

**A SEASON OF CHANGES THAT ADD COLOR
TO LIFE!**



This change in the seasons is a high point for the year in the New York area where we are located. The rich gold and crimson red colors of the leaves combined with cool breezes gives us a fresh and invigorated appreciation for life. I hope you are blessed with these same feelings and appreciation for God's gifts of creation during this time of the year. We have been in contact with you while you contemplate the missionary vocation as priest or Brother. May that the motivation of service to God's people through faith and hope in the message of Jesus provide your soul with those same feelings of zest for life!

One of our senior missionaries, Fr. Dick Clifford, once wrote: “Mission is a *human touch*, in whatever form, place, person or circumstance it may reach out to express itself. It is often simple, sometimes sad, occasionally humorous but always enlightening. When one has felt this touch and has learned to respond to its tender embrace, in love and understanding, then one has begun to experience a true sense of mission, in all its beauty and charm and incomparable value.”

Service in response to love, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said: “Real greatness is not measured by the power one exercises, but by the service one gives.” I talk with people who admire the missionary vocation but feel they’re not worthy to undertake it. I respond to them saying that we missionaries are just ordinary human beings like them trying to contribute to God’s Mission in this world in whatever small way we can. It reminds me of another St. Mother Teresa quote: “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

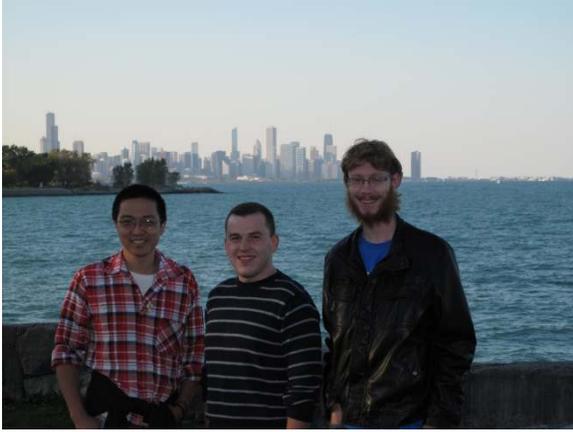
Never be stymied by the challenges presented in life. Rather, take the steps necessary to find the place where God calls you! As always we look forward to hearing from you.
– Fr. Mike (msnyder@maryknoll.org) and Mr. Greg Darr (gdarr@maryknoll.org).

Chicago Vocation Retreat 2016 Columbus Day Weekend



Michigan with parks everywhere that allow you to get out and enjoy the Windy City! Retreatants had a good opportunity to get to know Maryknoll while meeting our candidates and formation team, seeing where they live and visiting the Catholic Theological Union where they study.

We held a weekend retreat at the Maryknoll Initial Formation Residence in Chicago this October. It’s situated in a great location just opposite Lake



And the retreatants got to know each other, men like you expressing an interest in becoming missionary priests and Brothers in Maryknoll.



Visit the Vocations Website for updates and news:
<http://maryknollvocations.org>

MISSION REFLECTION



I once read a poem in a letter from our former Superior General of Maryknoll and good friend, Fr. John Sivalon, that describes Mission:

A tangle of twigs lies drying in the sun,
And then a spark catches one, and she,
Astonished by divinity, topples and tumbles and ignites
Another and another and another and
Soon the whole tangle is aflame
Gibber jabbering in many tongues!
Chattering and blabbering until babbling comes
Singing – in so many harmonious parts even the twigs can't count them!

These words reminded me of the Apostles at Pentecost: “Suddenly, from up on the sky there came a noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard throughout the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared, which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them.”
(Acts 2:2-4)

As the Apostles boldly went forth proclaiming the saving message of Jesus so too have generations of men and women who have followed in their footsteps. They have been like twigs filled with the fire, the passion for God's Mission as lived in the Paschal Mystery that is Jesus. For the past 105 years Maryknollers have been among those twigs generating sparks that have ignited others and others and others. We continue to go forth and invite you to join us for the short term as volunteers, the long term as lay missionaries, and the life term as Priests, Brothers, and Sisters. We welcome you to Maryknoll! – Fr. Mike

Fr. Shaun Crumb M.M.

Shaun is 38 years old and hails from the great state of Minnesota where he graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville. With Maryknoll he studied at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. As part of his training Shaun spent two years in Bolivia and after ordination he was assigned to China where in now serves in Jilin City.



Shaun bestowing first blessings on ordination day

Recently Shaun was asked some questions:

What made you consider the missionary priesthood?

Adventure! I wanted to serve the poorest of the poor like Christ through healing, preaching, and teaching. I love to travel and experience new cultures. I wanted to experience God's presence in new parts of the world.

What attracted you to this unique commitment to religious life?

Giving myself fully to the Lord and being available to go to other parts of the world and help build the church through relationships with the people. I wanted a bigger family than my own. I wanted to be a father to a larger family, God's family through serving as a priest.

Is there a special occasion or a moment in time when you knew that entering the seminary to become a missionary was the right thing for you?

In my early years I felt called to become a missionary priest. I was an altar server growing up and liked serving at Mass. My parish priest growing up was a very kind, caring, and Christ like person, whom the entire parish loved. His kindness and humility sparked an interest in me to serve like him. Later in college I went on an immersion trip to the Bahamas to do a social work internship at a center for troubled youth. I love being in a new culture and working with young people. My interest in mission continued after a number of other service trips; then I joined the Maryknoll China Service Project. When I was with Maryknoll for the year in China, I was able to meet a number of Maryknoll priests, brothers, and sisters and their ministries were exciting. I felt at home with the Maryknollers and loved being in a new culture in China and finding my way with the help of the Holy Spirit. The more I worked with them and saw them in action, the more I felt called to be a missionary too. After working in campus ministry for a number of years, leading mission trips, I wanted to be on the other side, receiving groups, instead of bringing groups to other parts of the

world. I felt God was still calling me to become a missionary priest so I took the plunge and entered Maryknoll.

What role did your family play in helping you come to your decision?

My family gave me a foundation of my faith by living it through their example. We went to Mass as a family and weren't overly involved in the church, but my parents helped me to see the importance of being Catholic through serving others and praying together. My parents run a fishing resort in MN so I met a variety of people growing up, which instilled the value of working hard and trying to help our customers with whatever they needed. Working at the resort taught me to be flexible in different situations, which was good preparation for mission.

Who were some of the people that you spoke with about becoming a priest? Did you have a mentor or role model that inspired you? What kind of advice did you seek from them? What was the best piece of advice you received?

I talked with my parish priest. I went to a Catholic University run by Benedictine Monks who were very influential in teaching me about vocations, prayer, service, and community. Their Masses and Liturgy of the Hours are geared to going out and being a witness to Christ's love in the world. My campus minister and the monks who lived in the dorms with us students were inspiring as well. The Benedictine sisters at the College of St. Benedict just down the road encouraged me to look at priesthood as well. One of the monks said, "Go for it," which was helpful advice. Various professors practiced what they taught and told me they thought Maryknoll

would be a good fit for me with wanting to be in solidarity with the poor. After I was strongly considering religious life, a vocation director told me to visit different communities to get a sense of what they are like, which helped me to compare and contrast and see where I felt most at home.

Marriage and family are big questions for potential candidates. What thoughts or insights about your own journey would you give a young man who is weighing a religious commitment against the decision to marry?

I too love family and love children. As a priest I feel I am part of a bigger family and able to serve other families, instead of my own family. As a missionary priest, my family extends beyond the borders of the USA and, in ways that I couldn't have imagined, to be involved deeply in other people's lives. I feel it is a sacrifice to give up my own family, but I am more available to go anywhere in the world to serve those on the margins and not worry about putting my family in a risky situation. I'm fortunate to have 8 nieces and nephews and friends with children so I can be a part of their families in a different way, along with the ones I serve as a missionary priest.

Tell us what fulfills you most as a missionary priest.

The people of God: I love meeting new people and building relationships with them. I see the face of Christ in them through my ministries. Going into a new country can be difficult at first, but by showing the people I care about them, they begin to welcome me as part of their family, which is very fulfilling. – Fr. Shaun Crumb M.M.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA (1515 - 1582)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Yours are the hands with which Christ can bless the world.
Yours are the eyes with which Christ can shine compassion on a troubled world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands,
No feet,
No eyes on earth
But yours.

