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# MARYKNOLL

**Vocational Newsletter**

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Vol. 12, No. 1 Winter 2017



**Our Lady of Maryknoll and the Mission Sending Bell, Maryknoll NY**

This is the coldest time of the year here in the Northeast. We receive the full complement of four seasons in New York. What a contrast to my life in East Africa where it was warm to hot all year long! This past month I was able to return there where I attended a Maryknoll meeting, met some men from Kenya expressing interest in joining us, and made some plans for short term volunteers wishing to serve in Tanzania while catching up with former students and friends in Dar es Salaam where I last served.

I'm not a big fan of cold weather, but the contrasts in seasons do pose for me opportunities to pause and reflect on the changes in my life and vocation over time. In

my earliest years I saw myself as going out to help people, especially the poor. I was a giver and didn't think that much about being a receiver. As the years passed I still wanted to help people but also came to appreciate how much they have helped me. I have come to realize it is not so much the results of my efforts in mission ministry but rather the value of the relationships established that have had lasting meaning. There is a mutuality of benefit in our encounters. I have seen the face of Jesus in the faces of so many, especially the poor. I pray that they have seen His face in me also.

Discovering and cherishing that face, God's presence in all people; this is the gift of Maryknoll's participation in God's Mission, the gift of a missionary vocation and ultimately the gift that brings great joy!

I hope you are blessed with such feelings and appreciate God's gifts for you through family, friendships and co-workers. We have been in contact with you while you contemplate the missionary vocation as priest or Brother. May that motivation of service to God's people through faith and hope in the message of Jesus and seeking out the face of Jesus in the faces of others provide your soul with the grace to know what God wishes you to do with your life!

Never be stymied by the challenges presented. 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](mailto:msnyder@maryknoll.org)), Fr. Joe Donovan ([jdonovan@maryknoll.org](mailto:jdonovan@maryknoll.org)) and Mr. Greg Darr ([gdarr@maryknoll.org](mailto:gdarr@maryknoll.org))



Fr. Don Larmore – Easter Baptism in Rural Tanzania

# Holy Week Vocation Retreat 2017

## April 13 - 16, Maryknoll NY

Together with the Maryknoll Sisters and the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers welcome you to join us for a retreat during the final days of Holy Week where you can discern with others a missionary vocation. You are contemplating becoming a priest or Brother while others are thinking of the religious life as Sisters or serving as lay missioners.



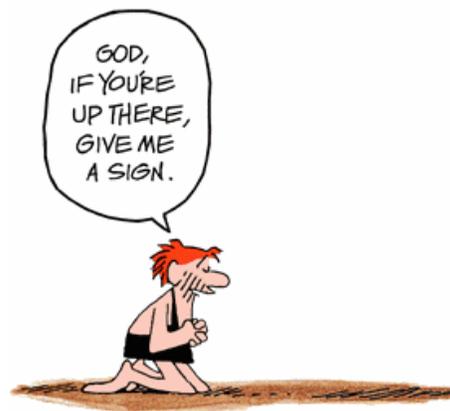
## Holy Week

You will hear from experienced Maryknollers about our lives in mission. You will also be able to have discussions with young people your own age who share a common interest with you. The entire retreat will be enhanced by the liturgies for the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Finally, this occasion will also give us the opportunity to spend some time to get to know you.

The retreat will be held at our headquarters in Ossining, NY about 25 miles north of New York City. It begins on Holy Thursday afternoon April 13<sup>th</sup> and ends with Mass on Easter Sunday morning April 16<sup>th</sup>. If at all possible you are asked to arrive on April 12<sup>th</sup>. There are no charges for this retreat but you are responsible for your transportation. For those arriving by air we will make arrangements for you to be received at the airport and brought to Maryknoll.

For details and to register, please visit: [MaryknollSociety.org/Retreat](http://MaryknollSociety.org/Retreat).

I hope you will join us and ask that you register by April 1<sup>st</sup>.





Attendees at our Fall 2016 Vocation Retreat in Chicago

## MISSIONERS' CONTRIBUTIONS



***Recently we asked some Maryknoll Missioners this question: What attracted you to this unique commitment to religious life? Here are some of the answers:***

I was attracted to the opportunity to be with peoples of different cultures and celebrate my faith among them as I learn about their faith. - Fr. Lam Hua (serving in Tanzania)

My personality is one that likes a good balance between down time but also 'getting out there' and meeting people. Staying in my hometown for my entire life just didn't feel fulfilling; but as I explored the opportunities the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (Maryknoll) offered, I found a place that suited me well. Teaching the truth

about our Catholic faith and our Church to those who haven't had that exposure was, and still is, the reason I am a member of the Maryknoll Society. – Deacon Peter Latouf (to be ordained in May 2017)



**Deaconate Ordination for Peter Latouf**

During the grade school and high school period I had many opportunities to meet a number of religious but I never felt a desire to enter the diocesan seminary. I was actively involved in the local parish church but only when I met the Maryknollers did I find the real joy and passion in their lives for mission. They always had incredible stories about the people and places they were living and working in and it was the living and working with the local people and the ruggedness and hardships of the missions that seemed to give them the greatest joys. – Fr. Joe Thaler (serving in Nepal)



**Fr. Joe Thaler serving in Nepal**

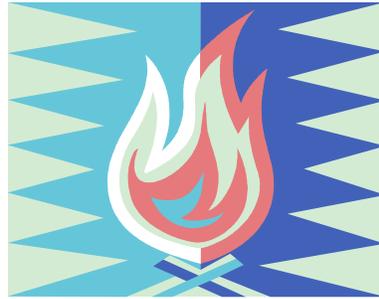
Faith, prayer and doing the next right thing were values (Gospel) given to me by my parents, grandparents, Ursuline Sisters and the priests in my home parish. Vocation to serve the poor was a part of my life from an early age. I wanted to live the life of a missionary and serve the poor as a missionary Brother. The vocation of Brother calls one to relationship with others through service, community, hospitality and prayer.  
Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick M.M. (serving at our headquarters in New York)



***I leave you now with this prayer: that the Lord Jesus will reveal Himself to each one of you, that He will give you the strength to go out and profess that you are Christian, that He will show you that He alone can fill your hearts. Accept His freedom and embrace His truth, and be messengers of the certainty that you have been truly liberated through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This will be the new experience, the powerful experience that will generate, through you, a more just society and a better world. God bless you and may the joy of Jesus be always with you!***

***[L.Osservatore Romano, 11-5-79, 2]  
Pope St. John Paul II***

## MISSION REFLECTION



Like millions of Americans, I recently joined friends around a big-screen TV for the Super Bowl. Aside from New England's historic come-from-behind win, what astonished me was, of all things, a building supplies' commercial. It depicted a young Mexican girl and her mother as they embarked on a perilous journey north to the U.S. Because of the ad's controversial content, only 90 seconds of the story were aired. Viewers were encouraged though to watch the full version at <http://www.journey84.com>.

As a vocation minister, I mention the ad – much recommending it at the link above – not because of its political controversies but because of those who stand in the shadow of them – the refugee, the poor, the downtrodden, and the overlooked. With all the fuming about the border wall and door depicted in the ad, lost in the debate, like many such debates, is the presence of the young girl and her mother. The politics of walls can be argued until all of the world's walls come tumbling down. But, because of Christ, no one can argue away the humanity of the young girl and her mother who, like millions of others, stand before seemingly insurmountable walls the world over.

In many respects, I believe, this is the vocation of a missionary – to look clearly through debates and see the people obscured by them; to gaze beyond walls and recognize the hope that topples them; to see the world as God sees it and, without pause, reach out one's arms in awe and love. Discerning a vocation is, in the end, the art of perfecting one's ability to see as well as to listen. And, so doing, to recognize and follow Christ anew. - Greg Darr



**A Human Touch**

**By**  
**Fr. Richard Clifford**  
**Ordained in 1953 Fr. Richard served in Peru and Mexico.**  
**He passed away in Nov. 2016 at the age of 89.**

*“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.”*



Fr. Joe Fedora comforting the sick in Lima, Peru

Discover more about Maryknoll and Life as an Overseas Missioner at:

[MaryknollSociety.org/Vocations](http://MaryknollSociety.org/Vocations)