



A YEAR OF RENEWAL

In my first year as chair of the board of directors for Maryknoll Lay Missioners, it has been a privilege to serve one of the largest U.S. Catholic lay associations committed to the economically poor in countries throughout the world.

This 2018 Annual Report describes the exciting expansion of Maryknoll laity serving the people of South Sudan and Haiti, and the laying of plans to open a new U.S.-Mexico border mission. It clearly reflects our commitment to the marginalized of our world and shows how lay missionaries are faithfully living out our mission statement: **"inspired by the mission of Jesus, to 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."**

2018 was also a year of leadership transition since it was the first full year of Ted Miles' dynamic leadership as executive director. Ted and his team, including Marj Humphrey, director of mission services, have done a masterful job of weathering global challenges to mission operations in "fields afar." A new strategic planning process was initiated to respond to the ever-changing signs of the times while remaining grounded in our core values. I would be remiss not to acknowledge Sam Stanton's 33 years of faithful service and leadership to Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Like many of us, Sam now joins the ranks of "Always a Missioner."

All of us are called to be missionaries—locally and globally. As I invite you to read this 2018 Annual Report, let me express my deep gratitude to each and every one of you. Regardless of our roles or physical locations—and amidst violence, marginalization and oppression—we continue to be witnesses to the Resurrection, working in solidarity with the poor toward the creation of a just and compassionate world.

Peace,

Terence W. Miller

Terence W. Miller
Chair, Board of Directors

Soon after becoming the new executive director for Maryknoll Lay Missioners, I received a note from a missionary that said, "God has invited you to come forth, has special work for you, special places for you to go, special things to do rooted in deep love. And God will be with you in all of this."

Isn't this the first step to renewal? To trust in God's invitation to each one of us, to trust that in this mission of love we can indeed step out in faith, knowing all the time that we do not go it alone?

And oh, how God celebrates when we give our "Yes"! Our missionaries and the individuals and communities whom they accompany are living examples of the renewal inherent in mission: the constant re-opening of ourselves to God's call, the rekindling cooperation with the Spirit and others in the face of adversity, and the ongoing recommitment to the journey of transformation.

Each time we seek justice, love tenderly, walk humbly

and treat each person as though she were ourself, we respond to God's invitation to break through the invisibility of poverty, brokenness, inequality and despair, and stand for justice and in solidarity amidst the harsh realities of the world. You will see glimpses of that good news throughout this report.

Thank you for the many ways you respond to God's invitation to mission, especially through your support of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Your partnership, generosity, kindness and prayers help to transform the lives of our global sisters and brothers alongside whom we live and serve.

Yours in mission

Ted Miles

Ted Miles
Executive Director

Above: Maryknoll lay missionary **Minh Nguyen** works in Tacopaya, **Bolivia**, an indigenous community in the remote rural Andes, as well as in Cochabamba. Her ministries serve indigenous school children as well as elderly people, and she teaches hairdressing to women prison inmates.

Cover: **Gabe Hurrish** helps to train teachers like Victor Hume at the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio, **South Sudan**. Here Hume is leading a song at a Catholic school in Yambio. Photo by Paul Jeffrey.

*In El Salvador, Maryknoll lay missionaries like **Larry Parr** (second from left) are helping to create a better future and more opportunities for people, addressing some of the root causes of the emigration of Salvadorans—like gang violence and a lack of educational and economic opportunities.*



SOUTH SUDAN

New mission tries to help shape South Sudan's future for the better

Joana Ilario, a graduate of the Solidarity Teacher Training College, helps one of her students at St. Mary's Primary School in Yambio. Photo by Paul Jeffrey

In January 2018, Maryknoll Lay Missioners began a new mission in the war-torn country of **South Sudan**. **Gabe Hurrish**, a veteran lay missionary who has served overseas for 27 years, started teaching social studies, computer classes, religious education and English, while also helping to administer the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) in Yambio.

"I feel it is what I'm called to do," says Gabe. "Every teacher we put out there makes that much difference in the country, fostering education and growth."

According to a UNESCO report, fewer than one third of primary-school age children attend school in South Sudan, making the country the world's worst in this category. For those who do attend, classes are often held in dilapidated buildings, with 100 or 125 students crammed into tiny, overcrowded classrooms with no desks and few chairs.

Teachers are paid as little as \$1.50 per week. "Becoming a teacher in South Sudan is like signing your name in the book of poverty," Gabe says.

Against these overwhelming odds, Gabe and Solidarity with South Sudan, the unique joint international initiative of religious orders that runs the teacher training college, provide a new vision. That vision promotes qualified and trained teachers as respected role models who are key to a better future of their country.

In addition to learning how to teach, the college's students also learn other lessons that are crucial for the country's future. "We have students who come from all over the country," Gabe explains. They don't speak the same languages and come from different ethnic groups that have been at war with each other. "Part of what we're trying to do is bring them

together to show that everybody is equal, and that they can have peace among the different ethnic groups. They are the future, and God willing, they will be the agents of change."

The world's youngest country, South Sudan has seen little peace since it gained its independence in 2011. The armed struggle of the preceding 50 years has just continued with an on-again, off-again civil war, ethnic cleansing and high levels of violence.

As he walks around the STTC campus, Gabe says, he wonders about the future of the students there. "Will they be able to overcome the incredible odds stacked against them? Seeds have been planted by the Holy Spirit. Now we need to let them grow. By the grace of God, I am privileged to be a part of the foundation that is being built by Solidarity in this country."



Gabe Hurrish with some of the teachers in training at the Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio. Photo by Paul Jeffrey.

HAITI

*Inch by inch, row by row,
please bless these seeds we sow*



Sami Scott (left) and Abby Belt set up a new cover at the tree nursery of the Jean Marie Vincent Agricultural Center in Gros Morne, Haiti, to provide shelter for tree saplings.

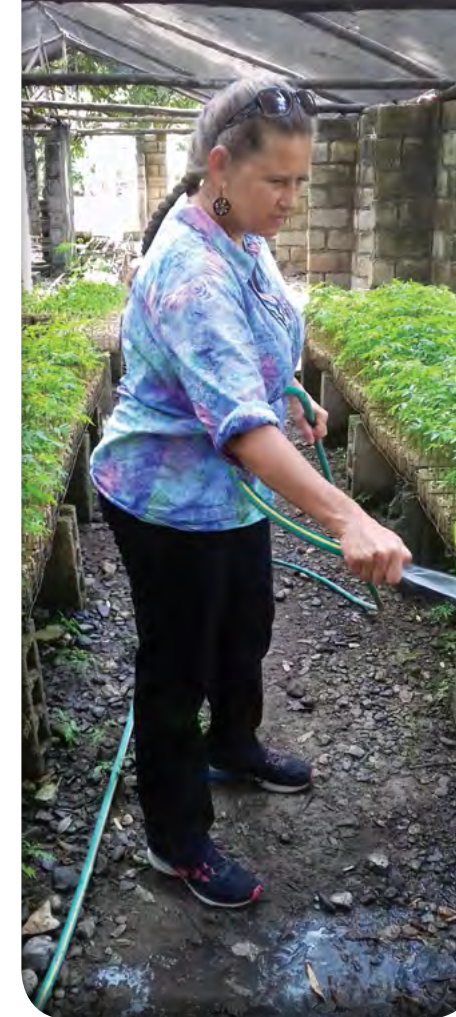
After several years of exploration, discernment and groundwork, Maryknoll Lay Missioners in October 2018 planted its first seeds for a new mission commitment in northern Haiti. Since then, lay missionary **Sami Scott**, who previously served with Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Cambodia and Venezuela, has been developing her new ministry at the Jean Marie Vincent Agricultural Center in Gros Morne, a project of the Religious of Jesus and Mary.

Sami is applying her expertise in finance, management and administration to help the center expand into new areas of environmental stewardship and service to the community.

She likes that much of her work in Haiti is hands-on. "I like getting back to more physical labor," she says, adding that that was something she had missed during her recent ministry in Cambodia. "I actually find the physical labor more prayerful. Working side by side with the people helps me make better and closer connections with them through the labor."

Among the many projects she helps tackle are a reforestation program, erosion control measures, composting, good animal husbandry, organic pest control, and the planning and management for a new block factory and a new bakery.

Sami Scott, watering cedar tree saplings for a reforestation program, says she loves that her ministry not only allows her to use her financial and management skills but also involves physical labor.



Once a week she also makes a two-hour walk each way to help manage the Father Jim Bretl Agricultural Center in Boucan Richard, which is focused on showing that agriculture can be done without cutting down trees and solving agricultural and environmental problems identified by the community.

One of the first large new projects Sami has been working on is a new hen house to help provide the town of Gros Morne with a more stable, economic and safe supply of eggs. Until now, women have had to travel five hours to the Dominican Republic, cross over the border, buy eggs and then pay to get them shipped back.

"Just recently, the country was rocked again by demonstrations for about 10 days to 2 weeks," Sami says. "The interruption in the supply route underscored the need for local production of eggs. After things quieted down again, the eggs imported from the Dominican Republic were mainly rotten."

Sami prepared the budget and business plans and secured grant funding for the financing. The hen house is scheduled to start operation with 1,000 hens in the summer of 2019.

While starting her new ministry, Sami also prepared the way for other Maryknoll lay missionaries to come to Haiti. In early January 2019, Abby Belt joined Sami to teach, consult and develop sports programs at the Lekòl Jezi Mari (Jesus Mary School), the Catholic grade school in Gros Morne. Other new missionaries are expected to arrive in early 2020.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER/ EL SALVADOR

*Helping migrants and
refugees and improving life
in the country of origin*

Heidi Cerneka in her office at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas, where she has started a new ministry as an immigration attorney.

As immigration, refugee and border concerns continued to heat up in 2018, Maryknoll Lay Missioners prepared an additional new mission commitment with newly minted attorney **Heidi Cerneka** at the **U.S.-Mexico border**, while continuing to strengthen its considerable presence in El Salvador.

Heidi officially began her new ministry as an immigration attorney in early January 2019, but most of the ground-work was laid in 2018. Heidi is now serving with community agencies in El Paso, spending most of her time at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. She helps serve the legal needs of immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers.

"It is important for us to be here at the border," Heidi says, "because it is a flashpoint where national and international politics, ministry, church and economic issues meet." In opening this new ministry, Heidi is continuing a previous Maryknoll Lay Missioners presence at the border that lasted until 2007.

Meanwhile, Maryknoll Lay Missioners' **El Salvador** region has continued to wrestle with the many push factors that have been driving Salvadorans, Hondurans and Guatemalans (the people of Central America's northern triangle) to leave their country.

After living and working with poor people in El Salvador, **Peter Altman**, Maryknoll Lay Missioners' regional director in El Salvador, says that one thing he knows is that "Salvadorans love El Salvador. In a perfect world, they would want to live, work and raise their families in El Salvador. When I see stories on the news about

Salvadorans immigrating to the United States, it is very clear to me that this isn't just a quest for better economic opportunities. Most of the time, people have no choice to stay in their homes. They are running for their lives."

Gang murders, shootings, violence, extortion and threats are common in many of the communities where Maryknoll lay missioners work.

Altman accompanies and serves internally displaced Salvadorans at two secret church-run shelters, while his wife, Melissa, helps to develop marketing and business opportunities for a women's cooperative. Other lay missioners are engaged in educational programs with at-risk youth and in programs with small farmers in the countryside; they are providing educational assistance in urban areas, working with nutritional programs, accompanying small Christian communities and reaching out to people who are homeless—including a significant number of Salvadorans who have been deported from the U.S.

Altman sees support for the work of Maryknoll lay missioners in El Salvador as another way for U.S. Catholics to make a difference in the current border and refugee situation—just as important as welcoming and embracing migrants and asylum seekers in the United States.

In El Salvador, Tim Ross serves at a Catholic Worker House that offers hospitality, food and shelter for people who are homeless on the streets of San Salvador—including many who have been deported from the U.S.



2018 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Bolivia

Since moving to Bolivia in 2018, **Juan Gomez** has been teaching computer classes, coaching sports teams and leading critical-thinking and life skills workshops and a youth ministry. He works at Colegio San Juan Bosco in Tacopaya, a rural indigenous community in the Bolivian Andes.

Brazil

After serving as director of mission services for Maryknoll Lay Missioners, **Joanne Blaney** in 2018 returned to her ministry of popular education and restorative justice in São Paulo. She works with marginalized populations, including homeless and incarcerated women and men and trains educators, community leaders and church groups in restorative justice practices and violence prevention. In 2018 she led courses and was a presenter at international conferences in Finland, Kenya and Rwanda.



★ U.S./Mexico Border

★ El Salvador

★ Haiti

★ Bolivia

★ Brazil

Kenya

In 2018 **Dee Dungy** (left), who had been serving in Cambodia, relocated to Kenya to begin a new ministry with Jesuit Refugee Service in Nairobi. She is now advocating for refugees from neighboring African countries.



★ South Sudan

★ Kenya

★ Tanzania



Tanzania

At the Rosemiriam Dagg Center in Musoma, Tanzania, **Angelica Ruppe** is serving young women who have a disability or are otherwise at risk. She started her service as a lay missionary there in 2018 and also leads activities at the nearby St. Justin Centre for Children with Disabilities.



★ Cambodia

Cambodia

Kylene Fremling began working as a physiotherapist assistant at LaValla School in Phnom Penh in 2018. LaValla is the only school in Cambodia offering a full primary education to children and young people with disabilities.

2018 MILESTONES

With 12 new people joining Maryknoll Lay Missioners, the **Class of 2018** was tied for being the largest since 2005. Their Sending Ceremony took place December 8.



After 33 years of service in many different capacities with Maryknoll Lay Missioners, we bade farewell to long-time executive director **Sam Stanton** on November 6.



At the end of 2018, Maryknoll Lay Missioners began a new **strategic planning process**, "Preparing Mission for the 21st Century."

MISSION STATEMENT

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to 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.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Senior International Officer, Marquette University, Milwaukee

Greg Darr, Vice Chair **

Vocation Ministries, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Hopkins, Minnesota

Father Charlie Dittmeier, Secretary *

Co-Director, Maryknoll Deaf Development Programme, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Sarah Welch, Treasurer

Sarah Welch, Co Founder, Buttoned Up, Rye, New York

Ian Bautista

Executive Director, Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative, Milwaukee

Michael J. Cammarota

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Robert Carlsen

Director Legal Services, Accenture, Danbury, Connecticut

Heidi Cerneka *

Maryknoll Lay Missioner, El Paso, Texas

Michael Hund

Chief Executive Officer, EB Research Partnership, New York

Anita Klueg **

Director of University Ministry, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit

Suzzy McLean

Partner and Vice President of Digital Marketing, Loup Digital, New York

Rhonda Paver

Bill & Rhonda Paver Family Foundation, Austin, Texas

Vicki Simon **

Former Director, IVC St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

Mark Wittenburg

Owner, Batis Development Company, Topeka, Kansas

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Ted Miles

Executive Director, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Maryknoll, New York

Marj Humphrey *

Director of Missions, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Maryknoll, New York

FINANCES

2018 Operating Income and Expenses

Total support and income

Charitable donations and other public support.....	\$3,204,033
Grants from trust.....	\$ 2,060,654
Investment return.....	(\$100,647)
Other income and gains	\$1,443
REVENUE TOTAL	\$5,165,483

Program and support services expenses

Program services

Mission work.....	\$3,057,002
Education and recruitment	1,152,678
Subtotal.....	\$4,209,680

Support services

Fundraising	\$285,210
Administration.....	687,007
Subtotal.....	\$972,217

EXPENSES TOTAL..... **\$5,181,897**

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS **(\$16,414)**

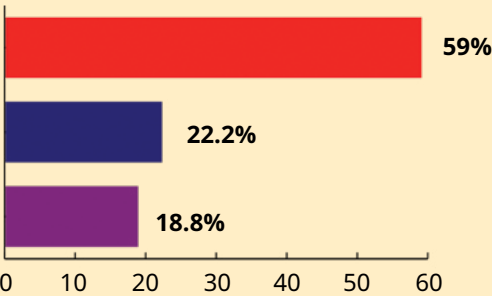
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension liability **19,401**

Change in net assets..... **\$2,987**

Net asset balance **(\$842,992)**

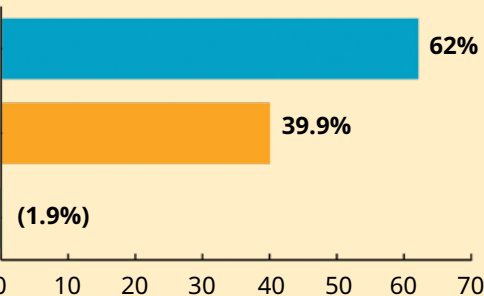
Uses of Funds

Mission work	\$3,057,002
Education & recruitment	\$1,152,678
Support services	\$972,217

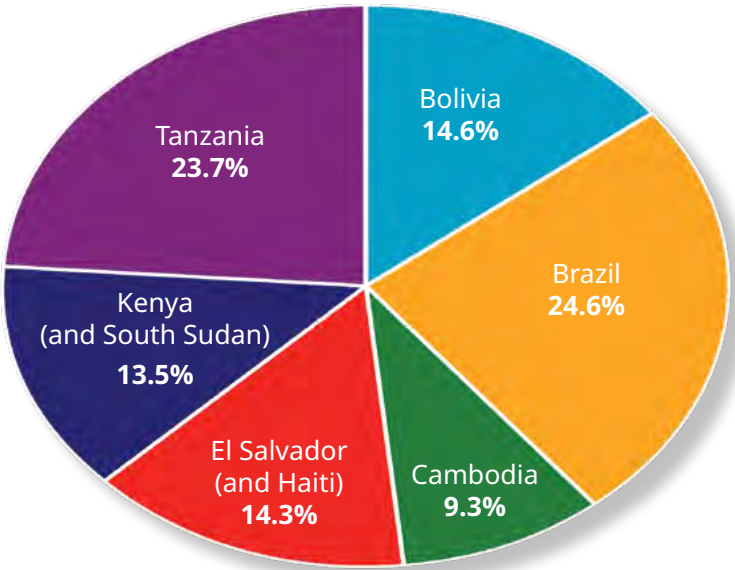


Sources of Funds

Charitable donations and other public support
Grants from trust
Investment return



2018 Support by Region



2018 by the Numbers

- **74 LAY MISSIONERS** served during the year 2018 (plus 15 children in missionary families)
- They directly affected **MORE THAN 10,000 LIVES**.
- They served in **9 COUNTRIES** in **5 MINISTRY AREAS** (education and leadership development, faith formation and pastoral care, healthcare and health promotion, justice and peace, sustainable development).
- Of the active lay missionaries, **11** were **under 30**; **14** were **30 - 44**; **19** were **45 - 59**; and **30** were **60 and older**.
- In 2018 we recruited, trained and sent into mission **12 NEW LAY MISSIONERS**.
- Since 1975, we have recruited, trained and sent into mission **MORE THAN 700 MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS**.

"Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth. To be attracted and to be sent are two movements that our hearts feel as interior forces of love.... To live out joyfully our responsibility for the world is a great challenge."

—Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 2018



Coralis Salvador (right), the coordinator of HOPE (Helping Orphans Pursue Education) Project in Mombasa, **Kenya**, and her colleague, **Floriane Mwandoo** (left), pay a home visit to Anna Charo in the Mululungu neighborhood. Anna has been an active member of HOPE since 1997 and is raising her deceased brother's two children as well as a grandchild, all three of them AIDS orphans. Photo by Jerry Fleury.



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