
MARYKNOLL

VOCATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11, No. 3 Summer 2016

SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY!



Welcome to the Summer 2016 Vocations Newsletter! I hope that the living is indeed easy for you during this time of the year. You have been in contact with Maryknoll and are contemplating a missionary vocation as priest or Brother. You come to us from the motive of faith and hope in the life-giving message of Jesus.

I once heard vocation defined as the place God calls you to where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. I hope you recognize how much you and so many others like you are needed today. The message is so important. It needs to be preached not only in words but in the living out of our daily lives. Each of you is a messenger wherever you go and in whatever you do. But, you still need to take steps in the direction that will fulfill the deep gladness you wish in life. To move beyond your own personal concerns by seeking to meet the needs of others as a missionary priest or Brother may be the path that brings joy, gladness, and contentment to your life.

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

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST SEMINARIANS

JOHN ROBINSON SIYUMBU

John is 30 years old and comes from Bungoma in the Western Province, Kenya. He was raised in a strong Catholic family and has five siblings. His parents are both living and are supportive of his vocational choice. John comes to us holding two bachelor's degrees: one in education from Kenyatta University and the second in philosophy from the Apostles of Jesus Seminary. He graduated from each institute with honors. John has been in close touch with us since 2009 and has spent time living with Maryknollers in several of our missions in Tanzania and Kenya.



John and Our Lady of Maryknoll Nairobi

"I received a call from Maryknoll's vocation director, Fr. Mike, on the evening of June 9, 2016. My application to join Maryknoll as a candidate for the priesthood had been accepted. In my immense joy, I felt the affirmative and guiding action of God. I was filled with gratitude for the accompaniment offered to me by various persons. Reading Romans 8:28 that evening, I felt assured of God's ineffable love.

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

I eagerly look forward to a time when seeds will be planted during my formation program; when God, through Maryknoll's missionary charism, will prepare me to learn, to love and to serve." – John Siyumbu



Charles Ogony, Fr. Joe Healey, John Siyumbu in Nairobi as Fr. Joe Celebrates his 50th Anniversary of Ordination

Matthew Sim Tzong Haur

Matthew Sim is a citizen of Singapore. His parents are both living and he has one sibling, a sister. They all support his vocation. Matthew is 36 years old. He holds a bachelor's degree in education with a specialty in science. Upon graduation in 2005 he became a teacher in the Singaporean school system. In 2011 he transferred to the Singapore International School in Hong Kong. He is fluent in English and Mandarin. His parish in Hong Kong was staffed by Maryknoll Fr. Mike Sloboda. Through volunteer service there and later at a second parish staffed by yet another Maryknoller, Fr. John McAuley, the pull to become a missionary priest deepened and after five years of discernment has led him to Maryknoll.



Sem. Matthew Sim with Frs. Mike Snyder & John McAuley



"When I received the call to announce my acceptance into Maryknoll, I was exhilarated. My immediate reaction was to share this exciting news with the Maryknollers who have journeyed with me. It was heart-warming to know that they were equally joyful in welcoming me. I am eager to start my formation and am looking forward to know more Maryknollers. I know that they will be Christ's light for me. I pray that, with God's grace and the guidance from many of you, I will be able to serve in the mission areas soon, to be a visible presence of Christ, as a Maryknoller." – Matthew Sim

Chicago Vocation Retreat Columbus Day Weekend



We will conduct a weekend retreat at the Maryknoll Initial Formation Residence in Chicago. Our House is 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 begin on Friday evening October 7th and end on Sunday at noon October 9th. 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.

As you consider becoming a priest or a Brother, why not also consider joining Greg Darr and Fr. Mike for this weekend event! Contact Fr. Mike at msnyder@maryknoll.org for further information!



Visiting the Shrine of the Marknoll Founders during the Holy Week Vocation Retreat, Maryknoll, NY

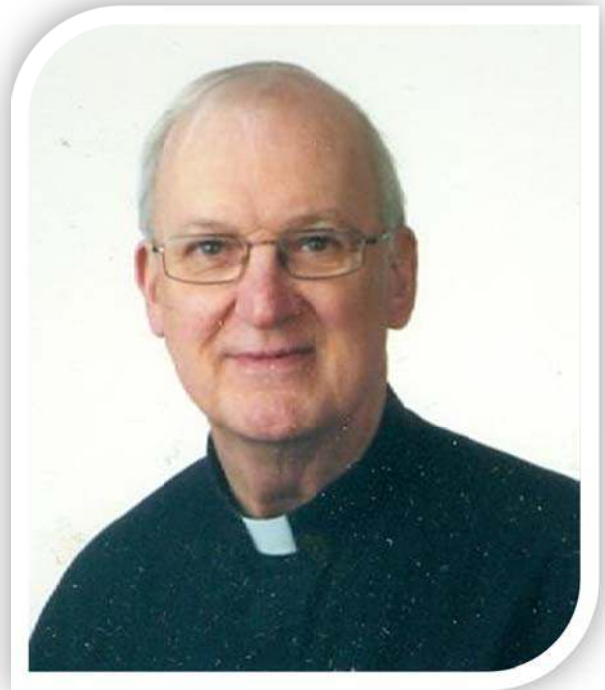
[Visit the Vocations Website for updates and news:](http://maryknollvocations.org)

[HTTP://MARYKNOLLVOCATIONS.ORG](http://MARYKNOLLVOCATIONS.ORG)

NOW
LET'S WELCOME OUR
NEWEST
MARYKNOLL PRIEST ASSOCIATE

Fr. Daniel Chapin

Fr. Dan Chapin is a diocesan priest from Ogdensburg, NY. Ordained in 1972 he has faithfully served his diocese in several capacities over the years. Highlighted in his history is 10 years of service in Mollendo, Peru where his diocese staffed a parish for 40 years. During these years Dan came to know many Maryknoll Society members serving in Peru. In addition to parish assignments, Dan has served as chaplain in correctional facilities, hospitals, and to Spanish-speaking migrant communities. He has also served as director of several diocesan commissions. We welcome Fr. Dan as he returns to Mission now with us for the next five years as a Maryknoll Associate!





MISSION REFLECTION

For those contemplating a vocation to become a missionary priest or Brother the warmth of summer brings with it the birth of new dreams and hopes for a better world. We see ourselves at work in those dreams making a difference with our lives and we feel invigorated by the prospects!

You have been in contact with us because you believe that Maryknoll Missioners make a difference when they go out among those with the greatest needs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. And you wonder: "Do I have what it takes?" When they were your age Maryknoll priests and Brothers had the same questions, the same ideals, and the same fears that you do. But they took the step and came to Maryknoll where they were trained and equipped for Mission. They came with a deep faith and hoped to be faithful witnesses to all that Jesus has meant to the human family. Today they are in touch with the Spirit of God alive within them serving in countries throughout the world. I suspect you too feel that Spirit stirring within your own heart. The prospects of embracing a missionary vocation may seem daunting. But, you are in contact with us; so there is also some excitement! May your very spirit be warmed this summer with the belief that indeed you can make a positive difference in this world with your life – Take the step and come to Maryknoll! – Fr. Mike

Deacon Daniel Kim M.M.

Daniel is 33 years old and hails from Torrance, California. He has studied at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. As part of his training Daniel studied Mandarin and provided missionary services in Taiwan and mainland China for two years. He has also spent a summer studying in East Africa.



Chinese New Years Mass Chicago

“My family played a tremendous role in helping me come to my decision to enter Maryknoll. I was also blessed enough to have a team of people (priests, religious, friends and family) whom I engaged about discussing the possibility of my becoming a priest. What was most helpful, now that I think about it, were the mixed responses and support (sometimes the lack thereof), that really helped me to get a deeper insight into the different angles that were associated with this life-changing commitment. The

type of advice that I sought from them, in a nutshell, was that of which came from their hearts; meaning, to have the courtesy and courage to tell me flat-out what they really thought. The various advices that I received can be aggregated into this one pithy saying: “God created YOU to be YOU, so do not waste your life in the fruitless endeavor of trying to please others rather live your life in a way that gives glory to God in the way that only YOU uniquely can.”

It definitely goes without saying that marriage and family are HUGE questions for potential candidates—it certainly was for me! Personally, the way I see it, marriage and the celibate life both present their own unique sets of challenges—but nevertheless both also present the potential for a fulfilling life. And what provides some solace for me is to see that ongoing discernment is necessary for both. There will always be some good days and bad days—but the wonderful thing about entering the seminary is that one’s initial yes is not set-in-stone for all of eternity, rather it is a process where the candidate is provided with ample time (7-8 years) to really discover if this life is the one for him. If someone, after entering, discovers that every single day for a significant period of time just sucks then perhaps God is telling him to reconsider. But the truth of the matter is, for me, the opportunity for progeny can be experienced in both the married life and celibate life—albeit in very different ways. Both vocations offer wonderful

opportunities to live a life that is generative—it is just that you have to find out which avenue is the right one for you.

I am not a priest yet, but I am a permanent member of Maryknoll and transitional deacon. So having said that I have pondered the missionary life

through my experiences thus far and what fulfills me the most, in a nutshell, is meeting so many awesome and wonderful people throughout the world! And had I not joined Maryknoll, these life-giving relationships that I have today would not have been even remotely possible.”- Deacon Daniel Kim

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: “Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others”. When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For “here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means”. Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that “delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ”. – Pope Francis (The Joy of the Gospel #10 (2013))

