is decided in meetings with representatives from each entity. Right now, Kathy McNeely, former MKLM lay missioner, is at the UN working with Ann Braudis, a Maryknoll Sister, in hosting a presentation on women and agriculture at the UN...recently, we invited a Maryknoll Sister and a Peruvian woman to speak at the UN about a local mine poisoning their river. I also took them around DC to meetings with legislators and State Dept."

As a mission organization we have a unique perspective on what 12 | VOICES of Compassion

is happening in the field, and so we can better inform those working in Washington. This dynamic of our work illustrates the importance of the collaboration that exists in Maryknoll. Our Lay Missioners, the Fathers and Brothers, and the Sisters are working together in the field – and they are bringing their experience back to Washington to inform others about the realities they experience. The work being done by the Office for Global Concerns is incredibly important to the Maryknoll mission, because they work for the systemic change that is so often necessary to remedy the situations our missioners and those they serve face.

For more than 100 years the Maryknoll mission has been alive in the world, serving the poorest of the poor. Despite the changes in society, in government, in world affairs – through times of war, and in times of peace, we continue to experience life *together* with those we serve. Those experiences shared by each branch of the Maryknoll family, and the faith that inspires them, are what bind us together to the vine of Christ's undying love. And the vine is ever present, regardless of the changes the branches may endure.

Ecclesial Teams and the Maryknoll Affiliates

by Fred Goddard, Executive Coordinator



hen thinking of the idea of Ecclesial Teams, I would say that the Maryknoll Affiliates is an Ecclesial Movement. From the individuals providing service to Maryknoll Affiliate Chapters and our regional and international conferences, the Maryknoll Affiliates desire and promote connections with Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Fathers and Brothers and Sisters.

Whenever a Maryknoll Affiliate looks to work with Maryknoll, whether that be short-term service in another country or a long-term

Adel O'Regan, Richard Dixon, Gloria Galindo with Joe Regotti, Mission Services Director

commitment where they live,
Maryknoll Affiliates have done so
along side Maryknoll Missioners
from all the entities. Maryknoll
Affiliates like Ginger Yorio and
David and Paula Schaffner have
taught in schools in Namibia at
the request of Maryknoll Brothers
Mark Gruenke and Loren Beaudry.
Agnes Walsh has taught English in
Cambodia for many years through
her connections with Sister Louise

Aherns. Maryknoll Affiliates in Guatemala, Peru, Philippines and Tanzania work alongside Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Sisters, Priests and Brothers as part of their daily ministries.

Maryknoll Affiliates desire and promote connections with Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Fathers and **Brothers and Sisters.**

Many Maryknoll Affiliate Chapters welcome the participation of Maryknoll Sisters, Lay Missioners and Society members. The New York City Subway Chapter, for example, is blessed by the presence of Sisters Gracie Krieger and Marilyn Graham and Maryknoll Lay Missioner Alicia Butkiewicz. The Maryknoll Mission Team in El Salvador, made up of members of the Congregation, Lay Missioners and Society, began and participate in the Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter there.

The idea of "Ecclesial Teams" is not limited to Maryknoll connections at the Chapter level. Diocesan priests who have connections with Maryknoll participate in Chapters, like Tom Royer, in Albany, and former Maryknoll Associate Priests Fathers Bill Stanfield and Eugene Pocernich in the Greater Milwaukee Chapter. Sisters from other congregations also connect with us, like Sister of Mercy Kathleen Waugh RSM, who is active in the Philadelphia Chapter.

Perhaps in no other space does the ecclesial nature of the Maryknoll Affiliates manifest itself better than in our regional and international conferences. We are always proud that these conferences, whether they be for a day or a weekend, enjoy participation from all the entities, not only as speakers and resource persons, but attending these conferences just like any other Maryknoll Affiliate.

Finally, it is important to note that the example of an ecclesial team is modeled by the leadership of the Maryknoll Affiliates, the Maryknoll Affiliate Board. We are both proud and blessed to have Maryknoll Lay Missioner Margo Cambier, Maryknoll Father Paul Masson MM and Maryknoll Sister Ann Hayden MM as part of the Maryknoll Affiliate Board, exemplifying the servant-leadership model that the board strives to achieve.

MKLM Benefactor Spotlight



ike Noonan, and his wife

Judy, have been good friends to Maryknoll for more than 40 years. Their relationship with us began in 1969 at Christ Church Newman Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where Father Bill Vos (current Chair of the Board of Directors of Maryknoll Lay Missioners) was pastor. It was Fr. Bill who recruited Mike to serve on the Board.

Mike became a member of our board in 2006, and he serves as an example of how our lay partners work in conjunction with our missioners and our religious brothers and sisters. In fact, the bond between the lay members of the Board, and the Maryknoll Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, is something Mike sees as being very special.

Sirikit Noronha

"When you get down to it, this organization (MKLM) is training lay

people who want to do mission work under the guidance and philosophies of Maryknoll," Mike says. "They don't just throw money at a problem, they become involved in the communities, and with the people they're serving. And the connection between the Lay Missioners, the Society [of Fathers and Brothers] and the Congregation [of Sisters] continues. Once our missioners are trained they might end up in Latin America, or East Africa, or the Far East... but they usually end up in an area where there are already Maryknollers doing missionary work, and they become a part of those communities."

In the Spring of 2010, Mike saw firsthand the good work our lay missioners are doing when he visited Tanzania and Kenya. On that trip he was able to visit several sites. and was fortunate enough to see a number of missioners in their work. Unfortunately, what he saw during that trip was not always easy to witness, and many of the memories have stayed with him.

"One of our missioners had built a school for handicapped and challenged youth," he remembers. "See, it was her attempt to get these kids educated. They had no education, they had no options. So when we visited the home

of one of the students, a girl who was severely handicapped, the mother, the grandmother, the great-grandmother - they were all present, telling us how difficult it was to take care of her. Then the grandmother asked, 'What's going to become of her?' We couldn't answer it, but it's lingered with me because it shows what a desperate situation people are in. In the US, an answer, a solution, would be available."

Our missioners are a part of the foremost Catholic mission sending group in the US. They bring the love of Christ to the world.

Mike recalls another mission he visited, this one in Kitale, Kenya – a school for former street kids who need to catch up to their peers in terms of education. "Russ, the lay missioner who runs the school, he's wonderful. These kids are migrating into Kitale, mostly from the north, towards Sudan, and they are mostly beggars. The school gets the kids off the street, houses them in dormitories, and teaches them how to learn. The kids aren't prepared for school, they haven't been in school – so they get the kids into the format of education."

That trip had a big impact on Mike, and it helped solidify all

that he had heard about in his relationship with Maryknoll Lay Missioners. But in the end, the reason he cares so deeply about MKLM, and about the work we do, comes down to one thing – faith.

"There are a lot of great missionary organizations that send people for 6 months, a year, maybe 2 years. But being a Maryknoll Lay Missioner is not just a temporary volunteer effort. We have missioners who have been at their sites for more than 30 years. For many it's a lifelong commitment – getting into the culture of the people they're serving, and becoming a part of their way of life and their culture. Our missioners are a

part of the foremost Catholic missionsending group in the United States, and they have an extreme dedication to bringing the Word of Christ and the Love of Christ to the world – especially the poorest of the poor."

Mike and the rest of our board members are an important part of the Maryknoll Lay Missioner community. Without them, without their belief in us, we would be unable to bring Christ's Love to the poorest of the poor. For them, and for all of you who support us with your prayers, your encouragement and your donations, we are very grateful.

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 www.maryknolllaymissioners.org.

Riberalta – Crossroads of the Past, Present, and Future for Maryknoll

by Jason Obergfell, MKLM

The recent 100th anniversary celebration in Riberalta was a unique moment when the past, present, and future all intersected at the same time. It was a unique moment when Bolivia's Maryknollers enjoyed weaving the diversity of Maryknoll vocations and histories together in community.

Sharing a special moment of community where the past and present come together.

The past was shared through mission stories told by Maryknoll Sisters who lived through Riberalta's transformation from a small town of 5,000 to a bustling city of 120,000 over the last 70 years. Some moments were even marked in time by Maryknoll videos that recorded images from 30 to 50 years ago. The Maryknoll priests and Brothers had some of their own tales to tell as

well. A Maryknoll lay missioner like me was able to recapture some of our own history in Riberalta by simply sitting back and listening.

In the present moment, one could experience the past as well simply by traveling up the river. The boats used by the vicariate today are not much different than those used many years ago. The river, and the jungle forests forming its borders, are probably similar to what they were when Maryknoll lay missioners like Joe Honerkamp traveled upstream many years ago with Maryknoll Sisters, priests, and Brothers. It was a privilege to follow in their footsteps, if only for a 2-hour boat ride. It is privilege to be a part of Maryknoll's history in Bolivia.

But in the present moment, there was also a PARTY! Everywhere we went, the mission efforts from the past came alive in the present.



The boats used by the vicariate today are not much different than those used many years ago.

Everywhere we went, the people of Riberalta joyfully welcomed us. Their welcome was one of appreciation for what Maryknoll, especially the Sisters, had done over the last 70 years. In the present we were able to see the products of the mission labors of the past. The schools were vibrant and functioning independently. The hospital was, too. A center for children with disabilities, that got its start from a Maryknoll lay missioner, was also doing well. People that had participated in Maryknoll programs over the years had become successful leaders in present day Riberalta. There was never a shortage of

appreciation expressed by those that Maryknoll had served.

It was also a moment of acknowledging the future, a future in which the Maryknoll Sisters will soon end their presence in Riberalta. The 3 Maryknoll Sisters that hosted us will be moving on after decades of

dedicated service to the community in Riberalta. At the same time, it was a moment to recognize the future of many young Maryknoll Sisters that are just beginning their mission journey in Bolivia. Riberalta has become a thriving and independently sustainable community, and much of the credit could be given to Maryknoll's efforts over the last 70 years. However, the future calls to new "fields afar." All of those that participated in the Maryknoll Sisters' 100th anniversary celebration were fortunate to travel through the crossroads of Riberalta. We were able to share a special moment of community where the past and present came together to launch Bolivia's Maryknoll mission community into the future.

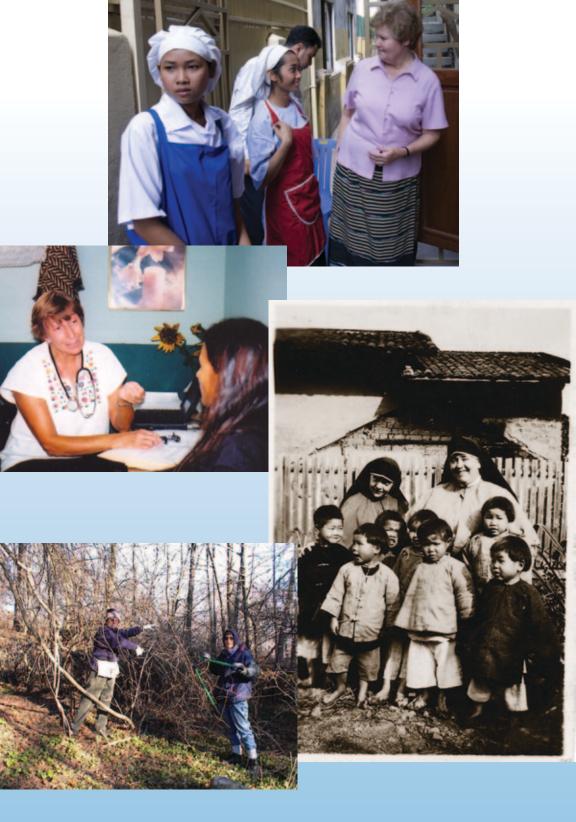
Maryknoll Sisters Celebrate 100 Years of Mission

Making God's Love Visible

Founded 100 years ago in 1912 by Mother Mary Joseph Rogers, when mission for the American Roman Catholic Church was in its infancy and going abroad meant traversing land and sea in far rougher transportation than we know today, The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic exist "to participate in the mission presence and activity of the universal Church so that God's reign of peace, justice and love may be proclaimed and witnessed to throughout the world." (Maryknoll Sisters Constitution, p. 3-4)

Giving witness to that love as nurses and doctors, teachers and theologians, social workers and agronomists, writers, veterinarians, artists, environmentalists and more, the close to 400 members of the order currently hail from 27 different countries and serve in 25 nations around the globe. Many are engaged in ministry to AIDS patients and their families. Others speak on behalf of the poor and the environment at the United Nations. Still others labor alongside youth, women, migrant workers and victims of human trafficking. For more information, please visit their website: www.maryknollsisters.org.

> Photos, clockwise from right: Sister Helene O'Sullivan with victims of human trafficking; Mother Mary Joseph, right, with another Sister in Japan in 1927; Sisters Doreen Longres and Janet Miller of Maryknoll Sisters Environmental Office; Dr. Mary Annel, MM, with AIDS patient.





Brazil

countries around the world to help poor comunitites in South America, Africa, Latin America and Asia. Can you find some countries and the animals that live there in the word search below?

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a p f 1

1





anteater



Cambodia



green sea turtle

sun bear spotted owlet

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El Salvador u m



tapir



tree frog



macaw



giraffe



a.

ostrich



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 September 6 - 16, 2012
- **KENYA**September 7 21, 2012
- **BRAZIL** October, 19 - Nov. 2, 2012
- CAMBODIA February 15 -March 1, 2013
- **BOLIVIA**March 22 April 5, 2013
 (tentative)
- TANZANIA May 31 - June 14, 2013 (tentative)

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: 914-944-3576 friendsacrossborders@mklm.org www.friendsacrossborders.org



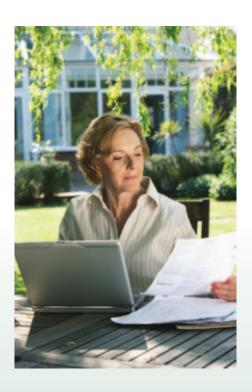
You can Give and Receive at the same time.

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.



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.