



VOICES OF OUR WORLD

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JOSHUA MUTENDE, MM



CHARLES OGONY, MM

Director's Greetings

Dear friends,
Thanks for reading "Voices of Our World." One of the questions I receive often from young adults is "Why do you stay in this vocation as priest?" Or, another way to put it, why haven't I left?

Whenever I consider these questions, I'm reminded of wisdom shared with me by the late Maryknoll Fr. Jim Stefaniak, MM, who served many years in Peru. He counselled me that the reasons for joining missionary and religious life are not the same as those for staying.

Twenty years ago on May 13th, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, I was accepted as a Maryknoll seminarian. This month, I celebrate thirteen years as a priest, a life that has both challenged and rewarded me in ways that still surprise me. It's occasions like these when I take time to consider my reasons now for staying. I have three -- Jesus, Maryknoll, and Our Lady of Fatima. Primary of these is Jesus.

The late Jesuit superior, Pedro Arrupe, SJ, observed:

"Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in a love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings; what you will do with your evenings; how you spend your weekends; what you read; who you know; what breaks your heart; and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything."

Take the love of Jesus away from me and everything crumbles. Without the mission of Maryknoll, my way forward loses direction. Without the protection of Our Lady of Fatima, I grow discouraged. All three sustain me.

My reasons for remaining a Maryknoller may, of course, change in the future. It is, nonetheless, important for someone contemplating a life of mission to have reasons to join as well as reasons that motivate one to stay. Join Maryknoll and stay with us; it is worth it!

Bringing Home Joy

When Maryknollers return from abroad to our Center in New York, they often bring home the characteristics and concerns of peoples they've come to know and love in mission. Some Maryknollers return passionate about social justice causes that improve the lives of so many faced with violence, poverty and oppression. Some Maryknollers return deeply contemplative of the interfaith and intercultural dialogue they've shared with others in ancient lands. It's said of Maryknollers who return from Africa -- they come home smiling.

All Maryknollers smile in a special way these days. We are "bringing home" to us in the ordination, on June 8th, of two men from Kenya -- Joshua Mutende and Charles Ogony -- the smiles and joy of peoples steeped in music, dance and the simple gratitude of lives that daily overcome some of the most pressing hardships the world can offer.

Joshua and Charles have journeyed through our Initial Formation Program for most of the past decade. Though eager to make final oath and be sent abroad as Maryknoll missionary priests, they have, from "Day One" as seminarians, never ceased being missionaries; they have witnessed the joy of mission from their own cultures, families and personal gifts. We welcome them home to us, as life-long brothers in mission, smiling.

Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of a newly independent Ghana, remarked, "I am not African because I was born in Africa, but because Africa was born in me." Maryknoll candidates and members from Africa give birth to Africa within Maryknoll; to its joys, its sorrows, its passions, its sufferings; to its music, dance and sense of hospitality unique among the world's regions. As Africa is born within us, so is Christ. Congratulations Joshua and Charles! We are blessed.

- Fr. Rodrigo



VOICES OF OUR WORLD



A Holy Week feast of friendship



Compadres in our Holy Week journey



We made it! Enjoying life at the top of Mount Cristo Rey.



Holy Family as migrants in El Paso

Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptized...Where is your baptism? You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people.

- St. Oscar Romero of El Salvador

"Closeness to the poor, the refugee, the immigrant, the sick, the exploited, the elderly living alone, prisoners and all God's other poor, will teach us a different way of resting, one which is more Christian and generous.

- Pope Francis



St. Oscar Romero, pray for us



Bearing our Lord in procession

Holy Week in El Salvador



Easter vigil procession



Blessing at Casa Miguel Shelter

Discern with us!!

Holy Week in El Paso, Texas



Our Better Angels

What motivates these brave souls to overcome
Fears, doubts and, oft times, it seems
Even common sense to go
No, run towards that from which most people flee?

And who are these who lay aside concern
For their own health and safety to minister
To strangers, whose only claim to assistance
Is their desperate need for help and healing?

How is it that despite perhaps an indifferent or
Ungrateful public, still these women and men arise
Even after little rest and no relaxation,
Ignoring death and defeat, to do and do again?

These are the very soul and conscience of our land
Who do what most dare not nor cannot comprehend
For in their selfless service more than individuals
Are saved, comforted or consoled.

For all of us, through them, are ennobled, encouraged,
Inspired and enriched beyond what we deserve
And because of these angels the human race will endure
With brighter eyes, clearer thoughts and purer hearts.

-- Joe Veneroso, MM

Upcoming:

Please contact us for more information about any of our upcoming events.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

July 17th - 21st, 2024
Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN

Come experience **REVIVAL** with us

Join Maryknoll in the
Exhibit Hall!



August 1st - 4th: Visit our booth at Marian Days, Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer Monastery, Carthage, MO. Join us for a celebration of Vietnamese faith, culture and mission.

October 11th - 13th: "Come & See" Mission Discernment Retreat, Chicago, IL. Join us in prayer, service, conversation and reflection as you discern your call to missionary priesthood or brotherhood!



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