
MARYKNOLL

VOCATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru, Tanzania East Africa

The missionary life takes us to many cool places in the world! I took this photo from a plane while flying from Nairobi, Kenya to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in early May. Having spent many years serving in Tanzania it was a special treat to see snowcapped Kilimanjaro early in the morning standing majestically over East Africa at 19,341 ft.

We are steeped in a deep faith that God's love embraces peoples of all races, religions and cultures. Wherever I have traveled I have encountered men and women struggling

to take care of families seeking to just make ends meet in today's globalized and often troubled world.

The missionary vocation beckons us to share our lives with them. As such, in addition to a deep faith we also need to have a spirit of adventure willing to learn new languages and adapt to different cultures. We are always on a search to discover and cherish God's face in the faces of others. Centered in the Catholic faith we give of ourselves and receive so many graces in return. 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!

Never be stymied by the challenges presented in life. Rather, be close to God in prayer, follow the teachings of Jesus and 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), Fr. Joe Donovan (jdonovan@maryknoll.org) and Mr. Greg Darr (gdarr@maryknoll.org)



Fr. Mike Sloboda baptizes an infant at Easter Vigil Mass in Hong Kong

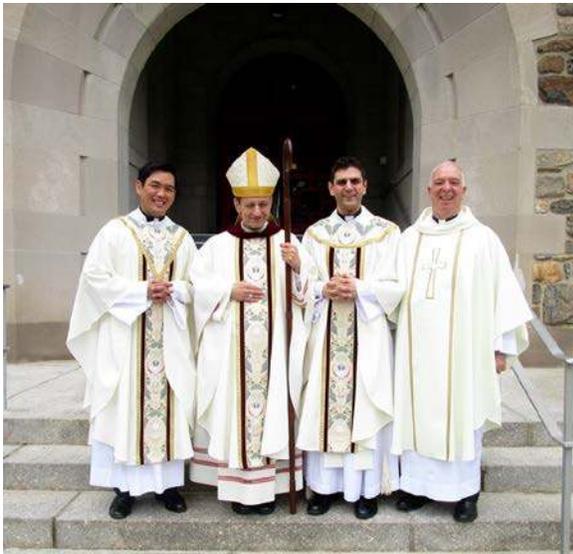
MARYKNOLL ORDAINS TWO NEW MISSIONARY PRIESTS



Lying Prostrate for the Litany of the Saints

On May 20, 2017 we proudly ordained Fr. Daniel Kim and Fr. Peter Latouf welcoming them to the priesthood as Maryknoll Missioners. Daniel hails from

southern California and Peter from Michigan. They have been assigned to our missions in Hong Kong.



The two newly ordained with Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport and Superior General of Maryknoll Fr. Raymond Finch



Frs. Daniel & Peter in a joking moment preparing to cut the ordination cake!

Holy Week Vocation Retreat 2017

Maryknoll NY



The full group of 30 with the Mission Bell in the foreground

Thirty men and women from throughout the United States discerning vocations as missionaries gathered at Maryknoll for this event. Eight are contemplating becoming priests or Brothers while others are thinking of the religious life as Sisters or serving as lay missioners.

One contemplating the priesthood wrote: "After visiting the Maryknoll community, I feel very happy and peaceful. I felt at home when I was there with the community. Everyone was very happy, nice, and welcoming. It was nice to hear mission stories from Maryknollers. I could tell how their lives have been through their faces. After learning and experiencing Maryknoll's lives and missions, I really want to be a part of this family. I pray that God will help me follow His will."

Another wrote: "I don't know if Maryknoll is where God is calling me, but after the weekend I definitely believe that it could be. I think the biggest question that I had coming into the weekend was "What makes Maryknoll different from other missionaries"? I don't know if I can answer that question in words, but during my time there I definitely started to get a real sense of what it means to be a member of Maryknoll."



Maryknoll retreat mentors and the eight young men contemplating vocations as priests and Brothers

Our next retreat will take place at our Initial Formation Residence in Chicago the weekend of October 13 – 15. Contact Fr. Mike to reserve a place (msnyder@maryknoll.org)

MISSIONERS' CONTRIBUTIONS



Recently we asked some Maryknoll Missioners this question: What made you consider the missionary Priesthood or Brotherhood? Here are some of the answers:

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. - Fr. Shaun Crumb serving in China



Growing up in upstate NY I attended Catholic grade school and high school. Mission was very much a part of my early years. My diocese (Ogdensburg) had a mission in Mollendo, Peru. The Ursuline Sister who taught me in grade school and high school spoke of their mission commitments in Asia and my Uncle

Donat's brother was a missionary priest in central Africa. The charism of Brotherhood was deeply rooted in me through the life of Brother Andre Bessette (now Saint Andre) from Montreal. – Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick (serving in the U.S.)



The call to serve the poor was coupled with an inspiration from reading about European Jesuit priests in the history of the US who crossed cultures to work with Native Americans. - Fr. Lam Hua (serving in Tanzania)

My calling to the priesthood came first. After discerning that the Lord was calling me to serve Him as a priest, I learned about the many ways priests work throughout the world. The idea of traveling the world, having all sorts of adventures, learning new languages, and working with people throughout Latin America, Asia, and Africa was incredibly appealing. Once I put these two callings together, I found my vocation! – Newly Ordained Fr. Peter Latouf (serving in Hong Kong)



I was born and raised in a traditional Catholic household so priesthood as a viable “career option” was supported and encouraged throughout my upbringing. My calling to the ministry of the priesthood became increasingly apparent as I approached adulthood and I began to explore deeper into the various

expressions of this holy ministry. I first consulted my parish priest about the diocesan life and even attended a few diocesan sponsored vocation encounters and groups. However, after careful prayer and reflection, I came to the realization that diocesan priesthood was not my calling. Through this discernment process I discovered a strong passion within me to step beyond the confines of my cultural context and engage the

richness and vastness of Holy Spirit that is woven in the diverse fabrics of the various cultures that blankets this Globe. In other words, the idea of living and serving as an itinerant missionary greatly appealed to me and found that this desire was deeply embedded into my being. – Newly Ordained Fr. Daniel Kim (serving in Hong Kong)



MISSION REFLECTION

Several weeks ago, I had to line up a visit to a Somali-American shopping district in Minneapolis as part of a Creighton University Service and Justice Trip. A group of six students from Creighton University travelled to Minneapolis to immerse themselves in culturally diverse but often socially marginalized communities in the Twin Cities. It was a visit rich with meaningful encounters and lasting insights.

Just days before the students' arrival, our Somali-language guide was forced to back out from accompanying the students to the shopping center. Left without a guide, I drove to the center myself hoping to talk to someone in the center's management office who could help us. But, upon arrival, I received contradictory directions as to where I could find this office. I wandered among bazaar stalls -- food vendors, clothing sellers, book dealers, financial and immigration specialists -- asking people about the office. Each person, always eager to help, would send me off in a different direction, none of them ever leading me where I wanted to go. Finally, frustrated, I wandered into an upper floor travel agency. This time, the young Somali business owner asked me, "Why do you want to find this office?" I explained our need of a Somali-American guide for a visiting student group. He smiled and replied, "I am a travel agent. And when people want to travel among my people even here in this center, how can I not welcome you and be your guide?"

My encounter with this Somali-American man crossed my mind the other day when I was talking with a young person about following God's call. We are led by a compelling need of the heart, even if we're not quite sure what that need is, to step into new settings and situations, often ones that are very unfamiliar to us. We seek out the help of others who point us in various directions. We wander, we search, we reach dead-ends. We ask again and start anew.

We find ourselves walking down paths we never even imagined when we first set out.



In the end though, it may not be our questions but rather questions asked of us that liberate insights and longings locked deep within our hearts. And, like Christ, it may be people we never sought who are really those we were supposed to find. We'll know them and our call by the open hand extended our way and the heartfelt feeling that, even among strangers in settings we never expected to be, we are, at last, "home".
- Mr. Greg Darr



ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

I once read a poem in a letter from our former Superior General, Fr. John Sivalon, which describes God's Mission and our participation in it:

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 106 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



Photo from the sanctuary of Maryknoll's Queen of the Apostles Chapel on Ordination Day displaying the flags of the many countries where we serve in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

MaryknollSociety.org/Vocations