
MARYKNOLL

Vocational Newsletter

Vol. 14, No. 2 AUTUMN 2019



The Mission Bell at the Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos CA

The Mission Bell is a symbol of the call by God to send men and women into the world as messengers of God's love and concern for all people. This has been a most valued symbol for Maryknoll priests and Brothers over these past 108 years. Officially known as the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, two diocesan priests founded us in 1911, James Anthony Walsh of Boston and Thomas Frederick Price of North Carolina. These two priests approached the bishops of the United States and said that it was time that our Church send missionaries to other countries. Up until that time missionaries from Europe were still coming to assist here in the United States. The bishops agreed to Frs. Walsh and Price's request, so a seminary was opened in Ossining, New York to train young men to become missionaries. This was the beginning of Maryknoll. The young Society was dedicated to the Blessed Mother Mary and was built on a high knoll overlooking the Hudson River. Thus, we became popularly known as Maryknoll. Today, in addition to welcoming men from the United States we also welcome men from

the countries where we serve overseas who know us well and are steeped in the missionary charism.

In 1918 the first four missionaries were sent to China. So we are celebrating 101 years since sending out our first missionaries. Today, our work extends through 19 countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our Vocations Newsletter! This edition features the many opportunities we can offer you as you discern your future and a possible vocation to become a missionary priest or Brother.

The message of God's love for all people is so important. It needs to be preached not only in words but in the actions of our daily lives. Each of you is a messenger wherever you go and in whatever you do. But, you still need to take some steps in the direction that will fulfill the dreams that have brought you in contact with us. So, don't be stymied by the challenge. Rather, dream on and make the dream a reality!

As always we look forward to hearing from you: Fr. Mike Snyder (msnyder@maryknoll.org), Fr. Joe Donovan (jdonovan@maryknoll.org), Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry (rulloa@maryknoll.org) and Mr. Greg Darr (gdarr@maryknoll.org)



Fr. Shaun Crumb serving in China

Maryknoll Assigns A New Priest To Vocation Ministries



Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry

Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry will soon join us in vocation ministries. Born in Guatemala his family immigrated to the United States when he was quite young. Rodrigo served in the U.S. Air Force and later joined Maryknoll in 2004 to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in 2011 and has served Mission in Cambodia, Nepal, Taiwan and China. We proudly welcome Fr. Rodrigo to our Vocations Team.

An Invitation to the Maryknoll Autumn Mission Discernment Retreat October 11 - 13, 2019

Join us for a weekend retreat at the Maryknoll Initial Formation Residence in Chicago. Located in the Hyde Park area just opposite Lake Michigan it's a great location with parks everywhere that allow you to get out and enjoy the Windy City! This fall retreat will take place over Columbus Day weekend beginning on Friday evening October 11th and ending on Sunday at noon October 13th. Joining us will give

you 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.

Consider becoming a missionary priest or Brother and come join us for this weekend event! Contact Fr. Mike Snyder at vocation@maryknoll.org for further information!



Participants at the 2018 Chicago Retreat

FIVE NEW CANDIDATES FOR MARYKNOLL

Maryknoll welcomes four new seminarians and one Brother's candidate to our Initial Formation Program

YOHANA MASWIZILO

Yohana is 29 years old and comes from Tanzania.



LAWRENCE MUTISO

Lawrence is 26 years old and comes from Kenya.



LEONARD KABAKA

Leonard is 22 years old and comes from Kenya.



PAUL SHULTZ

Paul is 25 years old and comes from Forsyth, Illinois.



BARRACK ODEKA

Barrack is 28 years old and comes from Kenya.





Fr. Mike Bassano celebrates Mass at a camp housing the displaced in South Sudan

MARYKNOLL PODCASTS

For several years now we have been broadcasting podcasts about the transformational experience of a life of mission overseas, answering God's call to serve the least among us.

Entitled **Among The People**, with each episode we bring you the voices of our missionaries, authors and the people we serve, who share their impactful stories of life long mission, serving the poor, sick and marginalized in the most needed parts of the world.

So please join us at <https://maryknollsociety.org/podcast>

Maryknoll Mission Trips

Throughout our lives when each of us looks to the future there is always a mixture of excitement, anticipation, and some trepidation. What will the future look like? Will I be successful? Will it bring me happiness and contentment? Is this what God wants me to do with my life?

In many cultural traditions there are proverbs and sayings about this. In East Africa, where they speak Swahili, they say “slowly, slowly is fast enough.” Here in the U.S. we simply say “step by step”. As you consider your future with the possibility of becoming a Maryknoll priest or Brother we can offer you an opportunity to become a mission volunteer serving with us in Thailand,

China, Taiwan or Bolivia anywhere from 8 weeks to 1 year. You can also join a group for short immersion trips (7 – 15 days) to East Africa, Cambodia, Bolivia and Guatemala among several other places. To learn more about these trips visit us at

<https://maryknollmissiontrips.org>

You can also contact us at

vocation@maryknoll.org and we can arrange for you to spend a few weeks actually living with us at one of our missions in Africa, Asia or Latin America to experience what daily mission life is all about. It’s a way of exploring your future “slowly, slowly” and “step by step”.



On safari in East Africa

MISSION REFLECTION

By

Vocation Minister Greg Darr

There is a beautiful line in the film, “Of Gods and Men” – “Let God set the table here. For everyone. Friends and enemies.” This particular line is spoken in the story by the superior of a Trappist monastery in the mountains of Algeria. Based upon the true story of the monks of Atlas Abbey in Tibhirine, the film depicts the community’s final months before seven of its members, including their superior, were kidnapped and killed by an armed militia. Their deaths, and those of thousands of others in Algeria, were the bitter fruit of a society polarized by extreme rhetoric, religious intolerance and violent prejudice.

I think often of these monks in my own ministry of vocational accompaniment. I suppose it’s reasonable to ask, “Why?” After all, their deaths took place in a predominantly Muslim country some 23 years ago. What do they have to do with the lives of young men discerning God’s call today? Well, it was a Muslim woman who showed me how.



Greg Darr (on the left) as a lay missionary in Kenya

Then, I was serving as a Maryknoll missionary in East Africa the same year as the monks of Tibhirine were slain thousands of miles away in northern Africa. I worked in partnership with a small legal project that assisted poor Kenyans in securing their basic human and legal rights, especially land rights. One day, I stopped by their office and noticed one of their administrative assistants, an attractive and sophisticated young Kenyan woman, wearing a hijab, a dark scarf she wore loosely over her head. Since I had not seen her wear it before, I asked her in a friendly but respectful way, “What gives?” She smiled and replied, “I’m wearing this as a sign of my hope that I can overcome my own selfishness and pride. These are things that keep me from experiencing God’s love. And, if I cannot accept God’s love, how can I share it with others? This struggle against selfishness and pride is what we Muslims call ‘jihad’.”

In becoming better acquainted with this Muslim woman, she took it upon herself to share with me how her own “jihad” against personal pride led her to reach out to Christians and to others so that she could recognize the surprising ways that God’s love was present in each person she met. The film, “Of Gods and Men”, depicts beautifully – and painfully – these same experiences in the discipline of selfless love embraced by the monks of Tibhirine.

Any person who experiences a call to love as God loves is going to find themselves up against some pretty big challenges. The biggest alone is perhaps God. God's love is extravagant and indiscriminate. You could call God almost "foolhardy" for the profligate love bestowed to sinner and saint alike, without regard to faith, fidelity, character or consequence. A person called to follow God must find their own way to cope with the reckless abandon by which God loves this world, even unto death. There simply is no rhyme or reason to it. Try as we might to discriminate as to who is worthy of our

love, God does not. And, as my Muslim friend and the Trappists of Tibhirine discovered, profligate love has profound consequences.

So, when it's a bit hard for young people to wrap their minds around the idea of "vocation", sometimes, the only way I have of explaining the extraordinary life that awaits them is simply this: God has set the table for everyone: for friend and enemy; for "legal" and "illegal"; for the faithful and the fallen away. And, you have the extraordinary privilege of welcoming everyone to it. And, the joy of serving them.



Br. John Beeching serving in Bangkok, Thailand

<https://maryknollvocations.org>