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# MARYKNOLL

VOCATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Seminarian, now Fr. Peter Latouf, during a relief mission in North Korea

As men discern their futures and look at the possibility of embracing the missionary life several seek out opportunities to get their feet wet and experience the life firsthand prior to making any decisions. Fr. Shaun Crumb, now serving in China, first went there as a Maryknoll volunteer and taught English in a Chinese university for one year. Later he entered the seminary. In the photo above, as a seminarian, Peter Latouf traveled with a team to North Korea to provide medical aid to tuberculosis victims. Now a priest Fr. Peter is serving in Hong Kong. During the summer of 2016 Paul Shultz went to Tanzania. He has just been accepted to begin training as a Maryknoll 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. Think about a short term commitment to mission as a step along the way. It will change your life!

As always we look forward to hearing from you: Fr. Mike ([msnyder@maryknoll.org](mailto:msnyder@maryknoll.org)), Fr. Joe Donovan ([jjdonovan@maryknoll.org](mailto:jjdonovan@maryknoll.org)) and Mr. Greg Darr ([gdarr@maryknoll.org](mailto:gdarr@maryknoll.org))

## FOUR NEW CANDIDATES FOR MARYKNOLL

**Maryknoll recently accepted three new seminarians and one Brother's candidate to our Initial Formation Program and it is with pleasure that we welcome them to Maryknoll!**

Paul Augustine Khiet Tran is 24 years old and comes from Garland, Texas. He joined us in January 2018 as a candidate for the priesthood and is now completing his bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Xavier University in Chicago.



Diego Ramirez is 29 years old. Born in Eagle Pass, Texas, he was raised in Morelos, Mexico. Diego has studied at St. Joseph's College Seminary in Covington, Louisiana where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He will join us this coming fall as a candidate for the priesthood.



Victor Mutobera is 28 years old and comes from Kakamega, Kenya. He has earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in econometrics. Presently studying philosophy in Nairobi Kenya Victor will come to our Initial Formation Program in Chicago in early 2019 as a candidate for the priesthood.



Paul Shultz is 23 years old and comes from Forsyth, Illinois. He has earned an associate's degree in applied science from Richland Community College with a specialty in sustainable agriculture. Paul will begin the Initial Formation Program this coming fall as a candidate to become a Brother.



# Maryknoll Chicago Vocation Retreat

## October 5 – 7, 2018



October 2017 Retreatants enjoying the Chicago skyline

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 5<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday at noon October 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 [msnyder@maryknoll.org](mailto:msnyder@maryknoll.org) for further information!



## CANDIDATES CORNER



*Seminarian Jonathan Hill shares a reflection having completed two years of overseas training in Tanzania, East Africa and now residing at our Formation Residence in Chicago where he is completing his Master of Divinity studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.*

### All in God's Time

I am in the 8th year of my formation with Maryknoll, and I still have one more year to complete. I know, it sounds insanely long. I knew it would be this long when I entered. It's not easy to see the light at the end of the tunnel nearly a decade away. And I know what you are thinking: if you have a calling to be a missionary priest or brother, you just want to get out there and serve the people! Why are we wasting time sitting in the snow in a formation house in Chicago? Trust me, I hear you. It sounds like a big commitment, and it certainly is. But after eight years, I've learned a thing or two, so hear me out.

- 1. You need to grow.** Yes, you. You are not a perfectly formed human being. You might make a good priest, but there is still some need for growth. We all have it and will have it for our entire lifetimes. So welcome the opportunity for a focus on formation.
- 2. You need to learn.** I have discovered that each stage of this journey is vital to becoming a better me. Philosophy taught me how to think more critically about God, and well, the world. The Spirituality year taught me about this group that I am joining, our history, our work, our spirituality and our Maryknoll family. Theology expanded my horizons about God and people, and has drawn me closer in my relationship to God and others. The Overseas Training Program prepared me to be a minister. I learned how to teach and preach, to meet needs and expectations. Every new day on this journey brings new opportunities for growth and learning.
- 3. You need to reflect.** This is when you really begin to listen to the voice of God in your life. Are you called to be a missionary priest or brother? What are your deepest desires? Do you really know yourself? These questions are vital in our walk with God and to help us to be mature, healthy men who are able to give of themselves in an authentic way.



I am now finishing my last year in formation. I expect to be ordained a deacon in the near future and to take my final oath to Maryknoll. These years of formation have been vital in preparing me for this step. Am I perfect? No, but I have been more perfectly molded over these past years, and I cannot thank Maryknoll enough for giving me that gift.



Jonathan Hill (2nd from left)

## Vocation Prayer

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

*(From Thoughts in Solitude - 1956)  
Thomas Merton  
Trappist Monk, Spiritual Writer, Poet*

# MISSION REFLECTION

## A Precious Moment

Many people used to come to my office door at the Catholic Chaplaincy of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The university shares its campus with the national hospital with 1200 beds and over 1000 day patients. There is also a large slum called Jangwani situated not far from the hospital. The news must have spread that Fr. Michael will help people in need. That was nice, but it resulted in a steady stream of people coming to my door. I was getting a bit overwhelmed.

Many of the cases were genuine; but others were con artists; and still others, while poor, they pretty much would say anything it takes just to get some assistance. For so many, giving them money was just not the answer to the problems facing them. Poverty is such a horrible disease! I was getting discouraged. Sometimes I felt I needed a social worker that could listen and direct people to places where they could find the proper assistance. My own background as a social worker years ago came in handy.

I think the news also spread that Fr. Michael asks many questions and often does not give money; so the numbers at my door eventually reduced. Nevertheless, one day a lady came to the office. She was ill, stricken with AIDS. Her children and husband had died. She was told to vacate the room where her husband was renting. She had no money and felt it was time to return to her parents' home in Mwanza, a city situated on the other side of Tanzania about 900 miles away. Her name was Rehema, which translated to English means 'Compassion'. I tried to console her and direct her to the local parish. Already she was receiving medicine from the Archdiocesan AIDS outreach program named PASADA. She seemed lost, her spirit broken.



The chapel at Muhimbili University

I decided to give her 50,000/= shillings (\$50 US) for the bus trip to Mwanza. She thanked me and began to shed tears. As she stood to leave she said she would board a bus that very day. Rehema extended her hand to me and then went down on one

knee thanking me so much for helping her. I took her hand into both of mine and prayed for a safe journey. As Rehema left the office, it occurred to me that this had been a precious moment. I had just been in the presence of God. Jesus had come to me as Rehema asking me to never harden my heart to those who come to my office in need. Jesus doesn't say that we will not have trials and tribulations. Rather he says these will not overcome us, these will not destroy us.

Rehema felt blessed for my assistance, but in reality I was the one being assisted and indeed blessed! Later that day, I was the one on bended knee, grateful for such a precious moment.

Fr. Mike Snyder

**“If we wish to follow Christ closely, we cannot choose an easy, quiet life. It will be a demanding life, but full of joy. Only the person who feels this joy in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary.”**

**-Pope Francis**



**Sunrise at Ndoleleji Mission Church in Shinyanga, Tanzania**



The Main Chapel at Maryknoll NY decorated with national flags from the many countries where we serve in Africa, Asia and Latin America

## NEW MARYKNOLL VOCATIONS WEBSITE

We are proud to announce the launching of our newly revised website that also features a new vocations video. Please check it out and let us know what you think about it!

<https://maryknollvocations.org>