
MARYKNOLL

VOCATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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CALLED, SENT, TRANSFORMED



On September 7, 2018 Maryknoll celebrated the 100th anniversary since sending missionaries to China for the first time. On that date in 1918 four priests departed our headquarters on the Hudson River for the long trek to Hong Kong. They were Fr. Thomas F. Price (co-founder of Maryknoll), Fr. Francis X. Ford, Fr. James E. Walsh and Fr. Bernard F. Meyer. Two later became bishops and two are now Servants of God on the road to sainthood. In gratefulness for this centennial anniversary we held celebrations at our west coast center in Los Altos, California, our headquarters in Ossining, New York and in mission stations throughout the world. “Called, Sent, Transformed” – an appropriate theme for this momentous occasion!

NOW ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER



Our seminarians and brother candidates begin a new year at our Chicago Formation Residence

With the autumn months comes another change of seasons and the start of a new academic and formation year. Our candidates began with a retreat led by Superior General, Fr. Raymond Finch. Some are completing their undergraduate studies at St. Xavier University while others are pursuing Master of Divinity degrees at the Catholic Theological Union. Five of these men are participating in the Spirituality Year, which is very similar to a novitiate program.

These men and others who are studying in our Overseas Training Program wish to become Maryknoll Missioners. They hail from all over the United States and from countries where we serve in Africa, Asia and Latin America. They share in common the desire to be servants of the Gospel. 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. Perhaps a visit to one of our mission stations may be a step along the way. It can change your life!

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



Part of getting to know each other at the start of the academic/formation year included a tour of a local micro-brewery in the Chicago area

FIVE CANDIDATES BEGIN THE NOVITIATE PROGRAM

Seminarian Matthew Sim reports: the Spirituality Year candidates started their Inter-Community Novitiate (ICN) program at Techny Towers, home of the SVD novices.



Maryknoll joins 12 other communities of novices at ICN to share and exchange the spirituality and charisms of the various groups. The communities of novices are made up of various religious congregations of sisters, brothers and priesthood candidates.

At ICN, we pray and worship together and have workshops, run by various experts around the United States, on topics ranging from human formation to spirituality development. It is an enriching experience brought about because of the great diversity of participants in this program.

Maryknoll Chicago Vocation Retreat

October 5 – 7, 2018



Group Photo of our October 2018 retreatants

Seven men from five States joined us for a weekend retreat at the Maryknoll Initial Formation Residence in Chicago. Located in the Hyde Park area just opposite Lake Michigan the theme focused on the experience of mission overseas and how it changes our lives. We began with two seminarians and one brother candidate reflecting on their 2-3 years in our Overseas Training Program in Tanzania and Bolivia. Later our vocation ministers, Fr. Mike and Mr. Greg Darr, related stories about their years serving in East Africa. The group also spent time in prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in celebration of the Mass. There still remained time for walks along Lake Michigan, conversations with each other and a visit to the Catholic Theological Union where our candidates study.

Consider becoming a missionary priest or Brother and come join us for this weekend event! Contact Fr. Mike Snyder at 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 soon to be completing his Master of Divinity studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and be ordained a priest.

Finding God

**What if God was beyond my constrained Imagination
Not limited by lofty words of mindful expression
Nor kept in a guarded box of theological debate
But free to roam amongst the slightest doubts and strongest fears
That come from the hearts and minds of all
Across the expanse of a multitiered Multiverse**

**What if God whispered to children and prophets alike
And found expression in the butterfly as well as the pen
Would not the butterfly express the divine best
By Dancing about in its three-dimensional and holy form
Far clearer than a pen which can only illuminate
A dimension or two at best before stopping where the paper ends**

**What if God was found in that pen as well
Enlightening far more than acid-free paper with lead
But supple minds that can transcend our three-dimensional prison
Into the far-off limits of our cosmic creation**

**What if God was found beyond our limitations
Hiding not only in the fields of what is known
But in the trenches of guesses and shadows
Of what we think we comprehend**

**Is God then to be found in our rigid ideologies
Surrounded by deep moats and mossy walls of unyielding belief
That keep God tame to our mind's imagination
And protects our Orthodoxy from severance or breach**

Perhaps God is Only found beyond my rocky walls and muddy moats
Out in the vast and forbidden fields of the Unknown
Where pilgrims stop for fear of life and death
And the sea monsters and dragons of our past still roam
+Jonathan Hill, M.M.



Jonathan enjoying a meal with his students in our China Summer Teachers Program in Jilin City

A Human Touch

“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. Richard Clifford M.M.

+2016 after a life of service in Peru and Mexico



MISSION REFLECTION

My most recent assignment in Africa took place in the city of Dar es Salaam on the shores of the Indian Ocean where I served as Catholic chaplain at the national medical university. Out of a student body of 1600, 800 were Catholic. We enjoyed a vibrant Catholic community. The university was adjacent to the large national hospital that had 1200 beds. In addition to serving the needs of my students, I also occasionally visited patients in the wards. I would bring them Holy Communion and the sacrament of the sick. So often, these people were in great discomfort and pain. Patients could wait days, even weeks for the results of testing (blood, X-ray, whatever). The hospital was so overcrowded. But, it never failed. Whenever I visited and patients received the sacraments they would smile and, at least for a few brief moments their bodies would relax and the pain would seem to cease.

One year, on the feast of Corpus Christi, it had been a busy day. In Tanzania there is not only Mass on this day, but a long procession outside carrying the Blessed Sacrament. I wasn't able to leave church until dusk and just as I was leaving some students came asking if I could visit one of the wards where an elderly woman had asked that morning to receive Communion on this special feast day. So, off we went. We entered the ward; visiting hours were over so things were very quiet. Patients were settling in for sleep. The woman I came to visit was sitting on the bed. She was

an elderly slight woman with silver hair, the image of a typical Tanzanian grandmother. She had fallen at home and broken her hip. When she saw me coming from the distance she raised her voice: "I knew you would come. Today is the feast of the Holy Eucharist and I knew that you would bring me Jesus." She began to sing an old song (originally a Latin song translated into Swahili) about the Body & Blood of Christ. I gave her Communion and suddenly many of the patients in the ward asked to receive. Despite all of their problems and discomfort, there was so much joy in the ward during this precious moment as everyone sang and rejoiced.

We Catholics talk about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. I can testify to this through the many experiences in Tanzania where I witnessed Jesus' presence in the faces of people like this old grandmother.



Fr. Mike Snyder M.M.



“To adventure together is at the heart of Maryknoll.

We are moved by the spirit of learning together but acting uniquely!”

Sem. Charles Ogony

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